Introduction

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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-Iranian
Languages of Afghanistan
Languages of the Indian subcontinent
Dravidian languages

[Map showing the distribution of Dravidian languages in South Asia, including Brahui, Malto, Gondi, Parji, Kolami, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, and others.]
Uralic languages

# Ingrian, Livvi and Votian

Saami

Finnish

Karelian

Estonian

Vepsian

Karelian

Hungarian

Nganasan

Enets

Nenets

Selkup

Komi

Mansi

Khanty

Selkup

Mari

Moksha

Erzya

Udmurt
Altaic languages
Afro-Asiatic languages
Sino-Tibetan languages
Austroasiatic languages
Austronesian languages

Map showing the distribution of Austronesian languages in the Pacific region.
Papuan languages

- That which is not Austronesian or Australian
- The most linguistically diverse region in the world?
- 800+ languages in 20+ families
Pre-contact languages of North America
Indigenous languages of Mexico
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.)
<table>
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<th>Language</th>
<th>Speakers (millions)</th>
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<td>Yue (Cantonese)</td>
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</tbody>
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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?

1. Sam likes raisins. (SVO)
2. Sam raisins likes. (SOV)
3. Likes Sam raisins. (VSO)
4. Likes raisins Sam. (VOS)
5. Raisins Sam likes. (OSV)
6. 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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