Variability of Languages in Time and Space

Lecture V
Variability in Morphology, part 2

- Typology of grammatical categories:
- Nominal categories: Number, Case, Head-marking, Determination
- Linguistic quiz

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Typology of Grammar

- Not universal, but many categories are present in many languages (*see next slide*)
- Nouns
  - semantic meanings (number, determination, possessivity)
  - syntactic meanings (agreement classes, case, head-marking)
- Verbs
  - temporal categories, aspect, modality, epistemic possibility, evidentiality, causality, (gender)
- Distinguishing word classes
  - nouns vs. verbs
    - semantic features (denote a thing vs. denote an action)
    - pragmatically (nouns introduce participants to the scene, and verbs deploy them)
    - formally (e.g. inflectional morphology)
    - syntactically (how they are combined with other word classes)

Word Classes (POS)

- nouns
- verbs
- adjectives
- adverbs

open word classes

Cross-linguistically valid criteria for distinguishing word classes can be applied

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- pronouns (personal, possessive, reflexive, reciprocal, demonstrative, relative, interrogative, indefinite)
- articles
- adpositions
- conjunctions
- numerals
- interjections

Grammatical Categories for Today

Nominal categories

- Number
- Nominal case
- Head-marking (Ezāfe)
- Determination

Number

- Grammatical category of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verb agreement
- Expresses count distinctions
- Most often: singular vs. plural, but there are also
  - *dual*, (Lithuanian, Arabic, Maltese, Icelandic, Old Church Slavonic, Slovenian, Sorbian)
  - *trial* (Tok Pisin, Tolomako Lihir) (Papua New Guinea)
  - *paucal* (old Arabic, some languages of Papua New Guinea)
- Very rare numerical uncertainty system
  - one – more than one – indefinite number in some African languages

Expression of Nominal Plurality

Reduplication — Indonesian

rumah	‘house’	rumah-rumah	‘houses’
perubahan	‘change’	perubahan-perubahan	‘changes’

Special word — Hawaiian

‘elua	a‘u	mau	i‘a
two	my	pl	fish
‘my two fishes’			

(Oceanic Group of Australian Family)

Tones — ngiti (Sudan)

kamà	‘chief’	kámá	‘chiefs’
màlàyikạ̀	‘angel’	màlàyíká	‘angels’
màlimò	‘teacher’	màlímó	‘teachers’
adɔ̀du	‘my brother’	adɔ́du	‘my brothers’

