Chapter 7 Morphology and Syntax

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- Valency (=valence)
- Valency changes in verbs by morphology:
 - Passive
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 - Noun incorporation

Syntactic inflection

- "Does English have modality / evidentiality?"
 - <u>semantically</u>, yes, of course • apparently, reportedly, must have, ...
 - all languages same/similar in the sense that all can express anything

• morphologically, no

 modality / evidentiality in English is expressed by modal auxiliaries, not by bound forms (unlike other languages)

Structural constraints on inflection

- Verb inflection is often obligatory in some contexts, but not in others
 - e.g. in English only present (3rd sg) is marked for tense (-s)
 - Arabic: subject-verb agreement on the verb when the word order is Subject-Verb, but not when it is Verb-Subject

Universal grammar

- The same kinds of morphological categories come up in language after language (e.g. number, gender, aspect, tense, etc.)
 - a result of "universal grammar"?
 - or a result of general human experience?
- The **realization** of these categories differs considerably, however
 - e.g. inflection vs. auxiliaries, affixes vs. particles

E.g. gender

- German: masculine, feminine, neuter
- Ojibwa: animate, inanimate
- Kujamaat Jóola: 19 noun classes
 Dyirbal II: women, fire and dangerous things
- Sameness: all languages divide nouns into certain kinds (need (?) for categorization)
 - how are the categories expressed in language?
- Difference: they all do it in a different way

Valency

- Valency (or: valence) refers to the number of "roles" (or: arguments) a verb assigns in a sentence
 - rain, snow: **0** roles
 - "It" rains • cry, think: 1 role Jesus wept
 - beat: 2 roles
- I didn't beat him
- give: 3 roles I gave him a new bike
- or more complex roles or constructions (e.g. with phrases 'I want to go'
- Morphology can <u>change</u> the number of roles a verb assigns

Passive

- Passive = taking a role away from verbs that normally have two roles
 - The governor broke the law
 - The law was broken (who did it is "downgraded": this mechanism is very useful in languages, so that's why many languages have it)
- English: passive construction auxiliary plus part participle
- Chinese: 我打 vs. 我被打: passive particle, or coverb
- Japanese: passive <u>affixation</u> (inflection) • yaku 'to grill' vs. yakareru 'to be grilled
 - yomu 'to read' vs. yomareru 'to be read'

- Passive affixation
- Bajau (Austronesian, Borneo):
 - kita-ku uggo' • **di**-kita-ku uggo'

'I saw the pig' 'The pig was seen by me'

- Usually (always?) passive is <u>marked</u> with an affix, in comparison to the active
 - <u>markedness</u> theory (present vs. past, singular vs. plural, etc.)

Antipassive

- when the object is downgraded
 - Mary is eating a pie (trans.)
 - Mary is eating (intrans.)
- Common in "ergative" languages:
 - Mary-ERG is eating-ACTIVE a pie-ABS
 - Mary-ABS is eating-ANTIPASS or `from the pie'

Applicative

- English:
 - I bought a bottle of wine
 - I bought him a bottle of wine / for him
- beneficiary, maleficiary, goal, instrument, location, motive
- Kichaga (Bantu):
 - ly-a eat (a=final vowel)
 - eat-for (applicative) • lyi-<u>i</u>

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- Causative
- Adding a role:
 - I washed the dishes
 - I made him wash the dishes (English)
- Many languages have a morphological affix for causatives Kujamaat Jóola: tey-en `run-CAUS'
- Isolated English examples (Ablaut): drink - drench sit - set fall - fell (from PGmc) lie - lay

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Verb compounding

- Absent in English
 - a few exceptions: e.g. stir-fry, kick-start, force-feed
 - the first verb expresses a manner with which the action expressed by the second verb is carried out

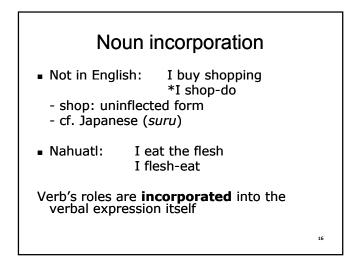
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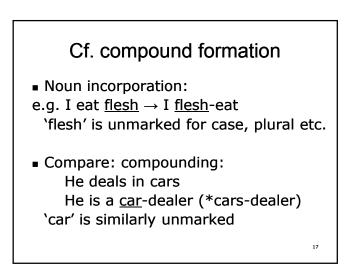
Chinese: Three types (Packard)

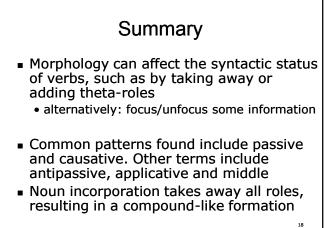
V1 and V2 are (nearly) synonymous

dàoqiè	盗窃	steal-steal	'steal'
dìjiāo	递交	pass:over-transfer	'submit'
diūshī	丢失	lose-lose	'lose'
dŭsè	堵塞	stop:up-plug	'stop up'
duŏbì	躲避	hide/avoid-hide/avoid	'hide, avoid'
guànchuān	贯穿	pierce-penetrate	'penetrate'
guàngài	灌溉	irrigate-irrigate	'irrigate'
tăolùn	讨论	discuss-discuss	'discuss'
yuèdú	阅读	read-read	'read'
zhĭdǎo	指导	point:out-guide	'direct, guide'
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V1 and V2 different meanings							
fángchú gēchú guānchá jiàoxĭng qiănggòu shuōfú zhuīqiú	防割观叫抢说追踪除察醒胸眼求	defend-eliminate cut-eliminate ohserve-investigate call-wake:up seize-buy speak-convince pursue-seek	'prevent and kill off' 'cut out' 'investigate' 'awaken by calling' 'rush to buy' 'convince' 'seek and pursue'				
■ Others							
fēiwŭ tàntăo	飞舞 探讨	fly-dance explore-discuss	'flutter' 'inquire into'				
 Resultatives 							
∎chī-băo păo-shang kàn-dao ting-dong 15							







Homework

- Read chapter 7 very very carefully; note down any questions
- Please prepare exercises 1-4 for class
- Don't forget to hunt for new words!
- Thank You~~

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