MORPHOLOGY

OVERVIEW

- Morphological basics
- Morphological typology
- Exercise!
- Morphological theory – focus on Functional Discourse Grammar
- My research

MORPHOLOGY – BASICS

Types of morphemes/affixes – placement in relation to root:

- Prefixes
- Suffixes
- Infixes
- Various non-linear processes (parafixes, stem changes, etc.)

Functions:

- Derivational vs. inflectional;

Relation to other morphemes

- Bound vs. free

”Position class chart” (Kroeger 2005)

prefix-	prefix-	ROOT	-suffix	-suffix
-2	-1	0	+1	+2
				Danish
		person	*-er*	*-ne*
		person	PL	DEF
		‘the persons’		
		hus	*-e*	*-ne*
		house	PL	DEF
		‘the houses’		

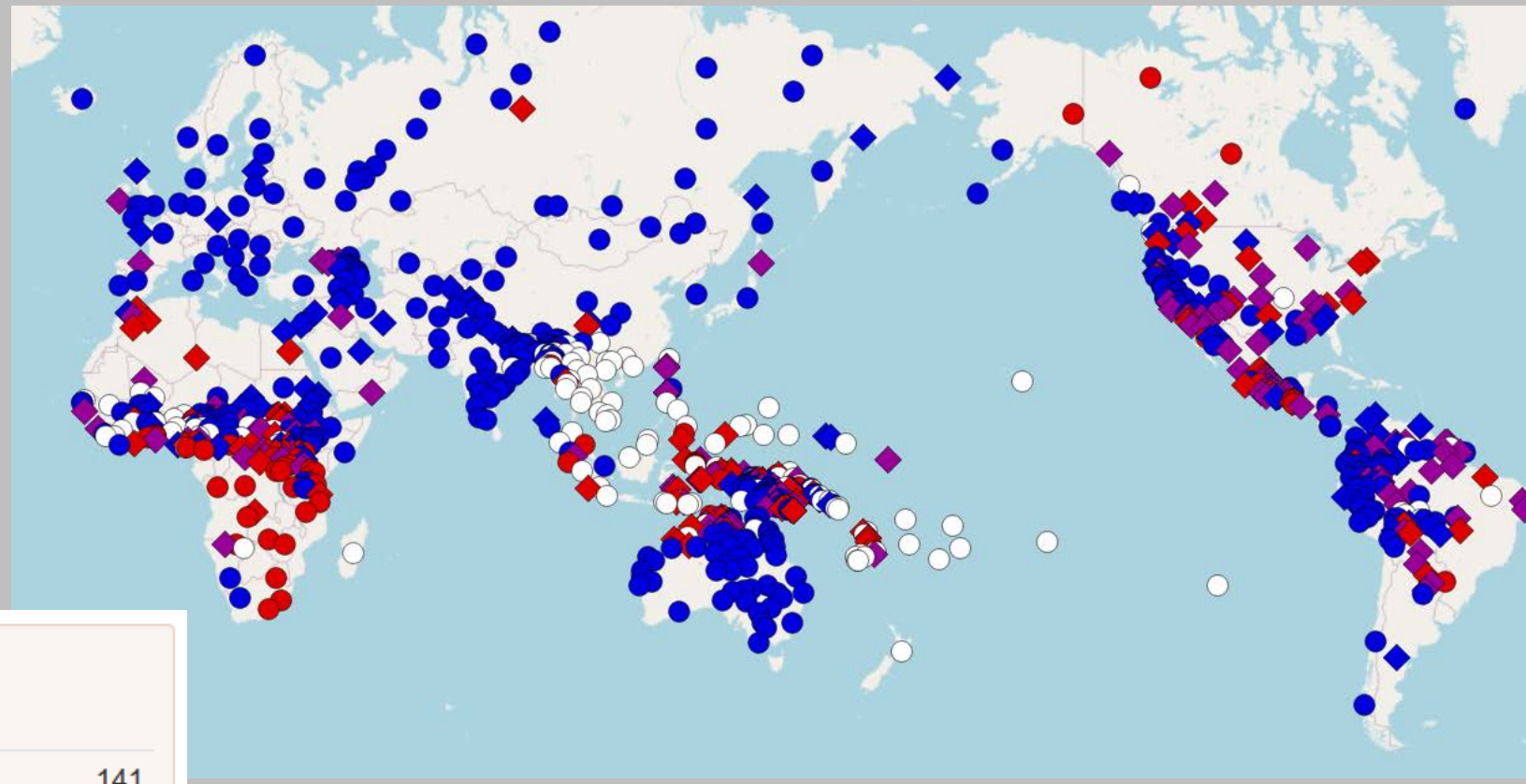
MORPHOLOGICAL TYPOLOGY

- Purposes of typology
  - Classify languages into types (”Language typology”)
    - More on morphological types next slides
  - Describe the variation in languages – distributions and commonalities
    - WALS
  - Discover relations between linguistic categories, functions, structures
    - Absolute & implicational universals

