University of California, Santa Barbara

Lexical flexibility in discourse

A dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics

by

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June 2020

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June 2020

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https://files.danielhieber.com/publications/dissertation.pdf

The source code, data, and accompanying scripts for this thesis are available on GitHub:
https://github.com/dwhieb/dissertation

Dedication (#469)

Acknowledgments

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Curriculum Vitae

Daniel W. Hieber

Education

June 2020	Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara
March 2016	M.A. in Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara
June 2008	B.A. in Linguistics & Philosophy, The College of William & Mary (magna cum laude)

Professional Experience

2018–2019	Editor, Custom Language Products, Rosetta Stone
2015–2017	Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara
2014–2015	Research Assistant (under Prof. Carol Genetti), Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara
2011–2013	Associate Researcher, Research Labs, Rosetta Stone
2008–2011	Editor, Endangered Languages Program, Rosetta Stone
2007–2008	Intern, Endangered Languages Program, Rosetta Stone
2006	Spanish Instructor, Nielsen Builders
2004–2006	Lab Assistant, Language Lab, The College of William & Mary
2003–2004	Latin Instructor, Bridgewater Home School Unit

Publications

2019	The Chitimacha language: A history. In Nathalie Dajko & Shana Walton (eds.), *Languages in Louisiana: Community & culture* (America's Third Coast Series). University Press of Mississippi.
2019	Semantic alignment in Chitimacha. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 85(3): 313–363. DOI:10.1086/703239
2018	Category genesis in Chitimacha: A constructional approach. In Kristel Van Goethem, Muriel Norde, Evie Coussé, & Gudrun Vanderbauwhede (eds.), *Category change from a constructional perspective* (Constructional Approaches to Language 20), 15–46. John Benjamins. DOI:10.1075/cal.20.02hie

2016 *The cohesive function of prosody in Ékegusií (Kisii) narratives: A functional-typological approach.* M.A. thesis, University of California, Santa Barbara.

2013 On linguistics, language, and our times: A linguist's narrative reviewed. *Linguistic Typology* 17(2): 291–321. Review article of *I am a linguist* by R. M. W. Dixon (Brill, 2010). DOI:10.13140/RG.2.2.13238.96329

2013 (with Sharon Hargus & Edward Vajda, eds.) *Working papers in Athabaskan (Dene) languages 2012.* Alaska Native Language Center Working Papers 11. ANLC.

Awards

2019 SSILA Best Student Presentation Award

2015 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Student Research Fellowship (GRFP)

2015 2nd place, University of California Grad Slam

2015 Winner, University of California, Santa Barbara Grad Slam

2013 Chancellor's Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara

2006 Boren Scholarship, National Security Education Program (NSEP)

Fields of Study

Major Fields: Linguistic Typology, Language Documentation & Description, Language Revitalization, Prosody, Discourse, Language Change, Language Contact, Digital Linguistics, Corpus Linguistics

Linguistic Typology with Professor Bernard Comrie & Professor Marianne Mithun

Language Documentation & Description with Professor Eric Campbell, Professor Carol Genetti, & Professor Marianne Mithun

Language Revitalization with Professor Carol Genetti

Prosody with Professor Carol Genetti, Professor Matthew Gordon, & Professor Marianne Mithun

Discourse with Professor Patricia Clancy, Professor John W. DuBois, Professor Carol Genetti, & Professor Marianne Mithun

Language Change with Professor Marianne Mithun

Language Contact with Professor Marianne Mithun

Digital Linguistics with Professor Eric Campbell & Professor Stefan Th. Gries

Corpus Linguistics with Professor Eric Campbell, Professor John W. DuBois, & Professor Stefan Th. Gries

Abstract

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Focus Statement

This thesis is a quantitative corpus-based study of lexical flexibility in English (Indo-European) and Nuuchahnulth (Wakashan). *Lexical flexibility* is the capacity of lexical items to serve in more than one discourse function—reference, predication, or modification (or more traditionally, noun, verb, or adjective). In this thesis I develop a procedure and metric for quantifying the lexical flexibility of words in a corpus, and apply that metric to English and Nuuchahnulth. I find that the two languages differ drastically in not only their degree of lexical flexibility, but the way in which that flexibility is realized. This study advances the discussion of lexical flexibility—as well as parts of speech more generally—by adding a new kind of empirical evidence to the discussion (quantitative corpus-based data), and in doing so providing answers to several longstanding and much-debated questions about how lexical categories operate in English and Nuuchahnulth.

