Morphological Types

Ling 203
Languages of the World

Based on Lyovin (1997:26) Typology Exercise 2
Morphological Types

• isolating
• agglutinating
• fusional
• polysynthetic
(based on Lillooet Salish)

What type of language is this morphologically?

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tuxp-elic’e-ʔen-č-es̆
buy-clothing.TR-1.SG.OBJ-3.SG.SUBJ.TR
‘He bought me some clothes.’
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TR = transitive  
1,2,3 = 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} person  
SG = singular  
Subj = subject  
OBJ = object

Answer: Polysynthetic
Quechua

What type of language is this morphologically?

‘ika-y-ku-man-lya p”awa-sa-n-ku-ču
flower-1.SG-PL-to-also fly-PROG-PRES-PL-Q
‘Are they flying to my flowers also?’

1,2,3 = 1st,2nd,3rd person
SG = singular
PL = plural
PROG = progressive
PRES = present
Q = question

Answer: Agglutinating
Samoan

What type of language is this morphologically?

ua alu le teine i le fale-ma’i
PERF go the girl to the house-sick
‘The girl has gone to the hospital.’

PERF = perfective

*fale and ma’i can be independent words

Answer: Isolating
Nepali

What type of language is this morphologically?

y-as khol-ā māthi sāgh-u thi-yo
that-OBL river-OBL across bridge-NONOBL.M be.PST-3.SG.PRET.IND
‘Across that river there was a bridge.’

OBL = oblique
NONOBL = non-oblique
M = masculine
PST = past
1,2,3 = 1st,2nd,3rd person
SG = subject
PRET = preterite
IND = indicative

Answer: Fusional