

Overview of Finnish Language:

- Finnish Word Order
- Agglutinative language, i.e. Morphologically rich language
 - Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs
- Postpositions and Prepositions
- Conjunctions
- Questions (*yes/no*) and *wh*-questions

I. Finnish Word Order:

	Subject	Verb	Object
English:	John	loves	Mary
Finnish:	<i>John</i>	<i>rakasta a</i>	<i>Mary</i>
Trans:	PN	love.3 rd -person	PN

While it is similar to English, the word order is quite flexible in Finnish:

ENG: *John loves Mary.*

FIN: a. *John rakasta|a Mary.*

b. *Mary John rakasta|a.*

c. *Rakasta|a John Mary.*

II. Morphologically Rich Language

(Agglutinative languages = affixes are attached the base of a stem)

- The Finnish language has 15 cases
 - o Typically, these correspond to postpositions as in English
- Bound morphemes (more specifically, suffixes)

A) NOUNS:

	Finnish	Translation
EX:	<i>auto ssa</i>	in a/the car
	<i>auto i ssa</i>	in (the) cars
	<i>auto ssa si</i>	in your car
	<i>auto si</i>	your car
	<i>auto kin</i>	a/the car too
	<i>auto si kin</i>	your car too
	<i>auto ssa kin</i>	in a/the car too
	<i>auto i ssa kin</i>	in (the) cars too
	<i>auto i ssa si kin</i>	in your cars too

What are the bound morphemes?

<i>[-ssa-]</i>	_____	<i>[-si-]</i>	_____
<i>[-i-]</i>	_____	<i>[-kin]</i>	_____

B) ADJECTIVES

	Finnish		Translation
EX:	<i>iso</i> big.ADJ	<i>auto</i> car.N	a/the big car
(inessive)	<i>iso ssa</i> big.ADJ-in	<i>auto ssa</i> car.N-in	in a/the big car
(genitive)	<i>iso n</i> big.ADJ-of	<i>auto n</i> car.N-of	of a/the big car
(definiteness)	<i>iso t</i> big.ADJ-def	<i>auto t</i> car.N-def	(the) big cars
(def+inessive)	<i>iso i ssa</i> big.ADJ-def-in	<i>auto i ssa</i> car.N-def-in	in (the) big cars

C) VERBS:

- Bound morphemes also attach to verbs...

I	love.	We	love.
<i>minä</i>	<i>rakasta n.</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>rakasta mme.</i>
PRO.1 st -ps.SG	love.V.1 st -ps.SG	PRO.3 st -ps.PL	love.V.1 st -ps.PL
You	love.	You all	love.
<i>sinä</i>	<i>rakasta t.</i>	<i>te</i>	<i>rakasta tte.</i>
PRO.2 nd -ps.SG	love.V.2 nd -ps.SG	PRO.2 nd -ps.PL	love.V.2 nd -ps.PL
He/she	loves.	They	love.
<i>hän</i>	<i>rakasta a.</i>	<i>he</i>	<i>rakasta vat.</i>
PRO.3 rd -ps.SG	love.V.3 rd -ps.SG	PRO.3 rd -ps.PL	love.V.3 rd -ps.PL

As you can see, Finnish has verb agreement and uses bound morphemes to also indicate tensing.

Finnish**Translation**

Sinä rakasta|t auto|t.

You love the car.

(*present*)

Sinä rakast|i|t auto|t.

You loved the car.

(*past*)

Sinä ole|t rakasta|nut auto|t.

You have loved the car.

(*perfect*)

Sinä ol|i|n rakasta|nut auto|t.

You had loved the car.

(*pluperfect*)

III. Postpositions and Prepositions

- Finnish has both!
 - o However, postpositions are more common.
- Bounded morphemes (suffixation)

		Location	
		Inside	Outside
Direction	Static	<i>-ssa</i> (inessive)	<i>-lla</i> (adessive)
	Away from	<i>-sta</i> (elative)	<i>-lta</i> (ablativ)
	Towards	<i>-Vn</i> (illative)	<i>-lle</i> (allative)

- o Must be attached to stem, e.g. *auto|ssa* <car+in>
- o Can have other meanings, apart from place and direction, e.g. *minu|lla* <I have>, *aamu|lla* <in the morning>
- Unbounded morphemes (post-/prepositions)
 - o Are not attached to stem
 - o Typically, stems require genitive or partitive case.

	Finnish	Translation
EX:	<i>auto n takana</i>	behind a/the car
	<i>auto n ympäri</i>	around a/the car
	<i>auto n lähellä</i>	near a/the car

IV. Conjunctions

EX:	Finnish	Translation
	... <i>ja</i> and...
	... <i>tai</i> or...
	... <i>mutta</i> but...
	... <i>koska</i> because...
	... <i>jos</i> ... <i>sitten</i> if... then...

Similar to English!

V. Questions in Finnish

A) Questions (yes/no):

EX:	Finnish	Translation
	<i>Rakast i t ko Mary?</i>	Did you love Mary?
	<i>Jä i t kö koti in?</i>	Did you stay home?
	<i>Jä i kö Mary koti in?</i>	Did Mary stay home?

What is the question marker in YES/NO questions?

B) wh-Questions:

- Variety of wh-question words (similar to English)
- However, they decline in different cases!!!

EX:	Finnish	Translation
	<i>mi kä</i>	what (nominative)
	<i>mi tä</i>	what (partitive)
	<i>mi ssä</i>	where <what in>
	<i>mi stä</i>	where <what from>