Typological Implications of Mi'gmaq Indefinite Pronouns

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Introduction

•Indef nite pronouns often have several overlapping meanings or uses, making it diff cult to translate them directly.

•Semantic typology of indef nite pronouns specif es types of "indef nite" meaning and maps the indef nite pronoun options in a language to conf gurations of these categories.

•One of the main works in this area is by Haspelmath (1997), who used data from 140 different languages to create an implicational map of which indef nite meaning categories are predicted to be expressed by the same word.

•However, Haspelmath's typology was developed without reference to any Algonquian languages.

•I aim to provide a f rst glance at an attempt to apply an implicational map to Mi'gmaq (Eastern Algonquian).

•In addition to theoretical implications, this increased understanding will hopefully also be useful for teaching Mi'gmaq as a second language.

Predictions

•Series/ontological category paradigm.

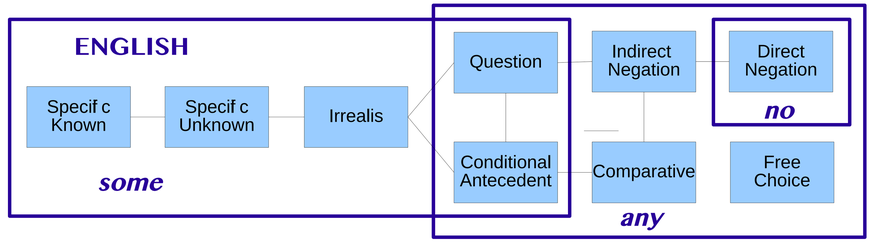
•Series: types of indef nite meaning, such as English 'some,' 'any,' and 'no.'

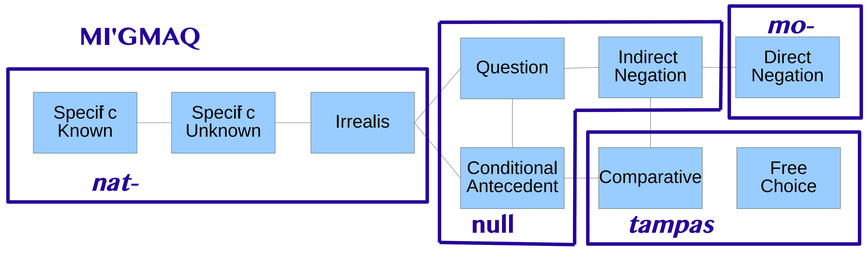
•Ontological category: an entity that can be indef nite. The 7 most common ontological categories are listed in the chart.

•The "null" forms are also used as interrogatives.

•The map (top right) predicts that only nodes joined by lines can be expressed by the same word, and that all categories expressed by a single series must be joined by contiguous lines. It is not allowed to skip over a node.

Implicational Map





nat- series

(1) natu-wen pegising'p
INDEF-PERSON arrived
'Someone arrived.' (specif c known)

(2) natu-wen nutaqap
INDEF-PERSON I.heard
'I heard someone.' (specif c unknown)

(3) na-tami amujpa-liedis
INDEF-PLACE have.to-you.go
'You'll have to go somewhere (else).' (irrealis)

null series

(4) wen telim'sg's?
PERSON tell.you?
'Who told you?' (wh-question, no indef nite)

(5) telim'sg's wen?
tell.you PERSON
'Did anyone tell you?' (question)

(6) nemij wen, tlimitis
if.you.see PERSON, tell.me
'If you see anyone, tell me.' (conditional antecedent)

(7) Ma'li mu nemiagup'n wen
Mary not see.neg PERSON
'Mary didn't see anyone.' (indirect negation)

tampas series

(8) Ma'li me misgilg aq tampas wen
Mary more big than INDEF PERSON
'Mary is bigger than anybody (else)' (comparative)

