Discussion questions: Dixon & Aikhenvald (2002)

Dixon, R.M.W., and Alexandra Aikhenvald. 2002. Word: A typological framework. In R.M.W. Dixon and Alexandra Aikhenvald (eds.), *Word: A Cross-Linguistic Typology.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-41.

This reading is relatively straightforward, although it contains a lot of information. The DQs should help you decide what to focus on the most as you read.

(1)   [not for RRs] §4 lays out the basic distinctions between different senses of *'word'* that we will want to be aware of as we do other readings in this course. What are these different senses? This is also a useful overview of the subsequent sections we'll be focusing on in the discussion.

(2)   §5 considers some possible ways to diagnose words in linguistic data. What suggestions are made? How do D&A evaluate them? Any comments?

(3)   §6 examines the *phonological word* (sometimes also called a *prosodic word*, especially by phonologists).
   •   What are the typical characteristics of a phonological word?
   •   Is English *to* ever/always a phonological word? Why?

(4)   §7 turns to the *grammatical word* (sometimes also called a *morphological word*).
   •   What are the typical characteristics of/diagnostics for a grammatical word?
   •   Is English *to* ever/always a grammatical word? Why?

(5)   §8 introduces the term *clitic*. This category of morpheme is often tricky for linguistic theories to fully account for.
   •   What is a clitic?
   •   How do we distinguish clitics from a 'word' (what kind??) on the one hand and from an affix on the other?
   •   Can you think of any examples of clitics from languages that you know, beyond those that are discussed in the reading?

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(6)   The remainder of the paper is optional, for those who have the time and interest.

   •   §10 and §11 turn to various aspects of what 'word' means in, and for, different languages. These sections are interesting, but we may not have time to discuss them in class. If we do, I won't assume you've read them.

   •   §9 reviews some case studies, looking at languages where phonological word and grammatical word don't match. Likewise, the appendix looks at one interesting language in more detail. These may be useful to you as examples of how to do linguistic analysis and argumentation, but we probably won't have time to discuss them in class.