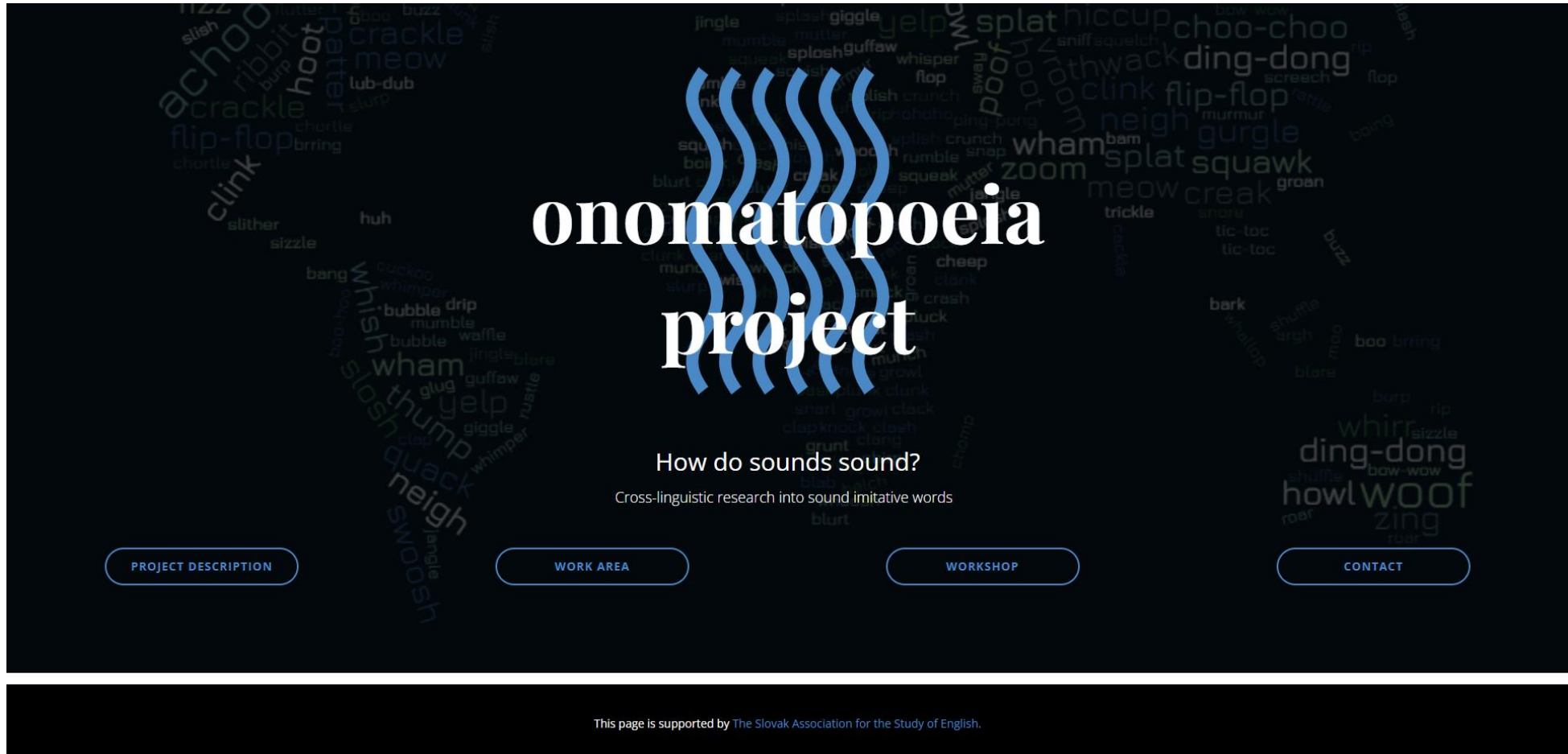


ONOMATOPOEIA WORKSHOP



<http://www.skase.sk/onomatoproject/Home.html>

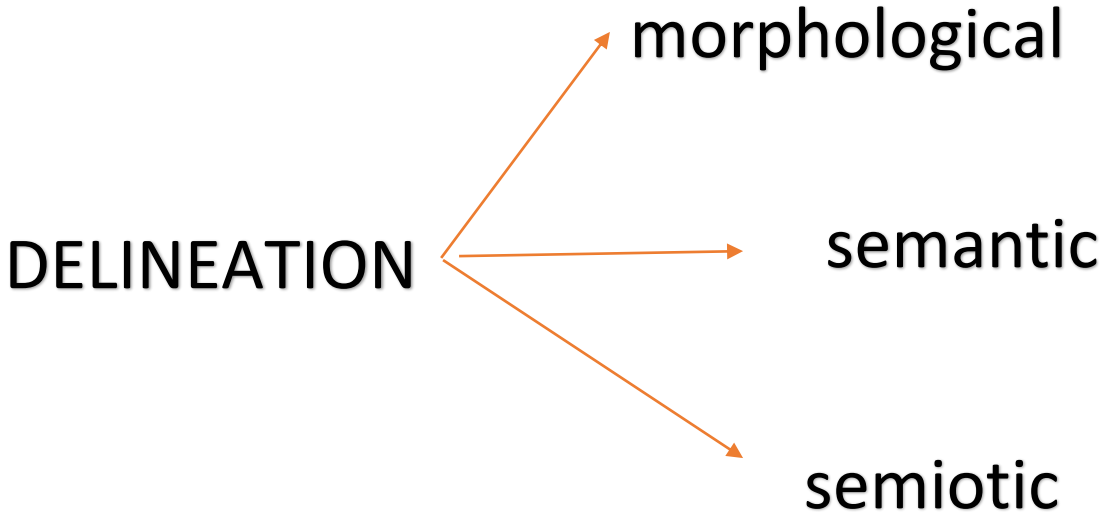
Onomatopoeia – unique species? 2nd edition

Lívia Körtvélyessy
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice



Onomatopoeias – what are they?

state-of- the-art \longleftrightarrow problems



absence of a
universally
accepted
approach

Semantics of onomatopoeias

narrow conception

SOUND

of extra-linguistic reality is conceptualized

conceptual category of SOUND

core semantic category SOUND

SOUND



WOOF
WOOF

to woof

woofer

SOUND+INSTRUMENT



MIAOW

to miaow

miaower

SOUND+AGENT



to boom

boomer

SOUND+AGENT

