WRITING AND LITERACY

Prof. Nicole Nau, UAM 2015/16

Third lecture October 22

LAST LECTURE: ORIGIN OF WRITING

- Where, when, under which circumstances and for which purpose(s) was writing „invented" / did writing develop?

- Was it invented only once (and then spread), or was it invented several times independently?

- What are the oldest writing systems we know of? Where did they come from? Who used them for which purpose?

FULL (COMPLETE) WRITING

- "Writing is here limited to systems of marks made on surfaces to symbolize language on some level [...]. The symbolization must be complete enough so that experienced writers can write whatever they can say in the language and experienced readers can reproduce the same stream of speech when they read it aloud." (Smalley 1994a)

- "Full writing is a system of graphic symbols that can be used to convey any and all thoughts." (DeFrancis 1989)

WRITING SYSTEMS: BASIC DIVISIONS

- **Glottographic (based on language/speech)**
  - grapheme represents word or morpheme (logographic, morphographic systems)
  - grapheme represents syllable or mora (syllabic, moraic systems)
  - grapheme represents phoneme (alphabet)
- **Ideographic, semantic (based on meanings, not full writing systems, example: Blissymbols)**

EXAMPLES FOR WRITING SYSTEMS EUROPE AND NEAR EAST

Roman alphabet

Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos	Spanish
STQARRIJA UNIVERSALI DWAR IL-JEDDIJIET TAL-BNIEDEM	Maltese
Allmän förklaring om de mänskliga rättigheterna	Swedish
POWSZECHNA DEKLARACJA PRAW CZŁOWIEKA	Polish
SPLOŠNA DEKLARACIJA ČLOVEKOVIH PRAVIC	Slovenian
İnsan hakları evrensel beyannamesi	Turkish

EXAMPLES FOR WRITING SYSTEMS EUROPE AND NEAR EAST

Cyrillic alphabet

УСЕАГУЛЬНАЯ ДЭКЛАРАЦЫЯ ПРАВОЎ ЧАЛАВЕКА — **Belarusian**

Всеобщая декларация прав человека — **Russian**

ИНСОН ҲУҚУҚЛАРИ УМУМЖАҲОН ДЕКЛАРАЦИЯСИ — **Uzbek**

АДАМ ҚҰҚЫҚТАРЫНЫҢ ЖАЛПЫҒА БІРДЕЙ ДЕКЛАРАЦИЯСЫ — **Kazakh**

EXAMPLES FOR WRITING SYSTEMS EUROPE AND NEAR EAST

Other alphabets

ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΚΗΡΥΞΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΝΑ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΜΑΤΑ

Greek

ადამიანის უფლებათა საყოველთაო დეკლარაცია

Georgian

Մարդու իրավունքների համընդհանուր հռչակագիր

Armenian

הכרזה לכל באי עולם בדבר זכויות האדם

Hebrew

אַלוועלטלעכע דעקלאַראַציע פֿון מענטשנרעכט

Yiddish

اعلامیه جهانی حقوق بشر

Farsi (Persian)

ܟܘܕܩܐ ܐܓܝܟܐ ܕܘܕܩܐ ܐܬܥܬܐ

Assyrian

EXAMPLES FOR WRITING SYSTEMS ASIA

मानव अधिकारों की सार्वभौम घोषणा **Hindi**

ปฏิญ�ญาสากลว่าด้วยสิทธิมนุษยชน **Thai**

మానవస్వత్వముఌ సార్వలౌకిక ప్రకటన

Telugu

༄༅།། ཡོངས་ཁྱབ་གསལ་བསྒྲགས་འགྲོ་བ་མིའི་ཐོབ་ཐང་།

Tibetan

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ
လူ့အခွင့်အရေး
ကြေညာစာတမ်း

Burmese

EXAMPLES FOR WRITING SYSTEMS ASIA

世界人权宣言   **Chinese**

『世界人権宣言』   **Japanese**

세 계 인 권 선 언   **Korean**

Tuyên ngôn toàn thế giới về nhân quyền
của Liên Hợp Quốc   **Vietnamese**

ENGLISH WORDS WRITTEN IN THE KOREAN WRITING SYSTEM

멘 men		펜 pen	벤 Ben	켄 ken	텐 ten	핸 hen
맨 man		팬 pan	밴 ban	캔 can	탠 tan	
멧 met	넷 net	펫 pet	벳 bet			
맷 mat	냇 gnat	팻 pat	뱃 bat	캣 cat	탯 tat	햇 hat
매치 match	내치 natch	패치 patch	배치 batch	캐치 catch		해지 hatch
맵 map	냅 nap			캡 cap	탭 tap	
		핀 pin	빈 bin	킨 kin	틴 tin	
	넌 none	펀 pun	번 bun		턴 ton	
멋 mutt	넛 nut	펏 putt	벗 but	컷 cut		헛 hut
mitt 1		pit 4	bit 7	kit 9		hit 13
	nub 3	pub 5		cub 10	tub 11	hub 14
muck 2		puck 6	buck 8		tuck 12	

