

Typology I: Homework for Lecture 5, 2016/05/11

(All of these could be exam questions.)

1. What are implicational universals?
2. What does it mean for a universal to be statistical?
3. What are the two main types of languages that arise from correlating word order properties?
4. List at least 5 characteristic word order properties which are contrastive for the two types of word order correlations.
5. If you know that language X always puts the verb first, which order do you expect for subject and object? How typologically common is the resulting pattern?
6. Assume you are a field linguist who has started to analyse a hitherto undocumented language. You have already managed to determine the following properties:
 - Adjectives come after the noun.
 - The language has a dual category that is expressed by a suffix.
 - Determiners come before the noun.

Check the catalogue of universals to see whether this knowledge can help you in determining the position of numerals in the language.

7. The literal translation of a typical sentence in language Y into English is “sees the man the animals”. Give the most probable word order in Y for the English sentence “I did that a year ago”, paying attention to each word and justifying your answer.