

Re: where do so many tenses come from?

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- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 02 Apr 2006 15:19:21 GMT
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Joachim Pense wrote:

Am Sun, 02 Apr 2006 14:01:31 GMT schrieb Peter T. Daniels:

Ruud Harmsen wrote:

Sun, 02 Apr 2006 09:06:58 GMT: "John Atkinson"
<johnacko@xxxxxxxxxxxx>:
in sci.lang:

Hawaiian, and other
Polynesian languages, are
slower
because of the lack of
phonemes.

Are they slower?

One would expect them to be faster, in terms of phonemes
per seconds,
because each of their phonemes contain fewer bits of
information, as
there aren't so many different ones.

That means that each one carries more information.

No, less. You need more phonemes to transport the same amount of
information, so each one carries less.

Syntagmatics vs. paradigmatics.

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Peter T. Daniels grammatim@xxxxxxx

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