

Morphology

Morphology: The study of the composition and structure of words

Morpheme: A minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function

antidisestablishmentarianism

anti - dis - establish - ment - ari - an - ism

Minimal unit of meaning:

- cat
- un-
- establish

Minimal unit of grammatical function:

- -s (as in look-s)
- -ed (as in look-ed)

Ways of Classifying Morphemes

Bound vs. Free

- Free Morpheme: car, spider, race
- Bound Morpheme: un-, -ed, -s

Affix Type

- Prefix: re-
- Suffix: -ed
- infix: (rare in English) –freaking-

Function of Bound Morphemes

- *Derivational*: change meaning or part of speech
 - Changes meaning: un- (un-happy)
 - Changes part of speech: -ness (happy-ness)
- *Inflectional*: refine or give extra grammatical info
 - s (3 sg pres) –ed (past)
 - ing (progressive) –en (past participle)
 - s (plural) –’s (possessive)
 - er (comparative) –est (superlative)

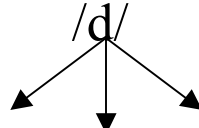
Types of Free Morphemes

- *Lexical*: have semantic content (they “mean” something) and can be added to in the lexicon (open class)
- *Functional*: provide info about grammatical function (e.g. prepositions, articles, pronouns, conjunctions) and cannot be added to in the lexicon (closed class)

Morphemes and Allomorphs

Past tense: called [d], talked [t], glided [əd]

Morpheme:

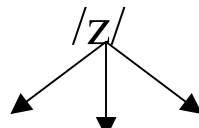


Allomorphs:

[d] [t] [əd]

Plural formation: cars [z], desks [s], buses [əz]

Morpheme:

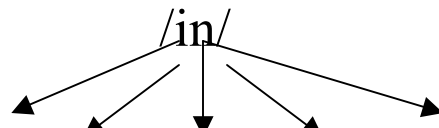


Allomorphs:

[z] [s] [əz]

-in: impossible [ɪm], illegal [ɪl], incomplete [ɪŋ],
irrevocable [ɪr], insane [ɪn]

Morpheme:



Allomorphs:

[ɪm] [ɪl] [ɪŋ] [ɪr] [ɪn]

What about irregular plurals (mouse/mice, man/men, deer/deer) past tense (go/went, sleep/slept, is/was)?

- They seem to use separate lexical forms instead of derivational morphemes (suffixes)

Word Formation Processes

Affixation

- Prefixation
- Suffixation
- Infixation

Tagalog –um-

[sulat] ‘write’ [sumulat] ‘Write!’

[bili] ‘buy’ [bumili] ‘Buy!’

[kuha] ‘take, get’ [kumuha] ‘Get!’

Compounding: 2 words that can stand alone

- 2 free morphemes:
girlfriend, blackbird, text book
- Derived words:
air conditioner, looking glass, watch maker
- Compounds:
lifeguard chair, aircraft carrier, life insurance
salesman

Reduplication

- English (partial reduplication—meaning?)
 - higglety-pigglety, hoity-toity, hocus-pocus, helter-skelter
 - book-schmook, teacher-schmeacher, study-schmudy

- Indonesian (total reduplication—plural)

[ruhmah+ruhmah]	houses
[ibu+ibu]	mothers
[lalat+lalat]	flies

- Tagalog (partial reduplication—future)

[bi+bili]	will buy
[ka+kain]	will eat
[pa+pasok]	will enter

For each word decide:

1. How many morphemes
2. Whether the morphemes are bound or free
3. Whether the bound morphemes are inflectional or derivational
4. Whether the free morphemes are lexical or functional

books	digest	hippopotamus	enter
undo	at	milder	tricycle
blackboard	relives	needy	beautiful
reliable	untried	between	writings
Eugene	multilateral	loveless	tallest

old words:

cats	catsup	succotash	entrust
unhappy	of	milder	bicycle
signpost	unlocks	greedy	spacious
comfortable	reconditioned	with	thickeners
Massachusetts	unidirectional	senseless	prettiest