MORPHOLOGICAL TYPOLOGY

World Atlas of Linguistic Structure

Feature 26A: Prefixing vs. Suffixing in Inflectional Morphology



Values

○	Little affixation	141
●	Strongly suffixing	406
◆	Weakly suffixing	123
◆	Equal prefixing and suffixing	147
◆	Weakly prefixing	94
●	Strong prefixing	58

TRADITIONAL MORPHOLOGICAL TYPES

Common to group languages into groups based on their morphology

- Isolating/analytic
  - No (or little) morphology – everything is a separate word

mi4	*ran1*	*tua4*	*rjwa1*	*lew6*
NEG	see	CLASS	snake	CMPLT

'He did not see the snake. '

Yay (Whaley 1997:127)

- Agglutinative
  - Words have many individual morphemes – strings of meaning

talo-i-sta-si-ko

house-PL-EL-2.SG.POSS-Q

'from your houses?'

Finnish (Karlsson 2006)

TRADITIONAL MORPHOLOGICAL TYPES

Common to group languages into groups based on their morphology

- Fusional
  - Morphemes have multiple meanings - Portmanteau-morphemes

  lu-oimi

  release-1S:PRES:ACT:OPT

  'I might release'

  Ancient Greek (Whaley 1997:134)

- Polysynthetic
  - Words consist of many morphemes, potentially complex meanings incl. incorporated roots

  kask-âpisk-ah-am

  close-metal-INST-3.SG>3.INAN

  'He closes it with metal (=locks it)'

  Cree (Bakker 2006)

ALTERNATIVE: INDEXES

Specific measurements of morphology (Lieber 2022:155):

Index of synthesis

= How many morpheme for each word? (avg)

Index of fusion

= How phonologically separable from the root are morphemes?

