

# Morphological Types of Languages

116 GROUP

Morphological classification is based on



similar and different structures of languages  
independently of their genealogy [dʒiːnɪ'ælədʒɪ]

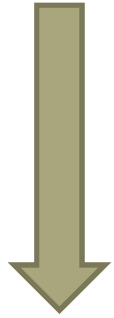


brothers August and Friedrich Schlegel

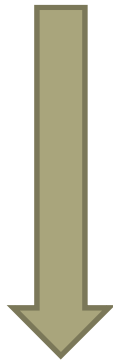


Wielgelm Von Humboldt

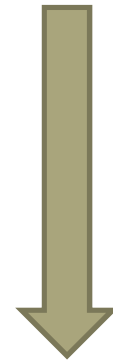
## All languages can be divided into 4 groups



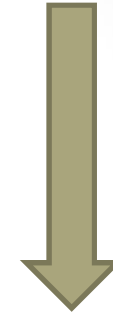
Isolating



Agglutinative



Fusional



Polysynthetic

Linguists can categorize languages based on their word-building properties and usage of different affixation processes.

# Isolating language

- a language in which each word form consists typically of a single morpheme.

(for example Chinese, Thai, Basque)

## Properties:

- have a complex tonal stem.
- usually have fixed word order
- they are devoid of the form-building morphemes, the also called amorphous or formless
- no obvious functional explanation
- they frequently use serial verb
- since there is no morphological marking, the differences are expressed only by changing the word order

# Isolating language

- Isolating languages are common in Southeast Asia

➡ such as Vietnamese, classical Chinese

- Also Austronesian languages

➡ Filipino language, Tagalog language, Cebu language, Ilocan language, Kinarayan language, Hiligainon language

- Almost all languages in the region are isolating (with the exception of Malay).

# Agglutinative language

- is a language in which the words are formed by joining morphemes together.
- This term was introduced by Wilhelm von Humboldt in 1836 to classify languages from a morphological point of view.

from the Latin verb agglutinare, which means "to glue together."

# Agglutinative language

- is a form of synthetic language where each affix ['æfiks] typically represents one unit of meaning

(such as "diminutive", "past tense", "plural", etc.)

- and bound morphemes are expressed by affixes

In an agglutinative language affixes do not become fused with others, and do not change form conditioned by others.



# Agglutinative language

- Synthetic languages which are not agglutinative are called fusional languages;
- they sometimes combine affixes by "**squeezing**" ['skwi:ziŋ] them together, often and joining several meanings in one affix (for example, in the Spanish word *comí* I ate, the suffix *-í* carries the meanings of indicative mood, past tense, first person singular subject).

Turkish	English
kork(-mak)	(to) fear
korku	fear
korkusuz	fearless
korkusuzlaş (-mak)	(to) become fearless
korkusuzlaşmış	One who has become fearless
korkusuzlaştır(-mak)	(to) make one fearless
korkusuzlaştırıl(-mak)	(to) be made fearless
korkusuzlaştırılmış	One who has been made fearless
korkusuzlaştırılabil(-mek)	(to) be able to be made fearless
korkusuzlaştırılabilir	One who will be able to be made fearless
korkusuzlaştırabileceklerimiz	Ones who we can make fearless
korkusuzlaştırabileceklerimizden	From the ones who we can make fearless
korkusuzlaştırabileceklerimizdenmiş	I gather that one is one of those we can make fearless
korkusuzlaştırabileceklerimizdenmişçesine	As if that one is one of those we can make fearless
korkusuzlaştırabileceklerimizdenmişçesineyken	when it seems like that one is one of those we can make fearless



# Agglutinative language

- Examples of agglutinative languages are

➔ Uralic languages, Altaic languages, Japanese, Korean, Dravidian languages etc.

- In the past, most of the Ancient Near East and what is now Iran also spoke such languages, like

➔ Sumerian, Elamite, Hurrian, Urartian etc.

