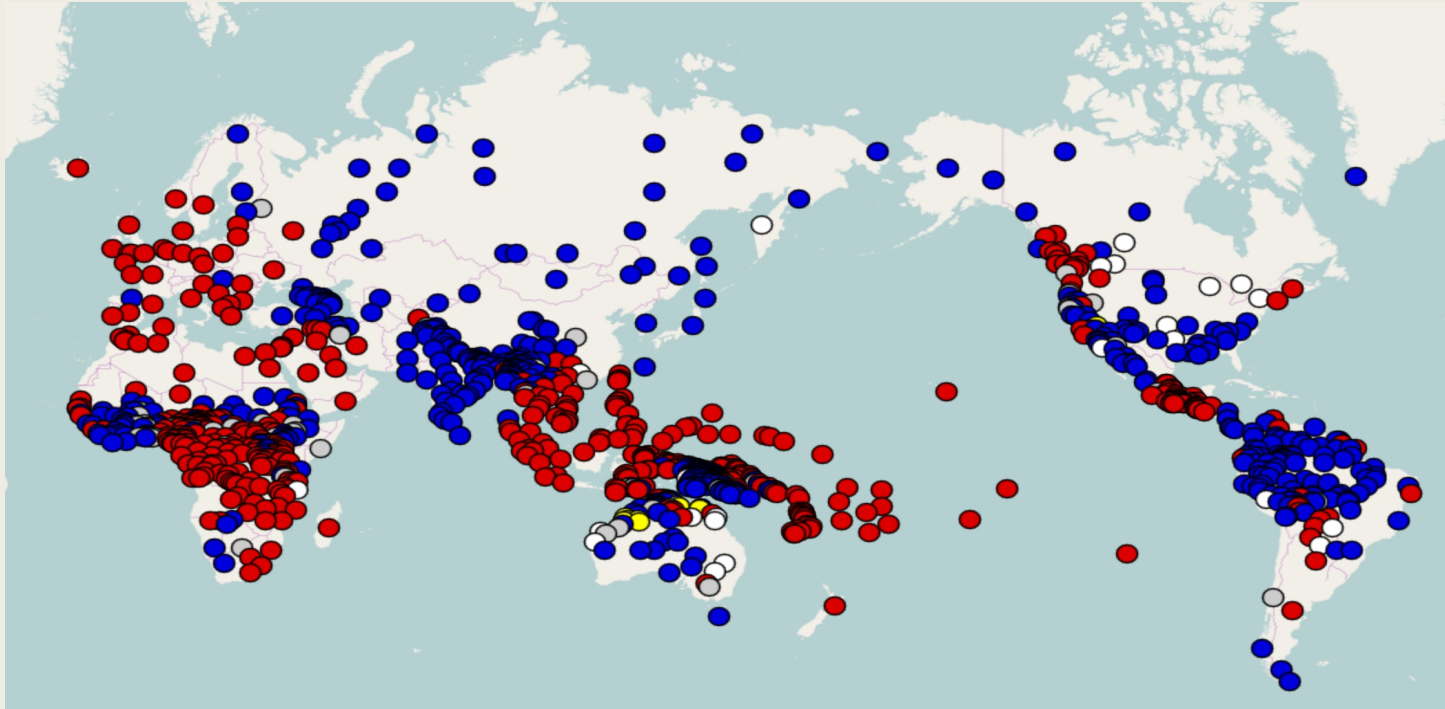


IF A LANGUAGE IS
EXCLUSIVELY SUFFIXING, IT
IS POSTPOSITIONAL, IF IT IS
EXCLUSIVELY PREFIXING IT IS
PREPOSITIONAL

If a language is exclusively suffixing, it is postpositional, if it is exclusively prefixing it is prepositional

- Most languages do not 'exclusively' do either
- The majority both prefix and suffix
- Some languages neither prefix nor suffix

PREPOSITIONSAL VS POSTPOSITIONAL WORLD



Values

●	Postpositions	576
●	Prepositions	511
●	Inpositions	8
●	No dominant order	58
○	No adpositions	30

Matthew S. Dryer. 2013. Order of Adposition and Noun Phrase.
In: Dryer, Matthew S. & Haspelmath, Martin (eds.)
The World Atlas of Language Structures Online.
Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.
(Available online at <http://wals.info/chapter/85>, Accessed on
2017-06-10.)