Prefixation — Anindilyakwa

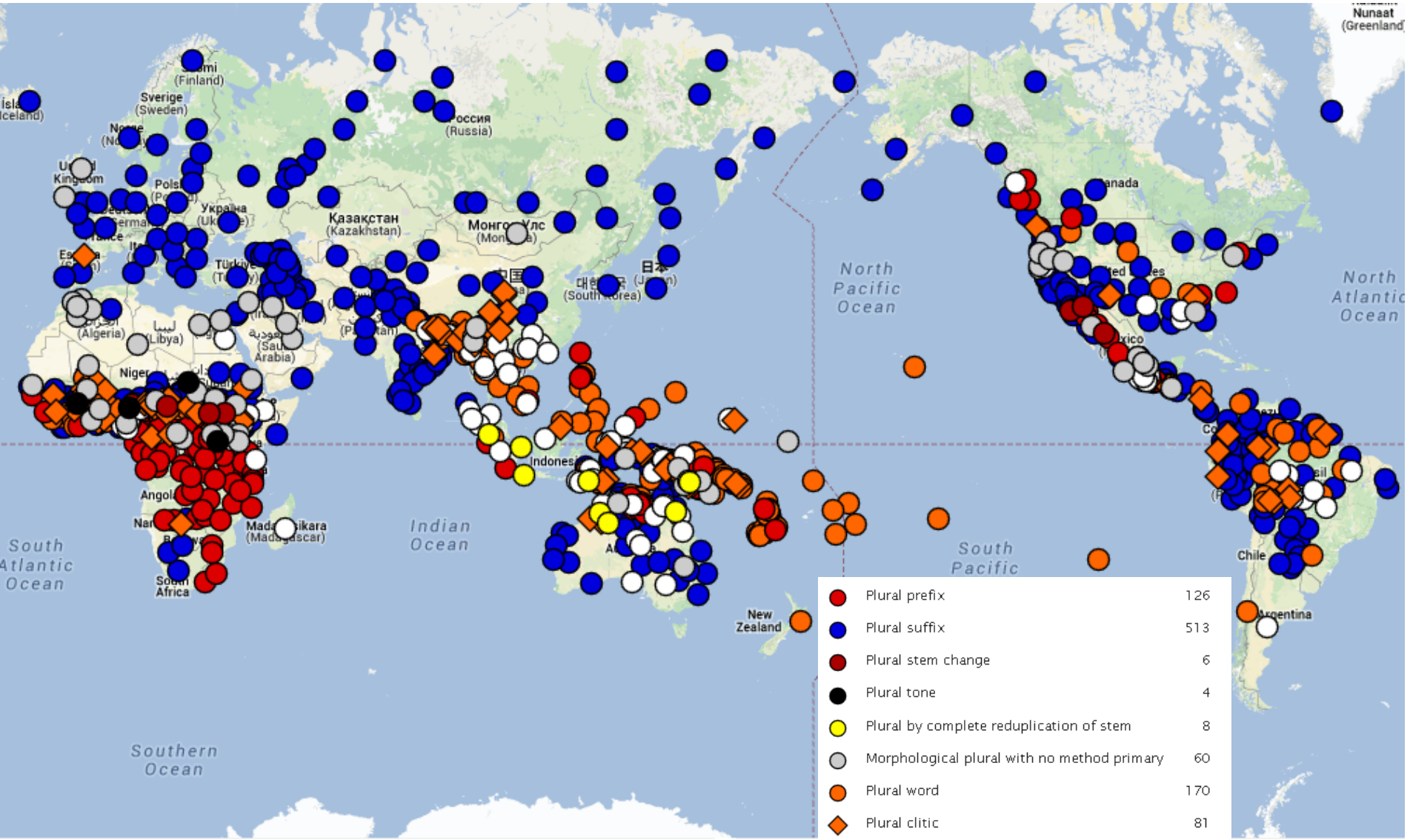
wirr-iyikwayiwa
pl-child
‘children’

(North Australia)

Change in the root — Maricopa, USA

humar	‘child’	humaar	‘children’
nchen	‘older sibling	nchiin	‘older siblings’
hat	‘dog’	haat	‘dogs’
mhay	‘boy’	mhaa	‘boys’

Expression of Nominal Plurality



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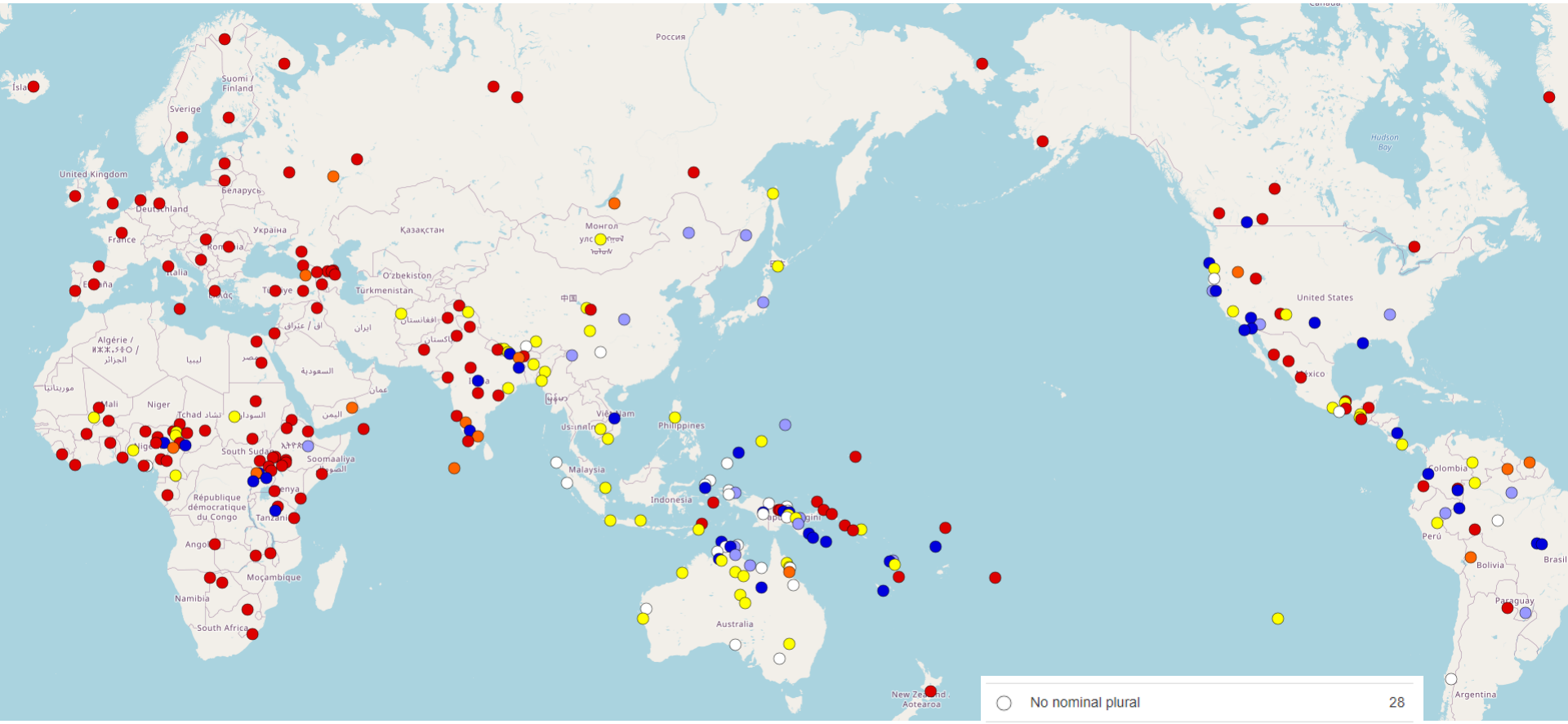
Occurrence of Nominal Plurality



