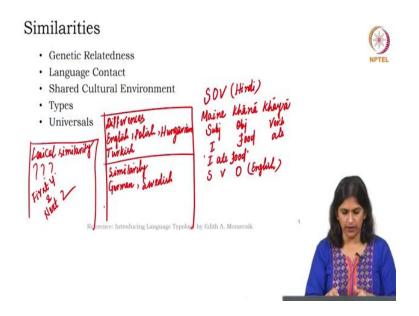**Appreciating Linguistics: A typological approach**
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Lecture - 49
Goals of Language Typology- Part 2

Hello everyone, welcome to this session of my NPTEL course Appreciating Linguistics: A typological approach.
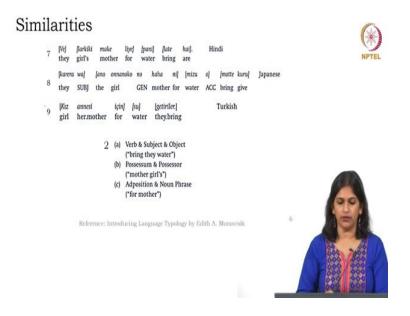
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So, that is the third reason why we see the similarities, then the fourth one is the typological similarity or you can say types in the similarity. When I say typologically Hindi is different from Telugu; that means, Hindi belongs to a different language type, Telugu belongs to a different language type. When I say typologically Hindi is similar to Marathi; that means, there are a lot of similarities at the syntax, phonetics, and morphological level in these two languages.

If typologically languages are the same; that means their grammatical structure is generally considered to be the same. That would result in the similarities among languages. And finally, I would also give you some idea how the linguistic universals or the language universals can help us to understand how the languages are going to be similar. Because of
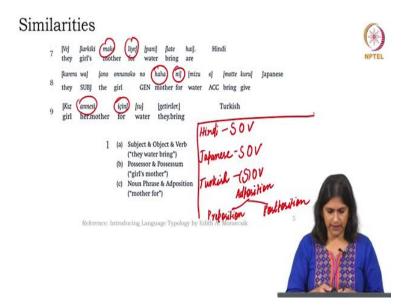
certain similarities among the languages, we can actually come up with some universals. When I say universals, I am talking about certain grammatical phenomena or linguistic features which are commonly found in different languages of the world.

Considering the world is multilingual and in India specially we have hugely diversified linguistic communities, the linguists have been continuously trying to find out how to account for certain features which could be commonly available in most of the world's languages. Those are going to be considered as linguistic universals.
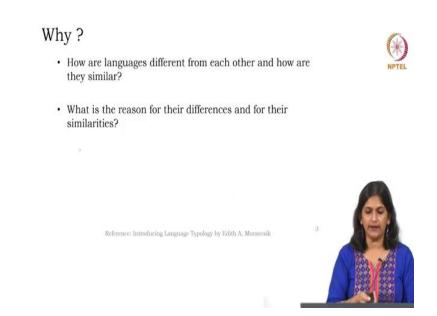
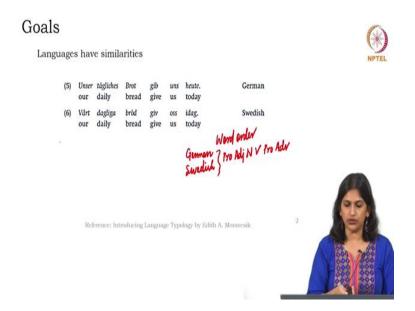(Refer Slide Time: 02:10)

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I will focus primarily on a few languages again and first let us look at a few words that languages might have similarity.

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If you go back to the German and the Swedish examples that we have had, I have already shown you the verb is similar give, us as a pronoun, that is also similar.

In English also, if you compare. Now let us try to recall what are the languages we had. In the category of differences, we did check the data from English, Polish, Hungarian and Turkish. These are the languages which have differences. And in the similarity category what did we have? We had German and Swedish.

Now, go back and find out if the different languages, the first four languages the data that we have checked, do they have any similarity with the similar languages like German and Swedish? That is a question for you. I am not going to explain it. I would give you some hint how to work on it. Find out the lexical similarities. Lexical similarity means similarity at the word level or the lexicon level, phrase level.

Do find out if there is any similarities in any of the first 4 languages, first 4 and next 2. What are the first 4? English, Polish, Hungarian, and Turkish. What are the next 2? German and Swedish. Your work is to find out if there is any lexical similarity with German and Swedish if you check the first 4 languages and then get back to me later. Do it for yourself and if there is any confusion do get back to me.

