A0010

Simon Greenhill

Computational Historical Linguistics

The last few years have seen a wave of new computational phylogenetic approaches entering historical linguistics. The application of these computational methods to linguistics is perhaps "one of the most vibrant contemporary streams of comparative linguistics" (Kaplan and Salmons 2010:194). Whilst historical linguistics is not unfamiliar with computational methods, these new methods go far beyond the simplistic and flawed analyses of lexicostatistics or glottochronology (Greenhill and Gray 2009). The new approaches have great potential for illuminating long-standing questions about language subgrouping and human prehistory (e.g. Gray et al. 2009, Greenhill & Gray 2009, Reesink et al. 2009), for exploring how different aspects of languages change and evolve over time (e.g., Greenhill et al. 2010), and for investigating the co-evolution of languages and cultures (e.g. Jordan et al. 2009). The participants in this workshop will present some of these novel approaches, and show what these methods have to offer the field of historical linguistics.

OSUGI Yutaka

Ted SUPALLA

Historical Sign Language Database Architecture
and Historical Linguistics Methodology

While the 40-year history of modern sign language research includes impressive achievements which have advanced our knowledge, narrow research agendas have limited our knowledge as well, particularly affecting the design of historical databases for sign language corpora.

During the workshop, we will share the architecture and historical linguistics methodology for several model databases for historical sign language research. The database platform developed in the United States integrates corpora from multiple data sources such as historical films, dictionary entries, annotations and written descriptions of signs and observed processes during time periods spanning two centuries (Supalla and Clark, in press). Initial work in integrating proto-grammar data is also represented in a sample set of data from early French Sign Language, in order to test the historical relatedness of ASL to the French Sign Language Family.

Material from a historically unrelated sign language family will also be presented, demonstrating the diverse typological and social paths of sign language evolution. Here, we focus on the emergence of the JSL gender system in a highly indigenous social context, arising through the process of optimalization of a borrowed gesture (Supalla and Osugi, In prep.). Regional variation data shed light on its later spread to neighboring sign languages in Asia and change within the Japanese Sign Language family (Smith, 1990, Osugi and Supalla, 1998).

A key focus of the workshop is the feasibility of this approach to accurately trace the full linguistic and historical context for the expression of, for example, kinship and gender (Supalla 2004, Supalla 2008), which undergo extremely interesting changes already documented by historical linguists for spoken languages, such as relexicalization, cliticization, polysemy, and dialect divergence (Givon 1971, Hopper and Traugott 1993). Missing links in sign language genesis and evolution can be re-forged, and observations on sign language typological variation and universals of Sign Language change will naturally emerge.

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Supalla, Ted and Yutaka Osugi. In prep. The gender system in Japanese Sign Language

Projected participants and their paper titles
Yutaka Osugi, Tsukuba University of Technology, Japan
Ted Supalla, University of Rochester, USA
David and Rachel McKee, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

A0020

Muriel NORDE

Freek VAN DE VELDE

Exaptation

In evolutionary biology, the term 'exaptation' is used for the co-option of a certain structure for a new function, a typical example being the use of feathers, originally a thermo-regulatory device, for flight. The term was borrowed into linguistics by Roger Lass, who (1990: 80) defines it as 'the opportunistic co-optation of a feature whose origin is unrelated or only marginally related to its later use.' Lass originally understood exaptation in a narrow sense, as changes affecting functionless ('junk') morphology, resulting in a 'novel' function, but both functionlessness and novelty have been challenged (e.g. Vincent 1995, Smith 2006), to the effect that the definition of exaptation has been broadened to '[t]he re-use of morphological markers' (Booij (2010: 211). This definition, in turn, has raised the question of whether exaptation can still be said to be a meaningful concept (De Cuypere 2005).

In this workshop, we aim to explore a number of issues that have been raised in relation to exaptation, including the following questions: (i) is exaptation a separate type of change or does it reduce to more traditional mechanisms such as reanalysis and analogy? How does exaptation relate to such concepts as 'regrammaticalization' or 'hypoanalysis'?; (ii) is exaptation indeed irregular and unpredictable, and hence infrequent and language-specific?; (iii) is 'novelty' a useful criterion for a change to be qualified as exaptation? And if it is, does it refer to (a) an entirely new category in the grammar, (b) a function unrelated to the morpheme's old function, or (c) a different though perhaps not totally unrelated function from the old function?; (iv) what is the relation between exaptation and (de)grammaticalization? Does exaptation always result in degrammaticalization, or is it, on the contrary, the final stage in grammaticalization? These questions will be addressed in both empirically oriented and theoretically oriented papers.