SOUND

SOUND+ACTION

SOUND+
SUBSTANCE

Semantics of onomatopoeias

broad conception

Sharp and Warren (1994):
164 verbs and 74 nouns

ONOMATOPOEIC
NOUNS

sound-producers

animates (agents+sources) *cuckoo*

sounds (result) *din*

artefacts (sources) *drum*

Benczes (2019)

ouch, pssst

primary onomatopoeia

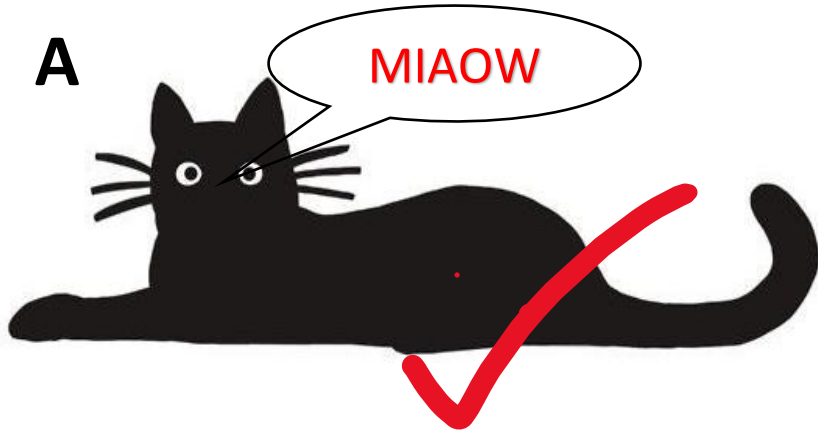
acoustic experience

Ullman (1972)

secondary onomatopoeia

movement; physical, moral quality:
slither, gloom

Morphology of onomatopoeias



B) 'the cat *miaowed* again piteously'

C) 'with a *miaow* the brown kitten jumped down'

D) *miaower*

E) *miaowing*

STUMP: "they don't clearly belong to any grammatical part of speech ."

