This thesis offers a comprehensive description of the grammar of Rapa Nui, the Polynesian language of Easter Island.
The phonology of the language reveals certain issues of typological interest, such as the existence of strict conditions on the phonological shape of words, word-final vowel devoicing, and reduplication patterns motivated by metrical constraints.
For Polynesian languages, the distinction between nouns and verbs in the lexicon has often been denied; in this grammar it is argued that this distinction is indispensable for Rapa Nui.
The case system of Rapa Nui has been the subject of debate. This grammar shows that the language is unambiguously accusative. Subject and object marking depend on an interplay of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic factors.
Other features of interest include the existence of a “neutral” aspect marker, a serial verb construction, the emergence of copula verbs, a possessive-relative construction, and a tendency to maximise the use of the nominal domain.
Rapa Nui’s relationship to the other Polynesian languages is a recurring theme in this grammar, especially its relationship to Tahitian (which has profoundly influenced Rapa Nui).
The grammar is supplemented with a number of interlinear texts, two maps and a subject index.

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