



# ELL101: Intro to Linguistics

## Week 4 Morphology

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# Fields of linguistics

- Week 1-2: Phonetics (physical sound properties)
- Week 2-3: Phonology (speech sound rules)
- Week 4: Morphology (word parts)
- Week 5-7: Syntax (structure)
- Week 8-9: Semantics (meaning)
- Week 8-9: Pragmatics (conversation & convention)
- Week 10: First & Second language acquisition
- Week 11-12: Historical linguistics (history of language)
- Week 11-12: Socio-linguistics (language in society)
- Week 11-12: Neuro-linguistics (the brain and language)
- Week 11-12: Computational linguistics

# Example::Morphology I

- In which words can you find the element 'phone'?

phone	phonology	phoneme
phonetic	phonologist	phonemic
phonetics	phonological	allophone
phonetician	telephone	euphonious
phonic	telephonic	symphony
phones	phoneticians	telephones

## Example::Morphology II

- In which words can you find the element 'cat'?

catalogue   catalyst   abdicate   certificate  
locate   catch   indicate

- What about the followings?
  - 'log' in 'catalog'
  - 'kid' in 'kidney'
  - 'dog' in 'hotdog'
  - 'ten' in 'tendency'
  - 'age' in 'language'
  - 'ass' in 'assassin'

# Example::Morphology III

- hotdog or hot-dog?



# Example::Oxymoron

- Oxymoron is a type of collocations that combine two or more contradictory words in their literal meanings

## Oxymoron

*old news, half naked, loyal opposition, loose tights, recorded live, random order, tight slacks, even odds, open secret, working vacation, student teacher, death benefit, advanced basic, inside out, voice mail, idiot savant, pretty ugly, spend thrift, same difference, final draft, original copy, criminal justice, mobile home, living end, bright groom, butt-head, etc...*

# Example::Crazy English

- From "Crazy English" by Richard Lederer
  - A *waiter* does not wait
  - A *non-stop flight* will eventually stop
  - A *near miss* is a miss
  - A *one-night stand* is about sleeping
  - You don't sleep when you *sleep with someone*
  - *Watching your head* actually makes it more dangerous
  - *Pre-plan* is actually part of planning
  - "It's *neither here nor there*" should be impossible
  - "*I could care less*" should mean I care a lot
  - If olive oil is made from olives, what do they make *baby oil* from?
  - If pro and con are opposite, is *Congress* the opposite of progress?
  - Why can we call a woman a mouse but not a *rat*, a kitten but not a *cat*?
  - If the plural of tooth is teeth, should the plural of booth be *beeth*, one goose, two geese - so one moose, two *meese*?

## Example::the longest word

- What is the longest word in English? (from Pinker (1994))
- "floccinaucinihilipilification"  
/flɒksənəsənhɪlɪpɪlɪfɪkeɪʃən/  
"lack of value"
- But, what about "re-floccinaucinihilipilification" or even  
"floccinaucinihilipilification-ize" and "re-floccinaucinihilipilification-ize"
- The answer is in "morphology"



# Definitions

## Morphology

Study of basic word forms in language (Yule, 2010)

## Morpheme

The minimal meaning-bearing elements in a language

## Neologism

New words in a language (still rule-governed)

## Etymology

The study of the origin and history of a word

# Note on morpheme

- Meaning is not necessarily compositional.
  - *door* + *knob* = *doorknob* (compositional)
  - *book* + *shelf* = *bookshelf* (compositional)
  - *carpet*  $\neq$  *car* + *pet* (non-compositional)
  - *assassin*  $\neq$  *ass* + *ass* + *in* (non-compositional)
  - *blueberry*  $\neq$  *blue* + *berry* (non-compositional)
- *Morpheme* is a compositional unit in a word.

# Coinage, Eponym, & Borrowing

## Coinage

The invention of totally new terms

- *aspirin, nylon, vaseline, zipper, kleenex, teflon, Tylenol, Xerox*

## Eponym

New words based on the name of a person or place

- *hoover, sandwich, jeans, fahrenheit, volt, watt*

## Borrowing

Taking over words from other languages

- *croissant* (French), *dope* (Dutch), *lilac* (Persian), *piano* (Italian), *pretzel* (German), *sofa* (Arabic), *tattoo* (Tahitian), *tycoon* (Japanese), *yogurt* (Turkish), *zebra* (Bantu)

# Compounding

## Compounding

A joining of two separate words to produce a single form; very common in German and English

- *bookcase, doorknob, fingerprint, sunburn, textbook, wallpaper, wastebasket, waterbed*
- Write down other compound words in English.

bookstore	paperclip	watchdog
policeman	pillowcase	typewriter

# Blending

## Blending

The combination of two separate forms to produce a single new term (the beginning and the end of words)

- *gasoline + alcohol* → *gasohol*  
*smoke + fog* → *smog*  
*binary + digit* → *bit*  
*breakfast + lunch* → *brunch*  
*motor + hotel* → *motel*
- Write down other blend words in English.


