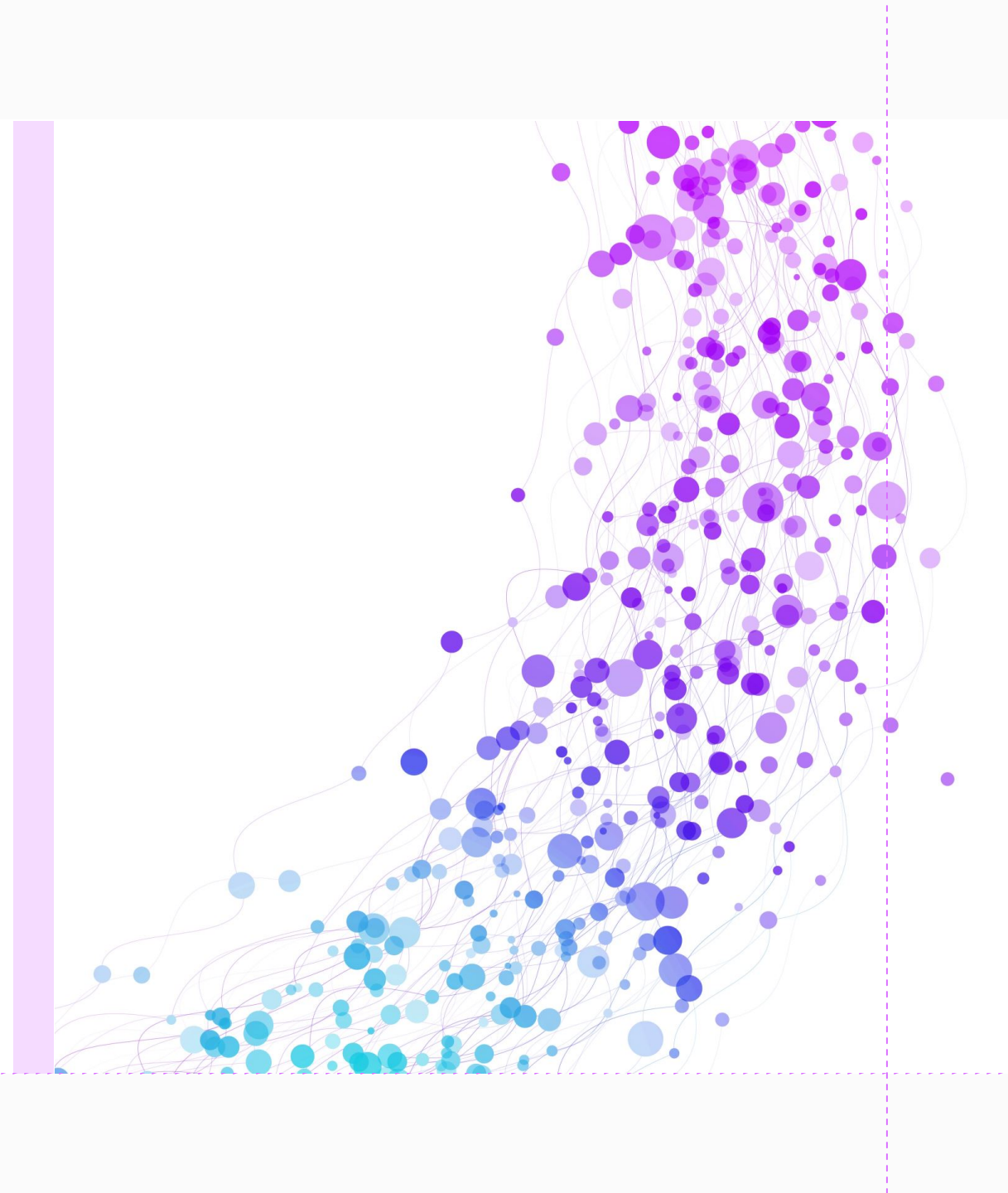


Implemented grammars for linguistic research beyond HPSG

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DELPH-IN 2021

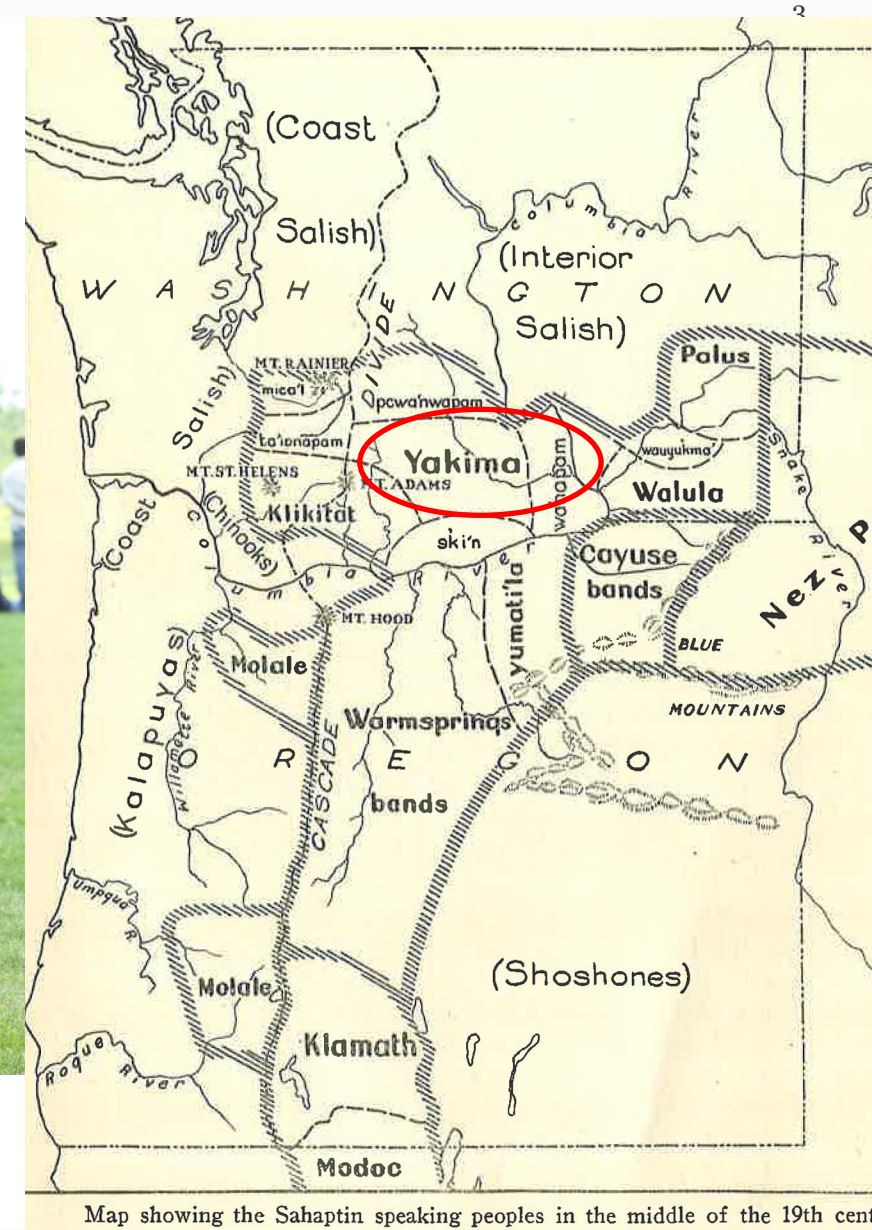
July 22



Discussion

- ♦ Implemented HPSG grammars
 - ♦ have applications---but also research/**descriptive**/theoretical value
- ♦ How to use our grammars for research beyond HPSG?
 - ♦ Or, beyond projects focusing on Matrix properties
 - ♦ Particularly in the **documentation** setting?
- ♦ Planning a new project on Yakima Sahaptin to find out
 - ♦ Would have to be a long-term project done along with other things...

Beavert and Hargus long-term collaboration



Jacobs, Melville. 1931. A sketch of Northern Sahaptin grammar. *University of Washington Publications in Anthropology* 4. 85-291.

Beavert, Virginia & Sharon Hargus. 2009. *Ichishkûn Sínwit Yakama/Yakima Sahaptin Dictionary*.