Morphology of onomatopoeias

A



PRIMARY

INTERJECTION

B) 'the cat *miaowed* again piteously'

C) 'with a *miaow* the brown kitten jumped down'

D) *miaower*

E) *miaowing*

SECONDARY

B) CONVERSION -> VERB

C) CONVERSION -> NOUN

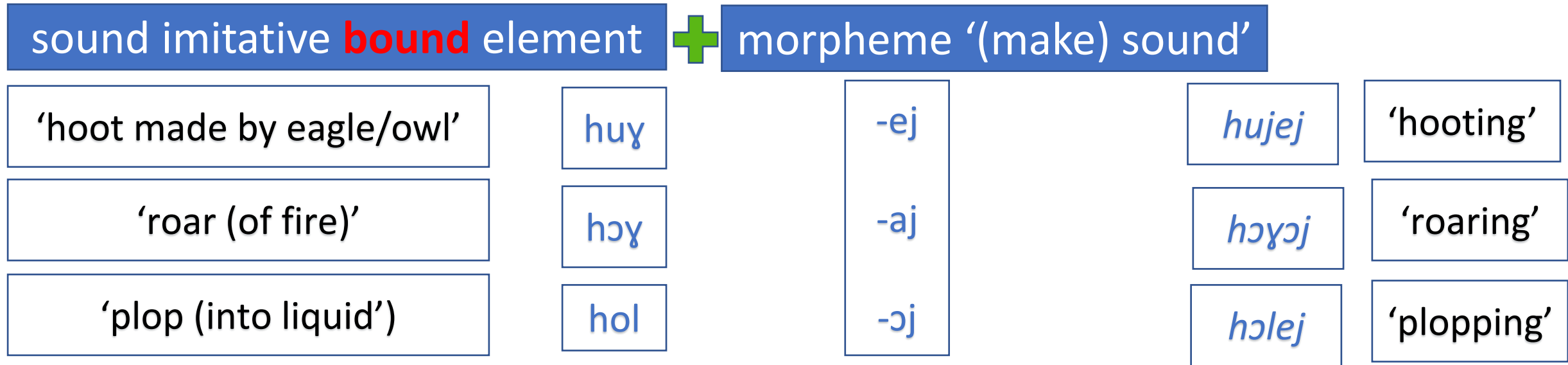
D) SUFFIXATION ->
NOUN

- Bally (1950),
- Cuenca (2000),
- Swiatkowska (2006),
- Vassileva (2007)

- Meinard (2015)

Morphology of onomatopoeias

- **Ket** – onomatopoeic ideophones (Vajda)



- **Choctow** (Haag) onomatopoeic root + verbal suffix, causative morpheme



Morphology of onomatopoeias

- Slovak: interjections
- English: nouns, verbs, adjectives, interjections
- Spanish: nouns, interjections
- Upper Tananna: interjections
- Kaurna: interjections
- Standard Arabic: verbs
- Persian: nouns, verbs, adjectives
- adverbs modifying verbs/adverbial complements: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Pastaza Quechua
- languages with ideophones: ideophones
- Udihe: interjections or labeled as sound symbolic, “image-bearing” words, imitatives or ideophones

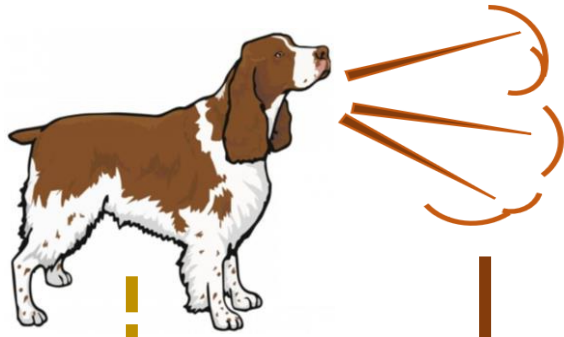
**abandon word class classification
and replace it by semiotic approach**

Semiotics of onomatopoeias

- *woof-woof*: image, diagram, metaphor?

