Week 9
Syntactic change

recall morphology …

inflection: noun, verb morphology
number, person, gender, tense, aspect, modality, evidentiality, reciprocality, reflexivity, directionality, …

Morphological type = typology of synthesis
morpheme-word ratio

Isolating, agglutinating, inflectional languages

Isolating: one morpheme per word
e.g., Hiri Motu
Lauugu sinana gwarume ta ia hoia Koki dekenai
My mother fish one she bought Koki at
‘My mother bought a fish at Koki’

Agglutinating: many morphemes per word
e.g. Sye (Vanuatu)

ov-neyarep yu-tw-ampy-oɣ-h-or
pl-boy they-will.not.want.to-see-them in-sea
‘The boys will not want to see them in the sea.’

Inflectional: several morphemes per word; some morphemes are multi-functional
e.g. Latin

Marcellus amat Sophiam
Marcus-MASC.NOM.SG love-3.SG.PRES.IND Sophia-FEM.ACC.SG
‘Marcus loves Sophie’

Isolating → agglutinating → inflectional → Isolating → …
Isolating → agglutinating
separate words become affixes (phonological reduction)
e.g. Melanesian Pidgin

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{aus} & \quad \text{bloŋ} & \quad \text{mi} & \quad \rightarrow & \quad \text{aus} & \quad \text{blo-mi} \\
\text{house} & \quad \text{of} & \quad \text{me} & \quad & \text{house} & \quad \text{of-me} \\
\text{‘my house’} & \quad & \text{‘my house’} \\
\text{loŋ} & \quad \text{aus} & \quad \rightarrow & \quad \text{l-aus} \\
\text{at} & \quad \text{home} & \quad & \text{at-home} \\
\text{‘at home’} & \quad & \text{‘at home’} \\
\text{bai} & \quad \text{yu} & \quad \text{go} \\
\text{FUT} & \quad \text{you} & \quad \text{go} \\
\text{‘you will go’} \\
\text{b-em} & \quad \text{i} & \quad \text{go} \\
\text{FUT-she} & \quad \text{PRED} & \quad \text{go} \\
\text{‘she will go’}
\end{align*}
\]

Agglutinative → inflectional
multiple affixes merge (fusion)
e.g. Paamese

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{na-lesi-Ø} & \quad \text{ko-lesi-nau} \\
\text{I-see-it} & \quad \text{you-see-me} \\
\text{‘I see it’} & \quad \text{‘You see me’} \\
\text{ko-va-ro-lesi-nau-tei} & \quad \text{you-IMM.FUT-not-see-me-not} \\
\text{‘You are not going to see me’} \\
\text{*na-i-lesi-Ø} & \quad \text{ni-lesi-Ø} \\
\text{I-FUT-see-it} & \quad \text{I.FUT-see-it} \\
\text{‘I will see it’} & \quad \text{‘I will see it’} \\
\text{*ko-i-lesi-nau} & \quad \text{ki-lesi-nau} \\
\text{you-FUT-see-me} & \quad \text{you.FUT-see-me} \\
\text{‘you will see me’} & \quad \text{‘you will see me’}
\end{align*}
\]
Inflectional → isolating
affixes disappear (morphological reduction)
e.g., Latin → Italian

Marcellus amat Sophiam.
Sophiam amat Marcellus.
Sophiam Marcellus amat.
Amat Sophiam Marcellus.
‘Marcus loves Sophie’

Sophia amat Marcellum.
Sophia amat Marcellum.
Sophia Marcellum amat.
Amat Sophia Marcellum.
‘Sophie loves Marcus’

Italian:

Marcello ama Sophia.
‘Marcus loves Sophie’

Sophia ama Marcello
‘Sophie loves Marcus’

what about Polysynthesis?
argument incorporation

e.g., Yumas (PNG)

na-ŋa-mpa-na-ŋkan-mpan-ra amtra
pl-give-now-imp-few-them food
‘You few give them food now!’
Syntactic typology

- Grouping of arguments
- Ordering of arguments
- Use and ordering of other categories and adjuncts: adpositions, adverbs, adjectives, determiners

**How do arguments group, grammatically?**

I.e., is an intransitive subject like a transitive subject or object?

**Argument structure**

**Bandjalang**

*Mali-ju bajgal-u mala ḍaḍam buma-ni*

The man the child hit-past

‘The man hit the child’

*Mala bajgal gaware-ːla*

The man run-PRESENT

‘The man is running’

*Mali-ju ḍaḍam-bu mala bajgal ḷa-ːni*

The child the man see-PAST

‘The child saw the man’

Transitive subject = **ergative**

Transitive object, intransitive subject = **absolutive**

**Nominative-accusative**

**Ergative-absolutive**

**Hypothetical accusative-to-ergative trajectory:**

**wati ḷona-ːnu**

man-NOM sit-PAST

‘The man was sitting’

**wati jipi-ku paka-ːnu juku-ːnu**

man-NOM woman-ACC cover-PAST blanket-INSTR

‘The man covered the woman with a blanket.’

