## Introduction

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September 26, 2011

## Aspects of language explored by linguistics

- Individual
- Social
- Synchronic (at a moment in time)
- Diachronic (change over time)
- Formal
- Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Semantics
- Relations to biology (species; individual development)


## Some basic language literacy

- Language in the world today: How many? Ethnologue currently lists 6,909.
- Dialects
- Language families


## Ethnologue "language criteria": not just a linguistic matter

(1) Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language [dialects] if speakers of each variety have inherent understanding of the other variety at a functional level (that is, can understand based on knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety).

- Ex: British/American/Australian etc. English
(2) Where spoken intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.
- Ex: Arabic
(3) Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages.
- Ex: Norwegian/Swedish/Danish, Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian...


## World language families



## Indo-European



## Indo-European



## Indo-European



## Indo-European



## Indo-European



## Indo-Iranian



## Languages of Afghanistan



## Languages of the Indian subcontinent

www.mapsofindia.com


## Dravidian languages



## Uralic languages



## Altaic languages



## Turkic languages



## Languages of the Caucausus

Ethnolinguistic Groups in the Caucasus Region


## Languages of Africa

## Afro-Asiatic languages



## Sino-Tibetan languages



## Austroasiatic languages



## Austronesian languages



## Languages of Australia



## Papuan languages

- That which is not Austronesian or Australian
- The most linguistically diverse region in the world??
- 800+ languages in 20+ families


## Papuan languages - East \& West New Britian



## Pre-contact languages of North America



## Pre-contact languages of North America



## Indigenous languages of Mexico



## Post-contact languages of South America



## Pre-contact languages of South America



## Languages of Amazonia



## Some famous language isolates

- Basque (Spain, France)
- Burushaski (Pakistan)
- Ainu (Hokkaido, Sakhalin, Kuril Islands)


## Other language type often not on these maps

- Pidgins and creoles
- Signed languages (ASL [American Sign Language], BSL, LSQ, etc.)


## Top 20 most-spoken languages, in millions of native speakers

| 1 | Mandarin | 845 | German | 90 | 11 |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | Spanish | 329 | Javanese | 85 | 12 |
| 3 | English | 328 | Wu (Shanghaiese) | 77 | 13 |
| 4 | Hindi-Urdu | 240 | Telugu | 70 | 14 |
| 5 | Arabic | 206 | French | 68 | 15 |
| 6 | Bengali | 181 | Vietnamese | 69 | 16 |
| 7 | Portuguese | 178 | Korean | 66 | 17 |
| 8 | Russian | 144 | Tamil | 66 | 18 |
| 9 | Japanese | 122 | Italian | 62 | 19 |
| 10 | Punjabi | 109 | Yue (Cantonese) | 56 | 20 |

Languages of the World, again


## The end

## Distribution of major word order types

## S, V, O: S(ubject), O(bject), V(erb)

- How many ways might subject, object, and verb combine?
© Sam likes raisins. (SVO)
(2) Sam raisins likes. (SOV)
(3) Likes Sam raisins. (VSO)
(9) Likes raisins Sam. (VOS)
(3) Raisins Sam likes. (OSV)
(3) Raisins likes Sam. (OVS)
- How often is each type attested? All maps and data from World Atlas of Language Structures database online.


## Distribution of major word order types



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