## Clipping

When a word of more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form

- *facsimile* → *fax*  
*advertisement* → *ad*  
*brassier* → *bra*  
*condominium* → *condo*
- Write down other clipping words in English.

fanatic	influenza	permanent wave
public house	proponent	contra
professional	doctor	professor
gymnastic	linguistics	bicycle

## Back-formation

A word of one type (usually noun) is reduced to form a word of another type

- *television* (n.) → *televise* (v.)  
*donation* (n.) → *donate* (v.)  
*emotion* (n.) → *emote* (v.)  
*enthusiasm* (n.) → *enthuse* (v.)  
*babysitter* (n.) → *babysit* (v.)  
*liaison* (n.) → *liaise* (v.)
- Write down other back-formation words in English.


## Conversion

A change in the function of a word (e.g., noun to verb)

- *bottle* (n.) → *bottle* (v.)  
*butter* (n.) → *butter* (v.)  
*must* (modal) → *must* (n.)  
*spy* (v.) → *spy* (n.)  
*print out* (v.) → *printout* (n.)  
*see through* (v.) → *see-through* (adj.)  
*dirty* (adj.) → *dirty* (v.)
- Write down other conversion words in English.




# Acronym

## Acronym

A new word formed from the initial letters of a set of other words

- CD (Compact Disc)  
VCT (Video Cassette Recorder)  
UNESCO (United Nation Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization)  
LASAR (light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation)  
ZIP (zone improvement plan)
- Write down other acronyms in English.

CUNY	NYC	

## Derivation

### Word formation through affixation

- affixes & affixation
  - prefix (at the beginning of the word)
  - infix (inside of the word)
  - suffix (at the end of the word)
  - root
- We will discuss derivational morphemes in depth later.

# Classification of morphemes

- Let's review morphemes.

## Morphemes

The minimal meaning-bearing unit

undressed	=	un-	-dress-	-ed
carelessness	=	care-	-less-	-ness
postponed	=	post-	-pone-	-(e)d
disloyal	=	dis -	-loyal	
multinational	=	multi-	-nation-	-al

# Classification of morphemes

## Free morphemes

morphemes that can stand by themselves as single words

## Bound morphemes

Morphemes that need to be attached to another form

undressed	=	un-	dress	-ed
		(bound)	(free)	(bound)
carelessness	=	care	-less	-ness
		(free)	(bound)	(bound)

# Classification of morphemes

- **Free morphemes** can be divided into the following two subclasses

## Lexical morpheme

- Lexical morphemes are **productive**
- In terms of part-of-speech, nouns, adjectives, adverbs
- e.g., *girl, house, tiger, sad, long, yellow, look, fellow, break*

## Functional morpheme

- Functional morphemes are **non-productive** and mainly serve for grammatical functions
- conjunction, preposition, article, pronoun
- e.g., *and, but, then, because, on, near, above, in, the, that, it, then*

# Bound morpheme I

- **The bound morpheme** can be classified by the place of attachment.

## Prefix

Attached before the root morpheme

- un-: *unhappy, unconscious, unbelievable*
- mis-: *misrepresent, misfortune, misshapen*
- pre-: *prejudge, precaution, preclude*

# Bound morpheme II

## Suffix

Attached after the root morpheme

- -ful: *joyful, playful, beautiful*
- -ish: *boyish, grayish, anguish*
- -ism: *terrorism, narcissism, communism*
- -ness: *sadness, happiness, shyness*

## Infix

Inserted within the root morpheme

- -goddamn-: *abso-goddamn-lutely*
- -fu\*\*ing-: *un-fu\*\*ing-believable*

# Bound morpheme III

- The **bound morpheme** can be classified by its function.