A0032

Robert RATCLIFFE

Toward Greater Objectivity in Historical Linguistics: Probability, Statistics, and Algorithmic Methods

The comparative method traditionally relies on common sense, intuitive reasoning about probabilities, involving statements of the type "Such and such a cross-linguistic pattern cannot possibly be due to chance." Where we have abundant language data and large numbers of scholars qualified to evaluate it, as in Indo- European studies, this may well be adequate. But as we try to reach back further into the remote past, non-chance similarities become harder and harder to distinguish from random noise, and it becomes increasingly difficult to judge whether a pattern which one linguist claims to see as historically significant really is so or is merely accidental. In order to advance our knowledge beyond impasses of this type, it is necessary to make the mathematical basis of our methodology explicit and objective. The workshop aims to bring together researchers who are interested in finding ways to do this, whether in regard to questions of classification, reconstruction, contact-induced change, or indeed any area of historical linguistics in which distinguishing chance from non-chance patterns can be deemed important.

Miriam BOUZOUITA
Enrique PATO

Ibero-Romance Historical Linguistics

In the last few years, several projects have sprung up which aim to produce, through collaborative efforts, a historical grammar for one of the Ibero-Romance languages, such as the Sintaxis histórica de la lengua española (Company Company, coord., 2006, 2009) for Old Spanish or the Gramàtica del català antic for Old Catalan (Pérez Saldanya & Martines, coord., forthcoming). Similarly, several historical corpora have been developed through joint work, such as for Spanish the 'Corpus del español' (Mark Davies, coord., 2005) and 'Biblia Medieval' (Andrés Enrique-Arias, coord., 2009); for Portuguese: the 'Corpus Informatizado do Português Medieval (12th-15th century) and the 'Corpus do Português' (Davies & Ferreira); for Catalan: the 'Corpus informatitzat del català antic' (Pérez Saldanya & Martines, coord.). It is in this spirit of collaboration that we propose an ICHL workshop that aspires to enhance our knowledge of the linguistic structures of the different Old Ibero-Romance languages and dialects. We particularly welcome contributions that

(i)   deal with microvariability not only in time but also in space;

(ii)   study the less widely spoken Ibero-Romance varieties, such as Galician;

(iii)   examine lesser studied morpho-syntactic phenomena, such as the changes (and the continuity) in the use of prepositions and adverbs;

(iv)   analyze contact situations between/with the different Ibero-Romance languages and how such situations accelerate or slow down linguistic changes in progress, and

(v)   report on electronic tools, such as historical corpora or dictionaries, that are of use to the Ibero-Romance historical linguistic community.

MATSUKAWA Kosuke
John S. JUSTESON
George A. BROADWELL

Mesoamerican Historical Linguistics

In Mesoamerica, there are several language families and hundreds of typologically diverse languages. This workshop will address facets of the histories of the two most diverse language families in Mesoamerica: Mayan and Otomanguean. All of the papers are based in part on early documents in these languages, current fieldwork on them, or both. Most of the papers also draw upon linguistic reconstruction that the diversity of languages in these families makes possible. In addition, some of the papers are able to draw on cultural developments that have affected the course of language change.

There are two types of "early" documents in these languages. Mesoamerica stands out from among other parts of the Western hemisphere in having documents written in indigenous languages and scripts, most of which come from the two families addressed here. In addition, these languages have some of the earliest documentation in adapted forms of European writing in the New World, dating to the sixteenth century CE - just a few decades after the beginning of the Spanish invasion of the New World.

The European-based documents in and about indigenous languages do not register all of the phonological distinctions that were made in the indigenous languages; their interpretation depends upon comparison with modern forms of the same languages and with historical reconstruction. The decipherment and linguistic analysis of the pre-Columbian indigenous records also hinge on comparative reconstruction.

