Ling 115: Final exam review sheet

You should recognize and be able to discuss the terminology below.

**Quantitative approaches**

- innovation-based vs distance-based measures
- lexical change; core (basic) vs peripheral (culture-specific) vocabulary
- lexicostatistics
- Swadesh list
- Glottochronology
- Taxon, clade, unrooted tree, network
- Character sets

**Comparative method issues**

- Neogrammarians & Sound laws
- Analogical changes, folk etymology, irregular reanalysis, hypercorrection, spelling influences, borrowing (lexical copying), morphological (non-phonetic) conditioning, areal effects, dialect changes

**Morphological change**

- classes, genders, declensions, conjugations
- syncretism, allomorphy
- morphological reanalysis
- backformation
- proportional analogy
- analogical levelling and extension
- morphological reconstruction

**Semantic change**

- Directions: broadening, narrowing, bifurcation, shift
- Processes: metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, degeneration / pejoration, elevation / amelioration, euphemism, hyperbole
- Causes: interference & taboo avoidance, invention, technological advancement, sociological change, cultural contact & conceptual borrowing
- Polysemy
- Semantic plausibility
- Lexical change, coinage
- copying/borrowing/loaning words
- Borrowings and detection of them
Morphological typology

- Typology of synthesis and morpheme-word ratio:
  - Isolating (analytic), agglutinating, inflectional (fusional), polysynthetic languages
    - Phonological reduction in isolating → agglutinating
    - Morphological fusion in agglutinative → inflectional
    - Morphological reduction in inflectional → isolating
- Argument incorporation in polysynthetic languages

Syntactic typology

- Argument structure:
  - Nominative-accusative vs. ergative-absolutive systems
- Ordering of arguments and constituents
- Grammaticalization

Mechanisms of change

- Reanalysis: A complex form (word, phrase, or sentence) develops a novel structural interpretation (two analyses are possible; one analysis replaces the other)
- Backformation, Syntactic reanalysis, Analogy

Subgrouping

- Hierarchy: branches and trees
- Evidence for subgrouping
- Shared innovation vs shared retention
- Clusters of innovations
- Unusual innovations
- Shared sporadic or irregular change
- Drift

Language contact

- Areal effects, linguistic areas, dialect chains
- language genesis, pidgins & creoles

Observing language change

- variation: multiple forms for same concept
  - variation & optionality (same meaning, different form)
  - reanalysis: same form, different analysis
  - different meanings, one form in bifurcation & semantic shift.

- lexical diffusion: progression of innovation differs across words of a language