Lgcs 101: Historical Linguistics. Lecture Notes. Thurs 29 Sept 2011.

0. Announcements
-Reading: Chapter 2, Section 2.5-finish; Chapter 6.
-Assignment 4: Exercises 2.5, 5.3.

1. Morphologization and change in morphological type

Languages come in different morphological types.

In an **isolating** language, each word tends to consist of a single morpheme:

(1) khi tôi dên nhà ban tôi, chúng tôi… *Vietnamese*
when I come house friend I plural I
'When I came to my friend's house, we…"

In a synthetic language, words tend to be complex. Synthetic languages further subdivide into two types: **agglutinating** and **fusional**. In an **agglutinating** language, words are complex, and affixation is transparent:

(2) ev-dzik-ler-de *Turkish*
house-little-plural-in
'in little houses'

Over time, an isolating language may become more agglutinating through the process of **morphologization**, the reduction of an independent word to a bound morpheme.

Today's morphology is yesterday's syntax (Givón 1971).

Examples:
(3) The English suffix *–ly* < OE *lic* 'body'. *Lic* was regularly compounded with nouns, e.g., *man-lic* 'man-like', and then reduced to the suffix *-ly*.

(4) Similarly, a case-inflected form of *lic*, *lice* 'like', compounded with adjectives, e.g., OE *slawlice* 'slowly', and then again reduced.

In English, introduction of suffixes like *–ly* has resulted in an agglutinating system of **derivational** morphology (but leveling of its **inflectional** paradigms has made it a mostly isolating language.)

Further examples:

(5) Basque person-agreement prefixes appear to have developed from free pronouns:

	'to go'		personal pronouns	
	Sing.	Pl.	Sing.	Pl.
1st	noa	goaz	ni	gu
2nd	hoa	zoaz	hi	zu
3rd	doa	doaz	zero	zero

(6) Turkish personal pronouns > subject agreement markers
kelür ben 'I am coming' > *gelür-em*

Modern English genitive *'s* is a clitic:

(7) The man I saw yesterday**'s** dog…

Compare early Modern English:

(8) a. The man I saw yesterday **his** dog…
b. …a sea-fight 'gainst the Count **his** gallies (Shakespeare's *12th Night*)
c. Lucilla **hir** company (Lyly's *Euphues*)

French cliticization.

In all of the above cases, the language **gained** affixes via morphologization.

If sound change then obscures the boundaries between affixes, so that they become fused, the result is a **fusional** language. In a fusional language, words tend to be complex, but the morpheme boundaries are difficult or impossible to identify. E.g., Latin, Russian, Old English.

(9) Latin puer-um
boy-sg.masc.acc

Languages can **lose** affixes entirely through a combination of regular sound changes and analogical leveling. For example, Old English had a rich inflectional case system: "potentially four case distinctions, plus at least six noun classes, all with potentially different suffixes" (Hock & Joseph 2007; data below also come from H&J). Two are representative here:

(10) Old English paradigm for 'stone'

	sing.	pl.
Nom.	*stān*	*stān-as*
Acc.	*stān*	*stān-as*
Dat.	*stān-e*	*stān-um*
Gen.	*stān-es*	*stān-a*

(11) Old English paradigm for 'care'

	sing.	pl.
Nom.	*car-u*	*car-a*
Acc.	*car-e*	*car-a*
Dat.	*car-e*	*car-um*
Gen.	*car-e*	*car-a*

From OE to Modern English, these case endings were largely lost; we have now just the Genitive clitic *–s* (e.g., *stone's*) along with a single plural suffix, *–s* (e.g., *stones*.)

The loss of the case system in English was largely due to sound change. Vowels and nasals were regularly lost in final syllables, which would have produced:

(12)

	sing.	pl.
Nom.	/ston/	/stonz/
Acc.	/ston/	/stonz/
Dat.	/ston/	/ston/
Gen.	/stons/	/ston/

In addition to the loss of sounds in word final syllables, through analogical leveling, all plurals additionally became*–s* final, producing our current system:

(13)

	sing.	pl.
Nom.	/ston/	/stonz/
Acc.	/ston/	/stonz/
Dat.	/ston/	/stonz/
Gen.	/stonz/	/stonz/

In effect, the combination of sound change and leveling together caused English to lose its rich inflectional case system. The result was that English has moved in the direction of an **isolating** language, at least with respect to inflectional morphology. (Further, the loss of case-marking suffixes in English caused changes in syntax to compensate for what was previously encoded by case.)

