

Determining morphological relations: the Navajo verbal complex -1

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...geographical speciation makes a tidy picture. It has a core of truth, but real evolution is messier.

...so messy that a faithful description of real cases converts the science into natural history, in which the unique details are as important as the principles by which they are explained.

E O Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*.

The big goal: describe the details of the morphology of the *Athabaskan languages* via a
working model of the verbal complex
organization of the lexicon of speakers.

- Composition of the verbal complex
 - *units of (re)combination*
- Organization of the lexicon
 - Examine relations between words in dense neighborhoods
 - Where meaning resides?
- Framework: *Word and Pattern* morphology

1. Why Athabaskan?

2. Why *Word and Pattern* framework?

Why Athabaskan?

Represent a classic example of ‘polysynthesis’
def. resistant to ‘morpheme’ analysis

by convention uses flat, extensive ‘position-class
template’ invented for comparative analyses
reassembly governed by post-hoc rewrite rules

Lexicon

dense neighborhoods of ‘similar’ words
closed class includes nouns and stems

Why Athabaskan?

the Athabaskan languages are closely related
with strikingly similar morphology
also highly complex
spread out over a large section of North America

resistant to change, very stable
small communities

do not borrow, no loans words

Navajo is the best documented, largest population

2 Why Word and Pattern framework?

Words (not morphemes) are fundamental objects of analysis, even in highly complex verbal systems.

This approach is “**paradigmatic**, because it identifies (sets of) patterns that whole words participate in, and **configurative**, because, while the meaning of a word form is not necessarily construed as a straightforward composition of individually meaningful parts, the meaning of the whole is associated with **reliable arrangements of its constitutive elements**.”

Ackerman and Malouf 2013

reliable arrangements of its constitutive elements.

“**complex surface word forms** [represent] types of configurations of elements ...

whole surface word forms as elements in a network of related word forms.

As observed by Matthews (1991:204): *‘words are not merely wholes made up of parts, but are themselves construable as parts with respect to systems of forms in which they participate’*”

Ackerman and Malouf 2013

Word & Pattern Morphology

- Words are the basic units in the lexicon
- Inflected words are organized into paradigms
- Lexemes enter into paradigmatic relationships with each other.

Inflectional Paradigms (*InflP*)

set of inflected variants of a word

formed through a regular sets of alternations.

InflP a fundamental building block of the lexicon

fundamental to the organization of the lexicon in
polysynthetic languages

cf Halle & Marantz, 1993; Lieber, 1992

Athabaskan words

reside in

very dense neighborhoods of related forms

forms may differ in small phonetic details

details link forms to each other

identify constituents in the verbal complex

Closed lexicons

1 The Navajo lexicon

Verbal morphology and the Navajo problem

2 Navajo verbal complex:

Phonetic and phonological patterns

3 Working model: The (re)combinatorial elements and the organization of words

4 The Closed Lexicon

1 The Navajo lexicon

- Athabaskan languages and people
- ‘Polysynthesis’ and morphological complexity in NA
- Word models
 - Definitions of terms
 - IA/P ‘templates’
 - Word and Pattern models
- The Navajo problem

the People

the People

Athabaskan or Dene (the People) are traditional hunter/gathers
homeland in northwestern NA.

time depth of at least 2-3 millennium

Dene communities spread across boreal forests (tiaga)
an inaccessible and inhospitable landscape

Communities remote but viable
with historically very small populations.



Dene-Yenesian connection



“tremendous wedge in the older distribution” in NA.
Sapir

Ket & Dene–Yenesian hypothesis

Edward J. Vajda, (2010) "Siberian Link with Na-Dene Languages". *The Dene–Yeniseian Connection*, ed. by J. Kari and B. Potter, 33-99. *Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska*, vol. 5. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Fairbanks, Department of Anthropology.

"the first demonstration of a genealogical link between Old World and New World language families that meets the standards of traditional comparative-historical linguistics"

Jared Diamond (2011) Linguistics: Deep relationships between languages. *Nature* 476, 291–292



