

Variability of languages in time
and space - V

**Linguistic Typology –
Morphology and Syntax**

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Typology of grammar

Verbs

- temporal categories
- aspect
- modality
- (ir)reality
- evidentiality
- gender

Typology of grammar

Nouns

- syntactic meanings
 - agreement classes
 - case
 - ezāfe, head-marking
- semantic meanings
 - number
 - determination
 - possessivity

Typology of grammar

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Nouns → Cases → Syntactic

- Subject (\approx ACTor in PDT)
- Object (\approx PATiens in PDT)
- indirect Object, oblique (\approx ADDRessee in PDT)
- other (\approx ORIG, EFF in PDT, Instrument)

Semantic Roles

(Semantic cases, Thematic roles)

- Grammatical relations (subject, object, oblique...) are morphosyntactic, whereas semantic roles (agent, patient, instrument...) are conceptual notions.
- Semantic roles represent the dependency **type**

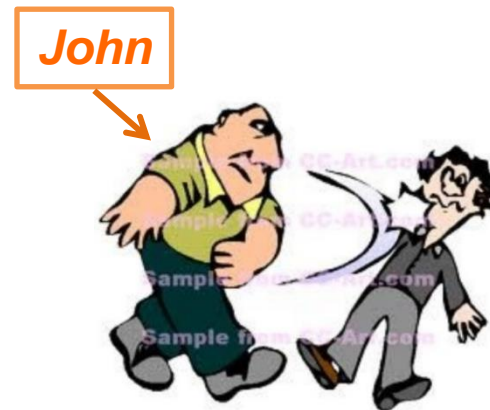
Nouns → Cases → Semantic

Example:

If, in some real or imagined situation, someone named *John* purposely hits someone named *Bill*, then *John* is the **AGENT** and *Bill* is the **PATIENT** of the hitting event.

Therefore, the semantic role of *Bill* is the same (patient) in both of the following sentences:

- *John hit Bill.*
- *Bill was hit by John.*



In both of the above sentences, *John* has the semantic role of agent.

Semantic Roles

- Semantic roles do not correspond directly to grammatical relations.
- Notice what varying semantic roles a subject can play:

Sentence	Grammatical relation	Semantic role
<i>Bob</i> opened the door with a key.	<i>Bob</i> = SUBJECT	<i>Bob</i> = AGENT
<i>The key</i> opened the door.	<i>The key</i> = SUBJECT	<i>The key</i> = INSTRUMENT
<i>The door</i> opened.	<i>The door</i> = SUBJECT	<i>The door</i> = PATIENT

Semantic Roles

Agent: The 'doer' or instigator of the action denoted by the predicate.

Patient: The 'undergoer' of the action or event denoted by the predicate.

Experiencer: The living entity that experiences the action or event denoted by the predicate.

Goal: The location or entity in the direction of which something moves.

Benefactive: The entity that benefits from the action or event denoted by the predicate.

Causer: The referent which instigates an event rather than actually doing it.

Source: The location or entity from which something moves

Instrument: The medium by which the action or event denoted by the predicate is carried out.

Locative: The specification of the place where the action or event denoted by the predicate is situated.

.....

Semantic Roles → Patient

- **Also known as:** *affected, undergoer*
- The entity undergoing a change of state or location, or which is possessed, acquired or exchanged, a person who experiences an event, the thing or person that is affected by an event

John hit *Bill*.

The dog ate *the meat*.

Mary became sad.



Semantic Roles → Patient

- The entity predicated with a state or location:

The door is open.

John is at home.

- The entity undergoing a change of state or location:

He opened *the door*.

The door swung open.

He threw *the ball* across the yard.

The ball rolled off the table.

- The entity which is possessed, acquired, or exchanged:

John has *a new book*.

John bought *a new book*.

John gave Mary *a new book*.

Semantic Roles → Benefactive

The entity that benefits from the action or event denoted by the predicate.

John helped Susan to buy her first car.

Semantic Roles → Recipient

Recipients are arguments that receive something (whether good or bad) in a situation.

*They gave **the workers** a raise.*

*He spared **me** his usual sob story.*

*I paid **my landlord** the rent.*



Benefactive, Recipient, Addressee: Syntactic and Semantic Realization

- languages use cases to distinguish types
- but roles are combined
- Benefactive, Recipient, Addressee: mostly Dative, BUT
 - in Sanskrit Accusative is used for the Addressee
 - Dravidian languages: a special case for **Benefactive**, while Recipient + Addressee + Patient get Accusative



Other examples of Semantic Roles →

Causer

Referent which instigates an event rather than actually doing it.

The rain destroyed the crops.