The abstract should include 1) a brief statement of the problem; 2) a description of the methods and procedures used to gather data or study the problem; 3) a condensed summary of the findings. The abstract should be double-spaced. The recommended length is 1–2 pages. (add Abstract)

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

List of Abbreviations

The following table provides the meaning of each abbreviation used in interlinear glossed examples throughout this thesis.

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
SUBJ	subject

A Note on Linguistic Conventions

This brief note documents the conventions I have adopted regarding linguistic data and terminology throughout this thesis.

It is well known that the world's languages realize widely different sets of morphosyntactic categories (Whaley 1997: 58, Haspelmath 2007). Moreover, even when these categories bear the same name, they may differ drastically in their behavior (Dixon 2010: 9). It is the subject of much debate whether these language-specific categories can be mapped onto each other or compared in any useful way (Croft 1995, Song 2001: 10–15, Croft 2003: 13–19, Haspelmath 2010a,b, Newmeyer 2010, Stassen 2011, Hieber 2013: 308–310, Croft 2014, Plank 2016, Song 2018: 44–58). Recognizing these difficulties, I have made no attempt to standardize the linguistic terminology used in examples from different languages. I have, however, standardized the abbreviations used to refer to those terms. For example, even though one researcher may abbreviate Subject as SUBJ and another researcher abbreviate it as SUB, I nonetheless gloss all Subject morphemes as SUBJ. See the List of Abbreviations (p. xiii) for a complete list of glossing abbreviations.

I have not attempted to standardize the transcription systems and orthographies used in examples. All examples are given as transcribed in their original source. The reader should consult those original sources for further details regarding orthography. The source of each example is provided following the example itself.

In all interlinear glossed examples, I follow the formatting conventions (but not necessarily the recommended abbreviations) of the Leipzig Glossing Rules (Bickel, Comrie & Haspel-

math 2015).

It is an increasingly common convention in typological studies to write terms and categories that are particular to specific languages with an initial capital letter, while writing terms that refer to language-general or semantic/functional concepts (e.g. the crosslinguistic notion of subject) in lowercase (Haspelmath 2010a: 674, Croft 2014: 535). For example, the English Participle suffix *-ing* is, obviously, specific to English, and does not exist in any other language; therefore it capitalized and written as *Participle*. If, however, a writer is discussing the category of participles generally and crosslinguistically, not specific to any particular languages, the term is written in lowercase as *participle*. I follow these same capitalization conventions in this thesis.

The first mention of a language within each chapter is followed by its genealogical affiliation (following the format `family > phylum`) and the location where it is spoken. For example, Central Alaskan Yup'ik would appear as "Central Alaskan Yup'ik (Eskimo-Aleut > Eskimo; Alaska)". Language information is taken from the Glottolog database (Hammarström, Forkel & Haspelmath 2019). Language names are given in English following Haspelmath (2017). A complete list of languages mentioned in this thesis, along with their ISO 639-3 codes and Glottolog codes, is in the List of Languages.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter 2

Background

Chapter 3

Data & Methods

Chapter 4

Results

Chapter 5

Conclusion

References

Sources of Literature

The references listed in this section are literature on the topic of this thesis that have been cited in the text.

Bickel, Balthasar, Bernard Comrie & Martin Haspelmath. 2015. *The Leipzig Glossing Rules: Conventions for interlinear morpheme-by-morpheme glosses*. Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Leipzig: Department of Linguistics. https://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/resources/glossing-rules.php.

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Language Index

Todo list