GREENBERG UNIVERSAL 27

- PROPOSED IN 1963
- GREENBERG WAS DELIBERATELY LOOKING FOR LINGUISTIC UNIVERSALS
- BASED ON DATA FROM 30 LANGUAGES

GREENBERG UNIVERSAL 27

Table 11

	I	II	III	Pr	Po
Exclusively prefixing	0	1	0	1	0
Exclusively suffixing	0	2	10	0	12
Both	6	10	1	15	2

- Greenberg took data from a sample of 30 languages
- 1 exclusively prefixing language (Thai)
- 12 exclusively suffixing languages (Basque, Burmese, Japanese, Turkish, Finnish, Hindi, Kannada, Loritja, Nubian, Quechua, Songhai, Chibcha)
- 17 languages which both prefix and suffix

RESEARCH

- Wanted to find data about languages that **exclusively** prefix or suffix
- WALS had a large selection of data on affixation, but lacked detail on exclusivity
- AUTOTYP had a very small selection of data, but included details on exclusivity
- WALS data for Prepositionality/Postpositionality

DATA ON PREFIXING VS SUFFIXING

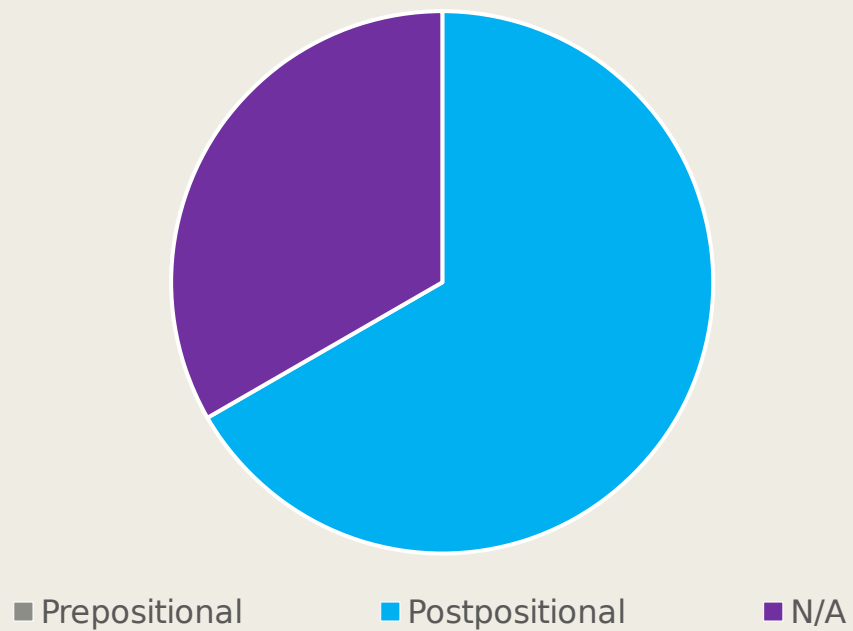
- DATA SAMPLE FROM AUTOTYP OF 77 LANGUAGES
- 57 BOTH PREFIXED AND SUFFIXED (74%)
- 13 EXCLUSIVELY SUFFIXED (16.9%)
- 7 EXCLUSIVELY PREFIXED (9.1%)

AND ADPOSITIONS?

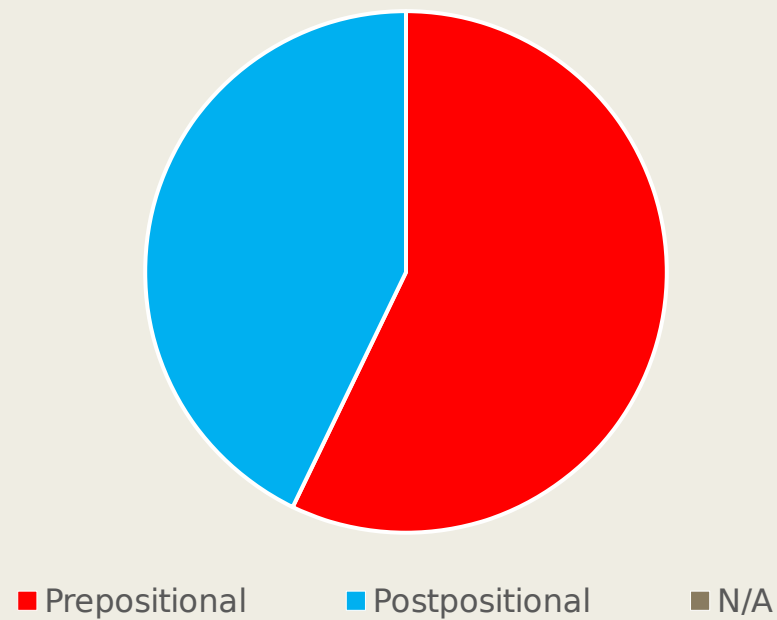
	EXCLUSIVELY SUFFIX	EXCLUSIVELY PREFIX
POSTPOSITIONS	8	3
PREPOSITIONS		4
NO ADPOSITIONS/NO DOMINANT ORDER	4	0