## Derivational morpheme

- Making new words of a different grammatical category or making a significant change in the meaning of the word
- e.g., *good - goodness; care - careful; fool - foolish; quick - quickly*

## Inflectional morpheme

- Indicating different aspects of the word
- In English, there are only 8 inflection morphemes
- e.g., *number (cat - cats), gender, tense (listen - listened) etc.*



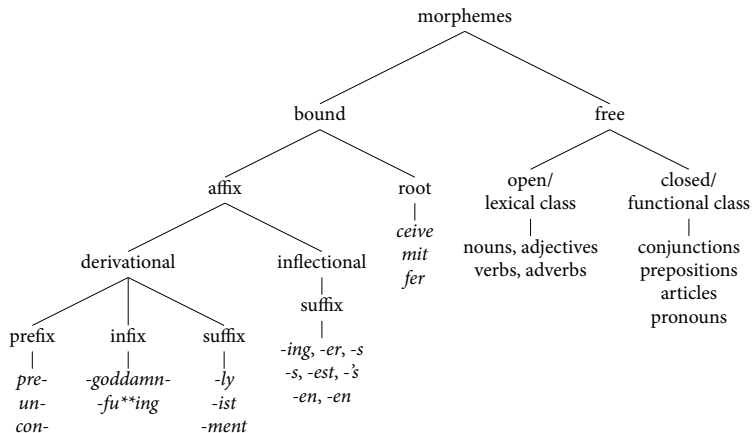
# Bound morpheme IV

- Eight inflectional morphemes in English

possessive	- <i>'s</i>	The chair's leg is broken.
plural	- <i>s</i>	The French cups are expensive.
3 per. sg.	- <i>s</i>	She waits there at noon.
past tense	- <i>ed</i>	She waited there yesterday.
present participle	- <i>ing</i>	She is waiting there now.
past participle	- <i>en</i>	Jack has eaten the cookies.
superlative	- <i>est</i>	Michael runs fastest of all.
comparative	- <i>er</i>	Joe runs faster than Jill.

# Morphemes at a glance

- Classification of morphemes at a glance
- "Root" is similar to the free morpheme (it's neither a prefix nor suffix), but it cannot be used by itself.



# Allomorphs

- Morphs (realization of morphemes) that belong to the same morpheme
  - plural *-s*  
cat-*s*, bus-*es*, sheep- $\phi$
  - *-s*, *-es*, and  $\phi$  are allomorphs of the English plural morpheme (usually represented as *-s*)
- What about other English morphemes? Are there any other allomorphs?
  - past-tense *-ed*  
peek-*ed*, fought (=fight-*ed*), chat-*ted*, hit- $\phi$
  - negative prefix *im-*  
*im*-possible, *in*-compatible, *im*-mobile, *in*-significant

# Morphology exercises - Hungarian

- Hungarian

WORD	MEANING	WORD	MEANING
[hɔz]	'house'	[bor]	'wine'
[ɛjhɔz]	'a house'	[ɛjbor]	'a wine'
[hɔzɔ]	'his/her house'	[borɔ]	'his/her house'

- What morphemes represents 'house', 'wine', 'a/an', and 'his/her'?
- Note that all of the examples above are single words in Hungarian (in contra with English translations)

# Morphology exercises - Kanuri

- Kanuri

This first set of examples is from Kanuri, a language spoken in Nigeria.

	<u>ADJECTIVE</u>	<u>NOUN</u>	
'excellent'	[karite]	[nəmkarite]	'excellence'
'big'	[kura]	[nəmkura]	'bigness'
'small'	[gana]	[nəmgana]	'smallness'
'bad'	[dibi]	[nəmdibi]	'badness'

- Is there anything corresponding to English *-ness* or *-tion*?

# Morphology exercises - Ganda

- Ganda

Different languages also employ different means to produce inflectional marking on forms. Here are some examples from Ganda, a language spoken in Uganda.

	<u>SINGULAR</u>	<u>PLURAL</u>	
'doctor'	[omusawo]	[abasawo]	'doctors'
'woman'	[omukazi]	[abakazi]	'women'
'girl'	[omuwala]	[abawala]	'girls'
'heir'	[omusika]	[abasika]	'heirs'

- How does Ganda mark plural of nouns? (e.g., like English girl-s)

# Morphology exercises - Ilocano

- Ilocano

When we look at Ilocano, a language of the Philippines, we find a quite different way of marking plurals.