(9) gis tlimatis tampas wen
able.to you.tell INDEF PERSON
'You may tell anyone.' (free choice)

mo- series

(10) mo-wen pegisinug'p
NEG-PERSON arrived.neg
'No one arrived' (direct negation)

	null	*nat-*	*tampas-*	*ta'n*	*mo-*
Person	wen	natawen	tampas wen	ta'n wen	mowen
Thing	goqwei	natgoqwei	tampas goqwei	tangoqwei	moqwei
Place	tami	natami	tampas tami	tan tet tami	
Manner	tal	natal	tampas	*not possible*	
Property	**tal-amu'g**	**natal-amu'g**			
Amount	**tasig**				
Determiner	alt*				

alt* is an indef nite determiner that seems to be entirely independent from the other series. The forms in **bold are slightly different from the canonical indef nites, although both of these constructions remain to be explained in more detail. The table is also still to be completed.

Extended Map

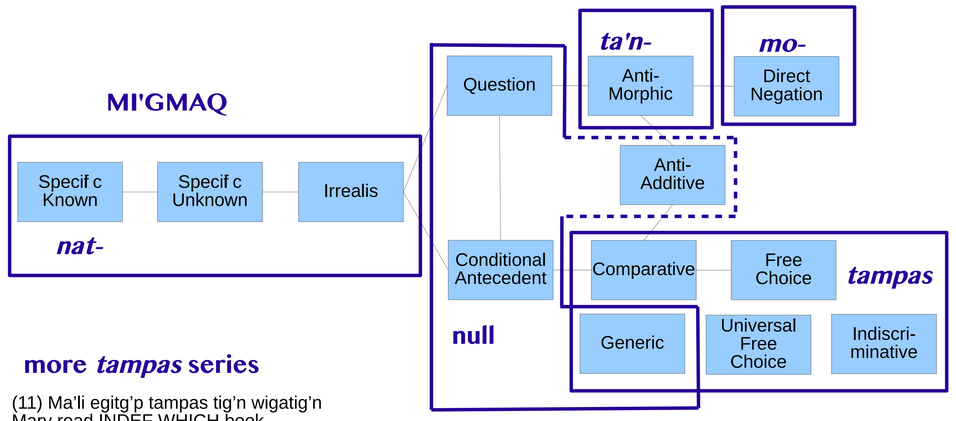
•Guevera et al (2010) suggest additional nodes for Haspelmath's map: anti-morphic and anti-additive, which replace Haspelmath's indirect negation, as well as universal free choice, generic, and indiscriminative.

•Guevara et al. do not predict a particular location in the map for universal free choice, generic, and indiscriminative, which are unproblematically all expressed with *tampas* in Mi'gmaq.

•However, they predict certain connections for anti-additive and anti-morphic based only on English, German, Czech, Dutch, and Spanish data. Although f nding appropriate environments to test these constructions in Mi'gmaq is still incomplete, the Mi'gmaq data may pose a challenge for Guevara et al.'s proposed connections.

Anti-morphic: P(A or B) = P(A) and P(B) *and* P(A and B) = P(A) or P(B)

Anti-additive: P(A or B) = P(A) and P(B)



more *tampas* series

(11) Ma'li egitg'p tampas tig'n wigatig'n
Mary read INDEF WHICH book
'Mary read any book' (universal free choice)

(12) tampas wen amujpa-nepat
INDEF PERSON have.to-sleep
'Anyone has to sleep' (generic)

(13) amujpa wen nepat
have.to PERSON sleep
'A person has to sleep' (generic)

(14) mu tampas wen getu-gelulaq
not INDEF PERSON want-talk.to.3sg.anim
'I don't want to talk to just anyone' (indiscriminative)

ta'n- series

(15) mu teltet'mu eig tan-wen geitoq
not I.think.neg there.is INDEF-PERSON knows.it
'I don't think that there is someone who knows it,
I don't think that anyone knows it' (anti-morphic)

more null series

(16) ?Ma'li mu teluwegup pegising'p wen
Mary not say.neg arrived PERSON
'?Mary didn't say anyone arrived' (anti-additive?)

References

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