Lyle Campbell: Historical Linguistics: An Introduction
(Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 2020. 498 p.)

The book in question is a voluminous work consisting of many aspects of diachronic linguistics. These numerous but fundamental aspects vary from a detailed typology of historical change in linguistic components (lexeme, phoneme, meaning, syntax, morphology) to technical tools that are used in comparative and quantitative methods regarding many sub-disciplines such as linguistic reconstruction, loanword adaptation, language classification, and language contact. Outlying topics such as linguistic prehistory and philology are also accommodated. Although these topics are multifarious, it is important to note that the author preemptively distinguishes what is not considered in the coverage area of historical linguistics and excludes those aspects in plain view. History of linguistics, the origin of human language (glottogenesis), and the attitude and precautions towards change are the notorious primary misconceptions of historical linguistics. The author does not solely elucidate the topics but approaches the issues more pragmatically by demonstrating how things work in this area. Therefore, the baseline of the methodologies used in historical linguistics is presented in the book in a simple manner.

According to the author, sound change, which is being the most prominently emphasized area of historical linguistics, is dwelt on thoroughly. The regularity of the changes is underlined. Several classifications are brought out, such as the conditioned/unconditioned and phonemic/non-phonemic nature of the changes. The terms *assimilation* and *dissimilation* appear as the grounds for the changes in this section. Campbell presents the main kinds of common sound changes as deletions, insertions, and several other cases that can be grouped under the topic of substitution. Associates of the latter are given in the book as compensatory lengthening, rhotacism, metathesis, haplology, breaking, and several other vowel and consonant adaptations.

In the sequel, the borrowing process of loanwords and the practice of identifying them are discussed. As explained, the loans may act as indicators of the past features of languages as they sometimes contain distinctive features of the past that have been resistant to adaptation in the recipient languages. Following that part, another form of change, analogy, is discussed. It is quoted that the analogy is irregular when compared with sound change. It is further classified in the book as immediate and non-immediate. Examples include hypercorrection, folk etymology, metanalysis, and back-formation. The author states that sound change, borrowing, and analogy are considered the most important types of linguistic changes. Apart from these, Campbell addresses lexical, semantic, syntactic, and morphological changes.

The book aims to expressly demonstrate how to be a historical linguist by guiding through all the necessary steps to reconstruct proto-languages. After

displaying all kinds of changes that occur in the historical process, the author takes the reader forward to the next level and reconstructs the sound set of the Proto-Romance Language (a later stage of spoken Latin) in a quite simplified manner. In order to achieve this, the author assembles cognates from Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and French and establishes sound correspondences on a particular set of words that is convenient for the task. How to reconstruct the proto-sounds from the indications of the correspondences is explained next. Several clues are presented to the reader at this point, such as the directionality of the changes, economy (the principle of the least effort), and how to take advantage of the common distinctive features of the daughter languages and frequency (itemized as "majority wins"). The next step addresses overlapping correspondences, for which two solutions are presented. The first is finding evidence to show that the two sets represent one proto-sound diversified in the daughter languages. The second solution is that the correspondence sets represent two different sounds in the proto-language. In the following step, Campbell manifests crosschecking methods in order to test the plausibility of the reconstructed sounds both internally and in terms of universal linguistic norms. Ultimately in this section, reconstructing morphemes and lexemes is proposed shortly with a few examples. Campbell further promotes the explication of the comparative method by applying the steps in a case study of three Finno-Ugric languages, Finnish, Hungarian and Udmurt. The scope and common limitations of reconstruction studies are also mentioned, alongside "internal reconstruction" as a new chapter.

The sequel tackles the problem of classifying language families. After presenting some basic terminology, the author explains how to draw family trees by subgrouping and then puts forward models of language change. By doing so, the author reveals the junction point of sociolinguistics and language change. The author states that changes begin with variation, which is an entity of sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistic matters such as gender, ethnicity, social classes, and local status are brought out, and their impact on change is discussed. Language contact is approached as well.

Quantitative methods such as glottochronology are addressed in the following chapter of the book. The credibility of glottochronology is questioned by presenting many problems discussed in the literature, as are phylogenetic methods. They are classified as distance-based and character-based. The author indicates that in the linguistic literature, trees of the phylogenetic methods are sometimes criticized for being off-grade compared to networks. It is argued that the networks reveal the lack of data for particular branching or comparison.

Historical Linguistics: An introduction is a brilliant compilation of rewarding studies. Without any doubt, the book is a valuable addition to the library of any researcher interested in phenomena such as language contact, diachronic linguistics, language diversification, linguistic reconstruction, borrowing, and language family classification. The reader is not led towards generalization but is

motivated to adopt new methods depending on subject languages, which brings an innovative approach to the theoretical framework of the literature on the matter, as different approaches were already addressed in the book. Rather than presenting plain rote learning, the author applies the methods with comprehensive examples and encourages the reader to do so. Finally, this book is highly recommended to linguists, linguistics students studying these fields, and the enthusiastic layperson, although some may find the content slightly technical.

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