No nominal plural	28
Plural only in human nouns, optional	20
Plural only in human nouns, obligatory	40
Plural in all nouns, always optional	55
Plural in all nouns, optional in inanimates	15
Plural in all nouns, always obligatory	133
Total:	291

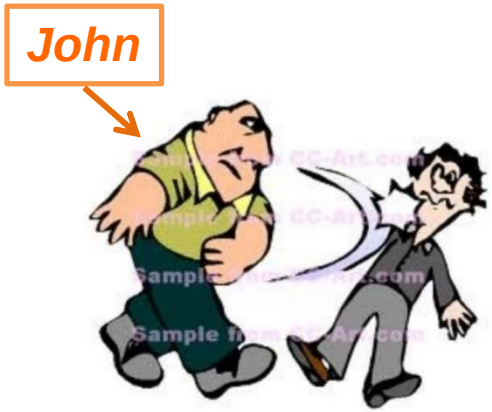
Evenki

Bi uluki-je va:-d'a-m.
I squirrel-IND.ACC kill-PRES-1SG.SUBJ
I hunt for squirrels.

Nominal Cases

- Syntactic: express grammatical relations (subject, object, oblique…)
  - Subject (≈ ACTor in PDT)
  - Object (≈ PATiens in PDT)
  - Indirect Object, oblique (≈ ADDRessee in PDT)
  - Other (≈ ORIG, EFF in PDT, Instrument)
- Semantic (Thematic roles, Semantic roles)
  - Ch. Fillmore (1968, 1971)
  - Express conceptual notions (agent, patient, instrument…)
  - Example: If someone named John purposely hits someone named Bill, then John is the *agent* and Bill is the *patient* of the hitting event.
    - *John hit Bill.*
    - *Bill was hit by John.*

} In both of sentences, *John* is the agent.



NOMINATIVE *(a really simplified view)*

Nominal Cases

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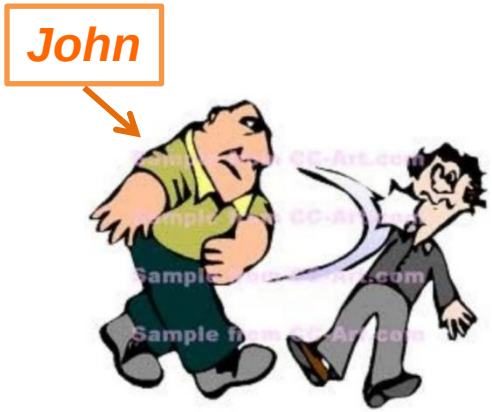