**abandon Peirce's
classification**

EXTRA-LINGUISTIC REALITY



ARBITRARY

CAUSAL

ARBITRARY

ARBITRARY

WOOF-WOOF

DOG

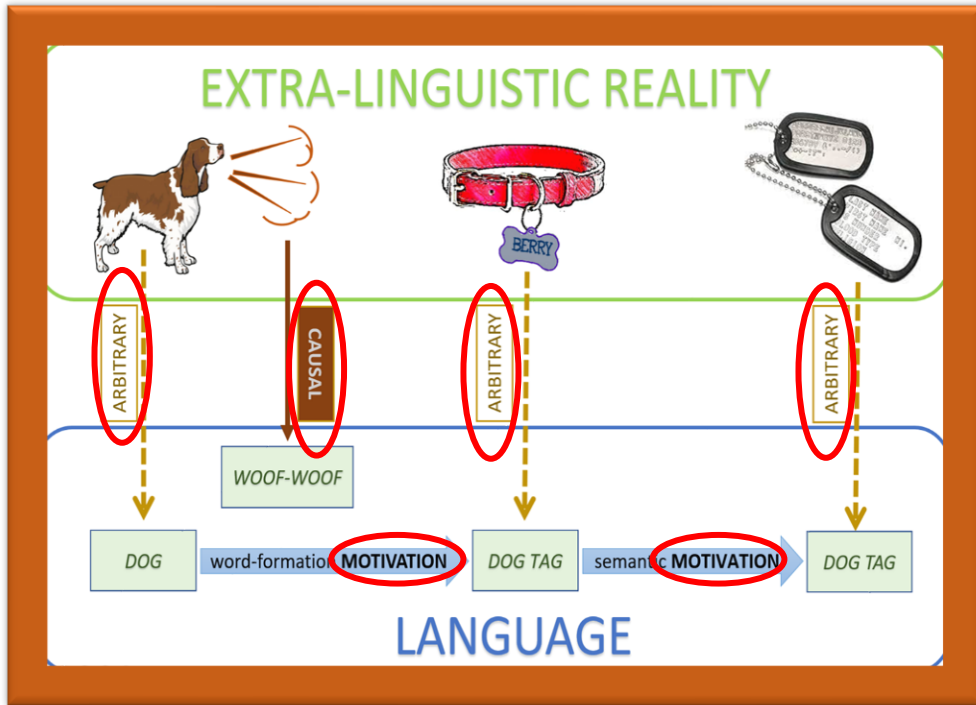
word-formation **MOTIVATION**

DOG TAG

semantic **MOTIVATION**

DOG TAG

LANGUAGE



ARBITRARINESS

non-inherent relationship between form and meaning

CAUSALITY

relation between cause and effect; the cause is partly responsible for the effect, and the effect is partly dependent on the cause

MOTIVATION

intralinguistic relationship; linguistic units motivate the birth of a new word/meaning

CONVENTIONALIZATION

single and synchronic act; a word is coined by means of imitation while making use of the language phonological inventory; systematic relationships between word sound and meaning; adaptation

