Syntactic reanalysis and word order correlations

Principles of language change

Syntactic reanalysis

Syntactic reanalysis is a process whereby a linguistic sequence is re-interpreted in terms of its syntactic structure (often as a consequence of morphological change or grammaticalization).

English perfect

(1) Ic **hæbbe** [þone fisc **gefangene**].
      I have the fish caught.ACC
      'I have the fish caught'
      [=I have the fish in a state of being caught]

(2) Ic **hæfde** hit **gebunden**
      I had it healed.Ø
      'I had it bound.' [=I have it in a state of being caught]

(3) þin geleafa **hæfð** ðe **gehæled**
      Your faith has you healed.Ø
      'Your faith has healed you.' [= non-stative]

Psych verbs

(1)   þam   cynge   licoden   peran.
        the.DAT   king.DAT   were.pleasing   pears
        'Pears were pleasing to the king' (i.e. The king liked pears)

(2)   *Peran   licoden   þam   cynge.
        Peras   were.pleasing   the.DAT   king.DAT
        'Pears were pleasing to the king' (i.e. The king liked pears)

(3)   The   king   liceden   peares
        the   king   were-pleased   pears
        'Pears were pleasing to the king' (i.e. The king liked pears)

(4)   He liked them.

Demonstrative copulars

(1)   NP, DEM NP
       That man, he friend
       ‚That man is my friend'

(2)   'That man is my friend'

Word order correlations

Head final vs. head initial

		OV-language	
V	O	O	V

VO vs. OV

(1) English
     Peter **saw** the man in the garden.

(2) Japanese

John	ga	kurma	de	kobe	ni	**it-ta**
John	SU	car	by	Kobe	to	go-PST

     'John went to Kobe by car.'

VO vs. OV

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John   ga   kurma   de   **kobe** **ni** **it-ta**
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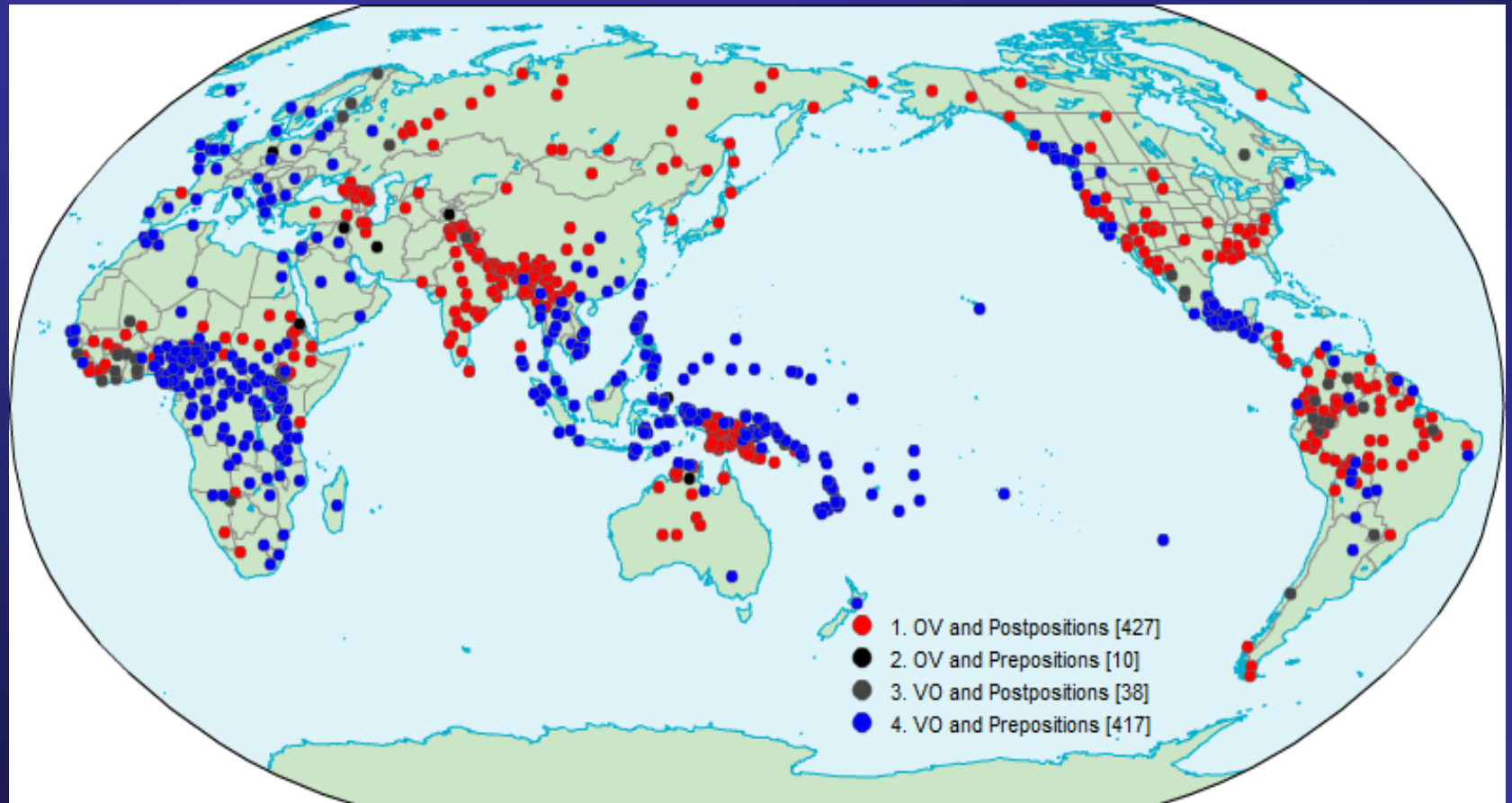
Head final vs. head initial