SYLLABARIES AND ALPHASYLLABARIES (ABUGIDA)

Canadian Syllabics (alphasyllabaries)

Inuit (Canada)

Cree

Vai (Liberia)

Cherokee
http://imgur.com
/gallery/mL6ll

VAI SYLLABARY

CHEROKEE SYLLABARY

a		e	i		o	u	v [ə̃]
D a		R e	T i		Ꭷ o	Oʼ u	i v
Ꮡ ga Ꮆ ka		Ꮇ ge	Ᏹ gi		A go	J gu	E gv
Ꮂ ha		Ꮅ he	Ꮠ hi		Ꮏ ho	Ꮝ hu	Ꮣ hv
W la		Ꮢ le	Ꮅ li		Ꮬ lo	M lu	Ꮴ lv
Ꮉ ma		Ꮊ me	H mi		Ꮽ mo	Ꮍ mu	
Ꮜ na Ꮡ hna Ꮎ nah		Ꮑ ne	Ꮒ ni		Z no	Ꮕ nu	Ꮕ nv
Ꮚ qua		Ꮖ que	Ᏹ qui		Ꮴ quo	Ꮗ quu	Ꮜ quv
Ꮞ s Ꮣ sa		Ꮄ se	Ꮟ si		Ꮠ so	Ꮩ su	R sv
Ꮣ da Ꮤ ta		Ꮥ de Ꮦ te	Ꮧ di Ꮨ ti		Ꮩ do	S du	Ꮪ dv
Ꮫ dla Ꮭ tla		Ꮮ tle	Ꮯ tli		Ꮰ tlo	Ꮏ tlu	Ꮲ tlv
Ꮳ tsa		Ꮴ tse	Ꮵ tsi		Ꮶ tso	Ꮷ tsu	Ꮸ tsv
Ꮹ wa		Ꮺ we	Ꮻ wi		Ꮼ wo	Ꮽ wu	Ꮾ wv
Ꮿ ya		Ᏸ ye	Ᏹ yi		Ᏺ yo	Ᏻ yu	Ᏼ yv