Languages thus appear to develop in cycles: Isolating languages develop into agglutinating languages through morphologization, agglutinating languages develop into fusional languages through sound change, and fusional languages can develop into isolating languages through a combination of sound change and leveling.

While Classical Chinese was highly isolating, Proto-Chinese has been hypothesized to have had inflectional affixes that distinguished Nom/Gen from Acc/Dat, as well as a derivational affix **-s* (examples from Hock and Joseph).

(14)

Proto-Chinese derivational **-s*		Mod.Chinese
**kit*	'to tie'	*jié*
**kit-s*	'hair-knot'	*ji*

From Proto-Chinese to Classical Chinese, final consonants were lost, thus affixes were lost, and Classical Chinese became an isolating language. (Cf. Modern Chinese, which does have complex words.)

From Hock and Joseph (2007):

"…over the course of some three thousand years, the rich morphology of Sanskrit, with eight different cases, has been reduced to just two in the early stages of its modern descendants, such as Hindi. Somewhere along the line, however, the course has been reversed. Original post-posed prepositions have become clitics in Hindi… and are now fusing with the preceding noun stems. The result is a shift toward an agglutinative system…

"However, in many languages and language families we cannot observe the complete cycle. Languages like Turkish appear to have been agglutinating as far back as we can trace them in history…

Although we can observe tendencies for types of changes, we cannot predict whether change will actually occur.

2. From last time

Deus. "God, the Supreme Being."
Divus "said of the Eternal Deity, and of heroes to whom divine honours were paid."

Proportional analogical change. Often results in generalization or extension of a morphological pattern.
Examples: *Dive/dived > dive/dove*; *brother*/*brethren > brother/brothers*.

Analogical leveling. Reduces the number of alternations within a paradigm, making a paradigm more uniform. E.g., Latin *honos, honoris > honor, honoris*.

Sturtevant's paradox: Sound change is regular, but produces irregularity; analogy is irregular, but produces regularity.

Contamination.

*Hypercorrection***.** The attempt to correct things which are in fact already correct, resulting in getting the form wrong.

Implications for reconstruction:
Analogy can make cognates look unexpectedly irregular.
PIE **penk^{w}e* > Latin *quinque* 'five' Cf. *quattor* 'four'

Exercise 5.4

3. What to review for the exam

Sound change
- -Types of sound change:
  - -Conditioned vs. unconditioned;
  - -Assimilation, palatalization, backing, etc.;
- -Ordering of sound changes;
- -Phonemic/non-phonemic change;
  - -Merger, split;
- -Change as change in rule systems (reordering, rule loss, etc.);
- -Changes in phonological systems due to symmetry/maximization of contrast;
  - -Chain shifts (drag, push), addition/loss of phonemes.

PIE phonemic system (so far);
- -*Centum*/*satem*; major sound changes (Feb 15th notes).

Borrowing
- -Nativization; Calquing; Influence of prestige on borrowing.

Analogical change
- -Types of analogical change:
  - -Proportional analogical change, analogical leveling, analogical extension;
  - -Contamination, hypercorrection, folk etymology, back-formation.

Morphological/syntactic change
- -Reanalysis;
- -Morphologization; Grammaticalization;
  - -Change in morphological type: isolating/agglutinating/inflectional;
- -Change in syntactic type: SVO/SOV/VSO, etc.

Semantic change
- -Types of semantic change (more on this next time.)

References

Givón, T. 1971. Historical syntax and synchronic morphology: An archaeologist's fieldtrip. *CLS* 7, 394-415.
Hock H. H. & B. D. Joseph. 2007. *Language History*, *Language Change and Lan guage Relationship*, 2nd Edition. Mouton de Gruyter.