John PHAN

Re-Examining Tree-based Models of Evolution: Issues of Areal Diffusion and Convergence in Dialectal Continua.

The primacy of shared innovations in determining linguistic descent is axiomatic to all fields of historical linguistics. However, an assumption that language boundaries are formed only through the diversification of shared ancestors, has disproportionately informed our underlying model of linguistic evolution, ignoring the potentially crucial roles played by dialect continua, the diffusion of features across such continua, and the potential for convergence as particular members of a continuum spread.

Part of the issue involves confusing typological groupings with cladistical ones. In families where broad typological diversity is in evidence, a natural tendency to cluster typologically similar members together can result in problematic evolutionary claims based on shared features, but not necessarily shared descent. Clearly, typological similarities do not require genetic relationships (cf. Vietnamese and Chinese, Korean and Japanese, Southwestern Tai and Muong); yet the extent to which evolutionary descent may contradict shared features has not been adequately explored.

These issues are raised by Babel et al. (2009), who introduce terminology distinguishing clades (evolutionary subgroups) from taxa (related languages or dialects sharing a significant set of feature that may or may not be innovations), while introducing the notion of apomorphic taxa, that is, groups of languages that share innovative features, but which need not have descended from a shared ancestor. Garrett (2006) applies this concept of a non-cladistical grouping in his analysis of Mycenaean Greek, where he argues that convergence may wipe out portions of a dialect continuum, leaving conservative, cladistically unrelated dialects on the margins that are unified not by shared innovations but by shared reception of diffused features.

It is clear that a bias toward straightforward diversification of shared ancestors is inadequate for describing the formation of many linguistic groups throughout history, and that the roles of dialectal diversity, areal diffusion, and convergence must be dealt with in order to accurately reconstruct linguistic evolution.

Robert MAILHAMMER

Harold KOCH

Etymology and Reconstruction in the Languages of Australia and the Pacific

Research in the history in the languages of Australia and the Pacific has been on the rise in recent years also as a result of increasingly reliable databases. In particular, for Australian languages it has become clear that the tools and methods of historical linguistics, in particular the comparative method, are far from useless, and that in fact great advances have been made in reconstructing and subgrouping Australian languages earlier (see e.g. Bowern and Koch 2004 and Evans 2003). The history of Austronesian and Oceanic languages has also made giant steps forward in etymological research (Ross, Pawley and Osmond 1998-). The comparative study of the Papuan languages has also begun in earnest in recent years (Pawley 2005a, 2005b). The result of this research has also cast more light on the cultural and linguistic prehistory of the languages of Australia of the Pacific (see e.g. Mailhammer forthc.a). At the same time, the paucity of data and the gigantic time depth (in the case of Australian languages) has continued to pose challenges for research.

This conference session will discuss papers addressing issues in etymology and reconstruction in the languages of Australia and the Pacific. Likely questions to be investigated are the following:

- classical etymological research, including toponyms in what way etymology can elucidate cultural history
- etymology/reconstruction and its particular significance to issues of subgrouping and *Urheimat*
- what the reconstruction of key elements can reveal about proto-phonology, morphology, or -semantics

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Silvia LURAGHI

Dag HAUG

The Diachrony of Referential Null Arguments

Definite referential null arguments are apparently one of the distinctive features of non-configurational languages, see Baker (2001). Even though descriptions are available for various genetically unrelated languages, there are few if any accounts of their diachrony. Our workshop aims to bring together scholars working on different language families and on typologically different languages who are interested in diachronic changes concerning the creation or disappearance of null arguments, with a focus on null objects or other types of null arguments not coreferenced on the verb.

The rise of null objects deserves further investigation. Null objects can be the result of incorporation, whereby object clitics become verb affixes (Baker 2001). Related to incorporation is the Hungarian objective conjugation, whose rise is also a possible topic of discussion.