CREE (ALPHA-)SYLLABARY
HTTP://WWW.KUHMANN.COM/CREE/

WRITING SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD
BERNARD COMRIE, WALS.INFO/FEATURE/141A
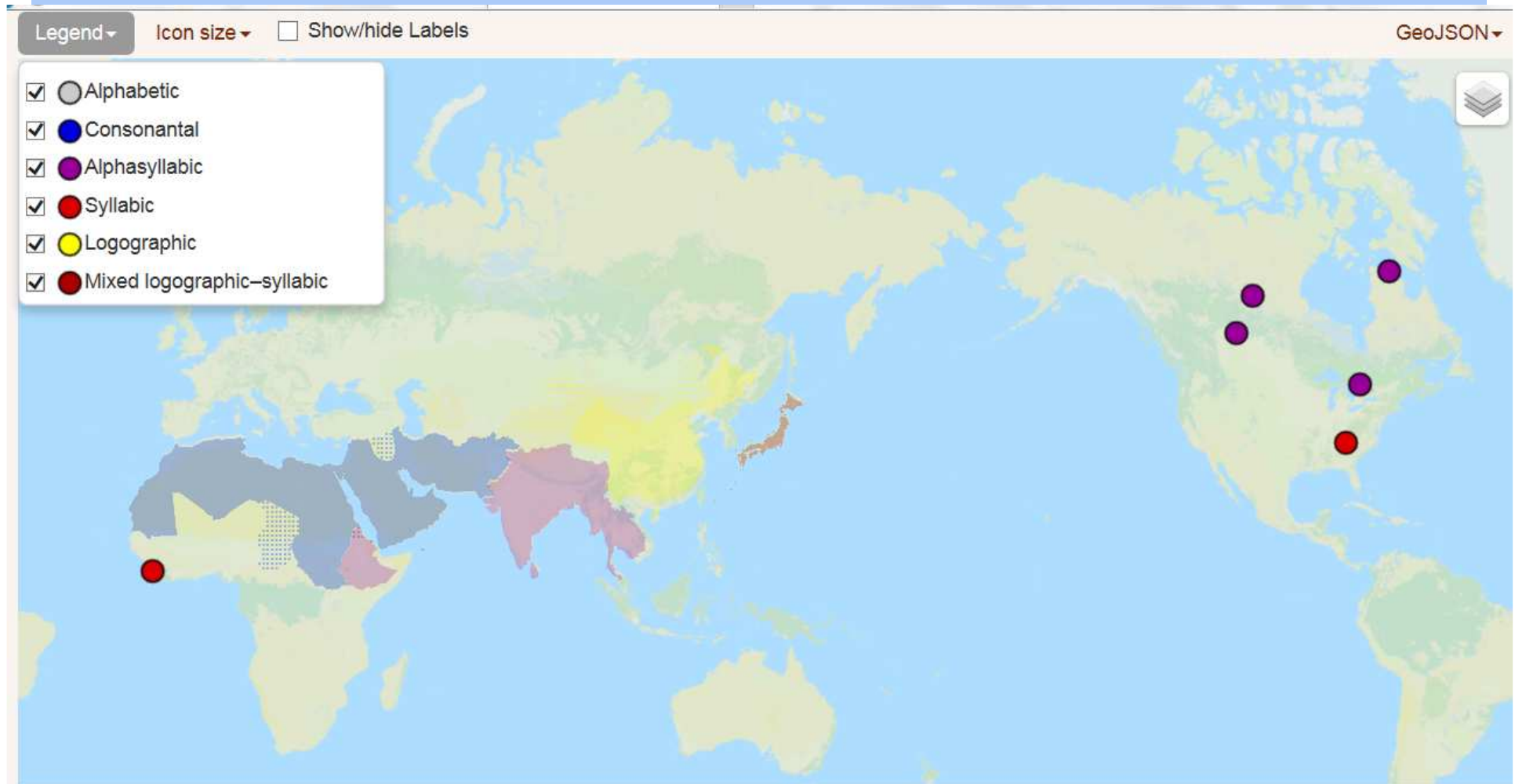
WRITING SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD
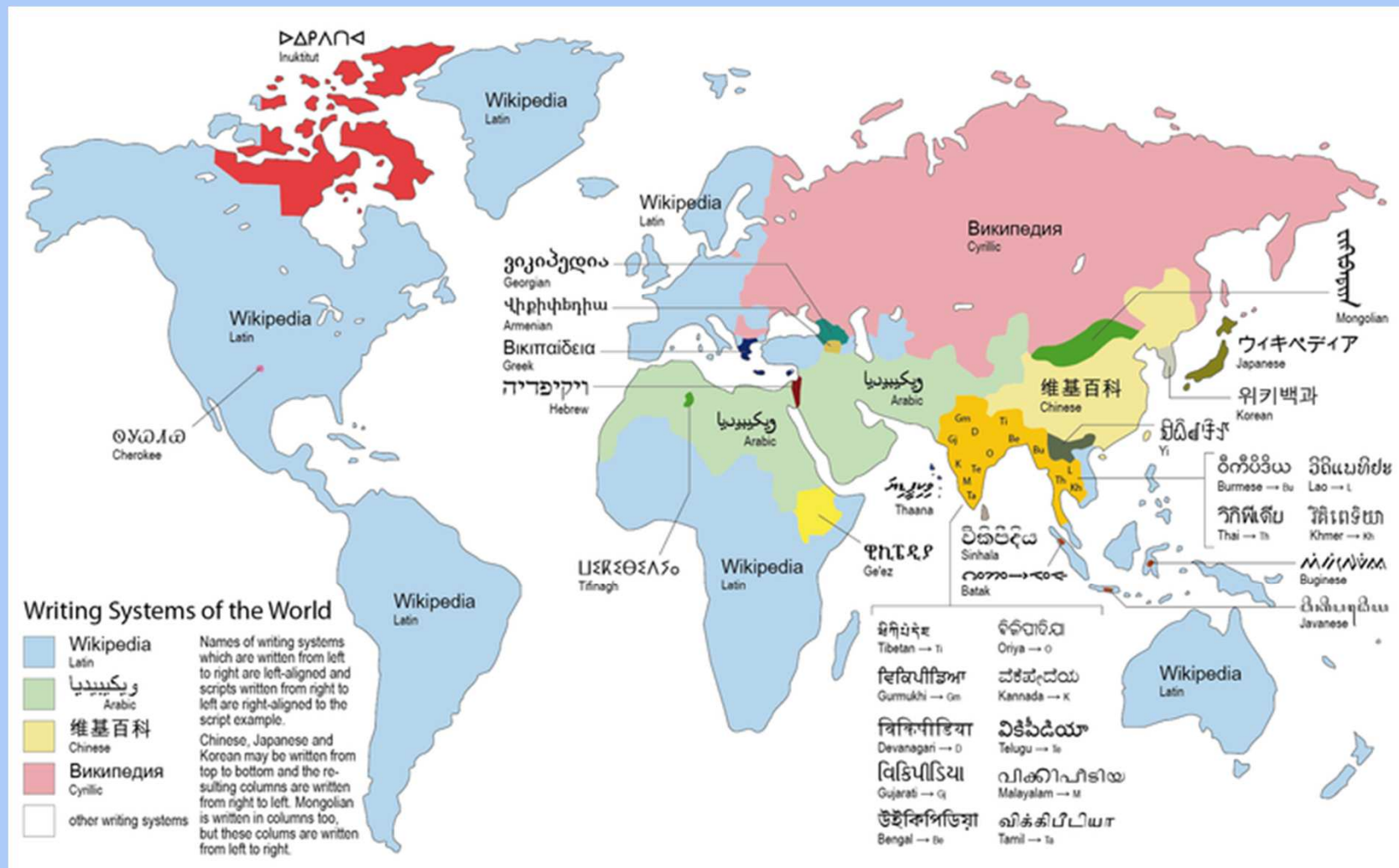
HOW DOES WRITING SPREAD?

