LANGTIME CHAT, EPISODE 39

GRAMBANK TRIVIA!

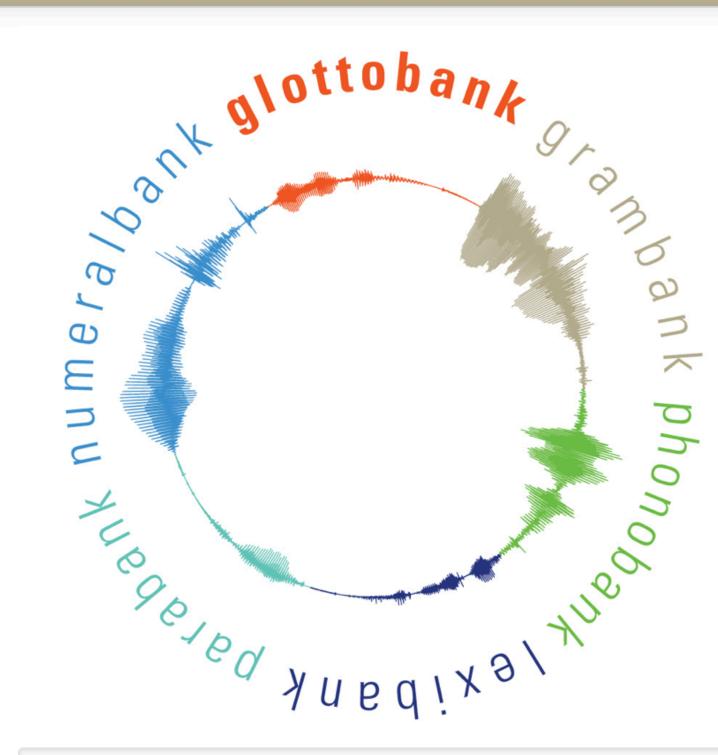
Welcome to Grambank

Grambank was constructed in an international collaboration between the Max Planck institutes in Leipzig and Nijmegen, the Australian National University, the University of Auckland, Harvard University, Yale University, the University of Turku, Kiel University, Uppsala University, SOAS, the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, and over a hundred scholars from around the world. Grambank is designed to be used to investigate the global distribution of features, language universals, functional dependencies, language prehistory and interactions between language, cognition, culture and environment. The Grambank database currently covers 2,467 language varieties, capturing a wide range of grammatical phenomena in 195 features, from word order to verbal tense, nominal plurals, and many other well-studied comparative linguistic variables. Grambank's coverage spans 215 different language families and 101 isolates from all inhabited continents. The aim is for Grambank to ultimately cover all languages for which a grammar or sketch grammar exists. Grambank is part of Glottobank, a research consortium that involves work on complementary databases of lexical data, paradigms, numerals and sound patterns in the world's languages. Grambank can be used in concert with other databases, such as those in Glottobank and D-PLACE, to deepen our understanding of our history and communicative capabilities.

How to cite Grambank

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StatisticsLanguages2,467Features195Datapoints441,663 (362,025 excl. "not known")

GRAMBANK FEATURES LIST

https://grambank.clld.org/parameters

All features presented as yes/no questions with three possible answers:







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https://grambank.clld.org/parameters

All features presented as yes/no questions with three possible answers:

absent (nope, it's as absent as 'oza yamoza' in Engála)



present (yep, that feature is noted in this language)



DAVID'S TASK

For each feature provided, decide which answer represents the majority of Grambank's documented natlangs:

no (the feature is absent in most natlangs)



yes (the feature is present in most natlangs)

ARE THERE DEFINITE OR SPECIFIC ARTICLES? (Feature GB020)

NOTE: The morpheme has to mark definiteness or specificity without also conveying spatial deixis.

ARE THERE DEFINITE OR SPECIFIC ARTICLES? (Feature GB020)

OUT OF 2,403 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

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1,374 languages (~57%)
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MOST NATLANGS DON'T MARK DEFINITENESS SEPARATE FROM OTHER FEATURES (SUCH AS DEIXIS).

EXAMPLES FROM LANGUAGES THAT DO INCLUDE...

AITON EXAMPLE (Morey 2005)

ma nan a māt nɛ wā time that minister DEF say 'Then the mister said'

GANDA EXAMPLES (Crabtree 1902)

entebe ebiri
chair DEF-two
'the two chairs'

entebe biri
chair two
'two chairs'

DO INDEFINITE NOUNS COMMONLY HAVE INDEFINITE ARTICLES? (Feature GB021)

DO INDEFINITE NOUNS COMMONLY HAVE INDEFINITE ARTICLES? (Feature GB021)

OUT OF 2,425 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,920 languages (~79%)



204 languages (~8%)

EVEN MORE NATLANGS LACK INDEFINITE MARKERS FOR NOUNS.