		OV-language	
V	O	O	V
P	NP	NP	P

Adpositions

	V_O	O_V	Total
P_NP **NP_P**	417 38	10 427	427 465
Total	455	437	892

Adpositions

Legend:
- 1. OV and Postpositions [427]
- 2. OV and Prepositions [10]
- 3. VO and Postpositions [38]
- 4. VO and Prepositions [417]

Head final vs. head initial

VO-language		OV-language	
V	O	O	V
P	NP	NP	P
AUX	V	V	AUX

Auxiliaries

	V_O	O_V	Total
Aux_V	28	3	31
V_Aux	4	36	40
Total	32	39	71

Head final vs. head initial

VO-language		OV-language	
V	O	O	V
P	NP	NP	P
AUX	V	V	AUX
SUB	S	S	SUB

Head final vs. head initial

VO-language		OV-language	
V	O	O	V
P	NP	NP	P
AUX	V	V	AUX
SUB	S	S	SUB
ART	N	N	ART

Head final vs. head initial

VO-language		OV-language	
V	O	O	V
P	NP	NP	P
AUX	V	V	AUX
SUB	S	S	SUB
ART	N	N	ART
N	G	G	N

Head final vs. head initial

VO-language		OV-language	
V	O	O	V
P	NP	NP	P
AUX	V	V	AUX
SUB	S	S	SUB
ART	N	N	ART
N	G	G	N

↑   ↑

head   **head**

VO&OV – AuxV&VAux

Where do auxiliaries come form?

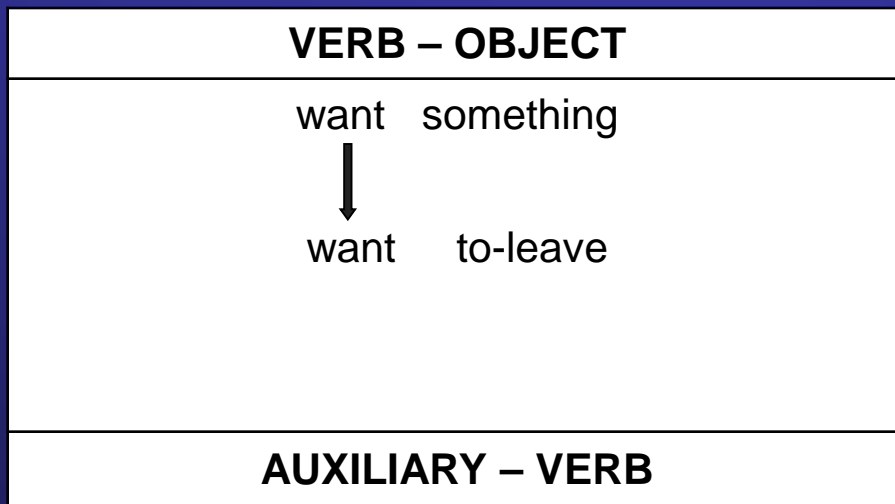-> In many languages, auxiliaries are based on main verbs (Bybee et al 1994).

VERB – OBJECT
want   something
AUXILIARY – VERB

VO&OV – AuxV&VAux

Where do auxiliaries come form?