Semantic Roles → Comitative

relationship of "accompaniment": "in company with", "together with"

*John washed the car **with Mary**.*



Estonian

suffix “-ga”

ja	Barber	rüüpa-b	koos	Balthasari-ga	sügava	sõõmu
and	Barber	drink-3.SG	together	Balthasar-COM	deep.GEN	mouthful.GEN

And Barber takes a sip together with Balthasar.

Chukchi

circumfix

a'ачек	ңытоскычат-гьэ	га-мэлгар-ма
boy	ran.out-PERF	COM.PRED-gun-COM.PRED

The boy ran out with a gun

Hungarian

suffix “-stul/-stül,”

ruhá-stul	és	cipő-stül	feküd-t-em	az	ágy-ban
clothes-COM	and	shoe-COM	lie-PAST-INDEF.1.SG	the	bed-INE

I was lying in bed with my clothes and shoes on.

Semantic Roles → Abessive

(caritive and privative)

the lack or absence of the marked noun

John washed the car without Mary.

- especially used in Uralic languages



Finnish

raha "money"

rahatta "without money"

ilman rahaa "without money"

Hungarian

pénz "money"

pénztelen "without money"

haza "home(land)"

hazátlan "(one) without a homeland"

Locative Cases

basic localization	case	some combinations in Hungarian
IN – inside	LOKATIVE=ESSIV E (where, LOC)	<i>Inessive</i>
APUD – near		<i>Elative</i>
SUB – under	ABLATIVE=ELATIVE (from where, DIR1)	<i>Illative</i>
SUPER – over		<i>Superessive</i>
POST – behind		<i>Delative</i>
AD – on surface	LATIVE=DIREKTIVE (to where, DIR3)	<i>Sublative</i>
CIRKUM – around		<i>Adessive</i>
ULTRA – far from		<i>Ablative</i>
		<i>Allative</i>

Given Alutor words and their English translations:

kujŋətenək	near to the glass
rarəlqək	on the roof
raraŋiŋəŋ	into the basement
aŋqakin	from the sea
aŋqan	the sea
keŋən	the bear
keŋəlqəkin	from the bear
rarəlqən	the roof
kujŋəŋ	into the glass
keŋək	inside the bear
aŋqatenək	on the beach



Translate into Alutor:

the basement, inside the house, the glass, from the roof, to the bear

Old French (*roy* - 'king')

Direct:	roy-s	roy-0
Oblique:	roy-0	roy-s

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Hungarian (*hajó* - 'ship')

Nominative:	hajó
Accusative:	hajó-t
Inessive:	hajó-ban
Elative:	hajó-ból
Illative:	hajó-ba
Superessive:	hajó-n
Delative:	hajó-ról
Sublative:	hajó-ra
Adessive:	hajó-nál
Ablative:	hajó-tól
Allative:	hajó-hoz
Terminative:	hajó-ig
Dative:	hajó-nak
Instrumental-Comitative:	hajó-val
Formal:	hajó-képp
Essive:	hajó-ul
Essive-Formal(-Similitive):	hajó-ként
Translative-Factitive:	hajó-vá
Causal-Final:	hajó-ért
Distributive:	hajó-nként
Sociative:	hajó-stul

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Number of Cases

Iceland (horse)

Nominative:	hest-ur
Accusative:	hest
Genitive:	hest-s
Dative:	hest-i

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Khanty (Ural; west Siberia) (*xo:t* - 'house')

Direct:	xo:t
Locative:	xo:t-na
Translative:	xo:t-ti

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Trumai, Brazil (child)

