

September 21, 2004

CLASS 5: MORPHOLOGY ACROSS LANGUAGES

CLITICS

Clitics are heavily reduced pronouns that, more often than not, attach to a verbal element.

proclitics: attach to the left of a root

enclitics: attach to the right of a root

English doesn't have "real" clitics (possibly the contracted forms) — but among many other languages, all Romance languages, Arabic dialects, and (Ancient and Modern) Greek do.

AGGLUTINATIVE ISSUES

Language classification: **isolating** >> **agglutinating** >> **inflectional** >> **polysynthetic**.

Deviation from the **agglutinative ideal** ("every morpheme has one function / meaning"):

- (i) **cumulation:** when a morpheme bears more than one piece of grammatical information
- (ii) **syncretism:** when a single form systematically realizes more than one inflectional form
- (iii) **inflectional allomorphy:** when a morpheme surfaces in more than one specific forms
- (iv) **exponence:** affix for a morphological category / property (*partial, extended, principal*)
- (v) **word-based vs. stem-based inflection:** as in Germanic vs. Romance (and Greek)

polysynthesis: morphological compounding deriving rather "large words"

incorporation: proper name for "morphological compounding" in polysynthetic languages

synthetic compounding: the closest English has for incorporation (see handout for Class 4)

MORPHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

concatenative morphology: the term for adding morphemes (affixes) on top of one another

- **prefixation:** an affix that targets the left edge of a stem or root ("beginning")
- **affixation:** an affix that targets the right edge of a stem or root ("end")
- **infixation:** an affix that is placed strictly inside another affix or stem
- **circumfixation (confix):** an affix that targets neither edge of a root (English: ???)

non-concatenative morphology: when something else derives further forms, such as:

- **reduplication:** repeating a particular sequence of sounds of the stem (*echo, partial, total*)
- **ablaut (apophony):** the general term for vowel change
- **umlaut:** a particular type of vowel change where the targeted vowel is fronted
- **consonant mutation:** a particular type of consonant change