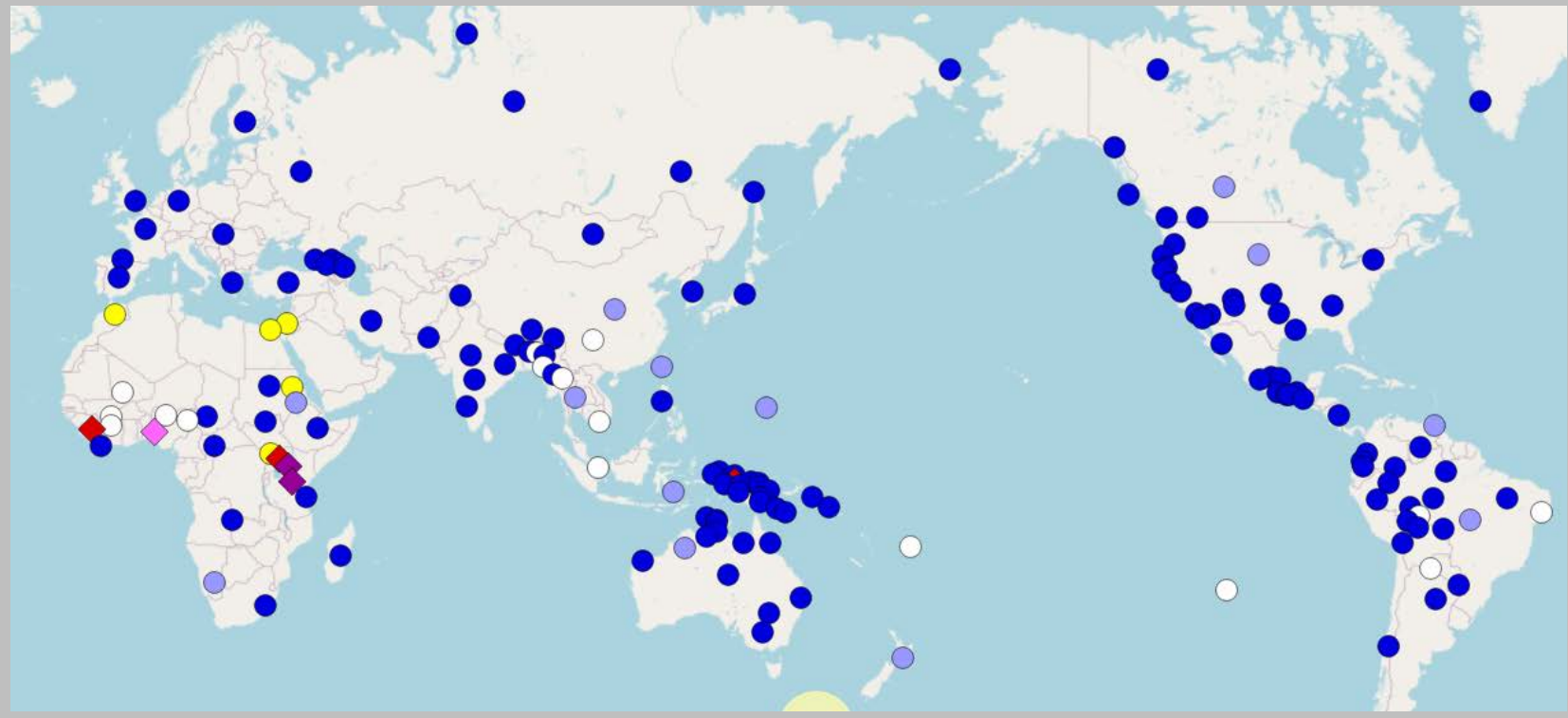
Index of exponence

= Number of ‘meanings’ for each morpheme (avg.)

