

Review of Chapters 5 and 6

ENG 414

Word order universals

Typology is meant to give insight into language and, by looking at the typical word orders, we find the following **near universals**:

1. Subjects precede Objects and
2. The V and Object are adjacent.

We looked at some reasons for this and will continue to keep this 'why' in mind: saliency (p. 85).

Be familiar with the 6 orders: pp. 81-82, the tables on p. 83, and Greenberg's Universal 1.

Word order correlations: if a language is VO, does it typically have other characteristics? Table 5.4 on p. 86 and the data from Oroqen on p. 87 show that the answer is yes. The question to be asked then is why and that's how we came up with the notion that languages are typically uniformly branching to the right or the left: the Branching Direction Theory 'explains' this.

(To me, a possible explanation of the universal branching direction comes from mathematical properties of the Golden Mean as shown, for example, in the Fibonacci Sequence, but this is really speculative, see Uriagereka 1997).

Basic Order?

Chapter 6 looks at a few more issues surrounding word order, e.g. flexible word order, as in Warliri (pp. 97-98), pro-drop, and discontinuous elements. It mainly gives us ways to figure out if an order is marked or not: if it has extra stress or extra morphology (p. 102), it is more marked.

(And I don't agree with Whaley on German)

