

Morphological Typology

Examples from Haspelmath, *Understanding Morphology*. Language statistics from www.ethnologue.com

Isolating languages

Yoruba

Nwọn ó maa gbà pọnùn mewa lósódòsẹ.
they FUT PROG get pound ten weekly
'They will be getting £10 a week.'

ọkùnrin àwọn ọkùnrin
man PL man
'man' 'men'

Vietnamese

Hai đứa bỏ nhau là tại gia-đình thành chồng.
two individual leave each.other be because.of family guy husband
'They divorced because of his family.'

Analytic language

English

Synthetic languages

Swahili

Ndovu wa- wili wa- ki- song- ana zi- umia- zo ni nyika.
elephants PL- two 3PL- SUBORD- jostle- RECIP 3SG- hurt- REL is grass
'When two elephants jostle, what is hurt is the grass.'

Lezgian

Marf- adi wiči- n qalin st'al- ra- ldi qaw gata- zwa- j.
rain- ERG self- GEN dense drop- PL- INSTR roof hit- IMPF- PST
'The rain was hitting the roof with its dense drops.'

Polysynthetic language

Greenlandic

Paasi- nngil- luinnar- para ilaa- juma- sutit.
understand- not- completely- 1SG.SUBJ.3SG.OBJ.INDIC come- want- 2SG.PRTC
'I didn't understand at all that you wanted to come along.'

Yoruba is a Benue-Congo language (part of the Niger-Congo family) spoken by about 19,000,000 people, mostly in southwestern Nigeria. **Vietnamese** is a Mon-Khmer language (part of the Austro-Asiatic family) spoken by about 69,000,000 people. It is the official language of Vietnam. **Swahili** (or Kiswahili) is the most important of the Bantu languages (a sub-group within Benue-Congo, and thus part of the Niger-Congo family), spoken natively by 790,000 (about half of them in Tanzania, where it is official), and by 30,000,000 as a second language. **Lezgian** is a North Caucasian language spoken in southeast Dagestan (Russia) and surrounding area. It is spoken by 784,000 people (397,000 of them in Russia). **Greenlandic** is an Inuit language (Eskimo). It is the official language of Greenland, with 48,000 speakers (58,000 worldwide).