ALTERNATIVE: INDEXES

Also used in WALS

Feature 20A: Fusion of Selected Inflectional Formatives



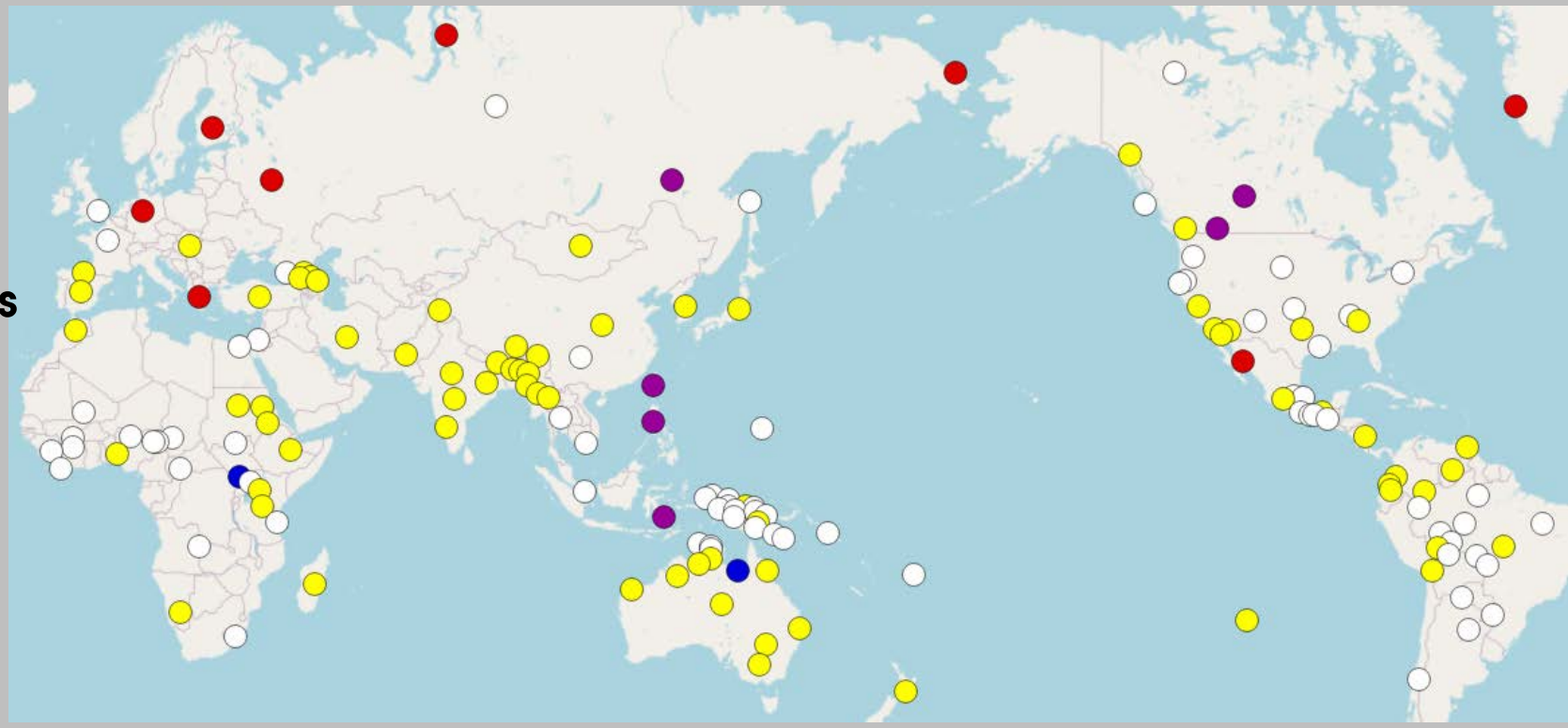
Values

●	Exclusively concatenative	125
○	Exclusively isolating	16
◆	Exclusively tonal	3
◆	Tonal/isolating	1
◆	Tonal/concatenative	2
●	Ablaut/concatenative	5
●	Isolating/concatenative	13

ALTERNATIVE: INDEXES

Also used in WALS

Feature 21A: Exponence of Selected Inflectional Formatives



Values

●	Monoexponential case	71
●	Case + number	8
●	Case + referentiality	6
●	Case + TAM	2
○	No case	75

EXERCISE

with Mentimeter!

LANGUAGES

Language 1
Swahili (Niger-Congo)

Language 2
Kasong (Austroasiatic)

Language 3
Southern Tiwa (Kiowa-Tanoan)

(Examples from Lieber 2022, Sunee 2003, Kroeger 2005)

MORPHOLOGICAL TYPES

Some problems...

- Reduces all the details of the language
- Not easy to account for various types of non-linear morphology (incl. sign language)

Other morphological types

- Head- or dependent-marking languages
- Right- or left-branching (in compounds)

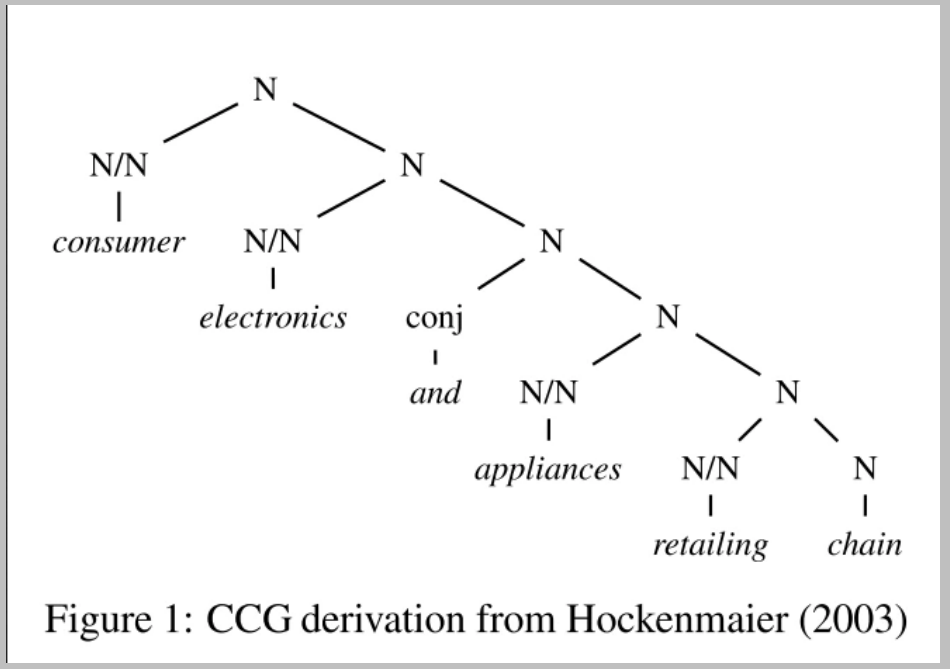


Figure 1: CCG derivation from Hockenmaier (2003)