	<u>SINGULAR</u>	<u>PLURAL</u>	
'head'	[úlo]	[ulúlo]	'heads'
'road'	[dálan]	[daldálan]	'roads'
'life'	[bíag]	[bibíag]	'lives'
'plant'	[múla]	[mulmúla]	'plants'

- How does Ilocano mark plural of nouns? (e.g., like English girl-s)

# Morphology exercises - Tagalog

- Tagalog

Here are some other intriguing examples, provided by Lisa Miguel, who speaks Tagalog, another language spoken in the Philippines.

<u>BASE</u>	<u>IMPERATIVE</u>	<u>FUTURE</u>
[basa] ('read')	[bumasa] ('Read!')	[babasa] ('will read')
[tawag] ('call')	[tumawag] ('Call!')	[tatawag] ('will call')
[sulat] ('write')	[sumulat] ('Write!')	[susulat] ('will write')

- How does Tagalog inflect verbs?



# Morphology exercises - Kamhmu

- Kamhmu

	<u>VERB</u>	<u>NOUN</u>	
'to drill'	[see]	[srnee]	'excellence'
'to chisel'	[toh]	[trnoh]	'a chisel'
'to eat with a spoon'	[hiip]	[hrniip]	'a spoon'
'to tie'	[hoom]	[hrnoom]	'a tie'

- What kind of affix (e.g., prefix, infix, and suffix) is used in the conversion between verb and noun?

# Morphology Problems

## How to solve the Morphology problems

- See the English translation and identify its grammatical elements.
- Group the data according to the grammatical elements they share.
- Identify the corresponding morpheme for each grammatical element.

# Morphology Problems

- Examine the following data from Swahili.

WORDS	MEANING
[ninasoma]	'I'm reading.'
[unasoma]	'You're reading.'
[anasoma]	'She or he is reading.'
[nilisoma]	'I was reading.'
[uilisoma]	'You were reading.'
[alisoma]	'She or he was reading.'
[nitasoma]	'I will read.'
[utasoma]	'You will read.'
[atasoma]	'She or he will read.'

- Give the morpheme for each of the following translations.
  - first person (I) / second person (you) / third person (he/she)
  - pres. progressive (-ing) / past prog. (was -ing) / future (will)
  - 'read'

# Morphology Problems

WORDS	MEANING
[ninasoma]	'I'm reading.' (1st person - pres. prog., - read)
[unasoma]	'You're reading.' (2nd person - pres. prog., - read)
[anasoma]	'She or he is reading.' (3rd person - pres. prog., - read)
[nilisoma]	'I was reading.' (1st person - past, - read)
[uilisoma]	'You were reading.' (2nd person - past, - read)
[alisoma]	'She or he was reading.' (3rd person - past, - read)
[nitasoma]	'I will read.' (1st person - future, - read)
[utasoma]	'You will read.' (2nd person - future, - read)
[atasoma]	'She or he will read.' (3rd person - future, - read)

- Give the morpheme for each of the following translations.
  - first person / second person / third person
  - present progressive / past progressive / future
  - 'read'

# Morphology Problems

- Give the morpheme for each of the following translations.
  - first person = *ni-*
  - second person = *u-*
  - third person = *a-*
  - present progressive = *-na-*
  - past progressive = *-li-*
  - future = *-ta-*
  - 'read' = *-soma*

# Morphology Problems

- Aztec

<u>WORD</u>	<u>MEANING</u>	<u>WORD</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
[nokali]	' <i>my house</i> '	[nokalimes]	' <i>my houses</i> '
[mokali]	' <i>your house</i> '	[ikali]	' <i>his house</i> '
[nopelo]	' <i>my dog</i> '	[mopelo]	' <i>your dog</i> '
[mopelomes]	' <i>your dogs</i> '	[ikwahmili]	' <i>his cornfield</i> '
[nokwahmili]	' <i>my cornfield</i> '	[mokwahmili]	' <i>your cornfield</i> '

- Give the morphemes for the following words:  
'house', 'dog', 'cornfield', plural marker, my (first-person possessive), your (second-person possessive), his (third-person possessive)
- How do you say those words in Michoacan Aztec?  
'his dog', 'his cornfield'

# Morphology Problems

- See the handout.

# Bibliography I

Yule, G. (2010). *The Study of Language*. Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, 4th edition. ISBN: 9780521749220; Course: ELL101 (textbook); Price: \$29.99.

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