

24.900: Introduction to Linguistics
2/9/05

Morphology 2

Short Class outline

1. Basic Questions about Morphology:

- a. What are words
- b. What are the basic building blocks of words?
- c. How are the more complex items built up from its parts?
- d. How is the meaning of the word related to its parts?
- e. How are individual words related to other words?

2. Word List from 2/7/05 handout:

The **MORPHEME**

- a. Words are formed by putting together *morphemes*.
- b. Does each morpheme have an identifiable meaning?

1. *He look-s mean.*
2. *He look-ed mean.*

c. Practice:

Fly	reuse	spiteful	preplan
Desks	triumphed	suite	optionality
Untie	unkempt	fastest	prettier
Tree	justly	deform	mistreat
Dislike	payment	disobey	premature
Receive	permit	submit	

- d. Languages with fairly simple morphological structure
- e. Languages with a very rich morphological structure: **Polysynthetic languages**

1. *Turkish: Namixaridand* ‘they were not buying’

2. *Mohawk: Ni-mic-tomi-mak*
1st person- 2nd person-money-give
“I’ll give you the money.”

4. Some Important terms:

a. *word*: a minimal free forms that can occur in isolation and/or whose position with respect to neighboring elements is not entirely fixed.

The hunters pursued the bear.
The bear pursued the hunters.

b. /-er/ and /-s/ are **not** words. They cannot occur in isolation and have relatively fixed positions.

**erhunts* **serhunt*

c. *simple words*: cannot be broken down . THE *T+HE

d. *complex words*: can be broken down. HIMSELF HIM+SELF

e. *Closed class words*: function words, pronouns, conjunctions, determiners

f. *Open class words*: Major lexical items (nouns, verbs, etc.)

h. *Free morphemes*: Can stand alone = root, stem, base

i. *Bound morphemes*: Cannot stand alone, must be attached.

j. *Allomorphs*: Morphemes do not always have invariant forms

E.g. 3rd person singular in English: like/s/, teach/ez/, run/z/; *a* and *an*

5. Free and Bound Morphemes:

Morphemes that are free or bound in English do not necessarily have the same status in other languages.

a. Consider: Hare (Athabaskan)

Names for *Body* parts are bound

i. *fi 'head' sefi 'my head'

ii. *bé 'belly' nebé 'your belly'

iii. *dzé 'heart' ?edzé 'his heart'

b. *Past tense* in English is **bound**.

i. He walk**ed** the dog. ii. *He **-ed** walk the dog.

c. *Past tense* in Chinese is a **free** morpheme:

i. Ta chi *le* fan. ii. Ta chi fan *le*.

5. Some Exercises:

All of the following Farsi (Persian) words consist of two or more morphemes.

(Note: *xar* means ‘buy’ and *-id* designates the past tense.) [sg = singular; pl = plural]

- a. xaridam ‘I bought’
- b. xaridi ‘you (sg) bought’
- c. xarid ‘(he) bought’
- d. naxaridam ‘I did not buy’
- e. namixaridand ‘they were not buying’
- f. mixarid ‘(he) was buying’
- g. mixaridid ‘you (pl) were buying’

Try to match each of the following notions with a morpheme in the Farsi (Persian) data.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| a. I | b. they |
| c. you (pl) | d. you (sg) |
| e. not | f. was/were + ing |

ii. **How would you would say the following in Persian?**

- a. They were buying.
- b. You (sg) did not buy.
- c. You (sg) were buying.

6. **Allomorphs**

Variant forms of a morpheme.

A. -The morpheme used to express indefinites in English has two allomorphs:

<i>an</i> orange	<i>a</i> building
<i>an</i> accent	<i>a</i> car
<i>an</i> eel	<i>a</i> girl

What is the relevant generalization governing the behavior of this morpheme in English?

-Is it based on pronunciation or spelling?

-What do we say? a/an M.A. degree? a/an U.S. dollar

B. What are your observations about the pronunciation of the plural morpheme –s in English?

Cats

dogs

judges

(Choice is phonologically conditioned)

7. Consider the following data from Turkish:

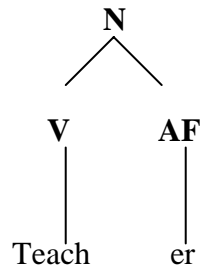
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. lokanta ‘a restaurant’ | b. lokantada ‘in/at a restaurant’ |
| c. kap^ ‘a door’ | d. kap^da ‘in/at a door’ |
| e. randevu ‘an appointment’ | f. randevuda ‘in/at an appointment’ |
| g. baS ‘a head’ | h. baSta ‘in/at a head’ |
| i. kitap ‘a book’ | j. kitapta ‘in/at a book’ |
| k. koltuk ‘an armchair’ | l. koltukta ‘in/at an armchair’ |
| m. taraf ‘a side’ | n. tarafta ‘in/at a side’ |

i) Does the Turkish morpheme meaning ‘**in/at**’ have more than one allomorph?

ii) If so, what are the allomorphs? (Describe their distribution as generally as possible.)

8. **Roots** (typically belong to a lexical category such as Noun, Verb, Adjective, etc)

Affixes (do not belong to a lexical category and are always bound morphemes)



Types of Affixes:

Prefix

Suffix

Infix: an affix that occurs within another morpheme.

Tagalog example:

Base	Infix	Infix form
Bili 'buy'	b- <i>in</i> -ili	'bought'
Basa 'read'	b- <i>in</i> -asa	'read' (past)
Sulat 'write'	s- <i>in</i> -ulat	'wrote'

Arabic example:

Katab	kutib	aktub	uktab
'write'	'have been written'	'be writing'	'being written'

What is the root in all of these examples?

8. Derivational and Inflectional Morphology:

a. Derivational: is an affixational process that forms a word with a meaning and/or category (part of speech) distinct from that of its base.

Suffixes:

Verb	→	Adjective	-able	fix.....fixable
Adjective	→	Noun	-ity	prior.....priority

Prefixes:

Noun	→	Noun	anti-	anti-hero
Verb	→	Verb	mis-	mis-place

b. Inflectional: the modification of a word's form such as singular and plural, present and past, to indicate grammatical information of various sorts.

9. Internal Organization of morphemes