MORPHOLOGICAL THEORY

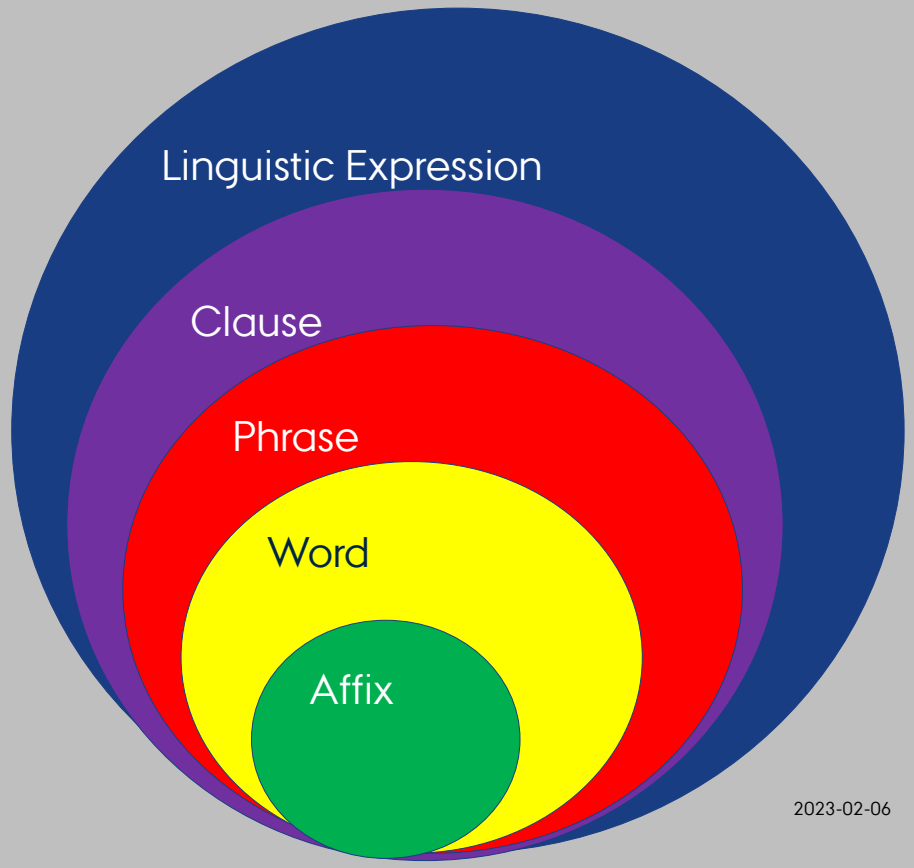
Different theories take a stance towards a number of questions…

- The nature of an affix
- The status of the ‘word’
- The role of the lexicon
- The relation between morphology and syntax – and other aspects of grammar

FUNCTIONAL DISCOURSE GRAMMAR

Architecture with components with levels with layers

Layers within the morphosyntactic level:



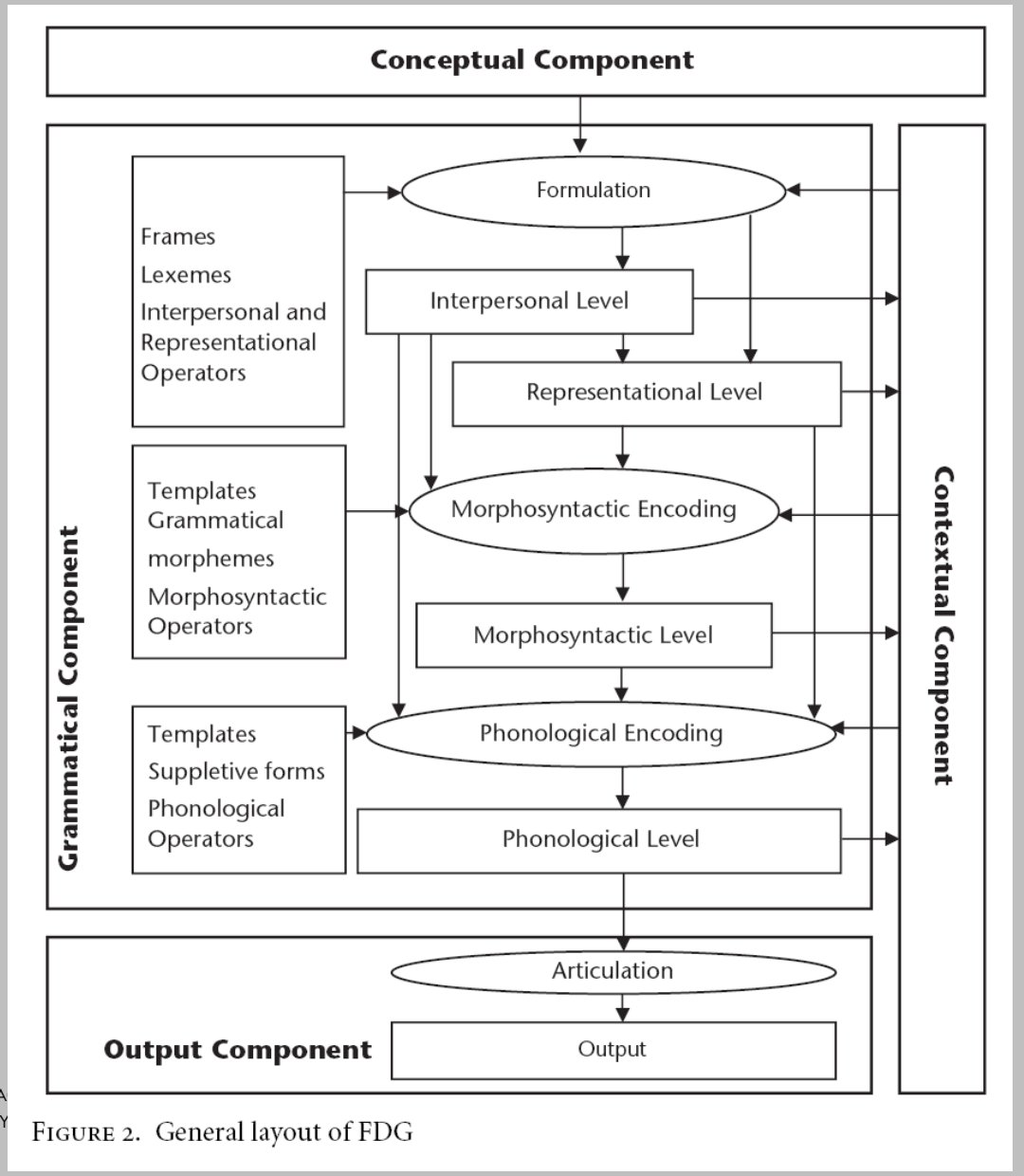


FIGURE 2. General layout of FDG

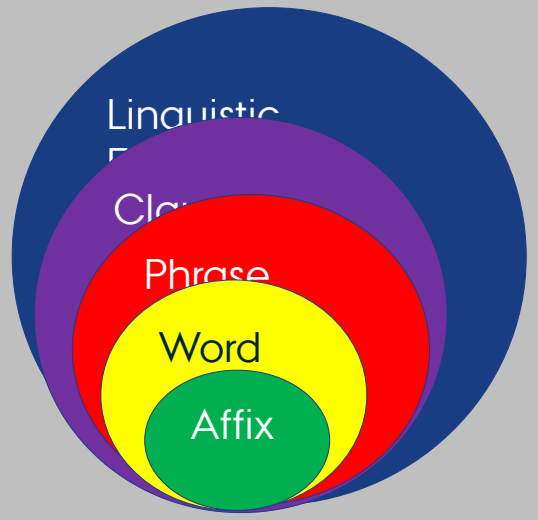
FUNCTIONAL DISCOURSE GRAMMAR

Isolating/analytic

- 1:1 correspondence between units in IL/RL and Morphosyntactic Level
- All units become words (without internal layers)

Agglutinating

- 1:1 correspondence between units again
- All units become affix-layers (in words)