EXAMPLES FROM LANGUAGES THAT DO INCLUDE...

NJANGA EXAMPLE (Robson 2011)

wū bàrkī jò:

3sg built house 'He built (one) house.'

wū bàrkī jò: má:n

3sg built house <u>INDF</u>
'He built a house.'

LIMBU EXAMPLE (van Driem 1987)

yaŋdhik piraŋɛ?
money-INDF give
'Give me a rupee.'

thik yaŋ labdzok
one money costs
'It costs one rupee.'

AN EXAMPLE OF A LANGUAGE LACKING INDEFINITE MARKERS INCLUDES...

ASSINIBOINE EXAMPLES (Cumberland 2005)

thaspq awótapi akán øyaká apple table on sit 'the/an apple is on the/a table'

hokšína thápa aøøphá boy ball hit 'the/a boy hit the/a ball'

ARE NOMINAL CONJUNCTION AND COMITATIVE EXPRESSED BY DIFFERENT ELEMENTS?

(Feature GB027)

ARE NOMINAL CONJUNCTION AND COMITATIVE EXPRESSED BY DIFFERENT ELEMENTS?

(Feature GB027)

OUT OF 2,421 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

713 languages (~29%)



643 languages (~27%)

DIFFERENT ELEMENTS REPRESENT THE COMITATIVE AND CONJOINING NOMINALS IN MOST NATLANGS.

HOWEVER, A LOT OF LANGUAGES NEED MORE RESEARCH!!

OLDER TURKISH EXAMPLE (Kornfilt 1997)

Mary-le John
Mary-and/with John

MODERN TURKISH EXAMPLE (Kornfilt 1997)

Mary-le John
Mary-with John

Mary ve John
Mary and John

(The ve was borrowed.)

MAALE EXAMPLE (Amha 2001)

táání suuggatsí laalélló<u>na</u> zagéne

I chief woman-<u>com</u> saw

'I saw the chief with the woman.'

táání suuggatsí<u>na</u> laalélló<u>na</u> zagéne

I chief-conj woman-conj saw

'I saw the chief and the woman.'

MAALE WAS CODED AS HAVING THE SAME ELEMENT FOR BOTH.

EVEN THOUGH IT REQUIRES TWO INSTANCES FOR THE "AND" READING AND ONLY ONE FOR THE COMITATIVE, IT'S THE SAME SUFFIX.

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INCLUSIVE AND EXCLUSIVE? (Feature GB028)

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INCLUSIVE AND EXCLUSIVE? (Feature GB028)

OUT OF 2,451 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,114 languages (~45%)



94 languages (~4%)

OH-SO-SLIGHTLY MORE NATLANGS DISTINGUISH INCLUSIVE "WE" FROM EXCLUSIVE "WE."

IS THERE A GENDER DISTINCTION IN INDEPENDENT 3RD PERSON PRONOUNS?

(Feature GB030)

NOTE: This includes gender/noun class distinctions in the language's demonstratives.

IS THERE A GENDER DISTINCTION IN INDEPENDENT 3RD PERSON PRONOUNS?

(Feature GB030)

OUT OF 2,438 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,804 languages (~74%)



68 languages (~3%)

MOST NATLANGS LACK A GENDER DISTINCTION IN THEIR THIRD-PERSON PRONOUN FORMS.

IS THERE A DUAL OR UNIT AUGMENTED FORM (IN ADDITION TO PLURAL OR AUGMENTED) IN THE PRONOUN SYSTEM? (Feature GB031)

IS THERE A DUAL OR UNIT AUGMENTED FORM (IN ADDITION TO PLURAL OR AUGMENTED) IN THE PRONOUN SYSTEM? (Feature GB031)

OUT OF 2,394 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,718 languages (~72%)



60 languages (~3%)

THE MAJORITY OF NATLANGS SURVEYED LACK A MARKED DIFFERENCE FOR THE DUAL IN THEIR PRONOUN SYSTEM.

ARE THERE THREE OR MORE DISTANCE CONTRASTS IN DEMONSTRATIVES? (Feature GB035)

ARE THERE THREE OR MORE DISTANCE CONTRASTS IN DEMONSTRATIVES? (Feature GB035)

OUT OF 2,428 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,111 languages (~46%)



242 languages (~10%)

SLIGHTLY MORE NATLANGS LACK THREE OR MORE DISTANCE DISTINCTIONS IN THEIR DEMONSTRATIVES, BUT IT'S CLOSE TO AN EVEN SPLIT.