With this information, I would like to highlight two questions that I found as a puzzle in Moravcsik's book. So, what are the two very simple questions? First question, how are languages different from each other, and how are they similar? If there is a similarity, at what

level; if there is a difference, at what level? Second, what are the reasons for the differences and for the similarities? What could be the possible reasons? We have already discussed.

As far as the similarities are concerned, you might have the genetic relatedness, you might have the language contact, you might have shared cultural environment, then there could be types and finally, there could be universals. Then on the basis of the universals, you might find out certain languages which have a certain kind of connection and certain languages which might have certain kind of differences.

I will start it with the first one that I have, that is the genetic relations. Since there are two different kinds of similarities that we are talking about, one is structural, the other one is functional or you can say phonological or morphological or lexical. How it is structural? On the basis of the occurrence of the subject, the verb and then the object.

If you remember there are five different reasons that I was talking about in the previous slide, when I was discussing the previous slide. There could be genealogical similarities and there could be similarities related to language contact.

Let us focus on the genealogical similarities first and at the same time we can also look at language contact issues and we will have certain empirical linguistic data from three different languages; one is Hindi, which is one of the most widely studied Indian languages, then we have Japanese and then we have Turkish. Look at the examples on the slides 7, 8, and 9. What does the sentence mean? The sentence means it should be, let me read. The first sentence in Hindi is [FL].

Moravcsik did not really get the glossing very well. Primarily it will be [FL]. I am going to write it over here. Let us not focus on the example on the slide. The Hindi example is this. Since we discussed the similarities on the basis of the word order or the function or you can see the lexical and the phonetic similarity.

Now, let us see how the languages which do not have any contact or which do not share any geographic proximity might also have certain kind of similarities. In this context I would like you to have a look at the examples on the slide, 7 8 9. The first one is from Hindi, the second one is from Japanese and the third one is from Turkish.

Obviously, if you recall or if we can imagine the world map, Hindi does not have any language contact with Japanese and Japanese does not have any language contact with Turkish. But, all the three languages which do not have genealogical similarity or the typological similarity on the surface; if you look at the word order, they have a striking similarity as far as the subject, object, verb is concerned. I will read the Hindi example because that is a language which I can speak. This is written [FL]. What does this mean? They bring water for the girl's mother.

If you look at this construction, what is the subject, object, and verb, or to put it in simpler form, what is the word order type that Hindi belongs to? Hindi [FL]. [FL] is the subject, then the object is [FL] for the girl's mother. That is the object and then another object which is [FL]. Let us put both of them in the object category [FL] and [FL] both and finally, [FL] which is the verb.

So, what is the word order that Hindi follows? Hindi follows subject, object, and verb. Now, let us look at the Japanese data. Here also you see that the girl, then the mother for, then water and then bring and give together which would be considered as a complex predicate; those who know a bit of syntax in linguistics will understand. So, in Japanese also you have the subject which is they. Who brings water? They. And then for who? For the girl's mother. That is one object and what is the third phrase or what is the third unit? Instead of calling it word or phrase, I would rather call it a unit. The third unit is also an object which is water, that is O and finally, you have bring and give in Japanese, that will be the verb.

Japanese also has S O V word order. How about Turkish? We will see how Turkish behaves as far as the word order is concerned. In case of Turkish, we first have the girl, the girl and her mother. So, you have O, then you have another O, which is object, that means, basically I am going to write one O. So, girl's mother for and then finally, you have the subject and then the verb together.

Subject is they, this would be they and bring; they and bring together. So, Hindi and Japanese would share a similar kind of word order, whereas Turkish is a little different. As far as the the surface word order says. Now, let us see in addition to the word order that we have,in the above two examples. The subject object and verb that comes in Hindi, also in Japanese,

Turkish seems to behave in a different way. Besides that, is there anything else that gives you an idea that there could be some similarity between two different languages.

The case of Turkish is a little tricky here actually. What is Turkish doing here? Hindi and Japanese clearly there is SOV, but in case of Turkish, we do not really have the subject here mentioned, but if you look at the object and verb, it is first the object and then the verb.

The OV connection remains strong. Though the subject is missing from Turkish, it is understood that if it is bring here, they is going to come over here. That is the reason why you can clearly see Japanese, Hindi, and Turkish follow similar word order which is subject, object, and verb or to put it in a more brief manner, I would say object and verb.