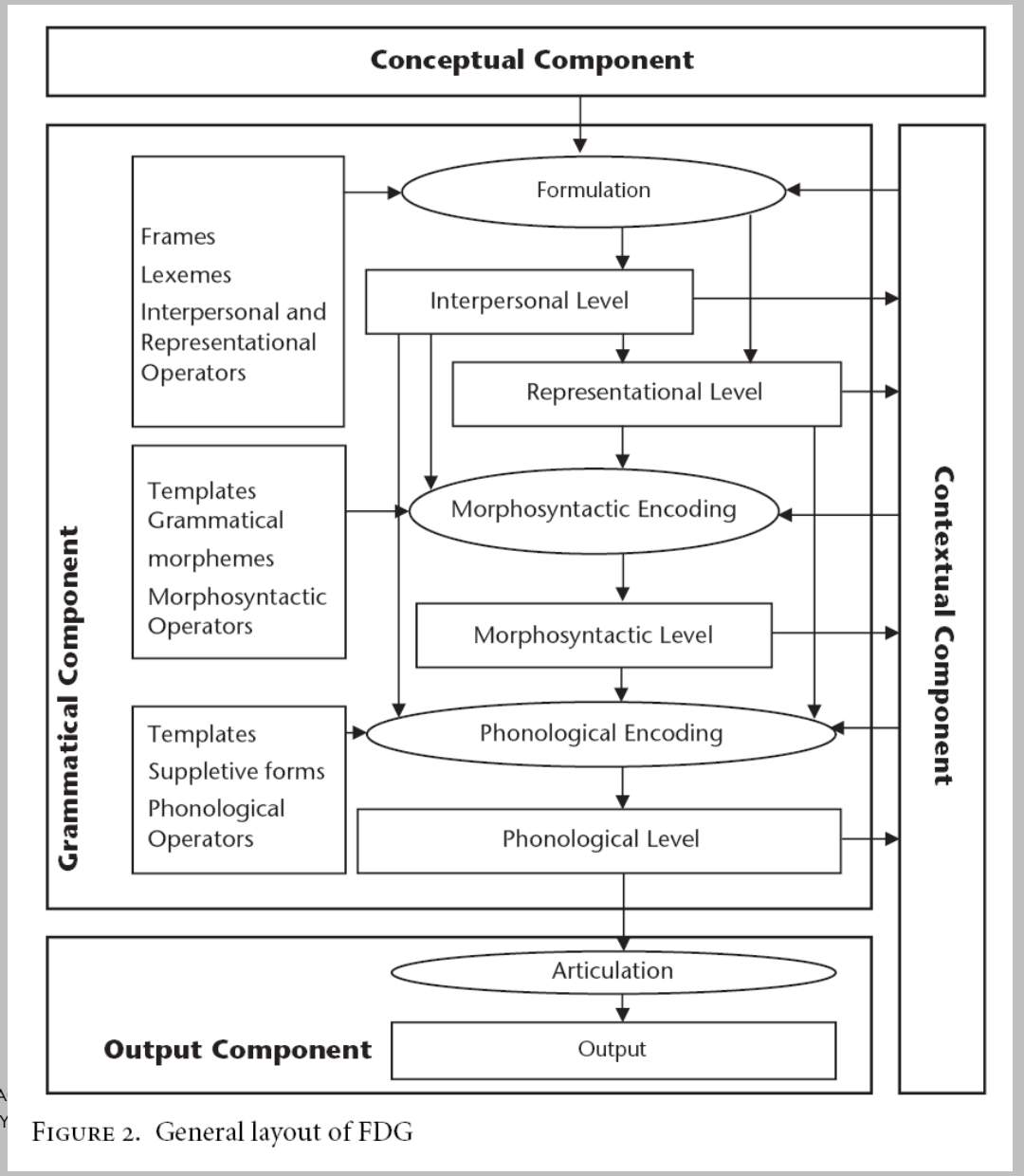


FIGURE 2. General layout of FDG

FUNCTIONAL DISCOURSE GRAMMAR

Fusional

- Many:one-relation: Multiple units in IL/RL become one in ML
- Ends as one morpheme within word

Polysynthetic

- Many-many? (Many considerations, Genee 2018)
- Multiple morphemes within word

Captures how direct the relation is

(Hengeveld & Mackenzie 2008:301-305)