NOMINATIVE *(a really simplified view)*

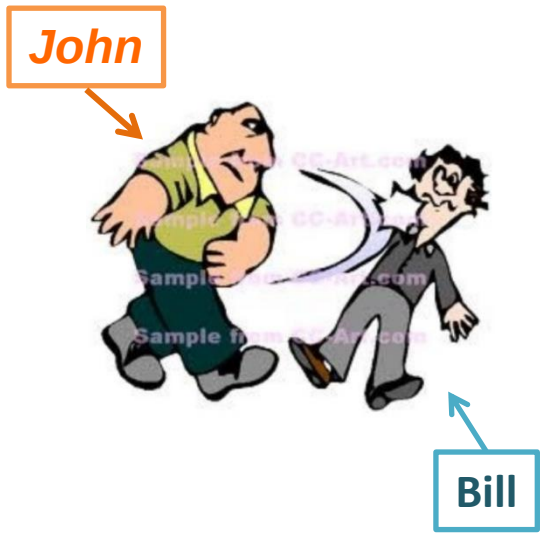
Semantic Roles - Examples

- Agent: The ‘doer’ of the action denoted by the predicate
- Patient: The ‘undergoer’ of the action or event
- Experiencer: The living entity that experiences the action or event
- Goal: The location or entity in the direction of which something moves
- Benefactive: The entity that benefits from the action or event (*John helped Susan to buy her first car*)
- Causer: The referent which instigates an event rather than actually doing it (*The rain destroyed the crops*)
- Source: The location or entity from which something moves
- Instrument: The medium by which the action or event is carried out
- Locative: The specification of the place
- Recipient: Argument that receives something (*I paid my landlord the rent*)

Semantic Roles: Agent vs. Patient

- Agent: The 'doer' of the action denoted by the predicate

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



- Patient: The 'undergoer' of the action or event

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

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
  - 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.*

John hit Bill.
The dog ate the meat.
Mary became sad.

Semantic Roles vs. Syntactic Cases

- Semantic roles do not always correspond directly to a syntactic function in a sentence
  - Semantic roles a subject can play:

Sentence	*Syntactic function*	*Semantic role*
Bob opened the door with a key.	SUBJECT	AGENT
The key opened the door.	SUBJECT	INSTRUMENT
The door opened.	SUBJECT	PATIENT

Benefactive, Recipient, Addressee

- **Benefactive**: The entity that benefits from the action or event

  John helped **Susan** to buy her first car.

- **Recipient**: Argument that receives something

  I paid **my landlord** the rent.

- **Addressee**: Human argument who receives information

  Mary told **John** the truth.

Benefactive, Recipient, Addressee

- Languages use grammatical case markers to distinguish semantic roles
  - Many roles vs. not so many grammatical markers for cases → roles are combined
- Example:

  Semantic roles Benefactive, Recipient and Addressee are mostly combined and use Dative, BUT
  - in Sanskrit, Accusative is used for the Addressee and Dative is used for Benefactive and Recipient
  - in Dravidian languages, there is a special case for Benefactive, while Recipient + Addressee + Patient get Accusative

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

а'ачек	ӈытоскычат-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=ESSIVE (where, LOC)	Inessive
APUD – near		Elative
SUB – under	ABLATIVE=ELATIVE (from where, DIR1)	Illative
SUPER – over		Superessive
POST – behind		Delative
AD – on surface	LATIVE=DIREKTIVE (to where, DIR3)	Sublative
CIRKUM – around		Adessive
ULTRA – far from		Ablative
		Allative

Given Alutor words and their English translations:

kujŋətenək	near to the glass
raralqək	on the roof
raraɣiŋəŋ	into the basement
aŋqakin	from the sea
aŋqan	the sea
keŋən	the bear
keŋəlqəkin	from the bear
raralqən	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

Number of Cases

Old French (*roy -'king'*)

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

2

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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Iceland (horse)

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

4

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

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

3

Trumai, Brazil (child)

