(1) **The phylogenetic method**

 a. Synchronic similarities ≠ Diachronic relationships (6, 13)

  ‣ "Even though the trees and networks have been designed for mapping evolution, we use them for finding similarities in languages that came into being independently (in most cases) from one another, and that are not in areal contact." (14)

 b. Lexical trees ≠ Structural trees (13)

  ‣ Creoles show lexical continuity with the lexifier, not structural (14)

  ‣ Emily: One advantage of using the lexicon is that there are infinite possible values per trait, whereas this paper has essentially binary values, increasing randomness.

 c. Greenbergian typology ≠ Parametric typology (6)

  ‣ They used superficial traits for their data, didn't try to analyse underlying parameters.

Huson & Bryant (2006)

Longer lines indicate stronger evidence. Angles are just ways to make it work graphically.
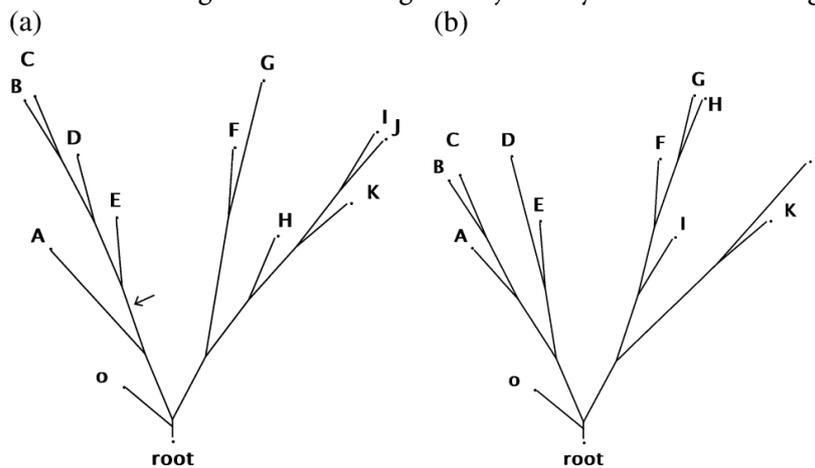

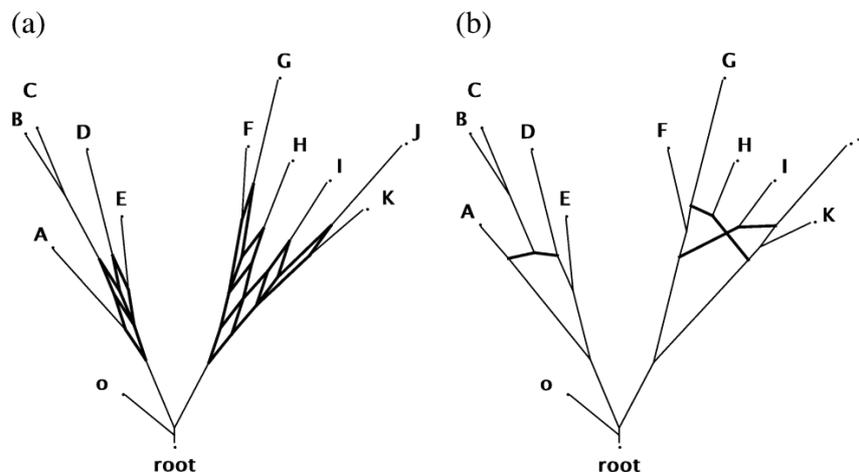FIG. 2.—Two different trees on the taxon set $X = \{o, A, B, \ldots, K\}$.

FIG. 3.—Two different types of phylogenetic networks. (*a*) A split network representing all splits present in the two trees depicted in the previous figure. Here, each band of parallel edges corresponds to a branch contained in one of the input trees. The nodes do not necessarily correspond to hypothetical ancestors. (*b*) A reticulate network that explains the two trees by postulating three reticulations that give rise to the clades $\{B, C\}$, $\{H\}$, and $\{I\}$. This network explicitly describes a putative evolutionary history: the internal nodes correspond to ancestral taxa, and the edges represent patterns of descent.

