

Seminar 6

Reading: Harris & Campbell

- §1 Why are some linguists of the opinion that comparative reconstruction of syntax is impossible?
- §2 How can syntactic correspondence sets be established, according to Harris & Campbell? Give an example.
- §3 What is an archaism or “relic”? What are they used for in syntactic reconstruction? Give an example.
- §4 How can directionality be used in syntactic reconstruction? Give an example.
- §5 Why do SOV languages normally have RelN order and SVO languages NRel order? Why do SOV languages still sometimes exhibit NRel order?
- §6 How can the above typological facts help in syntactic reconstruction?
- §7 What is meant by saying that syntactic acquisition is “discontinuous”? How can one respond to Lightfoot’s argument that syntactic reconstruction is impossible because syntactic acquisition is discontinuous?
- §8 How are syntactic borrowings dealt with in syntactic reconstruction?