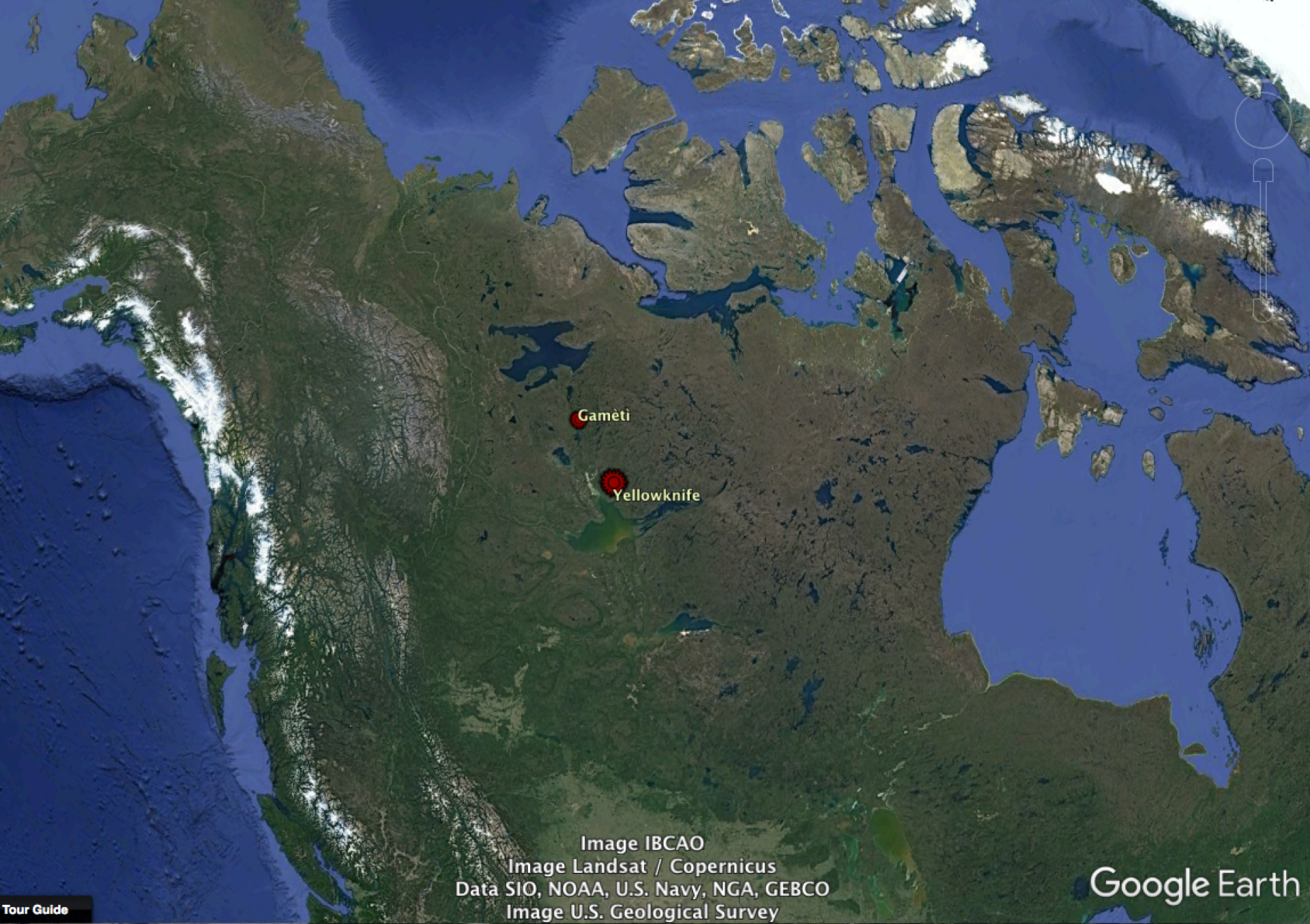


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APRIL 8, 2017 | BEHCHOKÒ, WHATÌ, GAMÈTÌ, WEKWEÈTÌ | LANDS

TŁJCHQ WINTER ROADS CLOSED

Please be advised the Tłjchq Winter Road System is now **Closed for the Season** due to overflow and flooding on Marian Lake.

Thanks to our contractors and maintenance crews who did a great job again this year.

Michael Conway

Regional Superintendent

the Athabaskan people in the US

Pacific Coastal (mostly not spoken)

Hupa, Kato

Apachean - Arizona and New Mexico

Apache languages

Jicarilla, Chiricahua, White Mountain

Navajo



Naabeehó Bináhásdzo 'Navajo Nations'



the language family

Athabaskan (Dene) language family

Closely related group of languages
strikingly similar morphology and phonetic structure

Morphologically complex, 'polysynthetic'
w unusual properties

Primarily verbal, noun poor
nouns and verb stems are closed class
'bricolage' verbal complex formation

Stable over considerable time depth,
equally resistant to change

Edward Sapir (1884 - 1939)

“The languages of the Athabaskan group are singularly conservative in form as well as in phonetics and vocabulary in spite of their enormous and irregular spread.”

“They are singularly resistant to exotic influence”

The Athabaskan (Dene) language family

5 groups

non tone:

Alaska, Yukon, Pacific Northwest

tone:

interior (Mackenzie River Basin across to Hudson Bay)

Apachean (American Southwest - Navajo and Apache)

The Navajo Language: A Grammar and Colloquial Dictionary

Robert Young and William Morgan

1942, 1980, **1987**, 1992 -60 years of work

World-class grammar and dictionary

extensive paradigm charts

organization of a complex aspectual system

dictionary of fully inflected whole word forms

The mental lexicon of a polysynthetic language

polysynthesis in NA

polysynthesis in NA

‘Polysynthesis’

- complex and rich verbal morphology

- tense, aspect, subaspect, agreement, incorporation
 - implicates structural complexity

