LINGUISTICS 105:
Morphology

October 5, 2012:
Morphological Typology

Ad-ministrations

- HW 1 is due **Monday *in class*.**
  - My office hours are M 10-noon.
- Read Perlmutter (1988) by Monday.
- Sandy Chung to be in lecture sometime next week.
- If definitions from another class you've taken are confusing you wrt. our definitions, ask!

Recall: Arrangement or Process?

- There are two ways of thinking about what the formal character of the morphological component is.

1. ITEM-AND-ARRANGEMENT: items are listed and then arranged to create words; arrangement is the only process the morphology engages in.
2. ITEM-AND-PROCESS: items are listed and then a variety of processes apply to them; processes are just as important as the items themselves.

Reduplication

- REDUPLICATION $=_{def}$ repeating {part of, all of} a word for grammatical effect.
- Doesn't really exist in English, but:

You bring the fruit salad and I'll bring the SALAD salad.

I'll date a linguist, but I won't DATE date a linguist.

- Much more common in languages of SE Asia and Oceania.
- Acehnese (Malayo-Polynesian; Indonesia) plural reduplication:

buya "crocodile(s)"
buya-buya "crocodiles"

Metathesis

- METATHESIS $=_{def}$ the exchange of position between two elements (usually phones) for grammatical effect.

  ICE: ask ⟶ aks

- Really quite rare as a morphological process *sui generis*: usually accompanied by the addition of a morpheme near the metathesis site.
- Kui (Dravidian; Orissa, India) past tense marking:

Normally:	Stem-final Velars:
gas "to hang oneself"	lek "to break"
↓	↓
gas+pi "to have hanged oneself"	lep+ki "to have broken"

(Hume 2001)

The Separationist Hypothesis

- A really old idea: Beard (1966), Spencer (1991), Carstairs-McCarthy (1992), and Halle & Marantz (1993, 1994).
- *Basic Idea:* There is a formal/grammatical division between form and meaning applicable to the listing of morphemes.
  - *Modern implementation:* "The phonology part of morphology comes very late" (LATE INSERTION).
- Form rules reflect this hypothesis, but so do any accounts of morphological alternations that divide the phonological content of a morpheme from the grammatical features it expresses.

Justifying Late Insertion?

- *Basic observation:* The phonological content of morphemes doesn't matter one bit to syntax.
  - This is a negative claim, which is logically impossible to prove.
- In our grammars, we could reflect this by removing Phrase Structure Rules of the following kind:

$$X^0 \longrightarrow \{word1, word2, word3, word4, ...\}$$

  - and instead allow dedicated morphological rules to **insert affixes post-syntactically**.
- For now, let's do this, and continually return to the question of whether any of this is justified by the data.

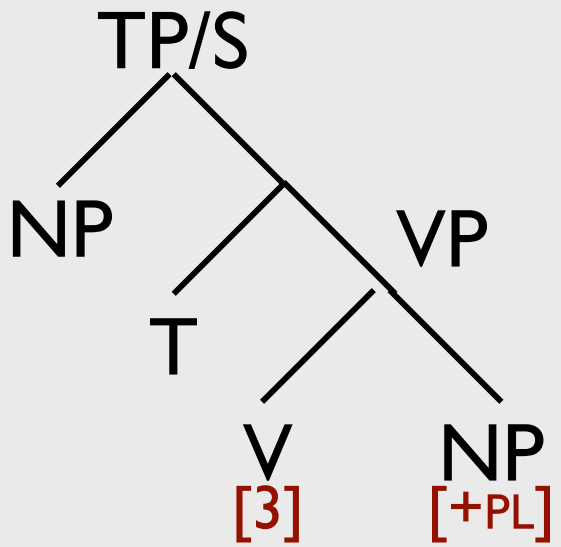
Writing Morphological Rules

- If we remove lexical insertion rules from the syntax, then we have to put them elsewhere.
- *Informally:* VOCABULARY INSERTION rules take a (sub-)part of a tree and rewrite it as a pronounceable element by inserting a morpheme.
  - These rules would then take effect after syntax but before regular phonological rules.
  - They aren't quite like phonological rules; they have a context for insertion (SD) but no structural change (since all the changes are the same).
  - Schema for Vocabulary Insertion rules:

Morpheme ⟷ Context for Insertion

A Simple Example

(1) Matt love-s puppie-s



PS Rules Needed:

TP ⟶ T' VP

VP ⟶ V NP

NP ⟶ {Matt, puppy, ...}

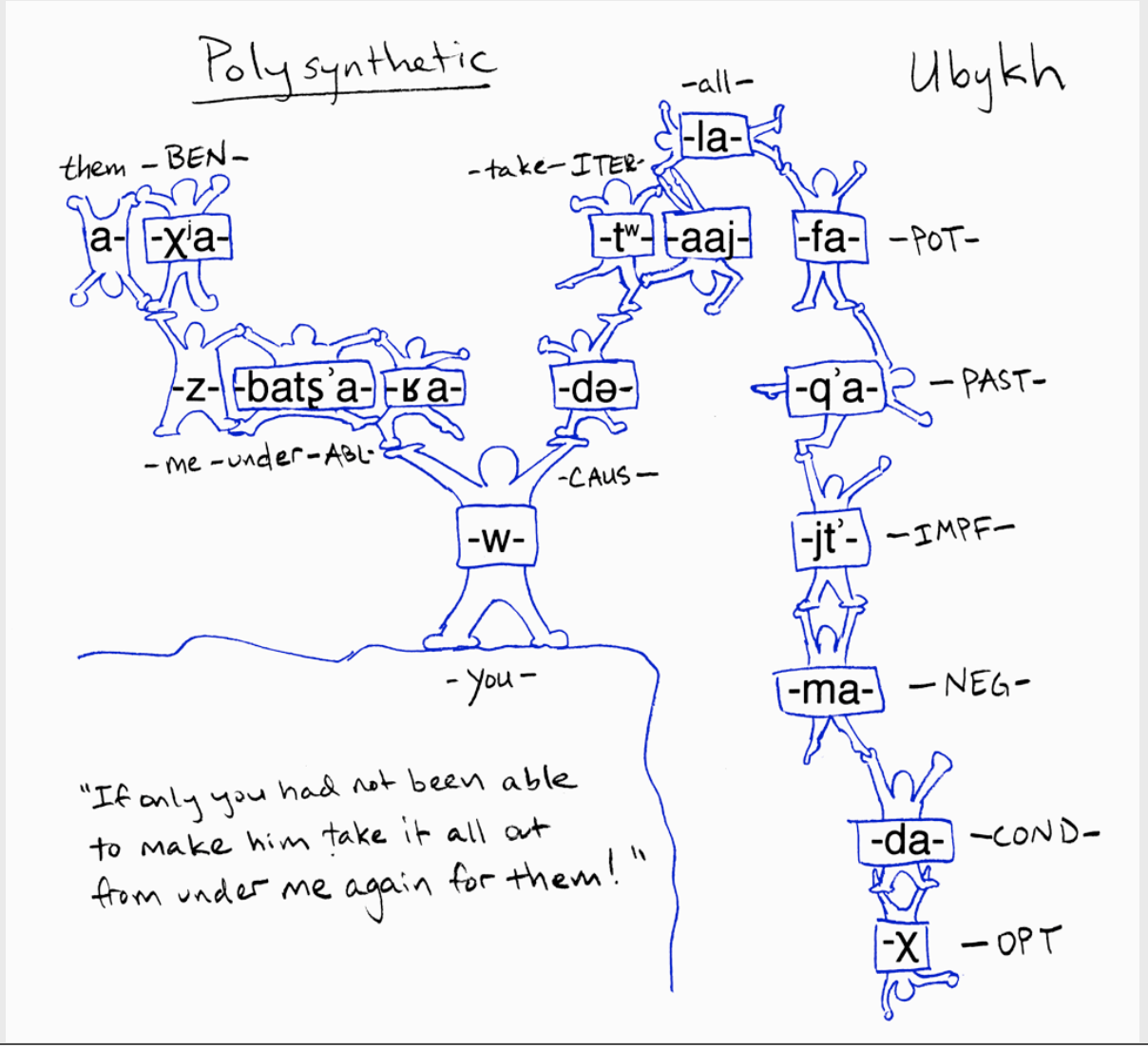
V-neck ⟶ {√LOVE, ...}

VI Rules Needed:

V [3] ⟷ √V+/z/

NP [+PL] ⟷ NP+/z/

Morphological Typology



Basic Notions, Continuums

- *Basic Idea*: classify languages based on:
  - How many morphemes (could) appear in a given word.
  - How much morphosyntactic information those morphemes can be expected to carry.
- *Informally:* "How much morphology does this language have?"
- **These categories are not well-defined; some languages fit into more than one.**
- A more appropriate way of putting it is that these categories form a CONTINUUM along which languages are placed for *descriptive* purposes.