EXAMPLES FROM A LANGUAGE THAT DOES INCLUDE...

THAYORE EXAMPLE (Gaby 2006)

yuk waarrmin inh parr ngathnmak
THING thing DEM.SPKR.PROX child my
'these things belong to my children'

minh <u>ulp</u>-thn paatharr nganh

MEAT <u>DEM.ADR.PROX</u>-ERG bit me 'that animal bit me'

pam <u>ith</u> koowmiing minthurr man <u>DEM.DIST</u> face good 'that man has a nice face'

MOST NATLANGS ALSO LACK VISIBLE-NONVISIBLE AND ELEVATION DISTINCTIONS IN THEIR DEMONSTRATIVES.

IS THERE PRODUCTIVE MORPHOLOGICAL PLURAL MARKING ON NOUNS? (Feature GB044)

NOTE: It restricts the "yes" answers to bound morphological markings. Also, reduplication strategies do not count (they are not considered separate morphological marking).

IS THERE PRODUCTIVE MORPHOLOGICAL PLURAL MARKING ON NOUNS? (Feature GB044)

OUT OF 2,398 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,020 languages (~43%)



96 languages (~4%)

MORE NATLANGS MARK OVERT, DISTINCT PLURAL MARKING THAN NOT.

EXAMPLES FROM A LANGUAGE THAT DOES INCLUDE...

SWEDISH EXAMPLE (Teleman et al. 1999)

"boat"	singular	plural
indefinite	båt	båtar
definite	båten	båtarna

AN EXAMPLE OF A LANGUAGE LACKING BOUND PLURAL MARKERS INCLUDES...

SAMOAN EXAMPLES (Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992)

"house"	singular	plural
specific	le fale	fale
non-specific	se fale	ni fale

SINGULATIVE MARKING FOR NOUNS IS LARGELY ABSENT, AS IS DUAL MARKING.

IS THE ADNOMINAL POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTION DIFFERENT FOR ALIENABLE AND INALIENABLE NOUNS? (Feature GB059)

IS THE ADNOMINAL POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTION DIFFERENT FOR ALIENABLE AND INALIENABLE NOUNS? (Feature GB059)

OUT OF 2,387 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,070 languages (~45%)



356 languages (~15%)

MOST NATLANGS (BY A SMALL MARGIN) HAVE THE SAME STRATEGIES FOR ALIENABLE AND INALIENABLE POSSESSION.

FOR EXAMPLE...

SPANISH EXAMPLES

mi dedomy finger'my finger'

el dedo de Ana the finger of Ana 'Ana's finger'

mi hermano
my brother
'my brother'

el hermano de Ana the brother of Ana 'Ana's brother'

mi libromy book'my book'

el libro de Ana the book of Ana 'Ana's book'

LANGUAGES WITH DIFFERENT STRATEGIES INCLUDE...

LUISEÑO EXAMPLES (Grune 1997)

mo-ta
my-sinew
'my sinew (in my body)'

<u>no-ta-ki</u> my-sinew-<u>Poss</u> 'my sinew (for the bow that I'm making)'

NAKANAI EXAMPLES (Johnston 1980)

Ia luma taku

ART house my

'my house'

Ia lima-gu

ART hand-my

'my hand'

IN GENERAL, KIN TERMS AND BODY PARTS ARE CONSIDERED INALIENABLE BY LANGUAGES WITH DIFFERENT STRATEGIES.

OFTENTIMES, INALIENABLE POSSESSION IS MARKED WHILE ALIENABLE POSSESSION IS UNMARKED.

DO CORE ADJECTIVES (DEFINED SEMANTICALLY AS PROPERTY CONCEPTS SUCH AS VALUE, SHAPE, AGE, DIMENSION) ACT LIKE VERBS IN PREDICATIVE POSITION? (Feature GB068)

DO CORE ADJECTIVES (DEFINED SEMANTICALLY AS PROPERTY CONCEPTS SUCH AS VALUE, SHAPE, AGE, DIMENSION) ACT LIKE VERBS IN PREDICATIVE POSITION? (Feature GB068)

OUT OF 2,436 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,002 languages (~41%)



487 languages (~20%)

SLIGHTLY MORE NATLANGS DO NOT TREAT PREDICATIVE ADJECTIVES AS VERBS.

AN EXAMPLE OF A LANGUAGE THAT TREATS PREDICATIVE ADJECTIVES LIKE VERBS IS...

BORORO EXAMPLE (Cromwell 1979)

imagore

1SG-speak
'I speak/spoke.'

<u>ikurere</u>

1SG-tall
'I am/was tall.'

AN EXAMPLE OF A LANGUAGE THAT TREATS PREDICATIVE ADJECTIVES DIFFERENTLY FROM VERBS IS...