The occurrence of definite referential null objects has been observed in many ancient Indo-European languages. In spite of this, and in spite of the long documented history of these languages, even in their case historical accounts are limited, as are detailed studies of the conditions licensing null objects (Schäufele 1990 on Sanskrit; several studies have been devoted to null objects in Old Icelandic, Sigurðsson 1993). At least in Latin and possibly in Greek, null objects seem to be obligatory in coordinated sentences, unless emphasis or disambiguation are involved (this is possibly a common phenomenon connected to coordination reduction and frequent in non-Indo-European languages as well, Luraghi 2004), as well as in answers to yes/no questions (van der Wurff 1997). Descriptions of increasing use of overt objects in Latin and Germanic point to increasing transitivity or emerging configurationality.

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SHIBASAKI Reijirou

Person Forms Across Time and Space: Divergence or Convergence

This workshop focuses on the linguistic evolution of person forms in a wide range of languages, especially beyond the realms of European languages. Many previous studies —particularly contrastive studies of English and Japanese (e.g. Sugamoto 1989)—have emphasized diverging points between person forms in European languages and those in non-European languages, often analyzing lexical origins, lexical modification, word order, and discourse frequency. However, once we enlarge the corpus to include cross-linguistic or dialectal variations, some converging patterns observed through diachronic pathways may come into view.

This workshop has a preference for the following themes, ideally focusing on languages beyond the European language families. However, this it will also deal with other interesting themes related to person forms, particularly those that have an important bearing on the themes outlined below. Note that the underlining theoretical assumption in this workshop is that grammatical categories and functions are best defined in terms of how they behave in discourse, synchronically and diachronically.

(1) Referential shifting e.g. from first to second person, as in Japanese, Thai,Vietnamese, etc.;

(2) Derivation of newer person forms by combining first and second person forms (i.e. inclusive) and first and third person forms (i.e. exclusive), as in Dravidian languages;

(3) Derivation of independent forms out of dependent forms, e.g. Jacaltec, Tzutujil and Warekena;

(4) Semantic change from more honorific to less honorific, as in Japanese;

(5) Functional change e.g. from person to nominalizer as in Ainu, Okinawan, some Tibeto-Burman languages, etc.

(6) Construction-based functional change, e.g. from person to sentence-final particle as in Chinese, Japanese, Okinawan and some other Asian languages.

(7) Reconstructing pronominal paradigms in particular areas, e.g. Central Pacific, Philippine, Formosan and other areas.

(8) Rethinking person forms as part of 'functional categories' from different theoretical points of view, e.g. generative vs. functional.

A0039

Maj-Britt Mosegaard HANSEN
Jacqueline VISCONTI

The Diachrony of Negation

This workshop brings together scholars working on the genesis and evolution of negative constructions in a wide spectrum of languages representing different language families and areal groupings. Open to both functional and formal theoretical and methodological approaches, the workshop will provide new insights into the history and function of negation, which will be investigated from a variety of mutually complementary angles.

The workshop is expected to make a significant contribution to current theorizing on (i) the typology, structure, and development of negative constructions; (ii) the nature of "Jespersen's Cycle", a well-known and cross-linguistically instantiated pattern whereby elements that were originally introduced into negative clauses to reinforce negation are reanalyzed as negative markers themselves; (iii) the different pace and form of grammaticalization of different negative markers within one language and of similar negative markers in related languages; (iv) the role of sociolinguistic and pragmatic factors in negation renewal phenomena; (v) the nature and causes of grammatical change in general, including implications for models of language change.

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David WILLIS

Ioanna SITARIDOU

Drift and Long-Term Morphosyntactic Change

Frequently a language undergoes a set of changes that seem to be related to one another. These may occur together quickly, but, frequently, such changes span hundreds of years. The phenomenon was identified as 'drift' as long ago as 1921 by Edward Sapir, who famously noted that 'language moves down time in a current of its own making. It has drift.' (Sapir 1949 [1921]) The notion of drift is paradoxical since it seems to fly in the face of elementary facts: native speakers have no inbuilt knowledge of the history of their language, and cannot possibly know how to change their language in the direction 'determined' by history.

Explanations for drift, or the more neutral concepts of 'long-term change' or 'long-term development', have a long history in typological approaches focused on limiting the possible pathways between typologically consistent language states (Hawkins 1979, 1990). There has been a resurgence of interest also among formally oriented linguists, with the idea of 'cascading parametric change', embedded within a theory of markedness (Biberauer and Roberts 2008). Other factors that have been suggested as causes of long-term change include markedness, economy and the need to reestablish a synchronically motivated stable system (cf. also markedness, Andersen 1990).

