

Re: where do so many tenses come from?

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"Herman" == Herman
Rubin
<hrrubin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
writes:

Herman> It makes no such assumption. There is no requirement that
Herman> each sign gets the same length of code. And the best
Herman> encoding would use encodings for major groups of signs,
Herman> not for single signs. Computer compression algorithms do
Herman> not just attack single signs.

So, neither should you.

Herman> But it is still true that in general the larger the
Herman> alphabet the fewer characters will be needed. For speech,
Herman> the alphabet consists of the phonemes, or phoneme
Herman> combinations.

If you're considering also sequences of phonemes, then how do you
define "alphabet size" properly?

Herman> The most efficient known oral method of communication is
Herman> by pitch, for those with perfect pitch.

I don't think so. Are you based that on the idea that there are
infinitely many pitches available? That's not a valid assumption.

Herman> It has occasionally been used for communication, but not
Herman> often.

Tone languages use pitch. And they're not rare. Which language is
spoken by the most people today? Does it use tones?

Re: where do so many tenses come from?

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