But besides that, as you notice, that is not the only similarity that Hindi, Japanese and Turkish have, there is also similarity related to the possessor and possessum. Those who do not know what is a possessor and possessum, that means, somebody who possesses something is a possessor and something which is being possessed is the possessum. I am going to show, let us say this is a pen. This pen belongs to me, that means, this is under my possession. If it is under my possession, I would be considered as the possessor. So, I am the one to whom the pen belongs.

Then the second one is possessum. What is the possessum here? The possessum is the pen. So, if you say and in the tas pen; that means, an in the tha is the possessor and pen is the possessum. Now, let us see: what is the possessor-possessum relation in Hindi, Japanese, and Turkish. So, in Turkish and first Hindi, who is the possessor? The girl. And who is the possessum? The mother. That is why the Hindi phrase is [FL].

So, [FL] means the possessor and [FL] is the possessum. Something similar happens with Japanese. In Japanese also you have the girl and then the mother. What occurs first? Possessor comes first, then comes the possessum. What is the possessor in Hindi? l[FL], that comes first, then comes the possessor mother. Something similar is also happening in Japanese.

I would apologize for my stupid pronunciation because I am not a Japanese speaker, but in this sentence in the Japanese data that is given in 8 [FL]. So, that is the girl which is the possessor that comes first, then comes to possessum which is [FL] that is mother for.

This possessor-possessum relation remains to be the same in case of Hindi as well as Japanese. In Hindi also the possessor comes first then the possessum, and in Japanese also the possessor comes first then the possessum. Now, let us look at the Turkish example. Do you have a similar kind of relation in Turkish. Wwhat happens in Turkish [FL] is the girl and [FL] is the mother.

That is also something similar; first comes the possessor then comes the possessum. So, that is the second similarity, the second category of similarity that we observe when we talk about Hindi, Japanese, and Turkish. The third one is noun phrase and adposition. Those who do not know what is adposition, adposition is a broader term which might include both preposition and postposition. Let me write it here again in a more clear manner.

I am writing here adposition, this is like the umbrella term which might have preposition or it could also have postposition. When you say preposition and postposition, together you are going to call it adposition. So, in case of adposition in the noun phrase, there would be a difference between English and Hindi those who know Hindi, you compare it with the English. When you say on the table, in Hindi what it will be? Table par, table is the noun phrase, par is the adposition and it comes after the noun phrase. But what happens in English? On is the adposition or it is the preposition and it comes before the noun phrase that is the table.

There is a difference between Hindi and English as far as noun phrase and adposition is concerned, but let us look at Hindi, Japanese, and Turkish. Do you see any similarity or any difference? In case of Hindi what is the adposition here and what is the noun phrase here? The noun I want you to focus on, the phrase like [FL] for mother [FL]. Let us not focus on [FL] for the moment, we will talk about [FL].
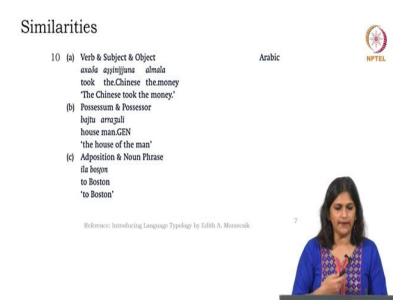
So, when you say [FL], what is the noun phrase? Noun phrase is mother. And what is the adposition? Adposition is [FL]. So, what comes first? The noun phrase comes first, then comes the adposition. That is why we call it postposition. Look at Japanese. Similarly mother

is [FL] and [FL]. So, [FL] is the noun phrase and [FL] is the adposition. What is the order? The order is like first the noun phrase, then the adposition. I am going to circle this. This is [FL] and [FL] you need to focus on [FL] and [FL] for Japanese, and for Turkish would be [FL] and [FL] if I can read it correctly.

So, in all the three cases, you see the noun phrase is coming first, then comes the adposition. That is why in all the three languages there would be postpositions. And how it is different from English? In English this is considered to be a preposition. And why is this considered to be a preposition? Because it happens before the noun phrase.
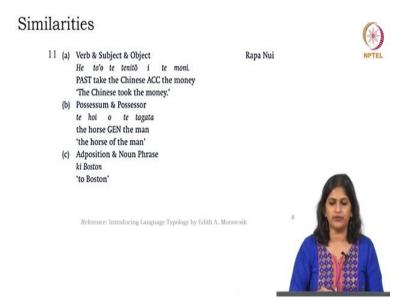
In spite of having no language contact or in spite of not having any other similarity, you can see at least Hindi, Japanese and Turkish they have similarities on the basis of the word order. This word order can be tested by examining the data or by observing the data and the position of the subject, object, and the verb, the position of the possessor and possessum, and the noun phrase and adposition.