This workshop explores the following questions:

(a) Is drift different from other processes of change, such as analogy, grammaticalisation and/or parametric change? If yes, how?

(b) Is drift the system's reaction to asymmetry?

(c) Can there be short-term drift? Or should drift be viewed as the opposite of "catastrophic" (parametric) change?

(d) Is the notion of drift compatible only with a deterministic approach to language change?

(e) Is drift unidirectional?

(f) How can drift be reconciled with random variability? Can random factors cause drift?

Evie Coussé

Ferdinand Von Mengden

Usage-Based Approaches to Language Change

Most approaches to language (change) have principally in common that they locate the main explanandum of language in the human mind and that they operate with categories. Change is, implicitly or explicitly, seen as a shift of a linguistic form from one category to another – whether across discrete or fuzzy boundaries. A well-know example of this view is the importance of reanalysis in explaining language change in mainstream historical linguistics. Reanalysis is considered to be the underlying mechanism that motivates changing patterns in usage such as contextual extension and increasing generalization / abstraction in meaning.

However, alternative views have also been expressed, in which linguistic structure is seen as subject to constant negotiation in communication. Hopper's (1998) Emergent Grammar or Keller's (1994) Invisible Hand are prominent examples. Without denying the share that cognition has in the production of utterances and the usefulness of categories for linguistic description, structure is seen as epiphenomenal in these approaches. Structure is in a constant flux across time, area and social strata and, therefore, language use or actual communication are the loci of structure formation and hence of change.

In line with this usage-based perspective of language and language change, an alternative for reanalysis has been proposed in which (changing) discourse patterns are directly related to meaning without referring to changes in abstract structures (e.g. Bybee et al. 1994, Haspelmath 1998, De Smet 2009). However, a larger coherent vision of the relation between language usage and language change is still largely missing.

The workshop aims at discussing possibilities for such a usage-based framework on language change. We wish to combine case studies with theoretical contributions that help to set up a comprehensive model on language change, in which language use is in the focus and in which the core properties of language are seen in its dynamics rather than in its states.

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Dmitry IDIATOV

Stability and Borrowability of Interrogative Pronominals

Interrogative pronominals, such as English who? and what?, are usually considered to be among the most change-proof elements in any language. They are believed to be highly resistant to both replacement through borrowing (Haspelmath and Tadmor 2009, Matras 2009:199) and language-internal renewal (Haspelmath 1997:176). In this respect, they strongly resemble personal pronominals. The two kinds of pronominals are also often perceived as good indicators of (long-range) genetic relationships and are regularly included in basic vocabulary lists. However, the view of personal pronominals as highly resistant to borrowing is not uncontroversial (cf. Wallace 1983, Thomason and Everett 2005, Matras 2009:203-208, Law 2009). It has also long been observed that reconstruction of personal pronominals tends to be fraught with difficulties due to their typically short forms and their tendency to undergo irregular changes, such as sound changes specific to them, various kinds of analogical changes and amalgamation with other elements. The workshop aims at assessing the claims on the universality of the extremely slow rate of change and high resistance to borrowing with respect to interrogative pronominals. Particularly welcome are papers on examples of fast changes of interrogative pronominals in families and subgroups, on examples of their borrowing and on the kinds of irregular changes affecting interrogative pronominals.

WATANABE Kazuha

The Diachrony of TAM System as a Paradigm

The diachrony of TAM (tense-aspect-modality) systems has been one of the most researched topics in historical linguistics, especially after Heine, Claudi, and Hünnemeyer (1991) and Bybee, Perkins, and Pagliuca (1994).   However, many of the previous studies have focused on the diachronic development of specific TAM markers. That is, their aim is usually to identify the origins of the TAM markers in question and to examine the further changes (phonological, semantic, and/or morpho-syntactic) that the markers have gone through.   This might be due to the fact that this is the structure of above mentioned works.   Furthermore, while the interaction among tense, aspect and modality is a long-studied topic, we still have not thoroughly addressed how the overall TAM systems develop in a given language.