- indicates a system

- not easily separable into morphemes

- no easy correspondence form and meaning

- contrast ‘agglutinative’

- more easily separable morphemes

polysynthesis in NA

‘Polysynthesis’ in NA

over 300 distinct languages

up to 30 different language families

‘no true analytic languages north of Rio Grande’

Mithun 2000

Yup'ik

kaipiallrilliniuk

kaig-piar-llru-llini-u-k

be.hungry-really-PAST-apparently-Indicative-they.two
‘the two of them were apparently really hungry’

Iroquoian

Mohawk

wa' tionkwatonhontsahriten'

wa'-t' ionkw-at-onhonts-hri-ht-en-'

factual-change.of.state-they/me-(my)own.earth-broken-cause-for-perfective

‘they caused my earth to be broken up for me’ = they plowed my garden

Mithun 2000

Mohawk (Iroquoian)

Otsì:tsa'

o-tsiʔtsy-aʔ

NEUTER-flower/wine-NOUN.SUFFIX

'I (liquid-) bought some wine.'

wakhnekahní:non

waʔ-k-hnek-a-hninʉ-ʔ

FACTUAL-2SG.AGENT-liquid-EPENTHETIC-buy-PRF

Mithun, 112

Tewanine'kara'wánion's

te-w-anine'kara'wa-nion'-s

DUALIC-NEUTER.AGENT-lightning.strike-DISTRIBUTIVE-IMPRF

'Lightning was striking all over.'

Mithun, 89

Wa'enontarónnion'

wa'-e-nontar-a-r-onnion'

FACTUAL-FEMININE.AGENT-soup-DUALIC-EPENTHETIC-put.in-DISTRIBUTIVE

'She kept serving the soup (one ladleful at a time to each diner).'

Mithun, 90

Oneida (Iroquoian)

wahiyateʔslehtaníhahséʔ

'I borrowed a car from him.'

Mithun 871

kateʔwahlutákwas

'I'm taking meat out of the oven.'

Mithun 876

knitstakwalanawáthaʔ

'I'm soaking dirty clothes.'

Mithun 593

Athabaskan

Navajo *Young and Morgan 1987*

náhidiishmááz

ná'-hi-di-i-ø-sh-ø-mááz

around-seriative-inceptive-transitional-imp-Subj-cl-Stem

‘I rolled it over’

North Slavey

(K Rice 1987)

gódákqʔededadhé

'the door opened again'

Rice, 733

k'ínayıht'uh

's/he swung his/her arms around, pushed things around'

Rice, 894

dádéhsha nı beghárayuhdá góʔq

3.is.how.tall COMP 1sg.opt.see.3.again FUT

'I will see how tall she is'

Rice, 1186

Jicarilla Apache (Phone et al, 1999)

hnkeenádaazéí
'the camps began to move'
363

ndáidnzhainá
'he picked it up'
570

dásidńts'ee'éná
'that you hear me well'
214

Hupa

je'wiłqiw

'he pulled it apart where it was forked'

5; under 'apart'

nina'siwe:nik

'he has put his arm around you'

5; under 'arm around, put'

chwing-me'do:wehsle'

'he got hungry'

47; under 'hungry'

Carrier (Babine) Morice 1935

yekhanthîzthai

'he went in search of him'

Vol. 2, 520

rheyenthûtsêł

'they will cut it down with an axe'

Vol. 2, 530

łtsěnadîskhê

'he stood erect again'

Vol. 2, 521

Navajo

áhodidiniishtłóóh

a'-ho-di-di-ni-ish-ø-tłóóh

I'm relaxed (nervous tension), I'm overcoming anxiety

áhodiyiilkah

a'-ho-di-yi-i-l-kah

we're dilly-dallying along (3 or more subjects).

bidádinish'aah

bi-dá-di-ni-ish-ø-'aah

I close it with it, to block the entranceway or hole with it (a rock)

ch'íhi'niilchééh

ch'í-hi-'a-ni-i-l-chééh

we run out and come into view, running (2 actors)

Navajo

áhodidiniishtłóóh

a'-ho-di-di-ni-ish-ø-tłóóh

I'm relaxed (nervous tension), I'm overcoming (my) anxiety

Last syllable is the base –verb stem

áhodiyiilkah

a'-ho-di-yi-i-l-kah

we're dilly-dallying along with them (3 or more subjects).

bidádinish'aah

bi-dá-di-ni-ish-ø-'aah

I close it with it, to block the entranceway or hole with it (a rock)

ch'íhi'niilchééh

ch'í-hi- 'a-ni-i-l-chééh

we run out and come into view, running (2 actors)