IRISH EXAMPLES (Greene 1966)

téann Sean go.PST Sean 'Sean went.'

is breoite é
be.PRS ill he
'He is ill.'

DO CORE ADJECTIVES USED ATTRIBUTIVELY REQUIRE THE SAME MORPHOLOGICAL TREATMENT AS VERBS?

(Feature GB069)

DO CORE ADJECTIVES USED ATTRIBUTIVELY REQUIRE THE SAME MORPHOLOGICAL TREATMENT AS VERBS?

(Feature GB069)

OUT OF 2,381 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,454 languages (~61%)



523 languages (~22%)

MOST NATLANGS TREAT ATTRIBUTIVE ADJECTIVES SEPARATELY FROM VERBS.

A LANGUAGE THAT TREATS THEM THE SAME IS...

CHOCTAW EXAMPLE (Broadwell 2006)

Hattak chaahah pgalitok.

man tall.<u>TNS</u> saw-I

'I saw the tall man.'

Hattakat chaaha<u>h</u>.

man tall. TNS

'The man is tall.'

A LANGUAGE THAT TREATS THEM DIFFERENTLY IS...

AKHA EXAMPLE (Hansson 2017)

nàsihà joné
fish red
'red fish'

ARE THERE MORPHOLOGICAL CASES FOR NON-PRONOMINAL CORE ARGUMENTS (I.E. S/A/P)?

(Feature GB070)

NOTE: To count, the marking must be bound.

ARE THERE MORPHOLOGICAL CASES FOR NON-PRONOMINAL CORE ARGUMENTS (I.E. S/A/P)?

(Feature GB070)

OUT OF 2,377 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

1,485 languages (~62%)



115 languages (~5%)

MOST NATLANGS LACK MARKING FOR CORE ARGUMENTS.

A LANGUAGE THAT MARKS ALL CASES INCLUDES...

WARRONGO EXAMPLE (Tsunoda 2011)

ngaygo-ngomany-jo gando-nggo gamo bija 1sg.gen-abl-erg dog-erg water.acc drank 'My dog drank water.'

A COOL EXAMPLE OF CORE MARKING OCCURS IN...

MUNDANG EXAMPLES (Elders 2000)

mè kō bàlrā bè

I see elephant-<u>PL</u> PRF
'I have seen elephants.'

zá ngòŋrā gíi people slaughter-PL goat 'The people slaughter a goat.'

MUNDANG EXAMPLES (Elders 2000)

mè kō bàlrā bè

I see elephant-<u>PL</u> PRF
'I have seen elephants.'

zá ngìnga gíi

people slaughter-PL goat 'The people slaughter a goat.'

The plural only shows up on nonsubject elements! If the subject is plural, plurality is marked only on the verb.

ARE THERE MORPHOLOGICAL CASES FOR OBLIQUE NON-PRONOMINAL NPS (I.E. NOT S/A/P)? (Feature GB072)

ARE THERE MORPHOLOGICAL CASES FOR OBLIQUE NON-PRONOMINAL NPS (I.E. NOT S/A/P)? (Feature GB072)

OUT OF 2,375 LANGUAGES SURVEYED...

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1,184 languages (~50%)
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SLIGHTLY MORE NATLANGS LACK CASE MARKINGS FOR NON-OBLIQUE NOMINALS.

EXAMPLES OF LANGUAGES THAT DO MARK THEM INCLUDE...

WARRONGO EXAMPLE (Tsunoda 2011)

ngali nyinaya jarribara-ngga yamba-ngga we.two sit good-Loc camp-Loc 'Let's sit down in the good camp.'

Remember, Warrongo marks all the cases!

ZUNI EXAMPLES (Newman 1965)

kalapa-kwin

Gallup-<u>DIR</u>
'(He went) to Gallup.'

k?akwe-'w-an

house-PL-LOC

'(We stayed) at their houses.'

NDAM EXAMPLES (Broß 1988)

 $b\bar{u}g\bar{o}$ 'house' $\rightarrow b\dot{u}g\dot{o}$ 'in the house' $g\bar{u}j\bar{\lambda}n$ 'my stomach' $\rightarrow g\dot{u}j\bar{\lambda}n$ 'in my stomach' $g\dot{a}l\dot{e}$ 'concession' $\rightarrow g\dot{a}l\dot{e}$ 'in the concession'

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR CONLANGS

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Not much other than the fact that these features exist in languages.

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Not much other than the fact that these features exist in languages.

SO HAVE FUN EXPLORING THEM!

AND BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE EXAMPLES OF HOW NATLANGS ACCOMPLISH THESE FEATURES FOR INSPIRATION.