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# analytical methods in morphology and syntax

## assignment #4: word classes

Due WEDNESDAY, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 pm, Burke Griffeth Dining hall.

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### **exercise 0: midterm questions (10 points)**

Please write two short-answer or “fill-in-the-blank” questions for the midterm quiz relating to the material for this week. Please do not submit multiple choice or true/false questions. The answers to your questions should come from the text or class discussions, and should not involve any problem solving of the sort required in the written assignments. Don't forget to provide the correct answer to your question. Two sample questions follow – please do not submit a question that resembles either of these. They are provided just to give you an idea of the *kind* of question that is needed. Full credit will be given for any question that meets all of these criteria, whether or not we actually use it on the quiz.

Sample question #1: For each of the following terms, place an X in the correct box to indicate whether it is a functional category (FC), a morphological process (MP) or a word class (WC):

	FC	MP	WC
Future tense	X		
Verb			X
Perfective aspect	X		
Preposition			X
Infixation		X	
Pronoun			X
Plural	X		
Compounding		X	

Sample question #2: Describe two common subclasses of nouns. Give an example of each subclass from a language you know well. If the language is not English, please identify the language and gloss your examples.

**Two common subclasses of nouns are count nouns and mass nouns. Count nouns are nouns that refer to items that can be easily counted, e.g., trees, rocks, houses. Mass nouns are nouns that refer to material that is not easily counted, e.g., sand, air or water.**

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### **exercise 4.3: Konkomba (30 points)**

*Ronnie Sim*

Niger-Congo, Gur group.

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|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. libil libaa     | 'one year'     |
| 2. lilal libaa     | 'one axe'      |
| 3. lidžool libaa   | 'one hill'     |
| 4. bubib bugmu     | 'five years'   |
| 5. bulab bulee     | 'two axes'     |
| 6. budžoob buniin  | 'eight hills'  |
| 7. kidžuk kibaa    | 'one knife'    |
| 8. kipipeek kibaa  | 'one place'    |
| 9. kigbalik kibaa  | 'one spear'    |
| 10. ndžum mulee    | 'two knives'   |
| 11. npipeem mulee  | 'two places'   |
| 12. ngbalim muniin | 'eight spears' |
| 13. npipeem mugmu  | 'five places'  |

A. List and gloss all of the morphemes in these data.

B. Describe as precisely as possible, in prose, how noun phrases with numbers in them are formed.

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## exercise 4.6: Chorti' (25 points)

*Adapted from England, 1988.*

1. kotor	'kneeling'	11. sitz'	'boy'
2. wa'rwa'r	'always standing'	12. ja'ja'	'soaked'
3. tzi'i'	'dog'	13. ji'	'sand'
4. rum	'dirt'	14. tuntun	'hard, like rock'
5. ja'	'water'	15. kotorkotor	'always kneeling'
6. lukurlukur	'always hanging'	16. pakarpakar	'always drunk'
7. pakar	'drunk'	17. ji'ji'	'full of sand'
8. sitz'sitz'	'like a boy'	18. wa'r	'standing'
9. rumrum	'full of dirt'	19. tzi'i'tzi'i'	'like a dog'
10. lukur	'hanging'	20. tun	'rock'

A. What language family does Chorti' belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

B. What morphological process do you see operating in these data? Be specific.

C. There are three word classes represented in these examples. What are the three classes? Give your evidence for the classes, and for each class, describe the functional category or categories expressed by the one morphological process evident in these data (in other words, the functional category expressed may be different, depending on the word class of the root).

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### exercise 4.13: Southern Barasano (35 points)

*Merrifield, et al. problem 107*

	Singular	Plural	Sg. Diminutive	Pl. Diminutive	English Meaning
1.	aya	aya	ayaka	ayaka	'snake'
2.	biciba	bici	bicibaka	biciaka	'vine'
3.	bitia	biti	bitiaka	bitiaka	'bead'
4.	coti	cotiri	cotiaka	cotiriaka	'pot'
5.	ga	ga	gaka	gaka	'eagle'
6.	gia	gi	giaka	giaka	'louse'
7.	gɔaro	gɔa	gɔaroaka	gɔaka	'bone'
8.	gu	gua	guaka	guaka	'turtle'
9.	habo	habo	haboaka	haboaka	'armadillo'
10.	hoaba	hoa	hoabaka	hoaka	'hair'
11.	kaburo	kaburo	kaburoaka	kaburoaka	'bench'
12.	kacabo	kacabori	kacaboaka	kacaboriaka	'platform'
13.	kahea	kahe	kaheaka	kaheaka	'eye'
14.	kja	kj	kjaka	kjaka	'cassava'
15.	ohoro	oho	ohoroaka	ohoaka	'banana'
16.	race	racea	raceaka	raceaka	'toucan'
17.	wi	wiri	wiaka	wiriaka	'house'
18.	widiro	widi	widiroaka	widiaka	'pile'
19.	wihai	wihairi	wihaiaka	wihairiaka	'shelter'
20.	yai	yaia	yaiaka	yaiaka	'tiger'

- A. Where is this language spoken?
- B. Group these noun stems into conjugation classes.
- C. Write rules that derive the surface forms for each class.
- D. Can you "motivate" the classes?

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## Extra credit: Mansi (up to 5 extra credit points)

Mansi belongs to the Ugric group of the Finno-Ugric family. It is spoken in Khanty-Mansi region in Western Siberia. There are approximately six thousand native speakers of Mansi. Here are some Mansi sentences and their translations into English:

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|--|---|
| 1. <i>Am os am yurtum Petya men asyagamen eruptiyagamen.</i> | - I and my friend Petya, we love our fathers. |
| 2. <i>Man nang samyn pumaltiluv.</i>                         | - We cure your eye.                           |
| 3. <i>Nang yurtyn eruptilyn.</i>                             | - You love your friend.                       |
| 4. <i>Am samagum pantiyagum.</i>                             | - I close my eyes.                            |
| 5. <i>Am man luvuv os nang ampanyn pumaltiyatum.</i>         | - I cure our horse and your dogs.             |

A. Translate into English: *Man yurtanuv eruptiyanuv.*

B. Translate into Mansi: *You cure my father and my friend.*

C: Suggest the English translation for the Mansi word *men* for a Mansi-English dictionary.