Ning

26 September 2019

Linguistics

Class Summary

[OPENING]: We looked at some basic concepts of linguistic terminology and structure.

[NOTE]: World Atlas of Languages (WAL) is a website that has a bunch of linguistic information about world languages. Super cool, can check it out.

[SUMMARY]: Linguistics is more so the formal study of the science of languages rather than learning language the way that we like to learn about languages. Morphemes are the smallest (meaningful) unit of a language. Morphology is how the words in a sentence change to fit the meaning. There’s usually a template to the morphology for the language you are looking at (i.e: root-> pattern). There are *derivational affixes*, which change the lexical meaning, and *inflectional affixes*, which change the semantic meaning. From a CS standpoint, we care about the linguistics because they impact and will alter our algorithms and structures that we design. Clitic is a linguistic element which is syntaxically independent but phonologically dependent (i.e: the and possessive s). Side note, a lot of languages strongly use suffixes (i.e: penniless, beautiful, etc). Inflectional morphemes can provide info on tense (aspect of verbs) to convey temporal concepts. (There is a good example here that says that the phrase, “If I were you...” is subjunctive, not referring to the past tense “were.” But merely a hypothetical situation). You can also inflect nouns. We discussed some instances of case as well as agreement.