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

5

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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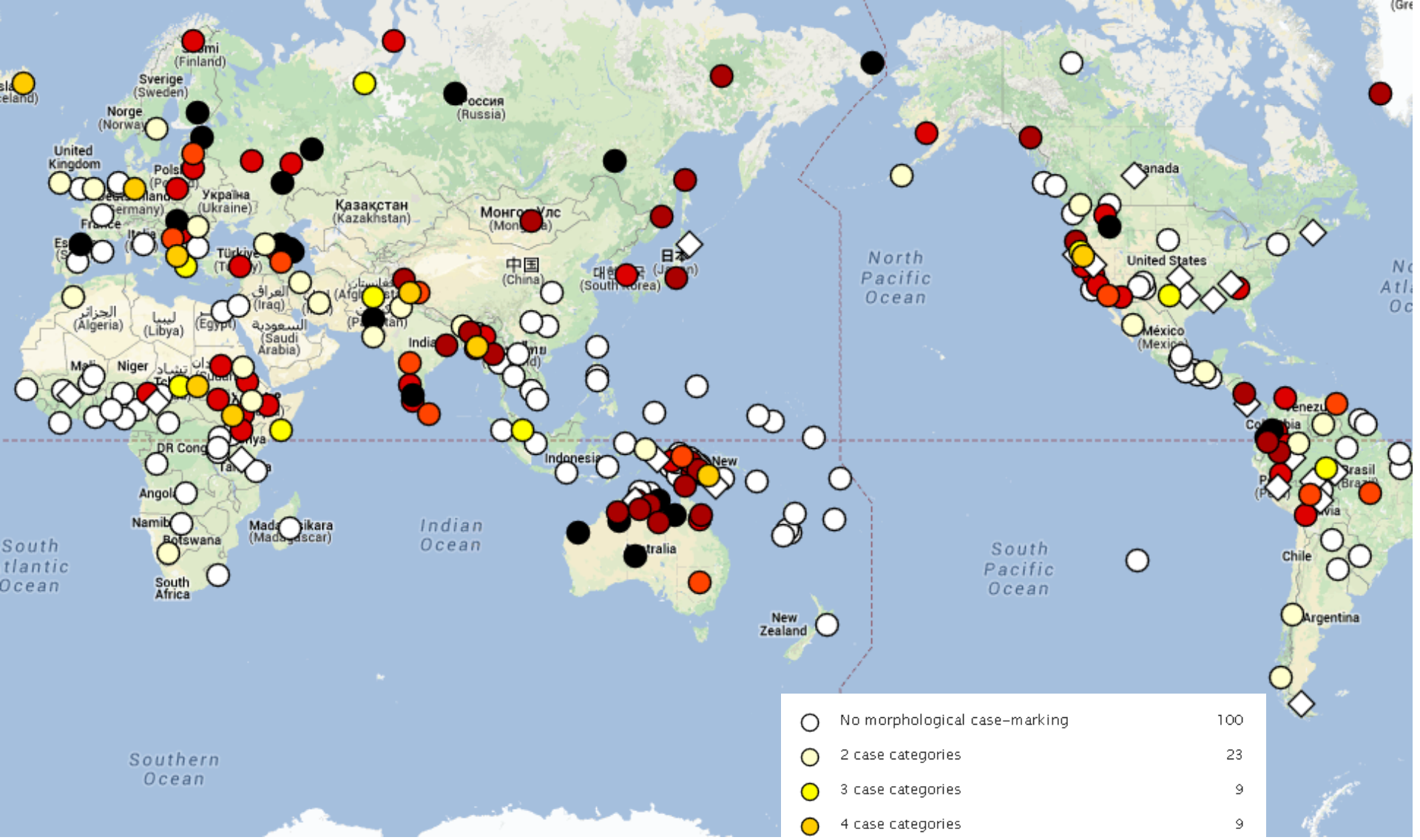


Number of Cases

Expression of Case

Prefixes — Krongo (centr.Afrika)

àpá-ŋ	ìʔìŋ	á-kùufì
m.perf.hit-tr3sg.m		instr-baton

‘He hit him with a baton.’

Proklitic — Cayuvava (Bolivia)