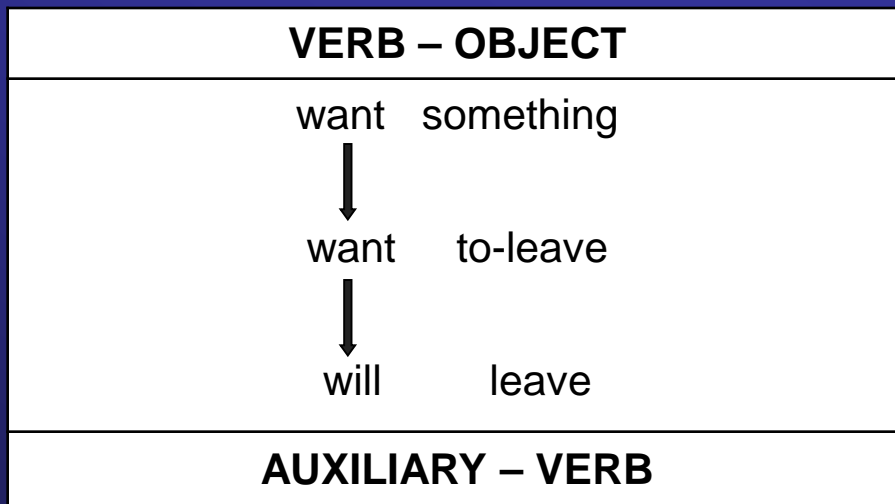-> In many languages, auxiliaries are based on main verbs (Bybee et al 1994).

VERB – OBJECT
want   something
↓
want   to-leave
AUXILIARY – VERB

VO&OV – AuxV&VAux

Where do auxiliaries come form?

-> In many languages, auxiliaries are based on main verbs (Bybee et al 1994).

VERB – OBJECT
want   something
↓
want   to-leave
↓
will   leave
AUXILIARY – VERB

VO&OV – AuxV&VAux

Where do auxiliaries come form?

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VERB – OBJECT	OBJECT – VERB
want something ↓ want to-leave ↓ will leave	something want
AUXILIARY – VERB	**VERB – AUXILIARY**

VO&OV – AuxV&VAux

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VERB – OBJECT	OBJECT – VERB
want something ↓ want to-leave ↓ will leave	something want ↓ to-leave want
AUXILIARY – VERB	**VERB – AUXILIARY**

VO&OV – AuxV&VAux

Where do auxiliaries come form?

-> In many languages, auxiliaries are based on main verbs (Bybee et al 1994).

VERB – OBJECT	OBJECT – VERB
want something	something want
↓	↓
want to-leave	to-leave want
↓	↓
will leave	leave will
AUXILIARY – VERB	**VERB – AUXILIARY**

VO&OV – AuxV&VAux

Where do auxiliaries come form?

-> In many languages, auxiliaries are based on main verbs (Bybee et al 1994).

VERB – OBJECT	OBJECT – VERB
want something ↓ want to-leave ↓ will leave	something want ↓ to-leave want ↓ leave will
AUXILIARY – VERB	**VERB – AUXILIARY**

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Where do adpositions come form?

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Where do adpositions come form?

Motion/aspectual V > P

finish [V] > after
pass [V] > after
arrive [V] > to
give [V] > for
go.to [V] > to
follow [V] > behind

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Where do adpositions come form?

Motion/aspectual V > P	Relational/body N > P
finish [V] > after	back [N] > behind/after
pass [V] > after	front [N] > in.front.of
arrive [V] > to	head [N] > in.front.of
give [V] > for	eye [N] > behind
go.to [V] > to	heart [N] > in
follow [V] > behind	side [N] > near

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Adpositions derived from verbs

VERB – OBJECT
give   someone
↓
for   someone
PREPOSITION – NOUN

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Adpositions derived from verbs

VERB – OBJECT	OBJECT – VERB
give someone ↓ for someone	someone give ↓ someone for
PREPOSITION – NOUN	**NOUN – POSTPOSITION**

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Adpositions derived from nouns

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Adpositions derived from nouns

NOUN – GENITIVE
front   of_someone
PREPOSITION – NOUN

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Adpositions derived from nouns

NOUN – GENITIVE	
front	of_someone
↓	
in.front.of	someone
PREPOSITION – NOUN	

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Adpositions derived from nouns

NOUN – GENITIVE	GENITIVE – NOUN
front of_someone ↓ in.front.of someone	someone_of front ↓ someone of.in.front
PREPOSITION – NOUN	**NOUN – POSTPOSITION**

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Chinese has prepositions derived from converbs and postpositions derived from relational nouns.

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

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CONVERB – NOUN
go/arrive   N
↓
dào [to]   N
PREPOSITION – NOUN

VO&OV – PrN&NPo

Chinese has prepositions derived from converbs and postpositions derived from relational nouns.

CONVERB – NOUN	GENITIVE – NOUN
go/arrive N ↓ *dào [to]* N	GEN *side* ↓ N *biān* [by]
PREPOSITION – NOUN	**POSTPOSITION – NOUN**