Types of Morphologies

- ANALYTIC/ISOLATING languages have very few morphemes/word and often one feature/morpheme.
- AGGLUTINATING languages can have many morphemes/word but are generally one feature/morpheme.
- FUSIONAL languages can have many morphemes/word and often have more than one feature/morpheme.
- POLYSYNTHETIC languages are MAX(*morphology*); they have many features/morpheme and many morphemes/word.

SYNTHETIC

Analytic Agglutinating Fusional Polysynthetic

Few morphemes/features Many morphemes/features

Isolating Languages

- These languages typically have very few morphemes per word, tending toward 1 morpheme/word.
  - Therefore, there are also few features per word, and the burdens borne by morphemes in other languages are placed on other free roots.
  - Tones are common, as is fixed word order.
  - **No** languages are truly isolating (some are close).
- Very common in S.E. Asia and Oceania. Examples include Chinese (all), Vietnamese, Thai, ...

(1) **Yagnobi** (Indo-Iranian, Tajikistan):

May^{6}faay^{4}	koŋ^{2}	ma^{1}	rop^{1}	caw^{3}	hauɣ^{3}	ku^{1}.
bamboo	bend	come	stroke	head	give	I

"The bamboo bends down to stroke my head for me."

Agglutinating Languages

- These languages are a morphological dream: many morphemes, **one morpheme per word.**
  - They tend to have very complex words with many morphemes attached in a regular order.
  - Morphemes are usually clearly identifiable with little allomorphy.
- Geographically all over the place (Turkey, N. America, Finland, the Caucasus, ...).
- Examples: Turkish, Basque, Finnish, Chechen, Hungarian, Swahili, Luganda, Inuktitut.

(2) **Chichewa** (Bantu; Great Rift Valley, Africa):

Chigawênga chi-ku-wá-phwány-a maûngu.
7.terrorist 7-PRES-6-smash-FV 6.pumpkins

"The terrorist is smashing them, the pumpkins."

Fusional Languages

- These languages have quite a few morphemes/word but the defining property is the number of features/ morpheme, which can be a lot.
  - Robust agreement systems are common.
  - Word order is somewhat free(er).
- Examples: Romance (all), Semitic (all), ...

(3) **Modern Standard Arabic:**

...fii mustaʃf-an	ħayθ-u
...in hospital-ACC.INDEF	where-NOM.DEF
ta-qaʕ-u	qisʿasʿ-u
2.FEM-happen.PERF-PL	stories.PL-NOM.DEF
ħubb-in.	
love-GEN.INDEF	

"...in a hospital, where love stories happen."

Polysynthetic Languages

- These languages have very complex morphology, with many features/morpheme.
  - NOUN INCORPORATION is common.
  - Complex agreement nearly ubiquitous.
  - Sentences can be one word long.
- Examples: Yup'ik, Chukchi, Nahuatl, ...
- Very common in indigenous languages of the Americas and Caucasus mountains.

(4) **Yup'ik** (Eskimo-Aleut; Alaska):

Angya-li-ciq-sugnar-quq-llu.

$\sqrt{\text{BOAT}}$-make-FUT-PROB-3.SG.NOM-also

"Also, he probably will make a boat."

What is English?

- **Question:** Which kind of language is English?
  - **Answer:** English has elements of both isolating and fusional languages.
  - By and large, we have 1 morpheme/word, but some limited affixation does occur.
  - With some of that affixation, there is limited fusion:

(5) **English**:

Y'all	are	play-ing	jai	alai.
2.PL	2.PL.PRES.be	play-PROG	jai	alai.

"You all are playing jai alai."

The Split Morphology Hypothesis

- In order to read the Perlmutter (1988) reading, you need a little background on a very popular division in morphemes:
  1. Inflectional Morphemes are morphemes which signal grammatical information (number, gender, person, ...)
  2. Derivational Morphemes are morphemes which radically alter the content of a root (by making a noun into a verb, ...)
- An old hypothesis: **Derivational morphemes are always closer to the root than inflectional morphemes.**
- Many believe(d) this was reflected in the timing of affixation: inflection attaches **after** derivation.
- Thus, Morphology (*qua* module) is split into two.