STEMS

áhodidiniish- **ł-tłóóh**

-TLOOH loosen something taut

áhodiyii- **l-kah**

-KAH walk moving slowly 3+

bidádinish- **ø-'aah**

- 'AAH handle a round solid object

ch'íhi'nii- **l-chééh**

-CHEEH move rapidly 2+

VALENCE = 'CLASSIFIERS' PREFIXES TO STEM

áhodidiniish- ł-tłóóh

-**TLOOH** loosen something taut

áhodiyii- l-kah

-**KAH** walk moving slowly 3+

bidádinish- ø-'aah

- '**AAH** handle a round solid object

ch'íhi'nii- l-chééh

-**CHEEH** move rapidly 2+

Navajo

áhodidiniishtłóóh

á-ho-di-di.ni-ish-ø-tłóóh

1c-4-4-6.6-7-8-9-stem

refl-space-self-prolongative-transitional-Mode-Sub-VI- 'slacken'

I'm relaxed (nervous tension), I'm overcoming (my) anxiety

YMD:284

ádi refl? = áhodi ?

hi' = 'ahi di- ?

ch'íhi'niilchééh

ch'í- 'a.hi-ni-i-l-chééh

1b-6a.5.5-7-7-8-9-stem

*out horizontally-reciprocative.3rd-extended-Mode-3rdsu-
VI- 'chase'*

we run out and come into view, running (2 actors)

YMD:284

The verbal complex

- IA Template
- Issues w template
examples of words and glosses

Q's

- what are the forms of combination
- how are they organized
- how productive are they
- what can they express
 - meanings & speakers access to meaning
- can we predict (produce) real forms
 - learnable?
- Model of the Dene verbal complex

what is Item-and-Arrangement (IA)/
Item-and-Process (IP) morphology?

What is templatic morphology?

Implications of IA/IP models of morphology

linear structure of slots or positions

morphemes are assigned to slots

slots handle the ordering of morphemes

- compositionality and transparency
- existence of separable morphemes

how does an IA or IP template work?

IA /IP morpheme based models

Item-and-Arrangement

Item-and-Process

ABCDE

A-B-C-D-E

A - B - C - D - E

Prosthetic ordering devices

IA /IP morpheme based models

Item-and-Arrangement

Item-and-Process

ABaseCDE

A-Base-C-D-E

A - **Base** - C - D - E

Base of attachment: prefixes (A) and suffixes (C-D-E)

IA /IP morpheme based models

Item-and-Arrangement

Item-and-Process

ABaseD

A - Base - D

Ordering devices

IA /IP morpheme based models
Item-and-Arrangement
Item-and-Process

BaseCD Base-C-D *hopelessness*

Base	C	-	D
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
hope	- less-		ness

Ordering devices

IA /IP morpheme based models
Item-and-Arrangement
Item-and-Process

*BaseDC Base-*D-C

* hope-ness-less

Base *C* *D*

hope - less- ness

Ordering devices

IA /IP morpheme based models
Item-and-Arrangement
Item-and-Process

ABCDE

A-Base-C-D-E

A - **Base** - C - D - E

Base of attachment: prefixes (...A) and suffixes (C....)

Problems of IA/IP models -of morphology

- ill-defined terms ‘morpheme’
- dependence on fully inflected forms
- for reconstruction
- supported by rewrite rules
- cannot predict forms
- does not address relations among words
- does not address organization of lexicon
 - conjugation classes
 - learnability

The Athabaskan template -Navajo

Position class template for Navajo verb

(Hoijer 1967; Young and Morgan 1987)

KEY (from left to right):

0	<i>Direct object of postposition. Possessive prefix with nouns.</i>	Disjunct
Ia	Null postposition	
Ib	Adverbial – Thematic (‘postpositional stems’)	
Ic	(Reflexive)	
Id	(Reversionary)	
Ie	(Semeliterative)	
II	(Iterative)	
III	(Distributive Plural)	

IV	Direct Object Pronouns	Conjunct
V	Deictic Subject Pronouns	
VIa	Adverbial – Thematic	
VIb	Adverbial – Thematic	
VIc	Transitional / Semelfactive Aspect markers	
VII	Modal - Aspectival Conjugation markers	
VIII	Subject Pronouns	
IX	‘Classifier’	

X	Stem	Stem
---	------	-------------

positions: 7

6a, b, c, 3, 2, 1b, d, e

Modes	Aspects	Subaspects
Imperfective	Momentaneous	Inceptive
Perfective	Continuative	Inchoative
Usitative	Durative	Semeliterative
Iterative	Repetitive	Serative
Progressive	Conclusive	Stative
Future	Semelfactive	Compleitive
Optative	Distributive	Terminative
	Diversative	Terminal
	Reversative	Prolongative
	Conative	Reversionary
	Transitional	
	Cursive	

Jay Williams, 2004 -from Young and Morgan 1987

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we run out and come into view, running (2 actors)

YMD:284

Athabaskan verbal complex

is this a verb?

in order to provide a realistic, parsable model
reduce the parameters of morphological variation
provide more transparency
make some attempt at realistic word formation

Task:

Identify

- the constituent elements in the verbal complex
- their arrangements
- combinatorial operations
- the patterns in the lexicon