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With this information, let us move to the next set of data that we have from two other languages; one is Arabic, the other one is Rapa Nui.

Similarities

11 (a) Verb & Subject & Object   Rapa Nui
         He to'o te tenitō i te moni.
         PAST take the Chinese ACC the money
         'The Chinese took the money.'
     (b) Possessum & Possessor
         te hoi o te tagata
         the horse GEN the man
         'the horse of the man'
     (c) Adposition & Noun Phrase
         ki Boston
         'to Boston'

Reference: Introducing Language Typology by Edith A. Moravcsik

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In Arabic what is the word order? I will just briefly scan through it since I have already given you a lot of information how to identify the word order. I think it will be easier for you to read the Arabic data. In Arabic data, you have the verb, then you have the subject, and then you have the object. So, what is the sentence assigned? The sentence is the Chinese took the money. When you say the Chinese took the money in Arabic, took comes first, then comes the Chinese, then comes the money.

So, it is the verb, then the subject, then the object. And how did the possessor possessum relation work how does it work? It works first comes to possessum, then comes the possessor and in case of the possessum and possessor, you see first it is house, then it is man. If I give you just two words possessor and possessum and I am giving you two words like house and man, what do you think, who is the possessor? Does the man possess the house or the house possesses the man? Automatically you should get an idea that man is the possessor and and house is the possessum.

And what is the occurrence? The occurrence here is unlike Hindi, Japanese and Turkish examples you can see possessor and possessum relations are different. In Hindi, it was possessor and possessum, but in Arabic it is the other way round, possessum and the
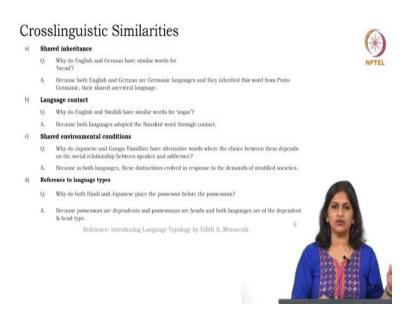
possessor. And how about the adposition and noun phrase, that is also completely different. In Arabic you have adposition comes first then comes the noun phrase.

Look at this data carefully and find out whether they are different from the previous data set that we have discussed. Now, let us go to another language which is Rapa Nui. This language is spoken in the Easter Island and originally the data has come from Chap in 1978 and I got it from Moravcsi's book Introducing language typology.

So, what happens in Rapa Nui? Much like Arabic, you also see there is a similarity in the occurrence of the word order; you have verb, then you have the subject, then you have the object. The same sentence Chinese took money; look at the words here. Much like Arabic, possessum comes first possessor comes next and definitely like Arabic, the adposition comes first, then the noun phrase comes later. That is why the horse of the man and to Boston.

If you compare Rapa Nui with Arabic, they belong to one type; Hindi, Japanese, and the third one is Turkish.

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So, Hindi, Japanese, and Turkish, they belong to one type and Rapa Nui and Arabic, they belong to the other type. That is the reason why you need to figure out or you need to understand how we are going to talk about language typology or linguistic typology. Linguistic typology would try to find out how you can have inferences drawn from the

linguistic data and you can claim that see xyz languages they have these many similarities, so they belong to one type; abc languages they have these similarities and they belong to this type; and xyz and abc do not have any similarity or do not have much similarity, that is why typologically they are different.

I hope and I expect with this information about similarities and differences in the world's languages, you should be able to find out the languages that you know, whether they have more similarities or whether they have more differences. You can test it by identifying the word order as well as phonological and lexical similarities or the phonological ,morphological if I can say.

This lecture should help you to identify for yourself how to identify or how to find out rather, the similarities and the differences among the languages that you speak. If you are a multilingual speaker, which most of the Indians are, you should get an idea what is linguistic typology and how do we decide for different types and how do we put certain languages in certain types. With this, I will talk about the crosslinguistic similarities later in my discussion.

Thank you.

Keywords: similarity, difference, language universal