

Morphology

cat
dog

cat-s
dog-s

cat cat-s
dog dog-s

cat, dog, -s → *morphemes*

- bound vs. free

English

big banana-s

Tagalog

mga malalaking saging

PL big banana

'big bananas'

- bound vs. free

English

big banana-s

Tagalog

mga malalaking saging

PL big banana

'big bananas'

English

my **friend**

Passamaquoddy

n- **itap** (*itap)

my friend

- **prefix** vs. **suffix**

English
dance-**d**

Lardil
yuud- luuli
PAST dance
'danced'

Sometimes a word has more than one affix attached to it...

ni-li-ki-pata
I-PAST-it-get

‘I got it’

[*Swahili*]

wi-chen-moH-laH
we.it-take.form-CAUSE-CAN

‘We can create it’

[*Klingon*]

of course, not all morphemes are this easy to find...

Tagalog

lumangoy	'swam'
kumain	'ate'
tumaas	'became tall'
bumili	'bought'
umawit	'sang'
umakyat	'climbed'
umihi	'urinated'
umuwi	'went home'

Tagalog: infixes

lumangoy	'swam'
kumain	'ate'
tumaas	'became tall'
bumili	'bought'
umawit	'sang'
umakyat	'climbed'
umihi	'urinated'
umuwi	'went home'

Ablaut

sing	sang
swim	swam
drink	drank
speak	spoke
drive	drove

templates: Egyptian Arabic

sakan	'he lived in'	daxal	'he entered'
baskun	'I live in'	badxul	'I entered'
uskun	'live in!'	udxul	'enter!'
saakin	'one who lives in'	daaxil	'one who enters'

templates: Egyptian Arabic

sakan	'he lived in'	daxal	'he entered'	-a-a- 'past, 3rd'
baskun	'I live in'	badxul	'I entered'	ba - - u - 'past, 1st'
uskun	'live in!'	udxul	'enter!'	u - - u - 'imperative'
saakin	'one who lives in'	daaxil	'one who enters'	-aa-i- 'one who...'
s-k-n	'live in'	d-x-l	'enter'	

Reduplication: Tagalog

lalangoy	'will swim'
kakain	'will eat'
tataas	'will become tall'
bibili	'will buy'
aawit	'will sing'
aakyat	'will climb'
iihi	'will urinate'
uuwi	'will go home'

Reduplication: Tagalog

lalangoy	'will swim'
kakain	'will eat'
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Reduplication, part 2: more Tagalog

mataas	'tall'	mataas-taas	'rather tall'
malapit	'close'	malapit-lapit	'rather close'
maliwanag	'bright'	maliwa-liwanag	'rather bright'
matalino	'intelligent'	matali-talino	'rather intelligent'

--> partly specified for phonological content (just number of syllables)

Truncation: O'odham

imperfect

ñeok

ñeid

hi:nk

meḁ

golon

siṣp

perfect

ñeo 'speak'

ñei 'see'

hi:n 'bark'

me 'run'

golo 'rake'

siṣ 'nail'

Tone: Dinka (Nilotic, Sudan)

Bòl ‘Bol (man’s name)’

mánh è **Bôl** ‘Bol’s brother’
brother of Bol

The name *Bol* is normally low-toned, but takes falling tone in the genitive case.

Mutation: Welsh

pêl	‘ball’	y bêl	‘the ball’
tref	‘town’	y dref	‘the town’
cath	‘cat’	y gath	‘the cat’
basged	‘basket’	y [v]asged	‘the basket’
desg	‘desk’	y [ð]esg	‘the desk’
golchwraig	‘washerwoman’	yr olchwraig	‘the washerwoman’
merch	‘girl’	y [v]erch	‘the girl’

Feminine nouns undergo the *soft mutation* after the definite article...

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merch	‘girl’	y [v]erch	‘the girl’

Feminine nouns undergo the *soft mutation* after the definite article...

Sindarin

pân	‘plank’	i bân	‘the plank’
tawar	‘forest’	i dawar	‘the forest’
calad	‘light’	i galad	‘the light’
benn	‘man’	i venn	‘the man’
daw	‘darkness’	i [ð]aw	‘the darkness’
galadh	‘tree’	i aladh	‘the tree’
mellon	‘friend’	i vellon	‘the friend’

Nothing?: English

cat	cat- s
dog	dog- s
sheep	sheep- Ø

- sound
- meaning
- bound vs. free
- prefix vs. suffix (vs. infix...)
- ...

industri-**al**
nation-**al**
autumn-**al**

-al attaches to a ...

*assert-**al**
*impress-**al**
*industrializ-**al**

industri-**al**
*industrializ-**al**
industrializ-**ation-al**

-ation creates ...

lexicon contains **morphemes**, with information on:

- sound
- meaning
- bound vs. free
- prefix vs. suffix
- what kind of morpheme they can attach to
- what kind of category they create

In fact, sometimes the information about what a morpheme can attach to isn't just information about categories:

sincere	-ity
chaste	-ity
scarce	-ity
curious	-ity
deep	-th
wide	-th
warm	-th

And there can be idiosyncratic information about what happens when the morphemes combine, too:

electri[k]-al
electri[s]-ity

hum	hummed
leap	[lep]-t
go	[wen]-t
sing	sang

- **-i[k]** and **-i[s]**,
leap and **[lep]**
-[d] and **-[t]**
are **allomorphs**; different forms that a single morpheme takes in combination with other morphemes.

Tagalog again

lumangoy 'swam'

lalangoy 'will swim'

bumili 'bought'

bibili 'will buy'

kumain 'ate'

kakain 'will eat'

what are the past and future tense morphemes?

Tagalog again

lumangoy 'swam'
lalangoy 'will swim'

bumili 'bought'
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what are the past and future tense morphemes?

now, suppose I tell you that the present tense has both of these morphemes...what do you expect it to look like?

Tagalog again

lumangoy	‘swam’	lumalangoy	‘is swimming’
lalangoy	‘will swim’		
bumili	‘bought’	bumibili	‘is buying’
bibili	‘will buy’		
kumain	‘ate’	kumakain	‘is eating’
kakain	‘will eat’		

what are the past and future tense morphemes?

now, suppose I tell you that the present tense has both of these morphemes...what do you expect it to look like?

- a morpheme may be a prefix, a suffix, an infix...

English
dancedd

Lardil
yuud-luuli

Tagalog
sumayaw

- a morpheme may be bound or free...

English
in my hand

Turkish
el -im -de
hand my in

English
I **bought** a **bed**

Mohawk
Wa'- ke- **nakta-hnínu-**'
PAST 1sgS bed buy PUNCT

In fact, languages are sometimes informally classified by how likely their morphemes are to be bound.

Isolating languages; not many bound morphemes

Chinese

Tā chī fàn le

he eat meal PAST

'He ate the meal'

Polysynthetic languages; opposite of isolating

Wampanoag

nu-pâhk-nuhtô-peepeenaw-uchuchôhq-ôkan-uhtyâ -eenun -eum -unôn-ak

1 clear skill look reflection device make person POSS 1PL AN.PL

'our very skillful mirror makers'

Agglutinative languages; morphemes easily separable from each other

Turkish

tanõ -sh -tĩr -đ -dõ -lar
know each-other cause passive past 3PL
'They are introduced to each other'

Fusional/inflectional languages; morphemes tend to squash together

Russian

komnat -u
room Feminine.Singular.Accusative

komnat -y
room Feminine.Plural.Accusative

brat -a
brother Masculine.Animate.Singular.Accusative

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