

Dear Contributors,

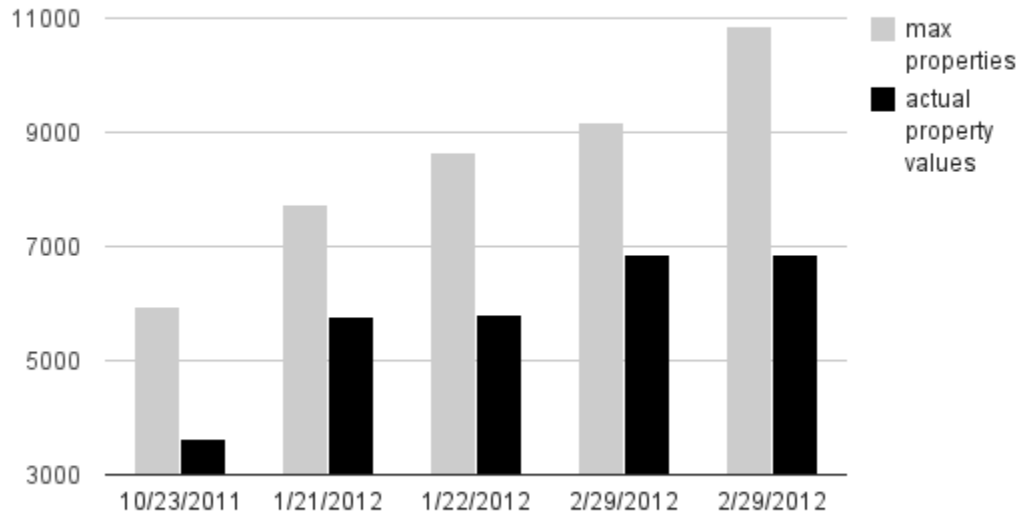
Thanks to all your contributions, SSWL has continued to grow very nicely over the past couple of months.

We started tracking the site statistics in October 23, and the numbers are really encouraging:

	10/23/2010	1/22/12	2/29/2012	2/29
Number of Languages	110	140	153	153
Number of Languages over 90%	20	60	64	2
Number of Contributors	161	214	239	239
Number of Properties	54	54	60	71
Number of Examples	1095	1253	1551	1553
Number of Property:Value pairs	3617	5600	6869	6891

Why the drop from 64 languages over 90% to only 2 languages over 90% on 2/29? This is because we added 11 new properties, languages that used to be at 100% are now at 85%. This should change really quickly in the near future.

The following chart shows the growth (set property value pairs, and maximal possible property value pairs (number of languages x number of properties (153x71):