Summary: Empirical / methodological motivations

- Template has never worked as a morphological model
 - Hargus, 1987; Randjoda, 1989; McDonough 1990, 1999, 2003
Kari 1990
- Morpheme based model is derived from fully inflected forms.
and refers specifically to a given form to govern recomposition
- Over- and under- generates forms
 - 17 - 23 dimensions of variation
 - no prediction of the lexical patterns
 - declarative constraints
- Position classes are not formal devices
 - invented as a comparative device
 - unmotivated
 - prosthetic

morphological terminology

morphological terminology



Analytic - simple words without ‘morphology’

Agglutinative - obvious separable morphemes
‘strung out like beads’

Polysynthetic - units (words) with complex structures
w complex meanings - not easily separable

morphological terminology

a paradigm = a set of inflected variants of a word form
via exponence

paradigms are formed through a regular or a predictable
pattern of alternations among words

fundamental to the organization of the lexicon

morphological terminology

Definitions

‘Morpheme’

= sound meaning unit?

= smallest unit of meaning?

morphological terminology

Definitions

~~‘Morpheme’~~

handy term for a sublexical unit of many kinds

no formal definition

refers to no formal entity

not sound or meaning

thus *not well-defined*

not a combinatorial unit/element in a grammar

Definitions

1. LEXEME
2. Word form vs word class/family
3. Inflection vs derivation
Compounding
4. Paradigm Economy

LEXEME vs Word form/token

- **LEXEME** - abstract dictionary **ENTRY** (CAPS)
- **Word form** - actual spoken form, physical signal
- **Paradigm** - A set of words that belong to the same **LEXEME** aka *inflectional morphology*
- **Word family** Set of related **LEXEMES**

Word families (= groups of **LEXEMES**)

- **READ READABLE UNREADABLE READER REREAD**
- **CAT CATTY CATLIKE CATNESS**
- **DIVINE DIVINITY DIVINENESS DIVINING**

LEXEMES in a Word Family are less ‘predictable’
than related word forms in an inflectional paradigm

Hapselmath & Sims, 2012;
Aronoff and Fudeman, 2010

Derivation = relations between LEXEMES of a word family
aka: *LEXEME formation*

compounding is a type of LEXEME formation

Inflection = relation between word forms of a LEXEME
aka: *word form formation*

Hapselmath & Sims, 2012

Inflectional Paradigm Infl P

a paradigm

Inflectional Classes Infl Cl

a **LEXEME**'s Infl Ps

i.e. conjugations, declensions, noun and gender classes

Hapselmath & Sims, 2012

Latin conjugational paradigms (InfP)

	sing	plural	tense/mode
1	<i>porto</i> <i>I carry</i>	<i>portamus</i>	present
2	<i>portas</i>	<i>portatis</i>	
3	<i>portat</i>	<i>portant</i>	
3	<i>porta:bat</i> <i>he was carrying</i>	<i>portabant</i>	imperfect
3	<i>porta:vit</i> <i>he carried</i>	<i>porta:ve:runt</i>	perfect

LEXEME = PORTO

Latin conjugational paradigms (InfP)

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1	<i>port-o</i> <i>I carry</i>	<i>port-amus</i>	present
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3	<i>port-a-t</i>	<i>port-a-nt</i>	
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3	<i>port-a:-vit</i> <i>he carried</i>	<i>port-a:-ve:runt</i>	perfect

InflClass (InfC)

all words that participate in the same inflectional pattern

1st conjugation:

amó, amáre, amáví, amátum

júdicó, júdicáre, júdicáví, júdicátum

nárró, nárráre, nárráví, nárrátum

2nd conjugation

habeo, habere, habui, habitus.

3rd – 4th conjugations

the Athabaskan verb complex

Three morphological domains in the Dene verb:

[Disjunct # Conjunct - Stem]_{WdVerb}

The positions are numbered by roman numerals in Y&M.

Disjunct	Conjunct	Stem
0 Ib Ia Ic Id II III	IV V VIa VIb VIc VII VIII IX	X

Null morphemes

Three morphological domains in the Dene verb:

[Disjunct # Conjunct - Stem]_{WdVerb}

The positions are numbered by roman numerals in Y&M.

Disjunct							Conjunct						Stem
0	1a	1b	1c	1d	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	6c	7 8 9	X

Null morphemes

1 *bíni'estsih* *3rd subj*

bí-ni-'a-**si-∅-ł**-tsih **si-∅ → es** **3rd**

1B-1B-5-7-8-9-STEM

To peg down an object, like a hide, to dry on a wall or against the floor

(**ł-tsih** to cause to stick, (using) a slender object)

(bíni' -> bí-ni-'a 'refers to the action of penetrating the surface of some inanimate thing (-'a), without passing entirely through')

bíni'séłtsih *1st subj*

bí-ni-'a-**si-ish-ł**-tsih **si-ish → sé** **1st**

IB-IB-5-7- 8- 9-STEM

2 *bí-ni-'a-**ni-ish-ł**-tsih ? ~~**ni-ish-?**~~ **does not exist**

IB-IB- 5- 7- 8-9-STEM

position 9 sometimes deletes

what's a ∅ (null) morpheme?