ji=[ka'reeča	datï]
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

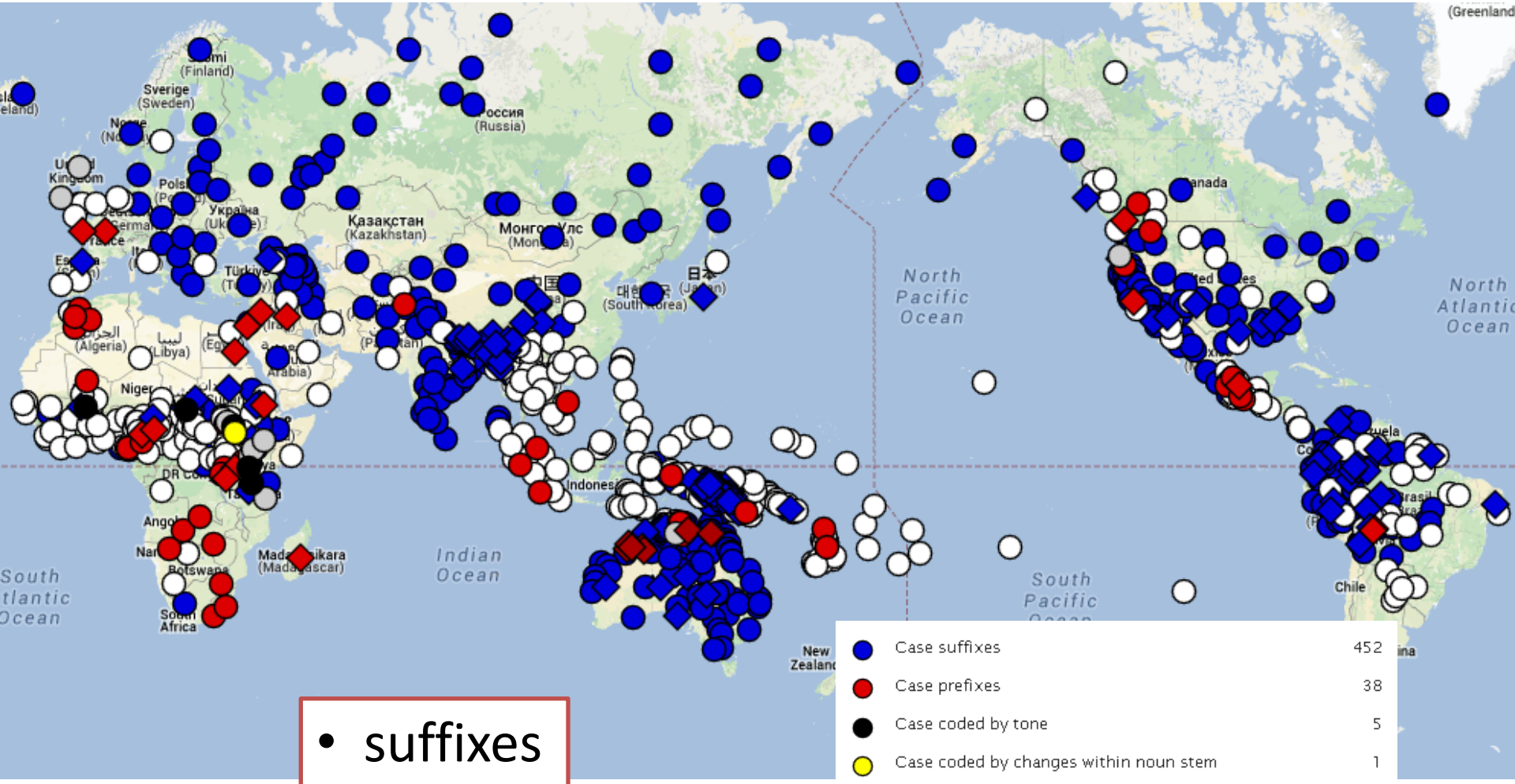
‘Kiprono is looking at Kibet.’

Enklitic — Ungarinjin (Australie)

[dambun	budaga]=ṛa
[camp	their]=loc

‘at their camp’

Position of Case Affixes



- suffixes
- prefixes
- tones
- clitics

Head-marking (Ezāfe)

- Other strategy of dependency marking (vs. case, e.g. *dům otce, otcův dům, velký dům*)
- Typical for Iranian, Turkish, Semitic, Fino-Ugric, etc. languages

Persian

a.	sänduq-e	doxtär		‘girl’s (suit)case’
	case - izf	girl		
b.	sänduq-e	män		‘my (suit)case’
	case - izf	I		
c.	sänduq-e	qäšäng		‘nice (suit)case’
	case - izf	nice		
d.	sänduq-e	qäšäng-e	doxtär	‘girl’s nice (suitcase)’
	case - izf	nice - izf	girl	
e.	sänduq-e	doxtär-e	qäšäng	‘nice girl’s (suit)case’
	case - izf	girl- izf	nice	

