

Midterm Curve

- A 85 and above
- B 75-84
- C 60-74
- D 59 and below

refining categories

- direct/indirect
- Place
- Topic
 - Academics/exam
 - Third party seems to be a catch-all
 - Environment? (environment - narrow space between tables)

Grammatical Gender (Noun Class) systems

- Nouns fall into classes based (often partially or remotely) on natural characteristics of the concepts they signal
- These noun classes may be reflected in
 - Morphological marking of the noun itself
 - Agreement marking (on adjectives, verbs etc.)

Noun classes: Swahili (East Africa 30 million speakers)

Bantu languages may have as many as 20 noun classes. These classes have some semantic coherence - particularly, there is a class for people and some other animates. But other classes require a good deal of interpretation (e.g. trees and things that spread, the body and certain body parts, beings who act as instruments of a higher power, nouns related to verbs, and misc.)

(see

http://research.yale.edu/cgi-bin/swahili/main.cgi?right_frame_src=http%3A//research.yale.edu/swahili/serve_pages/grammar/grammar.php)

Here's how Swahili noun class agreement works:
Noun class prefixes mark singular and plural as well.
Verbs contain a morpheme that agrees with its
subject and with its **object**.

watoto wadogo wameanguka 'the small children fell'

kitabu kidogo kimeanguka 'the small book fell'

vitabu vidogo vimeanguka 'the small books fell'

watoto wadogo wanakitaka kitabu 'the small children
want the book.'

Noun classes

Ojibwe (northeast US, Southeast Canada
55,000 speakers)

animate vs. inanimate

- animate: all living things, sacred things.
- Inanimate: the rest.

But ... Mitig inflected as animate means ‘tree’, as
inanimate means ‘stick’.

Noun Classes

Tamil (India, Sri Lanka, Singapore ~75 million speakers)

- Rational (humans, dieties)
 - 2 subclasses in singular:
 - Masculine
 - Feminine
- Non-rational

Noun Classes

Diyari (Australia, no remaining speakers)

Feminine: all female animates (humans, non-human animals).

Other: All male animates and inanimates, as well as animates for which sex cannot be determined (ie. lower animates like worms)

Noun classes

Dyirbal (Australia, 5 speakers)

- Animate objects, men
- Women, water, fire, violence, dangerous creatures and phenomena.
- Edible fruit and vegetables
- Miscellaneous

Noun classes Alambalak (Papua New Guinea 1,500 speakers)

- Masculine: males and tall or long and slender things (fish, crocodile, long snakes, arrows, spears and tall slender trees)
- Feminine: females and things that are short, squat or wide (turtles, frogs, houses, squat trees, shields)

Noun Classes Klingon (Klingon, Earth ? Speakers)

- Being capable of speaking
- Body part
- Other

Noun classifier systems

- Commonly found in Asian, Southeast Asian, Austronesian, Mayan and Sign languages.
- Usually derived from names of objects.
- Languages may have ~20-400 classifiers.
- Used most typically when counting.
- Nouns can often occur with different classifiers.

(analogous to English **head** of lettuce)

Some common Burmese classifiers

MLC transcription	Phonetic transcription	Usage	Remarks
pa:	[bá]	for people	Used exclusively for monks and nuns of the Buddhist order
hli:	[l,í]	for slices	Used in context of food
kaung	[kàuN]	for animals	
hku.	[kʰú]	general classifier	Used with almost all nouns except for animate objects
hkwak	[kʰwεʔ]	For open containers with liquid	
lum:	[lóuN]	for round objects	
pra:	[pjá]	for flat objects	
cang:	[síN] or [zíN]	for vehicles	
cu.	[sú] or [zú]	for groups	
u:	[ʔú]	for people	Used in formal context and also used for monks and nuns
yauk	[jauʔ]	for people	Used in informal context

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burmese_language#Numerical_classifiers

More Burmese classifiers

hte - clothing for the body (not headgear or footwear)

sin - cutting tools

si - vehicles

saun - written materials

le' - hand implements

koun - loop-shaped objects that are worn, e.g. garland, necklaces

hsaun - houses, monasteries, royal buildings

Numeral Classifiers in Austroasiatic. 1986. In C. Craig, ed., *Categorization and Noun Classification*, 241-62. (Typological Studies in Linguistics, 7.) Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Some languages in which grammatical gender involves biological sex class

- Masculine and Feminine: Arabic, Hebrew, Ancient Egyptian, many Indo-European lgs.
- Masculine, Feminine and Neuter: Many Indo-European languages.
- Common and Neuter: Scandinavian, Hittite, Low German.

