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   tçin]   (tones omitted)
    I   plural   play   piano
    'We are playing the piano'

(2) [wɔ   mən   tan   tçin   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   kuca:t]
    the   *man-(subject)*   *sees*   *the*   *dog-(object)*
    'The man sees the dog'

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

Hungarian- cont

(6) [ɔ   kucɔ   laːtjɔ   ɔz   ɛmbɛrt]
    the   *dog*   *sees*   *the*   *man-(object)*
    'The dog sees the man'

(7) [ɔz   ɛmbɛrt   laːtjɔ   ɔ   kucɔ]
    the   *man-(object)*   *sees*   *the*   *dog*
    'The dog sees the man'

Hungarian- possession and location

(8) [ɔ   haːzunk   zøld]
    the   house-our   green
    'Our house is green'

(9) [ɔ   seːkɛd   ɔ   haːzunkbɔn   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. Polysenthetic languages