Cognitive Approaches to Linguistic Diversity

- *„Kolik jazyků znáš, tolikrát jsi člověkem.“* (T. G. Masaryk)

1. Check test

- Who was Benjamin Lee Whorf? What is the "Sapir-Whorf hypothesis"? What are the two forms of the hypothesis and what do they say?
- What expressions are used in Czech/Slovak/… in talking about TIME?
- Does learning a new language affect thinking about the world in any way?

2. What we shall learn in this class

- We shall learn the notion of "linguistic relativity" (and its alternative name).
- We shall learn about the concept of TIME and about how different languages conceive of TIME in different ways. We will also learn how people speaking different languages act differently.
- We shall discuss whether and how learning a second language may influence the way you think.

3. Lecture

- The entire presentation has been uploaded into the Information System.
- A summary of the Hopi TIME debate can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6eXw0AAKZ8

4. Summary

- Can I define "linguistic relativity" and can I give an example of it?
- Can I choose two specific languages (e.g. my first/second language), and say how they are *systematically* different?

- Following #2, can I make a rough hypothesis (perhaps a wild guess, at least for the moment) of how the difference might make people speaking the two languages think and act differently?

4. Required readings (to be tested in the final exam):

Whorf, Bejamin L. 1944. The relation of habitual thought and behaviour to language. *ETC: A Review of General Semantics* 1.4: 197-215.

Boroditsky, Lera. 2010. Lost in Translation. *Wall Street Journal*, July 24, 2010.

Boroditsky, Lera. 2011. How Language Shapes Thought: The languages we speak affect our perceptions of the world. *Scientific American*, February 2011, 63-65.

5. Further readings (not included in exam questions):

Bohnemeyer, Jürgen. 2009. Temporal anaphora in a tenseless language. In *The Expression of Time*, ed. by Wolfgang Klein and Ping Li, 83-128. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Lu, Wei-lun. 2019. Time, tense and viewpoint shift across languages: A Multiple-Parallel-Text approach to "tense shifting" in a tenseless language. *Cognitive Linguistics* 30.2: 377-397.

6. Preparation for next lecture

- Look up in the dictionary to see how the word "culture" is defined.
- Think about a special and interesting cultural element in your first language, or in the language(s) that you are learning and about why it is special and interesting.