**jipi wati-ːku paka-li-ːnu juku-ːnu**

woman-NOM man-INSTR cover-PASSIVE-PAST blanket-INSTR

‘The woman was covered by the man with a blanket.’
Constituent order: Does the verb precede or follow the subject? If there is an object, where does it occur?

Tolai
A pap i gire tikana tutana  
the dog it see one man  
SUBJECT VERB OBJECT  
‘The dog saw a man’

Motu
Sisia ese tau ta e-ita-ia  
dog subject man one it-see-him  
SUBJECT OBJECT VERB  
‘The dog saw a man’

Koita (non-Austronesian)
Tora ata be eraya-nu  
dog man one saw-him  
SUBJECT OBJECT VERB  
‘The dog saw a man’

German

Der Mann sah den Hund  
the man saw the dog  
‘The man saw the dog’

Ich glaube dass der Mann den Hund sah  
I believe that the man the dog saw  
‘I believe that the man saw the dog’

Der Mann hat den Hund gesehen.  
The man has a dog seen  
‘The man has seen a dog’

Some languages have optional argument manipulations:

I quite like Harry, but John I can’t stand.

Il aime bien sa petite fille le vieux mec  
He love much his little daughter the old guy  
‘The old guy really loves his little daughter.’
**Verb chains**

**Alamblak**

Wifërť fir gëŋgimē-t-a
wind blow cold-past-it-me
‘The wind blew me and I got cold’ (i.e. ‘the wind blew me cold’)

**Paamese**

Keik ko-ro: vul aï
you you-sat break plank
‘You sat on the plank, breaking it’

**Yimas**

Na-bu-wul-cay-pra-kiak
him-they-afraid-try-come-PAST
‘They tried to frighten him as he came’

**Grammaticalization**

content words → function words → bound morphemes

*I’m going to cut a piece of chocolate cake*
*I’m going to the supermarket*

*I’m gonna cut a piece of chocolate cake*
*I’m gonna the supermarket*

**Sye: function word → clitic**

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<th>nevyarep</th>
<th>netor</th>
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<td>Netor</td>
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<td>PL</td>
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</table>
Mechanisms of change

**Reanalysis:** A complex form (word, phrase, or sentence) develops a novel structural interpretation
- must be structurally ambiguous at some point
- two analyses are possible
- one analysis replaces the other

a napron, a nadder,
orange

**Australian pronouns**

*naj* 1st sg absolutive (intr. subj)

*najŋʉ* 1st sg ergative (tr. subj.)

*naŋʉ* 1st sg ergative and absolutive

reanalysis of *naŋʉ* as absolutive…

**Walpiri**

naŋʉulu (erg), naŋʉ (abs) (**-lu** from noun morphology)

**Austronesian noun markers**

**Tolai:** *a* = noun marker

a vat  ‘stone’

a vavina  ‘woman’

a pal  ‘house’

**Paamese**

*a* analyzed as part of stem

*batu* ahat  ‘stone’

*tansik* atas  ‘sea’

*niu* ani  ‘coconut’

**backformation**

*cherry, pea ← cerise, pise*
Syntactic reanalysis

Old Finnish:
näen miehe-m tule-va-m
I.see man-ACC.SG come-PARTICIPLE-ACC.SG
‘I see the man who is coming’

sound change: -m → -n

näen miehe-n tule-van
I.see man-ACC.SG come-PART
I.see man-GEN.SG come-PART
‘I saw the man coming; I saw him coming.

miehen reanalyzed as genitive subject, but no change in form

extension to plural structures:

Old Finnish
näin venee-t purjehti-va-t
I.saw boat-ACC.PL sail-PARTICIPLE.ACC.PL
‘I saw the boats that sail’

Modern Finnish
näin vene-i-den purjehti-van
I.saw boat-PL-GEN sail-PART
‘I saw the boats that sail’
Spanish reflexives
Yo no vestí a Juanito; Juanito se visitó
I no dressed OBJ Johnny Johnny REFL dressed
‘I didn’t dress Johnny; Johnny dressed himself’

se interpreted as volitional reflexive or passive

El rico se entierra en la iglesia
the rich REFL bury in the church
‘The rich person has himself buried in the church’
‘The rich person gets buried in the church’ (passive)

Cum esto se vençen moros del campo
with this REFL they.conquer Moors of.the countryside
‘Therefore Moors of the countryside give themselves up’
‘Therefore Moors of the countryside get conquered’

extension to subjects where no reflexive interpretation possible

Los vino-s que en esta ciudad se vende-n...
the wine-pl that in this city refl sell-3.pl
‘The wines that are sold in this city…’

Cautiváron-se quasi dos mil persona-s
they.captured-refl almost two thousand person-pl
‘Almost two thousand persons were captured’

Analogy

Application of a generalization from one class of words to another

e.g. English plurals: ‘regular’ and ‘irregular’

-s; umlaut (geese, feet, mice, lice, men); -en (oxen, children)

shoe was formerly shoen in plural
nut ~ nit, book ~ beek (or beech)

use of –s for their plurals = analogy

regularity → irregularity
dove, snuck