Variability of Languages in Time and Space

Lecture 4
Variability in Morphology - 1

- Linguistic signs

- Grammatical meaning

- Structural typology
  - Parameters of variation
  - Types of morphology: agglutinating, fusional, isolating, polysynthetic

- Linguistic quiz

Anja Nedoluzhko

do not have their own meaning

speech sounds

p b			t d
m	ŋ		n
ʙ			r
	ʋ		ɾ
ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ

phonemes

g, r, e, m, n, b…..

syllables

pro+fon.do
dic.ti.o.na.ry

morphemes

child + ish + ness
help + less
un + gentle + man + li + ness
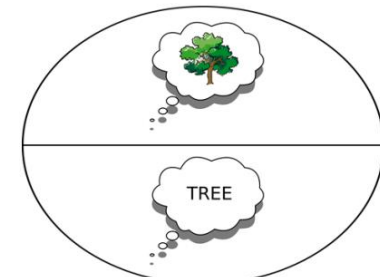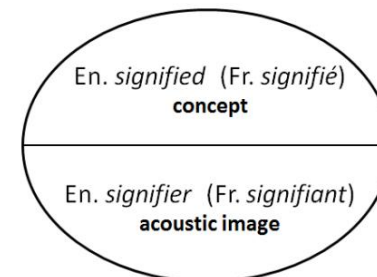
lexemes (words)

understand
woman
selection

have their own meaning

Linguistic signs

- The term **linguistic sign** is used for pairing of a particular sound sequence (form) and a particular meaning

- A linguistic sign is composed of two elements:
  - *signified* (= the **concept** associated with the acoustic image = **meaning**)
  - *signifier* (= **acoustic image** of the word = **form**)

En. *signified* (Fr. *signifié*)
concept

En. *signifier* (Fr. *signifiant*)
acoustic image

TREE

Basic features of linguistic signs

- **arbitrariness**
  - the relation between the signifier and signified is not motivated, given by convention

- **linearity** of the signifier (form)
  - in time for spoken texts
  - in space for written texts

morphemes

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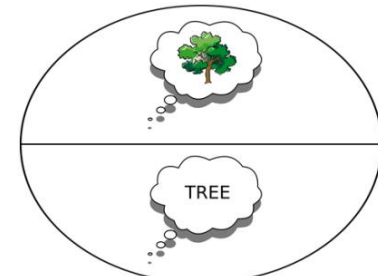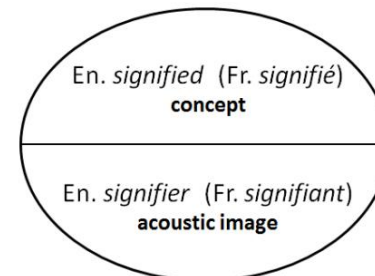
Typology in Morphology

- Structural typology
  - How grammatical meanings are built in languages
- Typology of grammatical categories and meanings
  - Which grammatical meanings are possible
  - Which realizations they have in different languages
- Morphological typology receives relatively little attention
  - Of all the aspects of language, morphology is the most language-specific → least generalizable
  - Word classes are language-specific
  - Even the very presence of a meaningful morphological component is language-specific

Grammatical Meaning

Grammatical meaning	vs.	Lexical meaning

Grammatical meaning

Component of meaning repeating in individual forms of different words

1. Regularly applied to different words

girls, tables, noses, computers – grammatical meaning of **plurality**

2. Does not change the basic lexical meaning
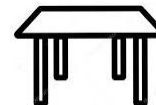
girl – girls

table - tables

Lexical meaning

Basic meaning of the word which is listed in the dictionary

- individual meaning of the word

girl

table

nose

computer

Structural Typology

- How grammatical meanings are built in languages
- Approach to structural typology
  - Holistic approach: global characterization of the entire language according to a small number of typological characteristics
    - too ambitious
  - Partial typology:
    - moving away from classifying languages into ideal types
    - specific phenomena or individual grammatical constructions are studied
- Distribution of structures in the world
  - What's where why?
  - How are the facts interconnected?

Parameters of Variation

- Stems and Affixes
  - What combinations of stems and affixes are possible in a language?
- Separatist vs. cumulative affixes
  - Does an affix has one or more meaning at the same time?
- The form of morphemes
  - Segmental morpheme (different types), operations (e.g. reduplication), suprasegmentals – see plural notation in different languages:

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			

Tones　　　　　　ngiti (Sudan)

kamà	*chief*	kámá	*chiefs*
màlàyikà	*angel*	màlàyíká	*angels*
màlimò	*teacher*	màlímó	*teachers*

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- Monosemous vs. polysemous affixes

	SINGULAR			PLURAL			German
	MASC	NEUT	FEM	MASC	FEM	NEUT	
NOM	der	das	die	die	die	die	
ACC	den	das	die	die	die	die	
GEN	des		der	der	der	der	
DAT	dem		der	den	den	den	

Monosemous vs. polysemous affixes

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- Monosemous vs. polysemous affixes
- Invariance vs. variance of affixes
  - Declination classes

	'woman'	'student'	'money'
NOMINATIVE:	žèn-a	student-0	nòvac-0
ACCUSATIVE:	žèn-u	student-a	nòvac-0
GENITIVE:	žèn-e	student-a	nòvc-a
DATIVE:	žèn-i	student-u	nòvc-u
INSTRUMENTAL:	žèn-om	student-om	nòvc-em

Serbo-Croatian

Finnish

	'cupboard'	'Matti'	'school'
NOMINATIVE:	kaappi-0	Matti-0	koulu-0
GENITIVE: ('of')	kaapi-n	Mati-n	koulu-n
ELATIVE: ('from')	kaapi-sta	Mati-sta	koulu-sta
ADESSIVE: ('at')	kaapi-lla	Mati-lla	koulu-lla
INESSIVE: ('in')	kaapi-ssa	Mati-ssa	koulu-ssa

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- Overt vs. zero affixes
  - What kind of affixes have overt forms and what kinds are zero?