Some Korean classifiers

- gae (개) -- 'things' in general, can be used if you're not sure which specific counting word to use.
- bun (분) -- people (polite),
- myeong (명) -- people (informal)
- mari (마리) -- animals
- jang (장) -- paper
- gwa (과) -- lessons
- dae (대) -- vehicles (cars, airplanes) and machinery
- gwon (권) -- books
- geuru (그루) -- trees
- jaru (자루) -- things with long handles (writing instruments, shovels, swords, and rifles), and by extension, pistols
- kyeolle (켤레) -- socks
- cheok (척) -- boats and ships
- chae (채) -- houses
- tong (통) -- letters, telegrams, telephone calls, and e-mail
- pogi (포기) -- [Chinese cabbage](#)

Classifiers

Burmese

Burmese classifiers for people

hsu Buddha, relics, images, law, nets, gardens, stairs

pa: deities, saints, monks, royalty

u: people of status, teachers, scholars

yauk ordinary people

kaung animals, ghosts, dead bodies, children

Classificatory Verb Stems Navajo (Southwest US ~100,000 speakers)

Navajo will have different verb stems for, e.g. 'handle' depending on whether the object (thing being handled) is:

- Solid Roundish Object: bottle, ball, boot, box, etc.
- Load, Pack, Burden: backpack, bundle, sack, saddle, etc.
- Non-Compact Matter: bunch of hair or grass, cloud, fog, etc.
- Slender Flexible Object: rope, mittens, socks, pile of fried onions, etc.
- Slender Stiff Object: arrow, bracelet, skillet, saw, etc.
- Flat Flexible Object: blanket, coat, sack of groceries, etc.
- Mushy Matter: ice cream, mud, slumped-over drunken person, etc.
- Plural Objects 1: eggs, balls, animals, coins, etc.
- Plural Objects 2: marbles, seeds, sugar, bugs, etc.
- Open Container: glass of milk, spoonful of food, handful of flour, etc.
- Animate Object: microbe, person, corpse, doll, etc.

Take a look at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navajo_language#Nouns

Navajo classificatory verbs

Classifier+Stem	Label	Explanation	Examples
-łá	SRO	Solid Roundish Object	bottle, ball, boot, box, etc.
-yí'	LPB	Load, Pack, Burden	backpack, bundle, sack, saddle, etc.
+jool	NCM	Non-Compact Matter	bunch of hair or grass, cloud, fog, etc.
-lá	SFO	Slender Flexible Object	rope, mittens, socks, pile of fried onions, etc.
-tá	SSO	Slender Stiff Object	arrow, bracelet, skillet, saw, etc.
+tsooz	FFO	Flat Flexible Object	blanket, coat, sack of groceries, etc.
-tléé'	MM	Mushy Matter	ice cream, mud, slumped-over drunken person, etc.
-nil	PLO1	Plural Objects 1	eggs, balls, animals, coins, etc.
-jaa'	PLO2	Plural Objects 2	marbles, seeds, sugar, bugs, etc.
-ká	OC	Open Container	glass of milk, spoonful of food, handful of flour, etc.
+tí'	ANO	Animate Object	microbe, person, corpse, doll, etc.

Give me some hay **níłjool** (NCM)

Give me a cigarette **nítíh** (SSO)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Athabaskan_grammar#Classifiers

The question to consider for next time, in preparation of Lera Boroditsky's lecture, is to what extent do these systems affect the way speakers perceive the world?