how changeable are the morphemes

how 'real are the morphemes

bíni'sétsih

bíni'estsih

To peg down an object, like a hide, to dry on a wall or against the floor

(ł-tsih to cause to stick, (using) a slender object)

(bíni' -> bí-ni-'a 'refers to the action of penetrating the surface of some inanimate thing (-'a), without passing entirely through')

béégashii bikági bíni'séłtsih

béégashii bi-kági bíni-'a —[**es + ł.tsih**]

cow 3rd-hide 'against it'-'surface'-S.PVF.3S + VL.'cause
to stick'

'he pegged down the cow hide'

bíni'séłtsih

bíni'estsih

To peg down an object, like a hide, to dry on a wall or against the floor

(ł-tsih to cause to stick, (using) a slender object)

(bíni' -> bí-ni-'a 'refers to the action of penetrating the surface of some inanimate thing (-'a), without passing entirely through')

béégashii bikági' bíni'estsih

béégashii bi-kági' **bíni-'a - [sé + ł.tsih]**

cow 3rd-hide 'against it'-'surface'-3I-S.PVF.1S +
VL.'cause to stick'

'I pegged down the cow hide'

bí-ni-'a-**si-ish**-ł-tsih

IB-IB-IV-VII-VIII-XI-STEM

bíni'a - [sé + ł.tsih] core verb

the core verb

bíni séłtsih

Disjunct							Conjunct					Stem			
												[Core verb]			
0	1b	1a	1c	1d	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	6c	7	8	9	X

σ

+

σ

sé

łtsih

Minimal verb = $\sigma \sigma$

yishcha 'I cry' → (y)ischa

\emptyset -	<i>ish-</i>	\emptyset -	cha
mode-	subj-	VL-	stem 'cry' _{IPV}
7	8	9	

yicha 'he cries'

\emptyset - \emptyset - \emptyset -cha → *øcha* → (yi)cha

yisdzid 'I shake it' → (y)isdzid

\emptyset -	<i>ish-</i>	ł-	dzid
mode-	subj-	VI-	stem 'agitate' _{IPV}
7	8	9	

yıldzid 'he shakes it'

\emptyset - \emptyset - ł-dzid → *øłdzid* → (yi)łdzid

Minimal verb = σ σ

\emptyset morphs = minimum specification in the verb

carry specific **morphosyntactic values**:

mode person number and valence

IPV 3rd sing \emptyset

yisdzid 'I shake it' → (y)isdzid

\emptyset -	<i>ish</i> -	ł -	dzid
IPV-	1st -	VI-	stem 'agitate'
7	8	9	

yıldzid 'he shakes it'

\emptyset - \emptyset - ł -dzid *ıldzid* → (yi)ıldzid

Minimal verb = σ σ

DZID to agitate or shake around, slosh around 326g

yisdzid *I shake it*

yish łdzid

nanisdzid *I shake it around, gargle it*

na- nish łdzid

'adádiisdzid *I swallow it*

'a-di-á-d-i-ish ødzid

the core verb

YM 1987:37-38

Disjunct	Conjunct	Stem
0 Ib Ia Ic Id II III	IV V VIa VIb VIc VII VIII IX X	
	[Core verb]	

core verb = last four position
= rightmost two syllables

σ σ
 ∅ - ∅ - ∅- *cha* ??

KEY (from left to right):

0	<i>Direct object of postposition. Possessive prefix with nouns.</i>	Disjunct
Ia	Null postposition	
Ib	Adverbial – Thematic (‘postpositional stems’)	
Ic	(Reflexive)	
Id	(Reversionary)	
Ie	(Semeliterative)	
II	(Iterative)	
III	(Distributive Plural)	

IV	Direct Object Pronouns	Conjunct
V	Deictic Subject Pronouns	
VIa	Adverbial – Thematic	
VIb	Adverbial – Thematic	
VIc	Transitional / Semelfactive Aspect markers	
VII	Modal - Aspectival Conjugation markers	
VIII	Subject Pronouns	
IX	‘Classifier’	

X	Stem	Stem
---	------	-------------

CORE VERB

σ

σ

the core verb

Disjunct						Conjunct						Stem	
0	1b	1a	1c	1d	2 3	4	5	6a	6b	6c	7 8	9	X

σ + σ
 yish
 yi ł.dzid

Morphology 1st person singular, imperfective

inflectional pattern

yish kah

I accompany them

yishkaad

I toss it

yishkááh

I track it

yishkaah

I move / handle it

yishkáát

I am carrying it (in an
open container

.....

yish = *ØIPV.1S*

combinatorial units of positions 7 8 9
 mode subject classifier (valence)