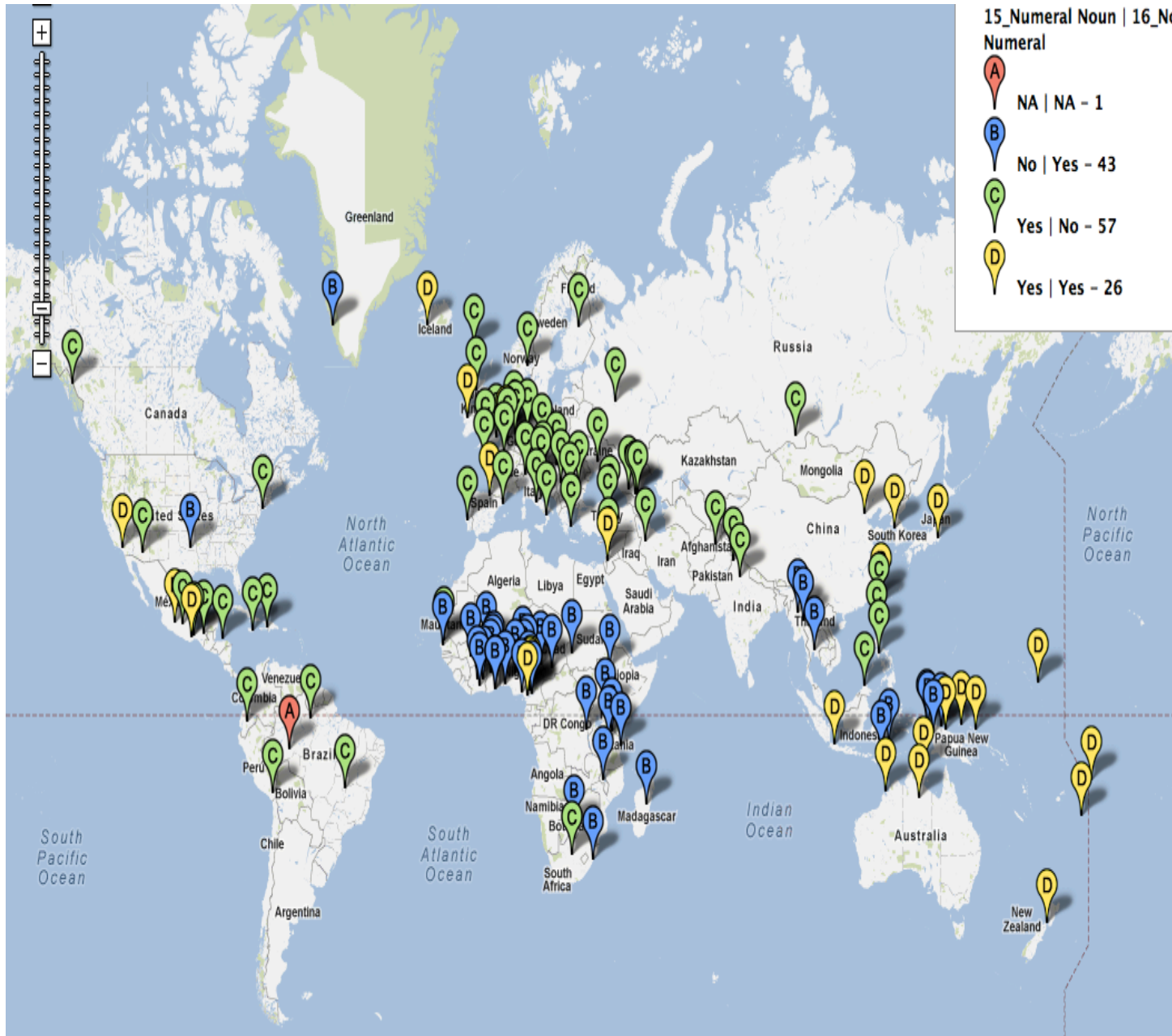
### **New properties:**

Today, 2/29/2012, a group of 11 new properties has been added, all about Numeral Noun/ Noun Numeral (the last time new properties were added was on January 22nd).

The general properties 15\_Numeral Noun and 16\_Noun Numeral called for a neutral

context, i.e. a context without any special contrast on the noun or the numeral, but made no distinction between indefinite noun phrases and definite noun phrases.

In several languages in the database we find both Numeral Noun and Noun Numeral orders. Here is the general distribution for Numeral Noun and Noun Numeral of the languages in SSWL, as of 2/15/2012: (this map is the result of Search, Cross, select 15-Numeral Noun and 16\_Noun Numeral, check all, map it!, click on Legend on the map, and take a screenshot)



These alternations are not free, but conditioned by various factors, one of which is whether the noun phrase is definite or indefinite (Icelandic, Shupamem, ...).

We now start a more systematic exploration of indefinite and definite noun phrases, and have broken down 15\_Numeral Noun and 16\_Noun Numeral into a series of definite and indefinite order properties. These should be read very carefully, as they include elicitation contexts.

Clicking on the links, will bring up the property definition. (But please, do this when you have finished reading the letter).

(Click on the definitions, login, open two windows, load properties in one window to consult the property; in the other window, go to + ADD, SET PROPERTY VALUES, choose the language, and go.) Then add examples.)

<a href="#">N2 01_Numeral Noun (indefinite)</a>
<a href="#">N2 02_Noun Numeral (indefinite)</a>
<a href="#">N2 03_Numeral Noun (definite)</a>
<a href="#">N2 04_Noun Numeral (definite)</a>

A series of properties, N2 05\_ to N2 11 follow these and code for specific differences in form between Definite and Indefinite (Numeral Noun, Noun Numeral).

In particular these record what can vary in form (determiner, plural, agreement, Numeral and Noun ...), depending on definiteness. Note that you should check all that apply: if definiteness is encoded, there could be language internal variation as to how exactly it is encoded: the idea of these properties is not to find the single unique way a language could do this in the given context, but to document the variability in form as well.

Note that at this point classifiers are not yet incorporated: **I hereby invite anyone or any group of people who would like to add classifier properties to this series.**

If a Language expert encounter problems with how to set these particular properties, the glossed examples for N2 01\_ N2\_04 (with comments where relevant) should be sufficient to determine a setting. Please contact us with any questions you may have in this respect, so we can work together and determine how to set the property values.

<a href="#">N2 05_Definite (Num N, N Num) has a definite article</a>
<a href="#">N2 06_Definite NP (Num N, N Num) has a demonstrative</a>
<a href="#">N2 07_Definite NP (Num N, N Num) lacks a definite article or demonstrative</a>
<a href="#">N2 08_Definite NP (Num N, N Num) contains a Plural marker, but Indefinite NP does not</a>
<a href="#">N2 09_Definite NP (Num N, N Num) contains any other marking</a>
<a href="#">N2 10_The Numeral has a different form in Definite and Indefinite (Num N, N Num) contexts</a>
<a href="#">N2 11_The Noun has a different form in Definite and Indefinite (Num N, N Num)</a>

What's upcoming?

There are quite a few more properties in various stages of development.

The plan is to post these in small groups (of 2, 4, 6, or 10 related properties), every month or 6 weeks.

If you have promised property development, let us know how these are coming along.

If you have any ideas for properties to develop and want to get involved, please contact us.

We are also currently working on citation guidelines, and on formatting the examples into table format (starting with the examples in the property definitions).

Let me know if you have any questions, comments, suggestions. Please talk to your students, colleagues, friends, favorite linguists about the project. This is a project for the community and by the community and a real chance to move towards collaborative research.

I am looking forward to much further growth!

All my best,

Hilda Koopman  
for the linguistic explorer team.