LEXICALIZATION

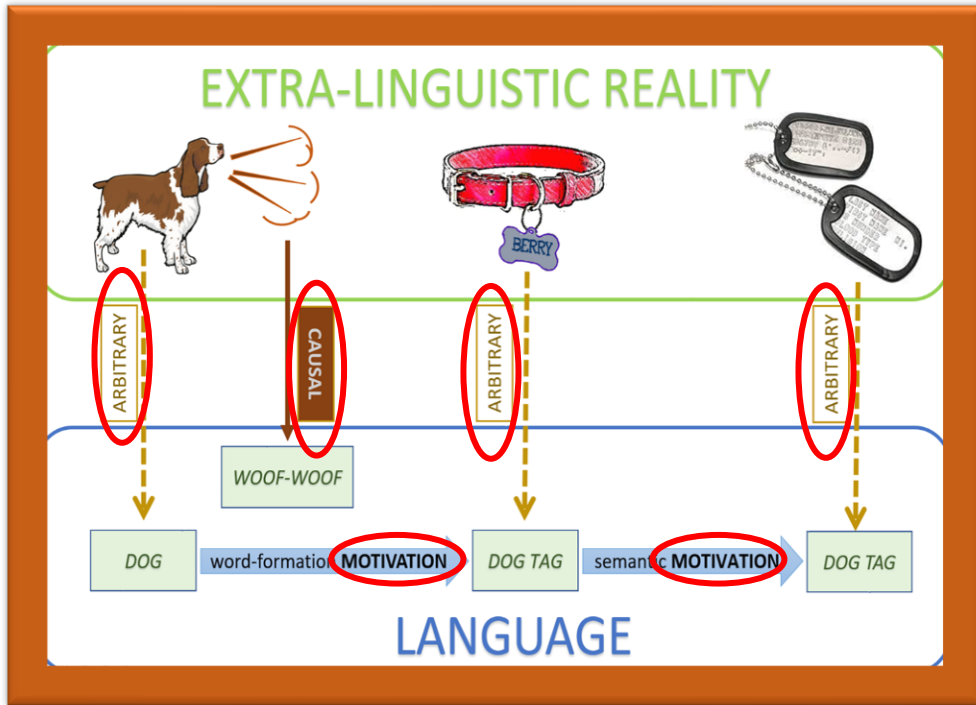
diachronic process, loss of motivation

Basic semiotic opposition

SIGNS

arbitrary

motivated



ARBITRARINESS

non-inherent relationship between form and meaning

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LEXICALIZATION

diachronic process, loss of motivation

Basic
semiotic
opposition

SIGNS

non-causal

causal

CAUSAL SIGNS

motivation

scale

aque
ed

**onomatopoeias:
semiotically unique signs**

Onomatopoeias

- causal linguistic signs
- partially conventionalized
- prototypically non-motivated

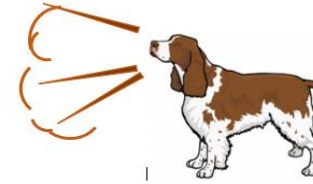
ite

ation



objects

**extra-linguistic
reality**



1. It is **SUBSTANCE**.
2. It is **inanimate**.
3. It is **material**.
4. It is an **instrument**.
5. It is used for performing and **ACTION** of computing. ...