Note that the diachrony of TAM system as a paradigm inevitably questions what possible synchronic TAM systems are like, and what they are not like.   This interface between diachrony and synchrony becomes extremely critical when reconstructing a TAM system of a language from diachronic data.   However, there is little literature that focuses on TAM systems of modern languages from a holistic viewpoint, although they might examine the function of individual TAM markers.

The questions that the workshop will address include:

1) How do the specific diachronic changes of TAM markers affect the overall TAM paradigm in a given language?
2) Alternatively, how is tense, aspect, or modality system affected by such changes, rather than the TAM systems as a whole?)
3) Conversely, how does the overall structure of a TAM paradigm affect the types of diachronic changes of specific TAM markers?
4) Or how does the nature of a TAM system affect the development of individual markers?
5) Typologically speaking, what is a possible TAM system? Or what would an impossible TAM system be? How can we use diachronic data in order to determine that?

6) How should we utilize attested synchronic TAM systems in order to reconstruct the semantic property of certain TAM markers as well as the whole system?

7) Any other issues that have not been solved

This workshop will provide us with new, significant insight into this long-studied topic, while casting light on unsolved issues.

Daniel K<small>AUFMAN</small>

John W<small>HITMAN</small>

The Nominalization Cycle

Thematic/participant nominalizations, event nominalizations, VP nominalizations and higher clausal nominalizations can apparently all be reanalyzed over time as canonical matrix clause predicates, but the motivations, resulting structures and interpretations are different in each case. Some of the larger questions we are interested in in this regard are: What are the different types of contexts that give rise to lower versus higher level nominalizations? What are the different consequences for alignment systems between lower and higher level nominalizations? What types of alignment system splits are conditioned by what kinds of nominalizations? These are all very much new questions which could not be posed until recently due to the lack of detailed data on reanalyses across languages and language families. These papers give some much needed attention to these "bigger picture" issues.

Another topic of interest is the tail end of what we term here "the nominalization cycle". After nominalizations are reinterpreted as canonical main clause predicates, there is often some accretion of typical verbal features. Their original nominalization function is also consequently supplanted by newer morphological formations and syntactic constructions. Again, this is an area which has not received much attention at all in the comparative or historical literature but which will be tackled here with the benefit of broad cross-linguistic comparison.

A0045

Thomas PELLARD

Advances in Ryukyuan Historical Linguistics

Japanese historical linguistics has until recently mostly relied on the study of the Old Japanese texts of the 8th century and the method of internal reconstruction. Few studies have undertaken a systematic comparison of Japanese with the Ryukyuan languages, though it has been shown (Hattori 1978–1979, Thorpe 1983) that the Ryukyuan data can clarify some problems and also lead to new advances in the reconstruction of Proto-Japonic, the common ancestor of Japanese and Ryukyuan.

Recent years have seen more and more works that both assess the importance of Ryukyuan and make new contributions to the field on the basis of Ryukyuan data. These have concerned the reconstruction of the prosodic system (Matsumori 2000, Shimabukuro 2008) and of the vowel system (Serafim 2008), as well as the question of the external genetic relationship of Japanese (Vovin 2010).

However, many issues remain to be solved concerning Ryukyuan, and the historical developments of most of the different varieties have not been fully worked out yet. Moreover, some of these developments are of a particular interest, not only for Japonologists and Ryukyuanists, but also for general linguists and typologists. As more and more new descriptive data have been made available in recent years, the possibilities of new advances in Ryukyuan historical linguistics have greatly increased. ICHL20 is thus a timely opportunity to gather scholars working on Ryukyuan in order to present and discuss their recent research.

This workshop aims at accommodating contributions including, but not limited to, the following:

- reconstruction of Proto-Ryukyuan and its subbranches as well as its subgrouping
- comparative reconstruction of Proto-Japonic
- presentation of new descriptive data that have an important historical significance
- individual case studies of historical developments that bear a typological or theoretical interest
- Ryukyuan philology

