LNGT0101
Introduction to Linguistics

Lecture #1 – Part II
Sept 16th, 2015

So, what’s linguistics about?
• Linguistics is defined as the scientific study of human language.
  - Linguists draw generalizations from a set of linguistic data to explain recurring patterns (e.g., in pronunciation, words, or sentences).
  - They also collect and classify linguistic data. But the aim is to explain the patterns, and not just to observe them.
  - They also design experiments to study linguistic behavior.

OK. So, let’s try and work on some linguistic puzzles.

How is a plural verb formed in Samoan?
• Now predict:
  laga ‘he weaves’ _________ ‘they weave’
  ______ ‘he sings’ pepese ‘they sing’
  ______ ‘he bends’ punonou ‘they bend’

How is a definite noun formed in Lyele?
• In Lyele (Niger-Congo: Burkina Faso), vowels can bear one of three tones, e.g., [a] is mid tone; [á] is high tone; and [à] is low tone.
  • Consider this dataset first.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indefinite noun</th>
<th>English translation</th>
<th>Definite noun</th>
<th>English translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kúmi</td>
<td>‘bird’</td>
<td>kúmií</td>
<td>‘the bird’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yálá</td>
<td>‘millet’</td>
<td>yáláá</td>
<td>‘the millet’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kúli</td>
<td>‘dog’</td>
<td>kúlií</td>
<td>‘the dog’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How is a plural verb formed in Samoan?

Singular Verb          | Plural verb
-----------------------|---------------------
nofo ‘he sits’         | nonofo ‘they sit’
moe ‘he sleeps’        | momoe ‘they sleep’
alofa ‘he loves’       | alolofa ‘they love’
savali ‘he walks’      | savavali ‘they walk’
maliu ‘he dies’        | maliliu ‘they die’
atamaki ‘he’s intelligent’ | atamamaki ‘they’re intelligent’
How is a definite noun formed in Lyele?

- In Lyele, vowels can bear one of three tones, e.g., [a] is mid tone; [á] is high tone; and [ã] is low tone.
- Now, consider this dataset. What’s the rule?

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nà</td>
<td>‘foot’</td>
<td>nàá</td>
<td>‘the foot’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yijì</td>
<td>‘church’</td>
<td>yijìí</td>
<td>‘the church’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ya</td>
<td>‘market’</td>
<td>yaá</td>
<td>‘the market’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Word Spy

- New words and expressions. Can you guess the meanings? Why? Why not?
  - July 21, 2015  embeefen
  - July 30, 2015  mirdle
  - August 12, 2015 weedery
  - August 28, 2015 sadscape
  - September 8, 2015 purse dial

Next class agenda

- Do the [questionnaire](link to the .docx file is in the final cell for Monday’s class on the syllabus table) and send it to me by e-mail by 10am on Monday.