
analytical methods in Morphology and Syntax 2003

assignment #1

due Friday, June 27th in class

Name _____

(10% of the grade on this assignment is based on timely completion of practice problems #1)

exercise 0: midterm questions (10 points)

Please write two short-answer or “fill-in-the-blank” questions for the midterm quiz relating to the material for this week. Please do not submit multiple choice or true/false questions. Remember to provide the correct answers to your questions. The questions should cover major concepts in the text or class discussions (not picky details), and should not involve any problem solving of the sort required in the written assignments. The questions should be clear enough that only one correct answer is possible. For example, here is a “vague” question:

What are three ways to express meaning in language?

This question is vague because it has any number of possible correct answers: Nouns, verbs, and adjectives? Whispering, shouting and singing? Morphemes, words and sentences? Prefixes, suffixes, infixes? etc.

More precise versions of this question might be:

- a. Give examples of each of the three types of lexical processes.
- b. In addition to lexical processes, what other two major kinds of processes do languages tend to employ to express meaning?

Two more sample questions follow – please do not submit a question that resembles any of the sample questions on this assignment. These are provided just to give you an idea of the *kind* of question that is needed. Full credit will be given for any question (with the correct answer) that meets all these criteria, whether or not we actually use it on the quiz.

- c. Give three examples of lexical processes in English, or another language you know well. If the language is not English, please identify the language and gloss the examples carefully. Full credit will be given for examples not mentioned in class or in the text.

Answer:

- a. Subject agreement for the verb “be”: *is, am, are, were.*
These appear to be unrelated stems.
- b. Nominalization of “fly” to “flight”

c. Nominalization of "wide" to "width"

d. Why does every human language exhibit recursion?

Answer: Because if there were a "language" that didn't exhibit recursion, it would not be able to express even a fraction of the ideas that human beings need to express. There would be only a limited number of ideas that it could express. It would be "dysfunctional."

exercise 1.1: English (20 points)

Rewrite the following English words showing the morpheme boundaries. Label each morpheme as a root, a prefix or a suffix. There may be some tricky examples here (but no infixes):

example: finger|s
 root-suf

thickness

acceptance

underfed

nasty

enlighten

different

linguistic

nationalistically

unrealistically

universal

walked

enlargement

dirty

overemphasized

hopefully

neighborhood

inequality

unattainable

untitled

capable

incomprehensibilificationalism

exercise 1.2: Telegu (20 points)

1. pilla 'child'
2. pillalu 'children'
3. puwu 'flower'
4. puwulu 'flowers'
5. čiima 'ant'
6. čiimalu 'ants'
7. godugu 'elephant'
8. čiire 'sari'
9. annagaaru 'elder brother'

- A. Where is Telegu spoken? _____
- B. Describe the rule that allows speakers to express the plural of a noun in Telegu.
- C. What are the likely Telegu translations for the following English words?
Elephants: _____ Saris: _____ Elder brothers: _____

exercise 1.3: Yaqui (20 points)

Adapted from Farmer and Demers, p. 135.

The following are eight emphatic clauses in the Yaqui language. The English translations of these clauses are given below in random order:

1. Inepo siika.
2. Empo nee aniak.
3. Inepo apo'ik aniak.
4. Inepo apo'ik vichak.
5. Inepo enchi vichak.
6. Inepo enchi aniak.
7. Empo ye'ek.
8. Aapo enchi vichak.

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| English translations
(in random order): | |
| a. | 'You helped me.' |
| b. | 'You danced.' |
| c. | 'I saw you.' |
| d. | 'I saw him.' |
| e. | 'I helped you.' |
| f. | 'I helped him.' |
| g. | 'He saw you.' |
| h. | 'I left.' |

- A. Where is Yaqui spoken? _____
- B. Match the correct English translation to each Yaqui sentence.
- C. Does this exercise illustrate lexical, morphological and/or syntactic processes?
Please explain:

exercise 1.6: Plurals in four languages (20 points)

Tom Payne

“Plural” is a very common meaning element that is expressed on nouns in many languages. Like many meaning elements, plurality can be expressed lexically, syntactically or morphologically. Your task is to determine which type of process is used to form plurals in each language illustrated. As is the case with most distinctions in language, these three types of processes really represent a continuous scale. For this reason, it may not be absolutely obvious which type of process is involved in every case. Just give the best answer you can. Also, some examples may involve a combination of processes. On a separate sheet, explain any problems you had with any of these examples:

Language	Meaning	Singular	Plural	Lexical, syntactic or morphological?
English	‘dog’	dog	dogs	_____
—	‘deer’	deer	deer	_____
—	‘person’	person	people	_____
—	‘goose’	goose	geese	_____
—	‘ox’	ox	oxen	_____
—	‘child’	child	children	_____
Archaic Eng.	‘cow’	cow	kine	_____
Tagalog	‘child’	bata	manga bata	_____
—	‘woman’	babae	manga babae	_____
—	‘man’	lalaki	manga lalaki	_____
Indonesian	‘child’	anak	anakanak	_____
—	‘box’	kotak	kotak	_____
—	‘person’	orang	orangorang	_____
Maasai	‘tree’	ɔlčáni	ɪlkeék	_____
—	‘ox’ (male)	ɔlkítéŋ	ɪlmónjí	_____
—	‘cow’	ɛŋkítéŋ	inkišu	_____
—	‘wild beast’	olówúárák	ilówúárák	_____
—	‘leopard’	olkerî	ilówúárák kerîŋ	_____