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
LATIN:	*uxor* 'wife'	*uxor-es* 'wives'
SOUTHERN BARASANO:	*kahe-a* 'eye'	*kahe* 'eyes'
SWAHILI:	*ki-su* 'knife'	*vi-su* 'knives'
MANDARIN:	*ren* 'man'	*ren* 'men'

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- The order of morphemes
  - e.g. *stem – deriv – number – case*

| Isolating | Agglutinating | Fusional | Polysynthetic |

Analytic

Synthetic

Thai

Khãw nâŋ loŋ.

He   sit   down

'He sat down.'

Turkish

Gít-me-di-m

go-no-PST-pers1

'I didn't go.'

Types of morphology

- Stems and Affixes
  - What combinations of stems and affixes are possible in a language?
- Separatist vs. cumulative affixes
  - Does an affix has one or more meaning at the same time?

Agglutinating morphology

- A word may consist of more than one morpheme, mostly many morphemes

- The boundaries between morphemes in the word are always clear-cut

- One morpheme designates one grammatical meaning

- Just a few exceptions (almost no "irregular" verbs in Japanese, Turkish)

Turkish	Singular	Plural	
			adam 'man'
Nominative	*adam*	*adam-lar*	
Accusative	*adam-ı*	*adam-lar-ı*	
Genitive	*adam-ın*	*adam-lar-ın*	
Dative	*adam-a*	*adam-lar-a*	
Locative	*adam-da*	*adam-lar-da*	
Ablative	*adam-dam*	*adam-lar-dam*	

- Frequent in Turkish, Indonesian, Eskimo, Hungarian, Japanese, Basque, etc.

(flective, inflective) **Fusional morphology**

Czech

- no clear-cut boundaries between morphemes
  - alternations

ruk-a 'hand'
ruc-e 'hand' (N.Pl, Lok&Dat. Sg)
ruč-n-í 'hand' (adj.)

- the expression of different categories within the same w is fused together to give a sir unsegmentable morpheme

Marie   sp - í
'Mary'   'sleep' – 3.pers.+SG+present
 'Mary is sleeping.'

- restrictions to morpheme combinations
  - affix variance

přátel-é   *politic-i*   *vítěz-ové*
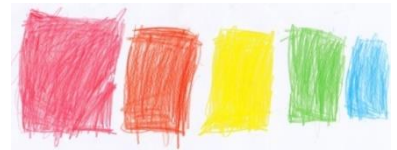'friends'   'politicians'   'winners'

Nom+Plural

Isolating and Analytical morphology

- Grammatical meanings are expressed with function words
  - One word – one morpheme
- More of isolation → Less of morphology
- Very important word order
- Many compound words

Vietnamese

Khi tôi đèn nhà ban tôi, chúng tôi bắt đầu làm bài.

when   I   come   house   friend   I   plural   I   begin   do   lesson

"When I came to my friend's house, we began to do lessons."

English?

I am a student   We are students.

You are a student   You are students.

He/she/it is a student   They are students.

EN. The dog of my father is barking.
   def.   Gen.   poss.   praes. actual

CZ. Tatínkův   pes   štěká.
   farther+poss   dog+NomSg   bark+praes.

Polysynthetic morphology

- Lexical morphemes are combined together into a single word
- Words are composed of many morphemes that have independent meaning
- Long "sentence-words"
- High morpheme-to-word ratio
- Morpheme and word boundaries are not clear cut
- Subject may be separated, but the rest stays very close

Polysynthetic morphology

In Paleosiberian Eskimo-Aleut languages:

Chukchi

təmeyŋəlevtəpəɣtərkən

tə|meyŋə|levtə|pəɣt|ərkən
1.SG -'big'-'head'-'ache'-IMPF
'I have a fierce headache'

Yupik   *tuntussuqatarniksaitengqiggtuq*

'He had not yet said again that he was going to hunt reindeer.'

Greenlandic

Aliikusersuillammassuaanerartassagaluarpaalli.
aliiku-sersu-i-llammas-sua-a-nerar-ta-ssa-galuar-paal-li
entertainment-provide-SEMITRANS-one.good.at-COP-say.that-
REP-FUT-sure.but-3.PL.SUBJ/3SG.OBJ-but
'However, they will say that he is a great entertainer, but ...'

Turkish – Latin – English

Given Turkish word forms and their translations into Latin and English

yazmışım — I've probably written
yazmışsın — You_sg have probably written
yazmış — He has probably written
yazmışsınız — You_pl have probably written
yazar — (he) writes
yazarlar — (they) write

çalışırım — laboro
çalışır — laborat
çalışırsın — laboras
çalışırlar — laborant
çalışırsınız — laboratis
yazarsın — scribis

Translate:
into Turkish: scribo, They have probably written
into Latin: (he) writes, yazarsınız
into English: scribitis, yazmışlar