* Diyari was removed because there was a lack of data on adpositions in the language

Exclusively suffixing languagaes



Exclusively prefixing languages



Languages that follow Universal 27

Prepositional + prefixing

Mon
Khmu
Jahai
Pacoh

Postpositional + suffixing

Qiang
Mongolian (Khalkha)
Meithei
Santali
Hamer
Udi
Finnish
Hayu

Languages that do not follow Universal 27

■ Kasunda, Diegueño, Kharia

- 3 languages which contradict universal 27
- Exclusively prefixing but postpositional
- Need to be tested if we want to disprove the universal

Diegueño

■ Diegueño appears to prefix and suffix

(4) Mesa Grande Diegueño (Langdon 1970: 147, 159)

a. *ta-ʔ-wa*

PROG-1.SUBJ-sit

.....
'I am/was sitting.'

b. *ʔ-a-x*

1.SUBJ-go-FUT

.....
'I will go.'

- Langdon, Margaret H. 1970. A Grammar of Diegueño: The Mesa Grande Dialect. (University of California Publications in Linguistics, 66.) Berkeley: University of California Press.

Kharia

- Kharia appears to also have suffixes

Intensive markers: *-boʔ*, *-daʔ*, *-son* (all **suffixes**, lexically determined,

Peterson, John. (2007) Kharia. A south Munda Language Osnabruck: Osnabruck University press. Pg 69

Kusunda

- Kusunda- there are references to potential suffixes
- 'the possessive suffix *-yi*' 'i is a plural suffix'
- Paul Whitehouse; Timothy Usher; Merritt Ruhlen; William S.-Y. Wang (2004-04-13). "Kusunda: An Indo-Pacific language in Nepal". *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. **101** (15): 5692–5695.

A TROUBLING NOTE

- Not clear if any of the three languages which contradict the theory are exclusively prefixing
- Demonstrates problems with the data, particularly issues with the classification of prefixing and suffixing
- Universal 27 could still be true