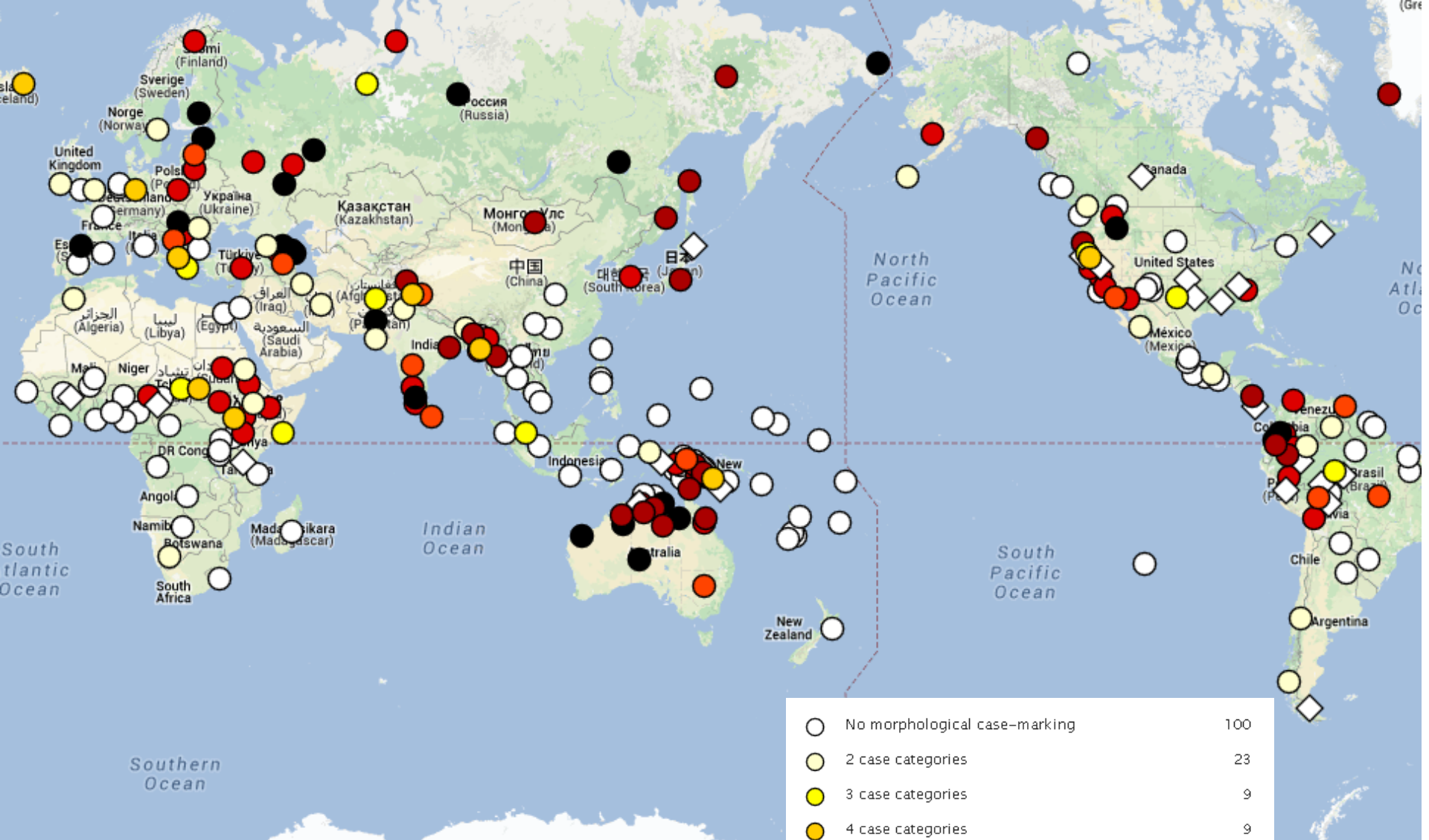
Absolutive:	axos
Ergative:	axos-ak
Dative:	axos-atl, axos-ki
Genitive:	axos-kate
Locative:	(esak-en)

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Russian (*zavod* - 'factory', *karta* - 'map')

Nominative:	zavod	kart-a
Accusative:	zavod	kart-u
Genitive:	zavod-a	kart-y
Dative:	zavod-u	kart-e
Instrumental:	zavod-om	kart-oj
Locative:	zavod-e	kart-e

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Number of Cases

Expression of Case

prefixes

Krongo (centr.Afrika)

àpá-ŋ	ì?ìŋ	á-kùufi
m.perf.hit-tr3sg.m		instr-baton
'He hit him with a baton.'		



proclitic

Cayuvava (Bolivia)

ji=[ka'reeča	dati]
obl=[other	place]
'in another place'	

tone

Nandi (Kenya)

