

Typology I: Homework for Lecture 4, 2016/05/04

(The questions marked with (*) are research questions you can use to deepen your understanding, the others could be exam questions.)

1. Which are the two scales according to which languages are classified into morphological types?
2. For each of the two scales from Question 1, name two languages for each of its two extremes. (This means you have to mention eight languages. Note that no language is entirely at the extreme end of either scale. You are asked to name languages that are as close as possible to the extremes.)
3. (*) Why do both scales together form a triangle rather than a rectangle? (Hint: Explain why two corners in the rectangle are impossible.)
4. Which mechanisms can cause the fusion and synthesis indices of a language to shift? For each mechanism, name at least one exemplary instance from a language you know well (like e.g. German: zu dem → zum).
5. (*) Find a possible explanation for the fact that English has developed a word order which is generally less free than it was in Old English.