

## Comparative Typology of Germanic and Romance Languages

### GERMANIC LANGUAGES

Type of syntax - Analytical  
Lexical tendency - Isolation

### ROMANCE LANGUAGES

Type of syntax - Synthetic  
Lexical tendency - Affixation

#### PHONOLOGICAL LEVEL

Words are usually stressed on the root  
  
There are unstressed syllables (schwa)  
  
Intonation is shifting  
  
Rhythm is stress-timed

Words are usually stressed on the affix  
  
All syllables are stressed (no schwa)  
  
Intonation is even or flat  
  
Rhythm is syllable-timed

#### LEXICAL LEVEL

Lexical stratus is monosyllabic (50%)  
  
72% of close syllables Vs 28% open  
  
Verb system is limited and simple  
  
Adjectives are invariable  
  
More polysemantic words  
  
Major WFP is compounding

Lexical stratus is polysyllabic (90%)  
  
40% of close syllables Vs 60% open  
  
Verb system is open and complex  
  
Adjectives agree in number & person with NC  
  
Less polysemantic words  
  
Major WFP is derivation

#### GRAMMATICAL LEVEL

Subject is always explicit, save commands  
  
Word order is fixed (N-V)  
  
Passive voice is a pragmatic need  
  
Most questions require auxiliaries  
  
Inversions have great semiotic impact

Subject is usually omitted  
  
Word order is shifting  
  
Passive voice is just a stylistic choice  
  
Auxiliaries are limited to modals  
  
Inversions lack semiotic impact

#### PARALINGUISTICS

Nonverbal channels appeal more to face  
  
Proxemics is more distant

NVC appeal more to whole body  
  
Proxemics is closer

#### INSTRUCTION

The process of previewing for fast reading is easier

The Process of previewing for FR is more difficult