Toppenish and Seattle: Heritage University and University of Washington Press ed.

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A new project on Yakima Sahaptin

- ♦ Yakima Sahaptin [yak] (Sahaptian, Penutian)
 - ♦ Underdocumented, endangered
 - ♦ Work by Hargus and Beavert
 - ♦ In HPSG, work by Drellishak (Umatilla Sahaptin)
- ♦ Similar to the Wambaya project? (Bender 2008; 2010)
 - ♦ Collaboration between grammar engineer and linguist
 - ♦ Build on Drellishak's work
 - ♦ Somehow deal with the lexicon and the morphophonology ☺
- ♦ **Goal:** Dig into the analysis in a way that generalizes **beyond** HPSG

Sources of data

- ♦ The dictionary database
- ♦ The text corpus
- ♦ Virginia Beavert (age 99)
- ♦ Grammar sketches:
 - ♦ Umatilla (Rigsby and Rude, 1996)
 - ♦ Yakima (Jansen, 2010)

Drellishak 2009 contribution to Sahaptin descriptive grammar

grammatical and ungrammatical intransitive sentences	309
grammatical and ungrammatical transitive sentences	5856
Total test sentences	6165

- ♦ *“Among the ungrammatical sentences, 5848 out of 5856 failed to parse, as expected. To my surprise, however, eight of the sentences did parse.” (p. 171)*
- ♦ These were sentences with 3rd person pronouns for subject and object.
 - ♦ *pa-q’ínun-a* *piiník* *piinák*
 - ♦ 3NONGSG-see-PST 3DU.NOM 3DU.OBJ
 - ♦ ‘They (du.) saw them (du.)’
- ♦ Hargus had never seen them before either, so asked Beavert about them. All confirmed as grammatical.

Wisdom

- ♦ “[...] projects take many years and certain methodological decisions must be made at the beginning of a project, such as the selection of a software package. As technology changes, the lexicographer must **weigh the advantages of adopting a new technology against the time lost to the project** in learning new software and converting data files.” (Hargus 2008: 145)
- ♦ Is the new technology actually **better** than the old?..

Hargus, S. (2008). "Review of *Making dictionaries: Preserving Indigenous Languages of the Americas*." International Journal of American Linguistics 74: 141-146.

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Our initial ideas for research questions

- ♦ Word order in Sahaptin
 - ♦ Information structure, direct-inverse, effects of sentence length
- ♦ Sentence-initial position:
 - ♦ Wh-, negation particle, adverbs
 - ♦ Competing for sentence-initial position
- ♦ Comparing sentences constructed by Beavert with the natural corpus
 - ♦ Types of constructions?

Summary of word order

- ♦ What is Sahaptin word order?
 - ♦ which are possible? all 6
 - ♦ which is preferred? no clear preference
 - ♦ which is dominant? SVO (for VB, also Jacobs 1929 sample)
- ♦ Does **inverse/direct** affect WO?
 - ♦ in inverse, VO more common than in direct
 - ♦ **topic continuity (topics gravitate to the left)**
 - ♦ **Are objects in inverse constructions further to the left?**

Direct vs. inverse

- ♦ “Active-direct”

iwínshi-q'ínun-a

man.3/NOM/DIR-see-PAST

wapaanlá-n

grizzly-OBJ

- ♦ “Inverse” (“the patient becomes topical/proximate” p. 104; “a topic switching device in discourse” p. 106)

ku pá'in-a pch'íimya-n piyáp-in

and INV-tell-PAST wild.cat-OBJ elder-brother.OBV/ASSOC

‘And the elder brother [OBJ] told the wild cat [PROX].’

Questions

- ♦ Am I being naïve? 😊
 - ♦ HPSG grammars should be useful beyond just HPSG
 - ♦ Just a question of time? Or something needs to change in the approach
 - ♦ How much time will it take me (OZ) to create a big enough grammar? 😊
 - ♦ Will probably spend all the time on the lexicon and the morphophonology
 - ♦ ...and will it then be worth it?..
- ♦ Pitfalls, lessons from ERG, Zhong, Wambaya, others?..
 - ♦ What **linguistic research questions** have you been pursuing?
 - ♦ How did that go (is going)?