1. It is **SOUND**.
2. It is **loud**.
3. It is **deep**.
4. It is **repeated**.

**logical
predicates**

cognitive

**ACTION +
INSTRUMENT**

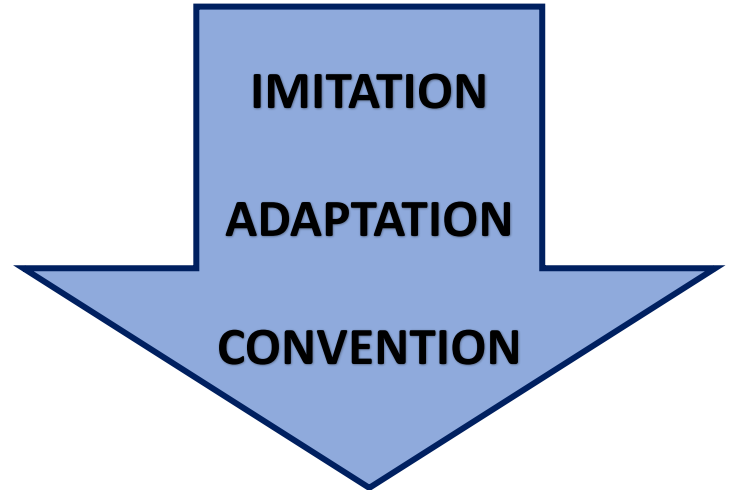
**semantic
categories**

onomasiological

compute, count,
calculate ...
tool, device,
instrument,
machine, -er, -
ant/-ent

morphemes

onomatological

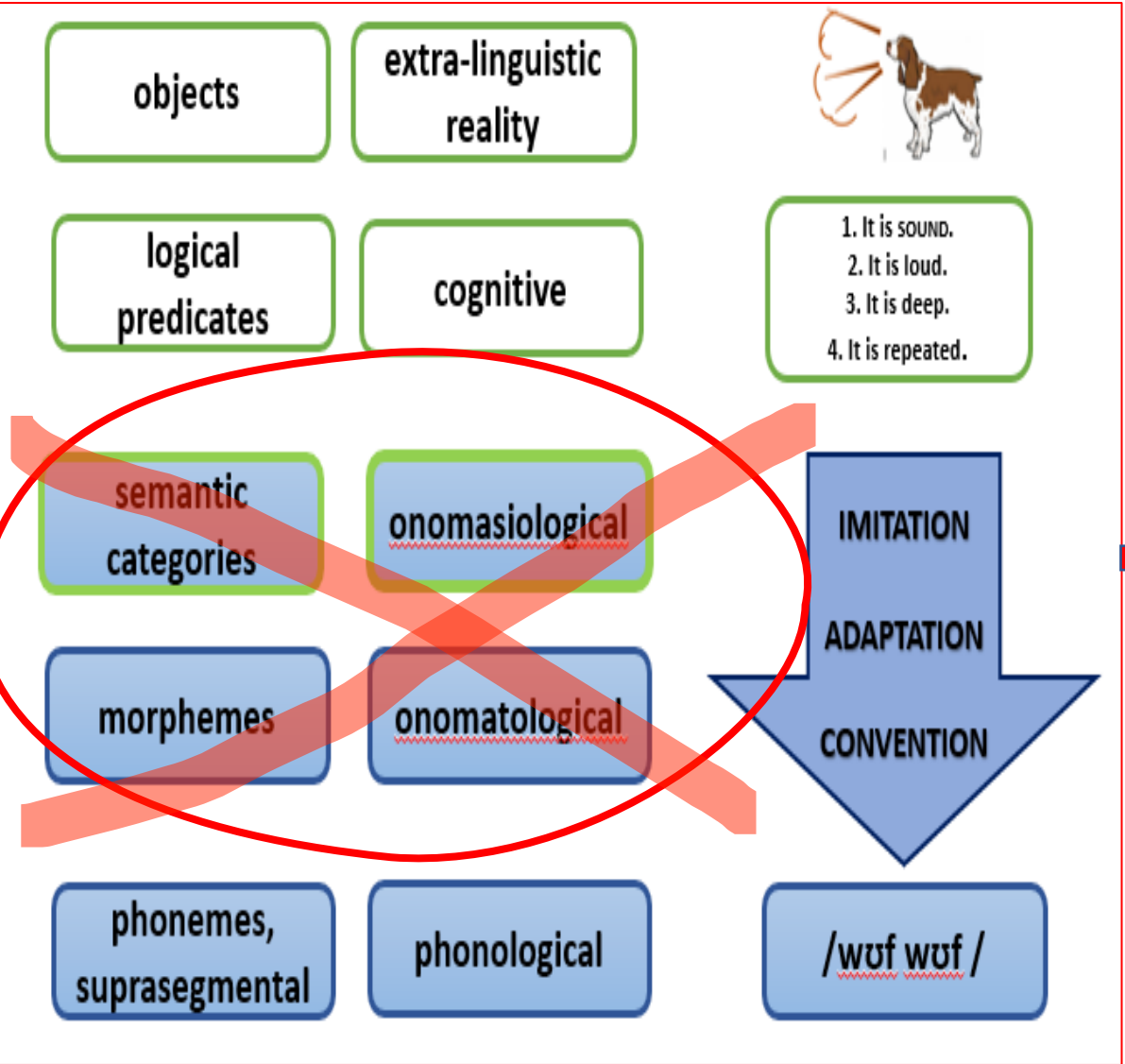


/kəm'pjʊ:tə/

**phonemes,
suprasegmental**

phonological

/wʊf wʊf /



semiotic uniqueness

phonological uniqueness

morphological uniqueness

word-formation uniqueness

syntactic uniqueness

semantic uniqueness

Phonological uniqueness

onomatopoeias are based on combination of phonemes

violation of the phonotactics of a language

absence of vowels

Greek: *fssss* 'whistling air'

Zulu: *mpír* 'sound of an airplane'

absence of consonants

Cabecar: *ěěěě* 'sound of mosquito'

Vietnamese: *ù ù* 'whistling sound of wind'

rare sounds

Fakamae: ~~[ʃ]~~ *ksh* 'cry of a silver-eared honey eater'

Upper Tanana: ~~[gʷ]~~ *gwukgwukgwukgwuk* 'noise of a herd of migrating caribou'

Phonological markedness

prosaic vocabulary

onomatopoeias

Hausa

vowel-final

consonant final

tsúlúm 'sound of a small object falling in water'

atypical
distribution of
phonemes

Matses

same vowels in onomatopoeias

chididike 'to pour down rain'

