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Homework 1:

Part 1: On page 26 of your text, Exercise 1.1 gives you some ideas for items that could be included in a “language autobiography.” In about 500 words (about two to three pages), write your own language autobiography in the form of a short paper (not bullet points).

Part 2:

a. Divide the following words up into morphemes and give all the information you can about each morpheme: Bound or free? Root or affix? If affix, derivational or inflectional? If affix, prefix or suffix?

- Minnesota
- babysitter
- compassionately
- reinforcements
- happiest

b. The word “remarkable” is ambiguous. It can mean either “worthy of notice” or “can be written on again.” (Think of whiteboards. Draw tree structures that illustrate the two meanings.

c. Take the paragraph below, and identify the part of speech for each of the underlined words. Choose your identification from the following list.

- a. adjective b. adverb c. noun d. verb e. preform, including pronouns
f. preposition g. complementizer h. conjunction i. determiner

Around six thousand years ago, the speakers of Proto-Indo-European began to spread out from the smallest area they had previously occupied. Some moved westward, further from Europe, while others went eastward, further into Asia. While they dispersed, of course, the ordinary processes of linguistic change were continuing to operate. Everybody was, therefore, further diverging from the speech that was in use where PIE was still a fairly homogeneous language occupying a small area, but naturally the same changes did not occur everywhere. Every local speech variety was undergoing its own individual changes, in grammar, in pronunciation, and in vocabulary. (adapted from R. L. Trask, *Why Do Languages Change?*)

Part 3. How to solve a morphology problem in another language: These are not very difficult, but they do take some patience, a methodical approach, a pile of scratch paper and a pencil with a decent eraser.

Solve them morpheme by morpheme. For example, if you are asked for the morpheme “buy” you should write down all the examples that contain “buy”; if you are asked for the past tense morpheme, write down all the examples that *contain a past tense*. Then note what all the examples in each list have in common.

- Data from Telugu. Each word in Telugu, a Dravidian language spoken in India, is translated into English with many words. The phonology is also very different from English, but you do not have to understand exactly what the phonetic value of the sounds are. Just know that the ḍ represents a “different kind of d,” for example, and let it go at that.

ceppēenu	I told
ceppincunu	I cause (someone) to tell
cuustaam	we will see
ceppēem	we told
ceppanu	I will not tell
navvincum	we cause (someone) to laugh
cuustunnaaḍu	he is seeing
ceppēyi	they told
koḍataanu	I will beat
paadaḍataanu	I will sing
ceppēeru	you (plural) told
ceppavu	you (sing) will not tell
ceppēvu	you (sing) told
ceppam	we will not tell
ceppēḍu	he told
cuuseḍu	he saw
cepparu	you (plural) will not tell
koḍatunnaayi	they are beating
ceestunnaanu	I am doing
aḍugutaam	we will ask
ceesēenu	I did
aḍugutaadu	he will ask

verbs

_____ tell
 _____ sing
 _____ see
 _____ laugh
 _____ ask
 _____ beat
 _____ do

subjects

_____ I
 _____ you (singular)
 _____ he
 _____ we
 _____ you (plural)
 _____ they

other

_____ past tense
 _____ present tense, translated with *-ing* form above
 _____ future tense, translated with *will* above

_____ negative future tense, translated with *will not* above

_____ causative, translated with *cause someone to* above

- Data from Toba Batak, a Malayo-Polynesian language of Sumatra. This is a tonal language, but tones have not been marked and you may ignore them for the purpose of this exercise

deŋgan	good		dumeŋgan	better
tibbo	tall		tumibbo	taller
rɔa	ugly		rumɔa	uglier
gokan	full		gumokan	fuller
rahis	steep		rumahis	steeper
holom	dark		humolom	darker

What morpheme indicates the comparative (translated with *-er* here)?

What kind of affix is this morpheme?

If [datu] means *wise*, what is the form for *wiser*?

If [sɔmal] means *usual*, what is the form for *more unusual*?

If [dʒumɛppɛk] means *shorter*, what is the form for *short*?

If [lumogo] means *drier*, what is the form for *dry*?

- Data from Danish

Examine the data from Danish, fill in the morphemes, and answer the questions

en rød bil	a red car		mandens	the man's
en stor mand	a big man		bilens er rød	the car is red
en stor bil	a big car		bilens er stor	the car is big
en rød bog	a red book		manden er stor	the man is big
en bil er rød	a car is red		bilens farve er rød	the car's color is red
en mand er stor	a man is big		mandens hat er sort	the man's hat is black
en bils dør	a car's door			
bilens dør	the car's door			

red _____ man _____

book _____ hat _____

color _____ big _____

black _____ car _____

door _____ is _____

possessive _____

What is the morpheme for 'a'?

Is this morpheme bound or free?

What is the morpheme for "the"?

Is this morpheme bound or free?



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