7	8	9
∅	(y)ish	∅
ni	ni	ł
si	∅	d
yi	ho	l
	'a	
	ji	
	ii(d)	
	(w)oh	

InflP 4 primary conjugations - 16 conjugations

I. IMPERFECTIVE					II PERFECTIVE	
PERSON	Ø	NI-	SI-	YI-Ø	SI	
sgl.					Ø - L	D - L
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
1.	yish	nish	shi	yiish	sé	sis
2.	ni	ni'	si'	sii	síni'	síni'
3.	yi	yi'	-	yii	si	yís
3o.	yi	yi'	-	yiyii	yiz	-
3a.	ji	ji'	-	jii	jiz	jis
3i.	'a	'i'	-	'ii	'az	'as
3s.	ha	ho'	-	hwo	haz	has

Base (1ST, 2ND, 3RD SING) and Extended (3O, 3A, 3I, 3S) Paradigms

Y&M 1987:200

for 4 IPV modes and for 2 SPFV modes.

two most common are \emptyset and **n** conjugations

n-IPV

	sing	dual
1	nísh	nii(d)
2	ní	noh
3	(y)í jí	

n-PFV (\emptyset -l)

	sing	dual
1	ní	nii(d)
2	yíní	noo
3	ní jí	

16 conjugation patterns have been observed in Athabaskan
Navajo, Young and Morgan, 1987

Tsuut'ina, Starlight and Donovan, 1990; Cox, 2009

MODE PARADIGMS

4 conjugational classes = InflCls

Ø n s yi (gamma)

- MODE inflected for person and number
Subject marking - exponent on **MODE**

MODE CONJUGATIONS

are the base of **(T)AM DOMAIN**

	YI-						SI	
	IMPERFECTIVE	ITERATIVE	PERFECTIVE Ø-L	PERFECTIVE L-D	SPERFECTIVE Ø-L	SPERFECTIVE L-D		
1	yish	násh	yí	yish	sé	sis		
2	ni	nání	yíní	yíní	síní	síní		
3	yi	ná	yí	yi	si	yis		
3 _o	yi	néí-	yiyíí	yoo	yiz			
3 _i	'a	ná'á	í	'oo	'az	'as		
1	yii	néii	yii	yii	dasii	sii		
2	woh	náh	woo	wooh	dasoo	sooh		

bits'a'nisht'ááh

bi-ts'a-'a-nísh - ł.t'ááh

[npfv.1s fly]core verb n-conjugation

I (flew away) left (it) behind

The Navajo Language
Young and Morgan 1987:d247

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'a'nisht'ááh</i> <i>I (fly away) leave it</i>	<i>bits'a'niit'ááh</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'nít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'nóht'ááh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'nít'ááh</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'jít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'da'jít'ááh</i>	<i>plural</i>
3	<i>yits'a'nít'á'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'ast'á'</i>	PVF

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'a'nisht'ááh</i> <i>I (fly away) leave it</i>	<i>bits'a'niit'ááh</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'nít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'nóht'ááh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'nít'ááh</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'jít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'<u>da</u>'jít'ááh</i>	<i>plural</i>
3	<i>yits'a'nít'á'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'ast'á'</i>	PVF

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'a'nisht'ááh</i> <i>I (fly away) leave it</i>	<i>bits'a'niit'ááh</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'nít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'nóht'ááh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'nít'ááh</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'jít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'da'jít'ááh</i>	plural
3	<i>yits'a'nít'á'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'ast'á'</i>	PVF

contrast sets

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'a'nísht'ááh</i> <i>I (fly away) leave it</i>	<i>bits'a'niit'ááh</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'nít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'nóht'ááh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'nít'ááh</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'jít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'da'jít'ááh</i>	plural
3	<i>yits'a'nít'á'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'ast'á'</i>	PFV

contrast sets

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'anísh t'ááh</i> <i>I (fly away) leave it</i>	<i>bits'a'nii t'ááh</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'ní t'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'nóh t'ááh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'ní t'ááh</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'jí t'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'da'jí t'ááh</i>	<i>plural</i>
3	<i>yits'a'ní t'á'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'as t'á'</i>	PVF

contrast sets

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'anísh t'ááh</i> <i>I (fly away) leave it</i>	<i>bits'a'nii t'ááh</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'ní t'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'nóh t'ááh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'ní t'ááh</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'jí t'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'da'jí t'ááh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'ní t'á'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'as t'á'</i>	PFV

contrast sets

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'anísh</i> <i>øt'ááh</i> <i>I (fly away) leave it</i>	<i>bits'a'nii</i> <i>øt'ááh</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'ní</i> <i>øt'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'nóh</i> <i>øt'ááh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'ní</i> <i>øt'ááh</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'jí</i> <i>øt'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'da'jí</i> <i>øt'ááh</i>	<i>plural</i>
3	<i>yits'a'ní</i> <i>øt'a'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'as</i> <i>øt'a'</i>	PFV

contrast sets

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'anísh</i>	<i>bits'a'nii</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'ní</i>	<i>bits'a'nóh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'ní</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'jí</i>	<i>bits'a'da'jí</i>	<i>plural</i>
3	<i>yits'a'ní'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'as</i>	PFV

n-IPV (ø)

