Typology tools
Typology

• The area of linguistics dealing with all languages
  – How many languages there are
  – Their characteristics
  – Similarities/differences
  – Their genetic relationships
  – How they are distributed across the planet
Language universals

• Absolute: true of every (human) language
  – E.g. has oral V
• Tendencies: hold for many/most languages
• Implication: one fact implies another
• Markedness
• Any area of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics
Language universals

The Universals Archive
Look at 666, 5, 318, 387, 390

Greenberg's Implicational Universals
Look at 8, 18, 28, 34, 45
Phonemic Systems

Phoible database
Genetic groupings

• Indo-European
  – Germanic: English, German, Norwegian, Gothic, ...
  – Celtic: Welsh, Irish, Gaelic, Breton, ...
  – Italic: Italian, Spanish, Romansch, Rumanian, ...
  – Hellenic
  – Baltic: Latvian, Lithuanian
  – Slavic: Russian, Czech, Serbo-Croatian, Polish, ...
  – Armenian
  – Albanian
  – Indo-Iranian: Farsi, Kurdish, Hindi/Urdu, Romany, Bengali, Punjabi, Marathi, ...
Genetic groupings

• Uralic
  – Finno-Ugric: Finnish, Lapp, Komi, Hungarian, ...
  – Samoyed: Nenets, Enets, Selkup, ...
• Altaic
  – Turkic: Turkish, Uzbek, Tatar, Uighur, ...
  – Mongolian: Khalkha, Buriat
  – Tungusic
  – Korean
  – Japanese
Genetic groupings

• Caucasian
  – Kartvelian: Georgian, Mingrelian, …
  – NW Caucasian: Abkhaz, Kabardian
  – NE Caucasian: Chechen, Lezghian, …

• Dravidian
  – North: Malto, Brahui, ...
  – Central: Kolami, Parji, ...
  – South-central: Telugu, Gondi, ...
  – South: Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, ...
Genetic groupings

- Sino-Tibetan
  - Tibeto-Burman: Burmese, Tibetan, Sharpa, ...
  - Sinitic: Mandarin, Cantonese, Hakka, ...
- Austroasiatic
  - Munda: Santali, Ho, ...
  - Nicobarese: Nancowry, ...
  - Aslian: Semai, Semelai, ...
  - Mon-Khmer: Vietnamese, Khmer, Hmong, ...
Genetic groupings

• Austronesian
  – Formosan: Amis, Binun, ...
  – MalayoPolynesian (W): Tagalog, Malay, Balinese...
  – MalayoPolynesian (C): Tetum, Soboyo, ...
  – MalayoPolynesian (E): Samoan, Tongan, Maori, ...

• Indo-Pacific
  – Over 700, all spoken on New Guinea and surrounding islands

• Australian
Genetic groupings

- Afroasiatic
  - Egyptian
  - Cushitic: Somali, Oromo
  - Berber: Tuarig, Zenaga, ...
  - Chadic: Hausa
  - Semitic: Aramaic, Arabic, Hebrew, Amharic
- Niger-Congo: (9 subfamilies) Fula, Wolof, Mende, Maninka, Twi, Ewe, Igbo, Zulu, ...
- Nilo-Saharan: Maasai, Songhai, Nubian, ...
- Khoisan: Hottentot, Sandawa, ...
Genetic groupings

• Dozens of native American languages FAMILIES in the Americas!
  – Mayan
  – Uto-Aztecan
  – Eskimo-Aleut
  – Athapaskan
  – Siouan
  – Iroquoian
  – Wakashan
  – Salish
  – …
Language endangerment
How (many) endangered?
Language death

• Every 10 days or so a language dies
  – Most disappear unnoticed
• Killer languages
• Worldwide phenomenon
• What’s lost when a language dies?
Language death

Endangered languages
Glottolog/Langdoc

- Knowledge base of 94k languoids (dialects, languages, families) interlinked with
  - 175k references of mostly descriptive nature.
  - annotations for type (grammar, dictionary, text, etc) and languages covered.
- You can browse languoids, browse references, formulate complex queries
- All references can be downloaded with Zotero or as bibtex.
- Queries can take into account a variety of parameters. For instance, one can search for 'any grammar or grammar sketch of a Semitic language spoken in Africa published before 1998 where the author is 'Ali'
Glottolog
Ethnologue

• Information on over 7100 known living languages
• Genetic relationships, speaker populations, etc.
• Sections re statistics, endangerment, etc.
WALS

• Large database of structural (phonological, grammatical, lexical) properties of languages
  Gathered from descriptive materials (such as reference grammars) by a team of 55 authors
  (many of them the leading authorities on the subject).
• Browse by feature, relationships, etc.
WALS

WALS database