(2) **McWhorter's (1998) Creole Prototype Hypothesis**

    a. "… because so much of a grammar's complexity results from the operations of random accretion over time, creoles display less complexity than the rest of the world's natural grammars." (133)

      ‣ Older creoles may exist, but the conditions for creole formation are plausibly rare.

    b. Definition of complexity (135ff)

      ‣ *Phonology:* Marked phonemes (e.g. ejectives, clicks), tones

      ‣ *Syntax:* More rules to be processed, e.g. matrix/subordinate clause asymmetry (Germanic V2), two kinds of alignment (ergative/absolutive vs. nominative/accusative)

      ‣ *Semantics/pragmatics:* Overtly expressed, grammaticalised fine-grained distinctions, e.g. Koasati's five existential verbs depending on shape of object

      ‣ *Morphology:* Inflectional morphology → morphophonemics (e.g. variable umlaut), suppletion, arbitrary allomorphy, useless agreement

(3) **Current language sample (17, 31)**

    a. *18 creoles:* Arabic (Nubi), Assamese (Nagamese), Dutch (Negerhollands, Berbice Dutch), English (Jamaican, Krio, Ndyuka, Tok Pisin), French (Dominican, Haitian, Seychellois), Portuguese (Angolar, Cape Verdean, Guinea Bissau Creole, Korlai Creole), Spanish (Palenquero, Zamboangueño), ? (Papiamentu)

    b. *12 non-creoles* (isolating or low complexity: 30): Niger-Congo (Akan, Bambara, Kimbundu), Songhay (Koyra Chiini), West Chadic (Mina), Dravidian (Brahui), IE (English), Austronesian (Indonesian), Sino-Tibetan (Mandarin), Mura (Pirahã), Isolates (Ainu, Kolyma Yukaghir)

(4) **Current findings (17) support only hypothesis 5 (15)**

    a. Trees indicate synchronic typological similarity, not genetic relatedness (34)

    b. The degree of creoleness for a given creole is not dependent on

      i. superstrate, area of origin (really? there is clustering on 28, 29)

        · Emily: Their point is valid, you would expect even more clustering.

      ii. the type of sociolinguistic setting (plantation, fort or trade) or the creole's age

    c. Creole similarity is attributed to simplicity (36) as well as other factors (31)

      ‣ So when we control for simplicity, why are creoles and non-creoles still so different (32)? Emily: They used mostly Indo-European-lexified creoles, but most non-IE non-creoles. Maybe the difference is IE features. But English came out as very non-creole-like.

(5) **Some non-creoles are as simple as creoles**

    a. Riau Indonesian (Gil 2001), Sango and others (Parkvall 2008, cited p. 8)

    b. Southeast Asian languages cluster with creoles (34)

      ‣ Left: Hmong Njua (Hmong-Mien: China/Vietnam), Vietnamese (Austroasiatic: Vietnam), Thai (Tai-Kadai: Thailand), Standard Indonesian (Austronesian: Indonesia), Khmer (Austroasiatic: Cambodia), Kilivila (Austronesian: Papua New Guinea), Taba (Austronesian: Moluccas) … Yagua (Peba-Yaguan: Peru), Chalcatongo Mixtec (Oto-Manguean: Mexico), Wari' (Chapacura-Wanham: Brazil), Pirahã (Mura: Brazil)

      ‣ Right: Kobon (Trans-New Guinea, Papua New Guinea) … West Greenlandic (Eskimo-Aleut: Greenland), Canela-Krahô (Macro-Ge: Brazil), Cayuvava (Cayuvava: Bolivia)

      ‣ Maybe there is a history of contact in SEA. Or maybe they are very isolating and their complexity was not captured by Parkvall's criteria, e.g. many tones.

References

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