

CLASSIFICATION OF WORLD LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT. *The morphological classification of languages is based on typological and grammatical features. It is based on the comparison of languages with invariant lexical units as well as languages with lexical units that are interconnected and subject to change. The division of languages into amorphous languages, agglutinative languages, inflected languages, and polysynthetic languages is also based on this classification. None of these species is pure: the characteristics of all the languages in the world are transient.*

Keywords: *morphology, classification, inflection, grammatical form, verb, classification, feature, polysynthetic languages, analytic languages.*

Language is one of the most fundamental aspects of human communication and culture. There are thousands of languages spoken all around the world, each with its own unique features and characteristics. In order to better understand and study these languages, linguists have developed a classification system to categorize them into different groups based on their similarities and differences. One of the main ways languages are classified is based on their language families. A language family is a group of languages that are believed to have common origins and share a similar structure and vocabulary. For example, the Indo-European language family includes languages such as English, Spanish, and Hindi, while the Sino-Tibetan language family includes languages such as Mandarin and Tibetan. Within each language family, languages are further classified into branches and sub-branches. For example, within the Indo-European

language family, there are branches such as Germanic, Romance, and Slavic, each containing multiple sub-branches. This hierarchical classification system helps linguists trace the historical development and evolution of languages over time.

Another way languages are classified is based on their typology or structural characteristics. Languages can be classified as isolating, agglutinative, or synthetic, depending on how they form words and sentences. Isolating languages, such as Chinese, have very few inflections and rely on word order to convey meaning, while agglutinative languages, such as Turkish, add suffixes to words to indicate grammatical relationships. Languages can also be classified based on their writing systems. Some languages use alphabets, such as the Latin alphabet used in English and many other European languages. Other languages use syllabaries, such as Japanese hiragana and katakana, while others use logographic writing systems, such as Chinese characters. The diversity of writing systems reflects the cultural and historical influences on language development. Languages can also be classified based on their geographic distribution. For example, languages spoken in Europe are classified as European languages, while languages spoken in Africa are classified as African languages. Within each geographic region, languages can be further classified into language families and branches, highlighting the connections and relationships between languages in the same region. The classification of world languages is an ongoing and dynamic process, as new languages are discovered and existing languages evolve over time. Linguists use a variety of methods and tools, such as comparative linguistics, historical linguistics, and fieldwork, to study and classify languages from all around the world. By understanding the classification of languages, we can gain insights into the diversity and richness of human language and culture. Language is a fundamental aspect of human communication and culture, with thousands of languages spoken around the world. Linguists have developed various classification systems to categorize these languages based on their structural and historical features. The classification of world languages is a complex and

multifaceted field that allows for a deeper understanding of the diverse linguistic landscape of humanity.

One of the most common ways to classify languages is based on their genealogical relationships. Languages that share a common ancestry are grouped together into language families. For example, English, German, and Dutch are all members of the Germanic language family, which in turn is part of the larger Indo-European language family. By tracing the historical development of languages and identifying patterns of phonological, morphological, and syntactic similarities, linguists can establish genealogical relationships between languages. Another important criteria for classifying world languages is their typological characteristics. Languages can be classified based on their grammatical structures, such as word order, nominal and verbal morphology, and syntactic phenomena. For example, languages can be categorized as isolating, agglutinative, or polysynthetic based on the way they form words and express grammatical relationships. Typological classification helps linguists identify commonalities and differences among languages, and understand the principles of language universals and variation. Some languages do not fit neatly into a single category due to their unique features or historical developments. These languages are often classified as isolates or language isolates, meaning they have no known relatives or do not belong to any recognized language family. Basque, spoken in the Basque Country of Spain and France, and Ainu, spoken in Japan, are examples of language isolates that pose challenges for traditional classification systems.

In addition to genealogical and typological classifications, languages can also be classified based on their geographical distribution. Languages are often grouped into language areas or zones based on their spatial proximity and historical interactions. For example, the Austronesian languages are spoken across a vast region in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, while the Afro-Asiatic languages are found in North Africa and the Middle East. Geographical classification helps linguists study the patterns of language diffusion, contact,

and diversity across different regions of the world. Another important aspect of language classification is the distinction between major languages, minority languages, and endangered languages. Major languages are widely spoken and have significant cultural and political influence, while minority languages are spoken by smaller communities and are often at risk of being marginalized or endangered. Endangered languages are those that are no longer being passed down to younger generations and face the threat of extinction. Language classification plays a crucial role in identifying and preserving linguistic diversity, and promoting the documentation and revitalization of endangered languages. Languages can also be classified based on their writing systems, which can be alphabetic, syllabic, or logographic. Alphabetic writing systems represent individual sounds or phonemes with letters, while syllabic writing systems represent syllables with characters, and logographic writing systems represent words or concepts with symbols. The choice of writing system depends on the phonological and morphological structure of the language, as well as the cultural and historical context of its speakers. Writing systems are important tools for preserving and transmitting language and literature, and can play a key role in language revitalization efforts.

The classification of world languages is a dynamic and evolving field that continues to be enriched by new discoveries and methodologies. Advances in computational linguistics and language processing have enabled linguists to analyze large datasets and identify linguistic patterns and relationships on a global scale. By combining traditional methods of language classification with cutting-edge technology, researchers are able to uncover new insights into the origins, development, and diversity of human languages. The classification of world languages also has practical implications for language policy, education, and cultural diplomacy. Understanding the linguistic diversity of the world can help policymakers design more inclusive language policies that promote multilingualism and support minority and endangered languages. Language classification can also inform language education programs and help educators

develop pedagogical approaches that are tailored to the unique characteristics of different language families and typological groups.

In conclusion, the classification of world languages is a complex and fascinating field of study that helps us understand the diversity and interconnectedness of languages spoken all around the world. Languages can be classified based on their language families, typology, writing systems, and geographic distribution, highlighting the different ways in which languages have evolved and developed over time. By studying the classification of languages, we can appreciate the uniqueness and beauty of each language and the role it plays in shaping human communication and identity. Multifaceted field that provides valuable insights into the diversity and richness of human communication. By categorizing languages based on genealogical, typological, geographical, and sociolinguistic criteria, linguists can unravel the intricate relationships among languages and uncover the underlying principles of language structure and evolution.

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