



SPAU133

Lecture 17- Morphology

Classifying languages by morphological type:

Analytic

Synthetic

Analytic Languages (AKA Isolating languages)

- Made up of sequence of free morphemes.
- Each word consists of a single morpheme (that has function and meaning).
- Affixes are NOT used.
- Purely analytic languages make no use of ANY morphological process at all!

Mandarin Chinese

(1) [wɔ mən tan tɕin] (tones omitted)

I plural play piano

'We are playing the piano'

(2) [wɔ mən tan tɕin lə] (tones omitted)

I plural play piano past

'We played the piano'

(3) [ta da wɔ mən] (tones omitted)

s/he hit(s) I plural

'S/he hits us'

Synthetic Languages

- Bound morphemes are attached to other morphemes so a word maybe made up of several meaningful elements.
- Derivation and inflection are used in these languages.

Hungarian

(4) [ɔz ɛmber la:tjɔ ɔ kucɑ:t]
the man-(subject) sees the dog-(object)
'The man sees the dog'

(5) [ɔ kucɔ la:tjɔ ɔz ɛmberɛ]
the dog sees the man-(object)
'The dog sees the man'

Hungarian- cont

(6) [ɔ kucɔ la:tjɔ ɔz embert]
the dog sees the man-(object)
'The dog sees the man'

(7) [ɔz embert la:tjɔ ɔ kucɔ]
the man-(object) sees the dog
'The dog sees the man'

Hungarian- possession and location

(8) [ɔ ha:zunk zøld]
the house-our green
'Our house is green'

(9) [ɔ se:kɛd ɔ ha:zunkbɔn vɔn]
the chair-your the house-our-in is
'Your chair is in our house'



Types of synthetic languages

1. Agglutinating languages
2. Fusional Languages
3. Polysynthetic languages