## Agglutinative folks?



# Fusional language [ 'fju:ʒ(ə)nəl ]

- is a type of synthetic language in which one form of a morpheme can simultaneously [sɪml'teɪniəsli] encode several meanings. Fusional languages may have more than one morpheme per word.
- The classic examples of fusional languages are

Latin

Russian

Spanish

# Fusional language

- There are many examples of fusional languages in different families:
1. Indo-European family of languages Greek (classical and modern), Latin, Italian, French, Slavic languages etc. Northeast Caucasian languages are weakly fusional.
  2. Semitic family of languages (Classical Hebrew)
  3. Finno-Urgic family (Estonian, Finnish)
  4. Uralic family

# Fusional language

- The features of fusional languages:

1. One feature of many fusional languages is their systems of declensions. Here nouns and adjectives have a suffix attached to them to specify grammatical case (their uses in the clause), number, and grammatical gender; pronouns may alter their forms entirely to encode this information.

# Fusional language

- 2. The peculiarity of fusional languages is the presence of irregular forms (in agglutinative languages this cannot be, since each formant can have only one meaning).

essen (есть, кушать) - aß - gegessen

gehen (идти) - ging - gegangen

trinken (пить) - trank - getrunken

bleiben (оставаться) - blieb - geblieben

# Fusional language

- 3. Another typical feature of fusional languages is their declension systems. For example, in German, the definite and indefinite articles vary by genders, numbers and cases.

Определённый артикль				
	Singular – ед. число			Plural – мн. число
	Maskulinum	Neutrum	Femininum	
Nom.	<i>der</i>	<i>das</i>	<i>die</i>	<i>die</i>
Gen.	<i>des</i>	<i>des</i>	<i>der</i>	<i>der</i>
Dat.	<i>dem</i>	<i>dem</i>	<i>der</i>	<i>den</i>
Akk.	<i>den</i>	<i>das</i>	<i>die</i>	<i>die</i>
Неопределённый артикль				
	Singular – ед. число			Plural – мн. число
	Maskulinum	Neutrum	Femininum	
Nom.	<i>ein</i>	<i>ein</i>	<i>eine</i>	Нулевой артикль
Gen.	<i>eines</i>	<i>eines</i>	<i>einer</i>	
Dat.	<i>einem</i>	<i>einem</i>	<i>einer</i>	
Akk.	<i>einen</i>	<i>ein</i>	<i>eine</i>	

# Polysynthetic language

- is highly synthetic language, that is language in which words are composed of many morphemes (word parts that have independent meaning but may or may not be able to stand alone).
- These languages are highly inflected, that means words are modified to impress different grammatical categories such as

tense, case, voice, aspect, person, number, gender, mood, animacy.

# Polysynthetic language

- Distinctive features of polysynthetic language are: these languages typically have long "sentence-words", for example, Təmeyŋəlevtpəytərkən [t-ə-meyŋ-ə-levt-pəyt-ə-rkən] Chukchi word have a meaning of "I have a fierce headache".
- Also, these words can be short, for example, in Ainu language "kewe-ri" - tall height.



# Polysynthetic language

- Examples of polysynthetic languages:

Ainu

Caddoan  
languages

Mayan  
languages

Nivkh

Quechuan  
languages

and etc.

# Polysynthetic language

- Examples of polysynthetic words:

Usaopuspe aeyaykotuymasiram-suypa. [usa-opuspe a-e-yay-ko-tuyma-si-ram-suy-pa] ('I wonder about various rumors.')

Nimitztētlamaquiltīz [ni-mits-te:-tla-maki-lti:-s'] ('I shall make somebody give something to you')

# Questions

- 1. The first morphological classification of world languages was undertaken by... (name)
- 2. Why even Chinese cannot be called entirely isolating language?
- 3. Can you name several languages that refer to fusional languages?
- 4. What's the difference between fusional and agglutinative languages?
- 5. List several languages that belong to polysynthetic language.

Thank you for your attention!

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