Jóhanna Barðdal

Spike Gildea

Syntactic Reconstruction

Historical-comparative reconstruction has traditionally been focused on lexical, morphological and phonological comparisons, while syntactic reconstruction has either been systematically left unattended, regarded as fruitless or uninteresting, or even rebuked. The reason for this is that syntactic structures have been regarded as fundamentally different from, for instance, morphological structures, in several respects. That is, syntactic structures are larger and more complex units than morphological units. Semantically they have not been regarded on par with morphological units either, in that their meaning is regarded as the sum of the meaning of the lexical parts that instantiate them, and because of this semantic compositionality they have not been regarded as being arbitrary form–meaning correspondences like words. It has also been argued in the literature that syntactic structures are not inherited in the same way as the vocabulary, that there is no cognate material to compare when comparing sentences across daughter languages, there is no regularity of syntactic change, as opposed to the regularity of phonological change, and that there is no arbitrariness found in syntax, all of which render syntactic reconstruction fundamentally different from phonological reconstruction.

Recent work within historical-comparative syntax takes issue with this view, arguing that the concepts of "cognate status," "arbitrariness" and "regularity" are non-problematic for syntactic reconstruction. This is so, first, because cognates are also found in syntax. Second, because the arbitrariness requirement is simply not needed in syntax, as it's role is first and foremost to aid in deciding on genetic relatedness, which is usually not an issue when doing syntactic reconstruction. And, third, because a) the sound laws are only regular by definition, and b) the sound laws are basically stand-ins for a similarity metric when deciding upon cognate status.

Martin Maiden

John Charles Smith

The Role of Autonomous Morphology in Language Change

Aronoff (1994) identified with analytical rigour a phenomenon of which many morphologists already sensed the existence. Some aspects of morphology are autonomous — not (synchronically) determined by phonological, syntactic or semantic factors, but pertaining to a 'morphomic level' located between phonology and syntax yet independent of either. Aronoff's illustrations included the Latin 'third stem' (an irreducibly heterogeneous set of cells in the verb paradigm shares the same stem-shape, whatever the phonological identity of the stem) and the English 'past participle' (both phonologically and functionally heterogeneous). Aronoff called for a wider search for morphomic phenomena; evidence that many languages (at least of the 'fusional' type) exhibit them emerges in, for example, Stump (2001:169-211), Baerman et al. (2005:183-86).

Most work on 'morphology by itself' has taken a synchronic perspective. However, in his diachronic studies of Romance, Maiden (e.g., 2005, 2009) identifies 'morphomic' inflectional phenomena with twofold significance:

- First, they suggest such phenomena have psychological reality. Aronoff's prime examples are synchronic, and could possibly be seen as historically accidental remnants of some earlier stage (when the alleged 'morphome' was still extramorphologically motivated), surviving through 'inertia', with the distributional regularities having no 'psychological reality' for speakers. Maiden's examples involve morphological changes which presuppose speakers' awareness of 'morphomic' distributional patterns.
- Second, the Romance examples suggest that the replication of morphomic structure can drive inflectional change. Indeed, the Romance evidence suggests speakers have no preference for extramorphologically motivated patterns of allomorphy over morphomic ones.

The diachrony of autonomous morphological phenomena raises major questions, including:

- How can we know that allegedly morphomic phenomena in diachrony are genuinely such?

- How do morphomes emerge?
- How and why does autonomously morphological structure persist?
- How and why do morphomes 'die'?
- Is there a discrete boundary between the autonomously morphological and the extramorphologically motivated?
- Can morphomes be sociolinguistically variable?

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Tom **Güldemann**

Genealogical and Areal Linguistic Relations in the Kalahari Basin

Since January 2010 researchers from 6 projects from 5 different countries have joined forces to untangle the historical relations among the Non-Bantu linguistic populations in southern Africa within the cross-disciplinary EUROBABEL project "The Kalahari Basin area: a 'Sprachbund' on the verge of extinction" (http://www2.hu-berlin.de/kba/). While the relevant language groups are conventionally subsumed under the unsubstantiated concept of a "Khoisan" language family there is alternative evidence that they share certain traits because of convergence processes within a geographical area called "Kalahari Basin". Deciding between the two alternative historical hypotheses is the major problem that the collaborative research project network has set out to address. The workshop at ICHL attempts to disseminate first results of the project network and invites other scholars also working in this area to present their research pertinent to the above historical problem. The workshop thus addresses one of the major current issues in historical linguistics, namely of disentangling genealogical and areal linguistic relationships.