

eLgcs 10, Intro to Ling. Lecture notes. 16 Nov 2010.

### 0. Announcements

- Solution to the exam.
- Next time: SYNTAX.
- Exam 4 will be take-home. Details to come.
- Reading** for next time is posted online: Chapter 2 of Andrew Carnie's 2007 *Syntax*. This reading is just for you to review word categories (a.k.a. parts of speech), which you'll need to be solid with for the syntax section.

### 1. Stepping back and looking at the big picture

From the first few weeks:

- Linguistics is the scientific study of human language.
- We will investigate language through the hands-on analysis of naturalistic data from a variety of languages spoken around the world.
- We will take a broadly **cognitive** viewpoint: We will investigate language as a knowledge system within the mind of the language user—a mental *grammar*—that can be studied empirically and modeled formally

-Big picture questions:

- What do we actually know when we know a language?
- How are grammars structured?
- How are the grammars of languages alike, and how do they differ?
  - And what implications does this have?
- What is a **possible** grammar of human language?
- How are grammars **acquired**?

### 2. The Linguists: Key Ideas (from <http://www.pbs.org/thelinguists/For-Educators/>)

- 7,000+ languages are spoken around the world.
- Most of the world's languages are spoken by small groups of people: approximately 85% of the world's languages have fewer than 100,000 speakers.
- A language dies (ceases to be spoken) when there are no living native speakers. A language is endangered when only a very few, elderly native speakers remain.
- Language is intimately connected to culture and history.
- Language documentation consists of recording linguistic and cultural information in the community that speaks the language.
- Language revitalization work strengthens endangered languages by fostering positive language attitudes and language teaching.

**Assignment 7, Part 1:** Response.

Write a reaction/response—at least a five-sentence paragraph—to *The Linguists*.

This might include any questions you might have, things you found interesting, criticisms of the film, etc. Talk about something it got you thinking.