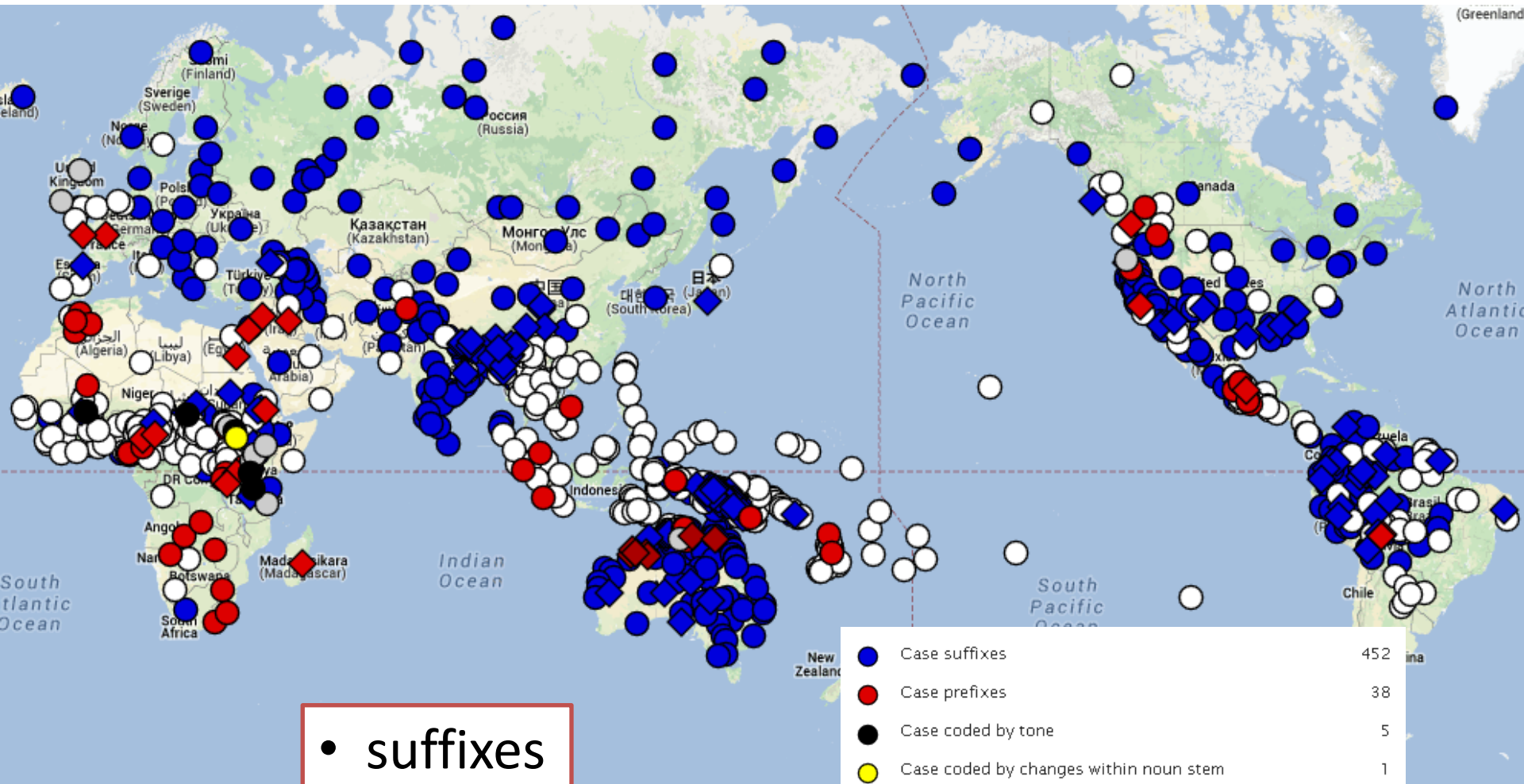
a.	kè:r-éy	kípe:t	la:kwé:t
	look.at-impf	Kipet.subj	child.nonsubj
'Kibet is looking at the child.'			
b.	kè:r-éy	kipe:t	kípro:no
	look.at-impf	Kipet.nonsubj	Kiprono.subj
'Kiprono is looking at Kibet.'			

enclitic

Ungarinjin (Australie)

[dambun	budaga]=ra
[camp	their]=loc
'at their camp'	

Position of Case Affixes



- suffixes
- prefixes
- tones
- clitics

Case suffixes	452
Case prefixes	38
Case coded by tone	5
Case coded by changes within noun stem	1
Mixed morphological case strategies with none primary	9
Postpositional clitics	123
Prepositional clitics	18
Inpositional clitics	7
Neither case affixes nor adpositional clitics	379

total: 1032

Ergativity

The boy is running.

The boy is sleeping.

The boy killed a dog.

The boy saw a dog.

Ergativity+

Nominative-Accusative syntax	Agent	Patient
intransitive	X	X
transitive	X	Y

He came.
He saw *me*.
He died.

English

Petr jde do lesa.
Petr upadne.
Petr pozoruje vzácného *ptáka*.

Czech

Gizon-a etorri da.
man-ABSOLUTIVE has arrived.
'The man has arrived.'

Basque

Gizon-ak mutil-a ikusi du.
man-ERGATIVE boy-ABSOLUTIVE saw
'The man saw the boy.'

Ergative-Absolutive syntax	Agent	Patient
intransitive	Y	Y
transitive	X	Y

active syntax	Agent	Patient
intransitive	X	Y
transitive	X	Y

wa-ti - 'I live.'

Sioux

USA
Canada

wa-kaška - 'I tie him up.'

ma-kaška - 'They tie me up.'

ma-ta - 'I'm dying.'