03.09.2019

Approach towards Language Universals

Chomskyan vs **Greenbergian**

Chomsky

- Mentalism
- Data: 1
- Degree of abstractness: X-bar. The abstraction is very high.

General Notes on Chomsky: He talks about language innnateness, having a Universal Grammar. Based on the fact that all kids learn languages the same way.

Greenberg

- Behaviourism
- Data: 300+
- Degree of abstraction: Surface structure

Universals given by Greenberg Can be word order, or placement of adjuncts, or at the morphology level.

We will be looking at his 44 Universals later.

Word Order:

- Syntactic
  - No language is 100% of one type
  - Most SOV languages are post-positional
- Morphology
- Phonetic

Types of Universals

1. Formal vs Substantives

   Formal: language has rules, we have to follow them

   Substantive: Have categories. Within nouns you may have subcategories.

2. Absolute vs Statistical

   Eg: For statistical, all languages have a minimum of 3 vowels, max od 11. Absolute: "All languages have verbs"

3. Implicational vs Non-implicational

   We take 2 universals for this, that are dependent.

   Eg: if a language is of **SOV** it is **post-positional**. NOT ABSOLUTE.

Notes in class

Typology vs Universals: Typology is the study of differences, classifying by studying structure and functional features. Universal is a pattern occurring universally across all languages

Competence and Performance: with the example of a baby, having a thought but unable to represent it in the language.

Berlin and Kay colour terms

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Presentation: Pick a non-Indian language that we do not know.

- Do a linguistic study, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, ….. Something special about the language.

  Look at causatives, relativisation. Features. Inflection etc. Lexical level or Morphology level or Syntactic level etc etc.
- Do not have to educate on difference from Indian languages or anything
- 10 Minutes to do the presentation.
- 8-12 pages: the report/term paper.
- Bonus: Extra effort
- Apply the study of two months to the target language constantly.‘

Referring to Emeneau's Paper: Read **Masica**

- This paper refers to numerals and classifiers
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