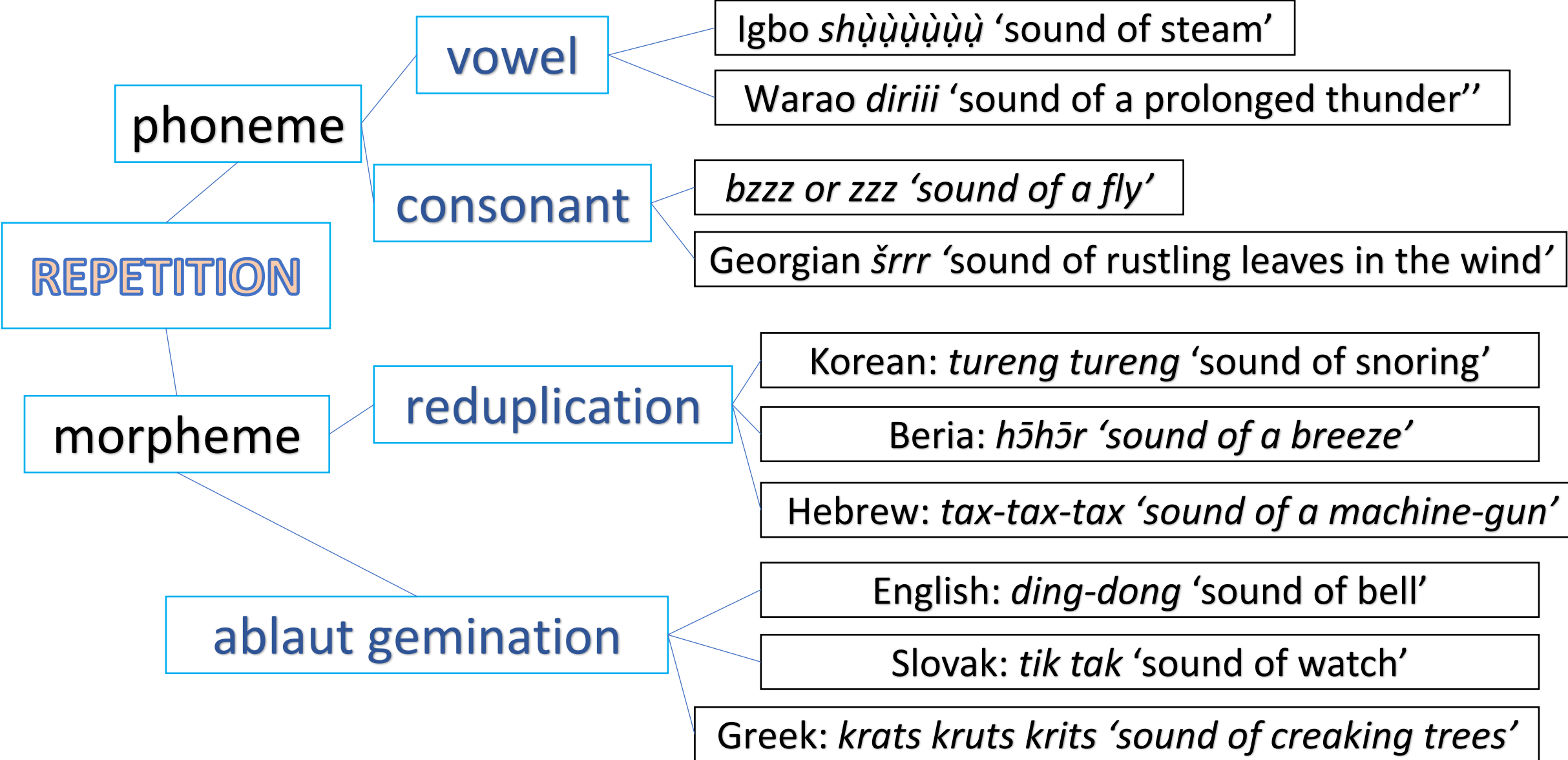
taşhkádake 'to vocalize by Piping Guan'

suprasegmental
features

unusual position of the stress: Warao, Albanian

special pitch, voice quality: Upper Tanana

Phonological/morphological uniqueness



Morphological uniqueness

onomatopoeias are prototypically MONEMES

reduplication

Word-formation uniqueness

an onomatopoeia-based WF process -> CLASS CHANGING

onomatopoeias do not derive onomatopoeias

Semantic uniqueness

semantic category of SOUNDS

Syntactic uniqueness

verbum dicendi 'say', 'hear', 'go', 'do'

Kinyarwanda:
reporting verb *ngo*:

amukubita urushyi ngo "pyaá."
He slapped him and it went "pyaá"! (a fast flash-like sound)

Conclusion

uniqueness of onomatopoeias – unique semiotic nature