Module: Linguistics

Level: L1- FILA

Time Allotted: 90 min

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Lecture 10: Morphology

1. **Basic Concepts and Terms**

*Morphology:* is the study of the structure of words & how words are formed (from morphemes)

*Morpheme:* is the smallest unit of language that carries meaning (maybe a word or not a word)

* A sound-meaning unit
* The level of language at which sound and meaning combine

*A. Free morpheme: lexical & functional morpheme*

*B. Bound morpheme: derivational & inflectional*

*Stem (root, base): the morpheme to which other morphemes are added*

Free (e.g. **teach**er, **dress**es, un**kind**)

Stem

Bound (e.g. **in**adequate,**dis**agree)

1. ***Free Morpheme:*** can occur by itself, not attached to other morphemes.

*Examples:* girl, teach, book, class, the, of, etc*.* There are two kinds:

A. lexical *morpheme (open class):*  has lexical meaning; new examples can be freely added. Exa*mples:* nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs (content words)

*B. functional morpheme (closed class):* new examples are rarely added (but not impossible to add). E*xamples:* conjunctions, articles (function words)

***2- Bound Morpheme:*** must be attached to another morpheme. There are two kinds:

*A. Derivational morpheme*

It may change syntactic class[[1]](#footnote-2). It is used to form new words

* 1. examples: -able, un-, re-, etc.

*B. Inflectional morpheme*

Inflectional morphemes are different forms of the same word.

There are only **8 kinds** in English: -’s, -s (plural nouns), -ing, -ed/-en, -est, -er, -s (S-V agreement)

**Prefix e.g.** **Unhappy**

***Affix***

**Infix e.g.** Mother-**in**-law

**Suffix e.g.** Happiness

**Lexical (open classes)**

**Free**

**Morphemes Functional (closed classes)**

**Derivational**

**Bound**

**Inflectional**

1. **Morphological Processes: a method to get new words**

***2.1. Derivation:*** (or Derivational affixation, affixation)

***2.2 Compounding:*** combine two or more morphemes to form new words

***2.3. Reduplication:*** full or partial repetition of a morpheme

***2.4. Blending:*** parts of the words that are combined are deleted

***25. Clipping:*** part of a word has been clipped off

***2.6. Acronyms:*** abbreviate a longer term by taking the initial letters

***2.7. Back formation:*** a word (usually a noun) is reduced to form another word of a different type (usually a verb)

***2.8. Extension of word formation rules:*** Part of a word is treated as a morpheme though it’s not

***2.9. Functional shift (Conversion)***: A change in the part of speech

***2.10. Proper names***🡪 Common words

**2.11*. Coining:*** Creating a completely new free morpheme

***2.12. Onomatopoeia*:** words imitate sounds in nature

***2.13. Borrowing:*** The taking over of words from other languages

***2.1. Derivation*:** derived by rules; it can also be called derivational affixation or affixation.

A. different rules. e.g. V + affix N

N + affix V

ADJ + affix V

N + affix ADJ

B. multiple combinations: e.g. organizational

**Tree structure of “organizational”**

**ADJ**

**Af**

**N**

**V Af**

**N Af**

**Organ ize ation al**

***2.2 Compounding:***

* Compounding (compounds): combine two or more free morphemes to form new words

**N N N N N**

**ADJ N N N N ADJ N V N P N**

**V** fire engine green house jump suit after thought

**P** wall paper blue bird kill joy out patient

book case

text book

**N ADJ ADJ ADJ**

**ADJ ADJ ADJ N ADJ ADJ ADJ P ADJ**

**P**

nation-wide red - hot over ripe

skyblue far - fetched in grown

pitch black out spoken

outstanding

***2.3. Reduplication:*** full or partial repetition of a free morpheme; sometimes with variation.

Full: so so , bye- bye.

With variation: zigzag, dilly-dally

***2.4 Blending (Blends):*** similar to compounding, but parts of the free morphemes involved are lost (usually 1st part of 1st word + end of 2nd word)

***E.g.*** brunch (**br**eakfast+ l**unch**)

smog (**sm**oke+ f**og**)

motel (**mo**tor+ ho**tel**)

newscast (**news** + broad**cast**)

perma-press (**perma**nent + **press**)

Reaganomics (**Reaga**n+ eco**nomics**)

***2.5Clipping (Clipped forms):*** part of a free morpheme is cut off (i.e., shortening a polysyllabic word); often in casual speech.

***E.g.***Prof.auto (also in names)

doclab Liz

ad bike Kathy

Ron

* 1. ***Acronyms:*** abbreviate a longer term by takin*g the initial letters*

***A. follow the pronunciation patterns of English***

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

TOEFL (Test of Eng. as a Foreign Language)

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

NASA (National Aeronautics & Space Administration)

***B. If unpronounceable 🡪 each letter is sounded out separately***

I.Q. (intelligence quotient) MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) MTV (music television)TVBS (television broadcasting service)VCR (video cassette recorder)

***C. Customary to sound out each letter even if the combined initials can be pronounced***.

AIT (American Institute in Taiwan)UCLA (Univ. of California at Los Angeles)

***2.7 Back formation:*** A word (usually a noun) is reduced to form another word of a different type (usually a verb)

***e.g.***donation donate/ burglar burgle/ zipper zip

***2.8Extension of word formation rules:***Part of a word is treated as a morpheme though it’s not

**Burger (mar)athon (alco)holic**

hamburger telethon workaholic

cheeseburger walkathon

***2.9. Functional shift (Conversion)***: A change in the part of speech.

V to N a guess, a must, a spy, a printout,

walk, run, laugh, touch

N to V position, process, contact, notice,

party, fax, butter, bottle

***2.10. Proper names***🡪 Common words

***a. people:*** jack🡪lumberjack, jack of all trades

tom🡪tomcat, tomboy, peeping Tom

**b. *Brand names:***Band-Aid, Xerox, Scotch tape, Kleenex, Vaseline.

**2.11*. Coining (coinage):*** Creating a completely new free morpheme,which is unrelated to any existing morphemes; a rare thing.

***e.g.***googol, pooch

***2.12. Onomatopoeia*:** words imitate sounds in nature (or in technology)

***e.g. a dog:*** bow wow or woof-woof, ***a clock:*** tick-tock, ***a camera:*** click, ***a cat:*** meow, ***Ring of a bell:*** ding-dong, ***a cow:*** moo, ***a bee:*** buzz, ***a snake:*** hiss,

***2.13. Borrowing:***The taking over of words from other languages. The word that is borrowed is called a borrowing, a borrowed word, or a [loanword](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-a-loanword-1691256).

**e.g.** yoghurt from Turkish, mayonnaise from French, algebra from Arabic, sherry from Spanish

**3. Inflection**

***Inflectional morphology:*** adds grammatical functions (i.e., number, tense, aspect, gender, case), so related to Syntax, but does not create new words (so not related to the lexicon).E.g.: That (Those) planter(s) grows (grow)…

There are only 8 kinds in English: -’s, -s (plural nouns), -ing, -ed/-en, -est, -er, -s (S-V agreement)

1. In grammar, a class refers to a category of words having the same grammatical properties. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)