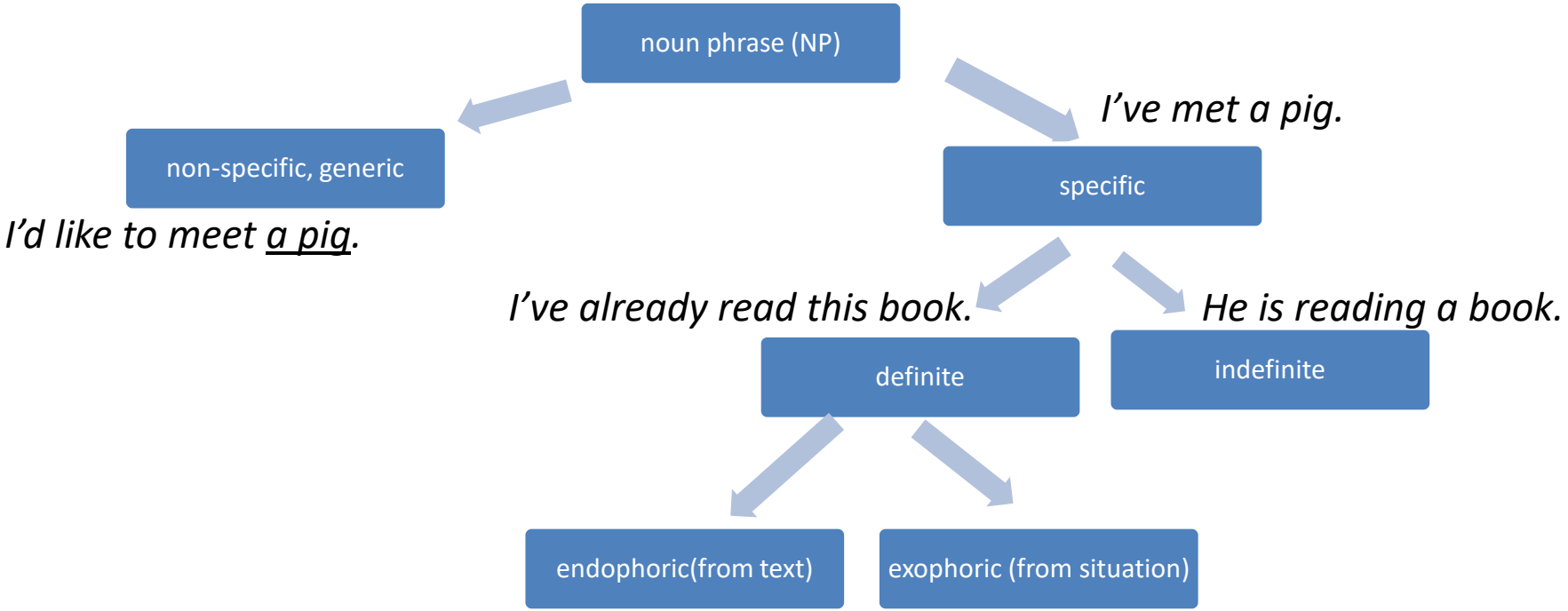
Determination

- Abstract meaning (words in dictionary, lists) → Realization in text
  - By noun phrases: Specific and non-specific NPs
  - By specific NPs: Definite and indefinite NPs
  - By definite NPs: Textual and situational definiteness (e.g. some Frisian and German dialects have distinct markers for textual and situational definiteness)
- The meaning of definiteness seems to be universal, but not the grammaticalization
  - Articles, pronouns
  - Expressing vs. non-expressing other grammatical categories
  - Syntactic means (e.g. word order)
  - Suprasegmentals (e.g. intonation)

Determination: Semantic Classification

abstract meaning vs. realisation in text

the meaning is the same, different grammaticalization



I'd like to marry John, I know him well already.
I finished eating my apple and threw the stub out the window.

The earth revolves around the sun.
I'll tell you more if you come closer to the computer.

Determination and Referentiality

Marking referentiality	Marking definiteness
> languages (Turkic, Iranian, many African)	< languages (west-European)
The meaning must not be expressed by extra morphemes, may be reflected in grammar (e.g. case and number may be expressed only by referential nouns)	• both specific and non-specific NPs are classified according to definiteness, without non-specifics being classified into a special group. • often expressed by clitics → not always grammaticalized
Bantu > Bemba: indefinite prefix of class&number marker: i-ci-tabo - 'a book, non-specific' ci-tabo - 'specific, definite or indefinite book'	English: A teacher should be patient. vs. The telephone was invented by Alexander Bell. vs. Ø Gentleman should never insult Ø woman. German: Das Auto ist des Deutschen liebstes Kind. vs. Die Heuschrecke ist ein Insekt.