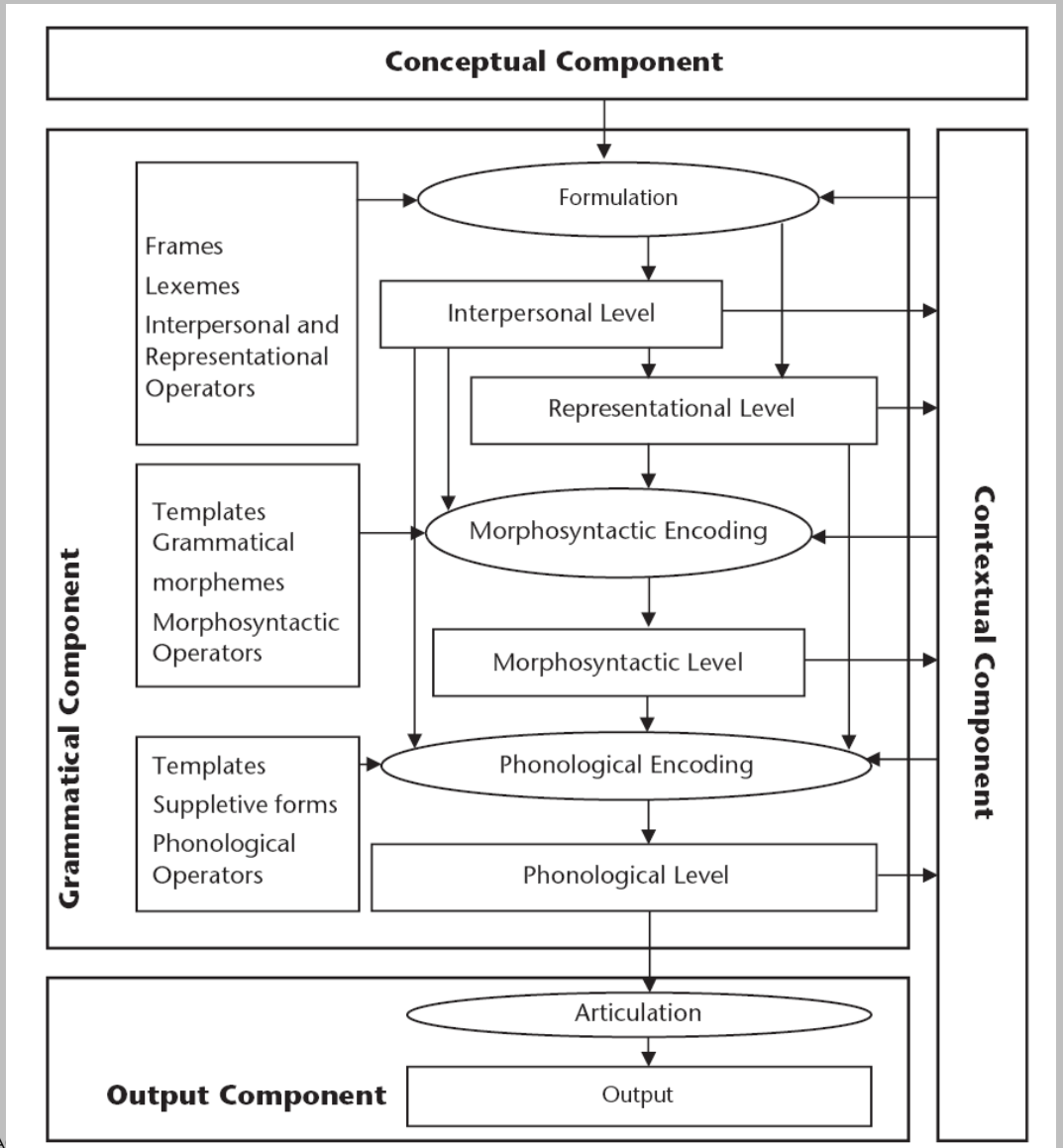


FIGURE 2. General layout of FDG

RESPONSE TOKENS

My research: Danish response tokens

- *ja* 'yes', *nej* 'no', *nå* '~oh', *okay*, *mm*
- Interjections doing 'confirming', 'receipting'
- Changes status of proposition available in context

Morphology?

- Largely isolating
- Distinctions in intonation

System may be specific to response tokens

(Based on Sørensen 2020)

Direct relation to propositional content

- 1:1 relation
- No morphemes needed (cf. Hengeveld 1992)

→ nothing else needed either!

Originally from the perspective of Interactional Linguistics, but compatible with treatment in FDG (cf. Hengeveld & Mackenzie 2008:146, Hengeveld & Mackenzie 2014; Weiß 2021; Keizer 2015:112)

CONCLUSION

- Morphology describes types of morphemes
- Morphological typology describes how morphemes work in languages
- Functional Discourse Grammar captures how directly morphemes code meanings
- Response tokens code certain meaning directly without morphology

ANY QUESTIONS?

Thanks for listening!

Link to download slides:

https://kortlink.dk/2hyhu

Dankjewel!

References:

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SECRET BONUS EXERCISE SLIDE

amarg	*bitter*	amargura	*bitterness*
candidat	*candidate*	candidatura	*candidacy*
clor	*chlorine*	clorur	*chloride*
floc	*tuft,* bunch of feathers, hair, or grass	flocadura	*fringe (on clothing)*
arsenic	*arsenic*	arsenur	*arsenide*
llaminar	*to lick*	llaminadura	*candy*
cobert	*covered*	cobertura	*covering, coverage*
fendre	*split, cleave*	fenedura	*crack, fissure*
diplomat	*having a degree, degree-holder*	diplomatura	*course, diploma*
soldar	*wield, solder*	soldadura	*welding, soldering*

Catalan. Which affixes are in this data? And how many different ones?
Specify their meaning, process and restrictions on their occurence