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'a' nísh</i>	<i>bits'a' nii</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a' ní</i>	<i>bits'a' nóh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a' ní</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a' jí</i>	<i>bits'a'da' jí</i>	<i>plural</i>
3	<i>yits'a' ní'</i>	<i>yits'a'da' as</i>	PFV

contrast sets n-imperfective

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'a'- nísh</i>	<i>bits'a'- nii</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'- ní</i>	<i>bits'a'- nóh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'- ní</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'- jí</i>	<i>bits'a'da'- jí</i>	<i>plural</i>
3	<i>yits'a'- ní'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'- as</i>	PFV

contrast sets

	sing	dual	mode
1	<i>bits'anísht'ááh</i> <i>I (fly away) leave it</i>	<i>bits'a'niit'ááh</i>	IPV
2	<i>bits'a'nít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'nóht'ááh</i>	
3	<i>yits'a'nít'ááh</i>	----	
3a	<i>bits'a'jít'ááh</i>	<i>bits'a'da'jít'ááh</i>	<i>plural</i>
3	<i>yits'a'nít'á'</i>	<i>yits'a'da'ast'á'</i>	PFV

bits'a'níshkqóh

swim away from it

bits'a'nísh'eet

sail away from it

bits'a'níshdlqosh

move away 'on all fours'

bits'a'níshbáás

drive away from it

bits'a'nísh *łbáás*

1

2

I drive away from it

Whole word paradigms are necessary

The Dene verb - documentation

- identify the constituent elements
- their arrangements
- combinatorial operations
- Identify the patterns in the lexicon

Identifying constituent forms

learners will reorganize and make use of more transparent and emergent forms.

Dene verb is a compound of two **LEXEMES**

$$\begin{array}{c} [\dots [\text{BASE}]_x + [\text{BASE}]_y]_{\text{VC}^{\text{COMPLEX}}} \\ \sigma \qquad \qquad \qquad \sigma \end{array}$$

- the two bases represent
two common types of inflection
exponence and internal changes
- the resulting compound is an LEXEME

Dene verb is a compound of two LEXEMES

$$\begin{array}{c} [\dots [\text{BASE}]_x + [\text{BASE}]_y]_{\text{VCOMPLEX}} \\ \sigma \qquad \qquad \qquad \sigma \end{array}$$

- the **rightmost** element (VL.STEM) is a LEXEME
 - STEM SETS inflected for mode, suppletion
 - special status
- **left** element is MODE LEXEME
 - MODE person and number,
 - organized into InflP
- Two lexemes are compounded
 - to produce an inflected **word level** LEXEME
 - organized into its own inflectional classes

“...the Na-Dene languages are not one-third as synthetic as they look....What Swanton calls affixes are all independent stems entering into composition, or even little verbs...

It all crumbles into pieces at the least touch....”

Edward Sapir (1921)
excerpts from a letter to A. L. Kroeber

- “All the Carrier verbs are made up of at least two parts, the first of which denotes the tense and person, while the second, namely the ending or stem, contains the main signification of the word.”

A.G. Morice (1932), *The Carrier Language*

Sapir again:

“Na-Dene is loosely polysynthetic and fundamentally isolating, monosyllabic elements in a definite order that amalgamate more psychologically than morphologically.

The Na-Dene languages, probably the most specialized of all, are tone languages and, while presenting a superficially "polysynthetic" aspect are built up, fundamentally of monosyllabic elements prevailingly nominal significance which have a fixed order with reference to each other and combine into morphologically loose 'words'; emphasize voice and "aspect" rather than tense; make a fundamental distinction between active and stative verb forms; make abundant use of post-positions after both nouns and verbs; and compound stems freely."

Encyclopedia Britannica (14th Edition; London and New York, 1929. In Selected Writings of Edward Sapir 1949. Ed. D.G. Mandelbaum p 174-175.

Summary:

- *Athabaskan*
 - population in northern NA – considerable time depth
 - historically small population
 - spread across inaccessible landscape
 - languages have highly complex verbal domains
 - similar morphology
 - don't borrow terms
 - verbal domains stand as propositions
 - with complex semantics elude translation
 - inadequately covered by IA /AP morphology

Summary:

- *Athabaskan verbal complex*
 - learnable
 - structured
 - paradigmatic
 - not served by IA/IP morphology
- **Mode-Subject** position 7-8
 - mode inflected for person and number
 - organized as base conjugations
 - implies structure in the verbal domain

Lecture 2 Phonetics of Navajo

Phonetic data

the speech habits of a community.

as a basis for

- phonological analyses
- morphological structure
- developing methods for collecting phonetic data
that address learnability, theoretical issues
- enhances materials used in communities

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Thank you!
for listening in English.