

# INTERDISCIPLINARY MASTER PROGRAM ON COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS AT CENTRAL ASIAN UNIVERSITIES



## English Linguistics

English Morphology  
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# Languages Typological Classification

III

## Different types of languages based on **structure**:

- Inflectional languages
- Agglutinative languages
- Isolating languages

# Inflectional/inflective/fusional/synthetic languages:

- Inseparable inflections are fused with lexical stems
- One single morpheme may carry much morphological information

# Example

*Sings*

3rd p. subject (*she* or *he*)

Sg.

Present tense

Indicative mood

Latin, Classical Greek

**T A B L E 4.5 Summary of Indo-European and Germanic Inflectional Categories**

	Indo-European	Germanic
CASE	nominative	nominative
	genitive	genitive
	dative	dative
	ablative	
	locative	
	instrumental	
accusative	(instrumental)*	
vocative	accusative (vocative) <sup>†</sup>	
GENDER	masculine	masculine
	feminine	feminine
	neuter	neuter
PERSON	first	first
	second	second
	third	third
NUMBER	singular	singular
	dual	dual
	plural	plural
MOOD	indicative	indicative
	subjunctive	optative (= subjunctive)
	optative	
	injunctive	
	imperative	imperative
VOICE	active	active
	middle	
	passive	
ASPECT (>TENSE)	present	present
	future	past (= preterite)
	imperfect	
	perfect	
	aorist	
	pluperfect	

\*Survived in Germanic, but had only a marginal status in Old English.

<sup>†</sup>Survived in Germanic, but was lost in Old English.

## Agglutinative languages:

- They combine grammatical morphemes with lexical stems
- Morphemes are discrete (separate) and stuck to the lexical stem one after another

# Example

Ni-ta-ku-penda = I - future tense - you object –  
like

Turkish or Swahili



## Isolating/analytic languages:

- Every morpheme forms a separate word
- Individual particles such as prepositions, articles and conjunctions are used to convey grammatical information

# Examples

Chinese ai “love” (both noun and verb)  
(A separate pronoun indicates if it is a verb and person, number, etc.)

Wo ai “I love”

Ni ai “you love”

Mingtian wo ai “tomorrow”

Vietnamese or Chinese