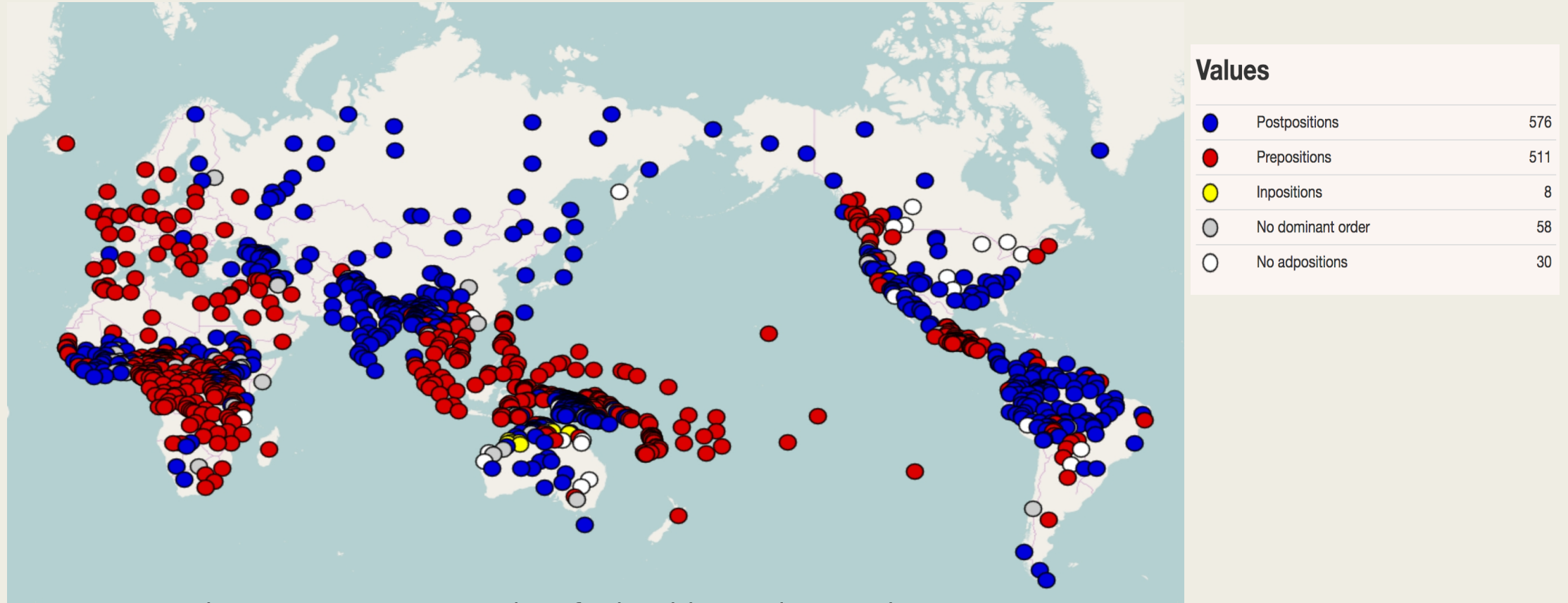
New statistics

- With the removal of Kusunda, Diegueño and Kharia from the data, the Universal looks much healthier
- 100% of exclusively prefixing languages are prepositional
- 67% of exclusively suffixing languages are postpositional, and the remaining 33% have no dominant order or no adpositions

Why is there a link between affixation and adpositions?

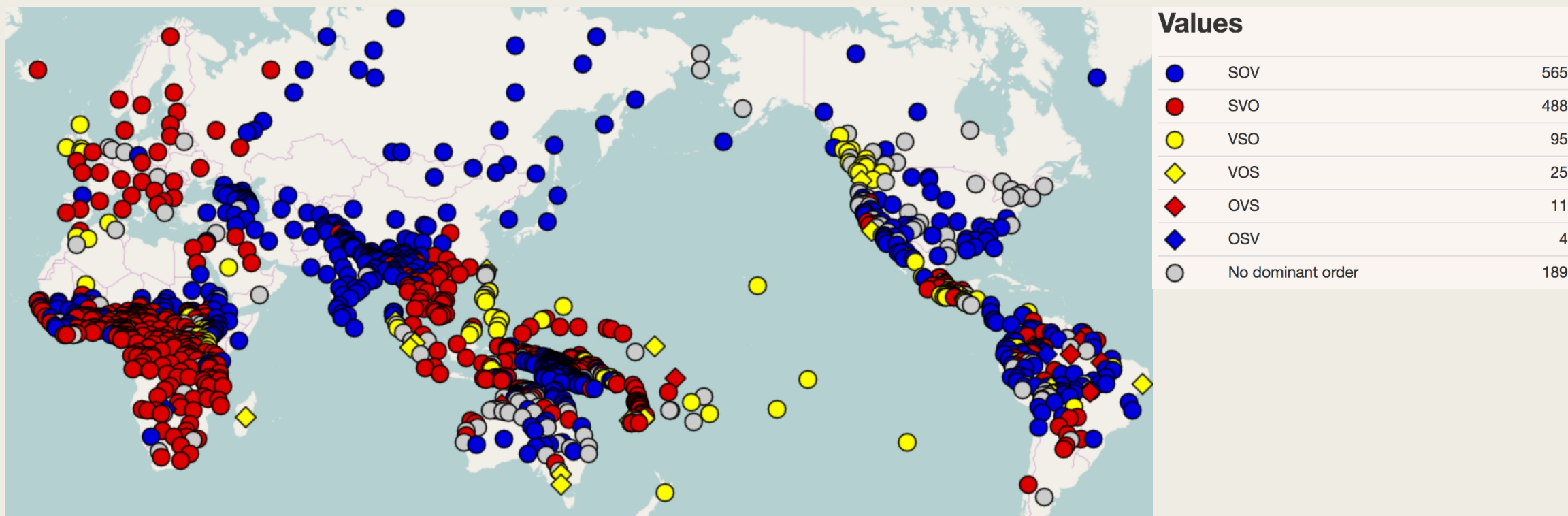
- Implication that affixes and adpositions are connected
- Some overlap between the function of adpositions and affixes, e.g. English preposition 'to' and the dative case- which is often marked by an affix.
- Perhaps a link to the assignment of theta roles in a sentence.
- Possible link to head directionality- if a language is head initial it is likely to have prefixes and prepositions, if it is head-final it is likely to have suffixes and postpositions

A note on Word Order



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A note on Word Order



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SVO and SOV structures

- Possibly also a link to head directionality
- Does the V head branch left or right?
- English: Verb head branches left, adposition also branches left (prepositional), prefixes present in the language
- Turkish: Verb head branches right, adposition branches right (postpositional), exclusively suffixing language.