„There are many ways that writing is borrowed. One can borrow:

- only the idea of writing;
- the idea of writing and its orientation (e.g., linear, right to left, in vertical columns);
- the writing system (logographic, syllabic, alphabetic);
- the writing system and its script;
- parts of a writing system to enrich an extant system;
- parts of a script; and so forth."

(Fischer 2001: 64)

SMALLEY 1994 CODIFICATION BY MEANS OF FOREIGN SYSTEMS

- What are the motivations for introducing writing for a language that wasn't used in writing before? ("bases for acceptance")
- What may be the reasons why people do NOT want to write in their language? ("bases for opposition")
- "Before adopting writing, people observe it from any one of three different perspectives":
  - "stimulus diffusion" - illiterate persons observe writing and invents his/her own system from zero (example: Cherokee);
  - persons literate in L2 develop a writing system for their L1, based on the system of L2 (example: Finnish, Lithuanian in the 16th century);
  - illiterate persons observe others (outsiders) using a writing system of their language and adopt it

- Which persons or groups of persons may play an important role in the introduction of writing and what are their motives? (3.2, 3.3)
- What are the reasons to adopt (or not to adopt) a particular model for a new writing system? (3.4)
- "Occasionally a language is written in more than one way because its population lives in more than one country." (701) Give examples.
- How (and why) is a foreign system adapted to a new language? Give some examples.
- What may be the reason to oppose adaptation?

- What is meant by "viability" of writing systems? Which factors contribute to viability?
- "Writing can also lead to modern dependency on writing which often gradually supplants traditional oral culture." (707) Explain and comment on this thought.

NATIVE CREATION OF WRITING SYSTEMS (SMALLEY 1994B)

- see handout for overview

Especially worth remembering:
- Korean Hangul (15th century), by King Sejong
- Cherokee (1821), by Sequoyah
- Vai (1833), by Momolu Duwalu Bekele

NO CLASS NEXT WEEK!

- On October 27 I will be at a conference in Vilnius, so there is no class.
- To compensate, I propose to read the article "Writing and the mind" by David R. Olson.
- If you send me a short summary of this text (about 1 page, so that I see you have read and understodd the text) this will count as a presence in class.

REFERENCES

- DeFrancis, John. 1989. Visible speech: The diverse oneness of writing systems. Honolulu.

- Fischer, Steven Roger. 2001. A history of writing. London.

- Smalley, William A. 1994a. Codification by means of foreign systems. In Günther & Ludwig, Vol. I, 697-708.

- Smalley, William A. 1994b. Native creation of writing systems. In Günther & Ludwig, Vol. I, 708-720.

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/SearchByLang.aspx