

LEXICO GRAMMAR: MORPHEMES AND WORD FORMATIONS

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MORPHOLOGY

key terms

- Word
- Lexical items
- Syntactic words
- Phonological words
- Morpheme
- Free morpheme
- Bound morpheme
- Root
- Base
- Stems
- Affix
- Content words
- Function words
- Open class
- Close class
- Allomorphs
- Inflectional morphology
- Derivational morphology
- Affixation
- Compounding
- Reduplication
- Internal change
- suppletion
- Conversion
- Clipping
- Acronyms
- Blends

WORDS

a minimum free form, that is, the smallest form that can occur by itself (Bloomfield)

- problems?
- These can be solved by deciding what kind of 'words' we are talking about

LEXICAL ITEMS

- The technical term for '**dictionary entry**'
- fly represents two words. Fly as noun and fly as verb.

SYNTACTIC

- Lexical items have various syntactic forms associated with them.
- Fly : fly, flies
- Fly : fly, flying, flies, flew, flown

➤ Morpheme

the smallest unit that carries information about meaning or function.

ex:

the word 'builder' consists of two morphemes; 'build' (the meaning 'construct') and 'er'.

words consisting of one or more morphemes

One	two	three	More than three
boy	boy-s		
hunt	hunt-er	hunt-er-s	
act	act-ive	act-iv-ate	re-act-iv-ate
man	gentle-man	gentle-man-ly	Gentle-man-li-ness

FREE AND BOUND MORPHEMES

➤ Free morpheme

a morpheme that can be a word by itself

ex:

book, chair, person

➤ Bound morpheme

a morpheme that must be attached to another element

ex: houses

➤ Concepts that are expressed by free morphemes in English ≠ in other languages

ROOT, AFFIX, BASE AND STEM

Complex words → consist of a root and one or more affixes

➤ Root

the major component of the word's meaning and belongs to a lexical category-noun (N), Verb (V), adjective (A)

➤ Affixes

do not belong to lexical category and are always bound morphemes

ex:

teacher → **root** 'teach' (verb), **affix** '-er', a bound morpheme that combines with the root and gives a noun with the meaning 'one who teaches'

BASES

➤ the form to which an affix is added

In many cases, the base → also the root

ex:

1. 'stupidity → stupid---root and base

2. 'blackened', blacken (verbal base) + -ed
'black' (root) + suffix -en

STEM

1. a base to which **inflectional affixes** can be added.
2. the part of word-form which remains when all inflectional affixes have been removed.

e.g.

1. book ... books

root → book, stem → book

2. untouchables

root → touch, stem → untouchable but in
'touched', stem → touch

MORPHS, MORPHEMES, ALLOMORPHS

- Morpheme: the smallest unit that carries information about meaning or function
- a morph is the realization of the morpheme.
e.g. morpheme plural and morpheme possessive have the same morph /-s/

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Allomorphs - the variant forms of a morpheme

- English indefinite article has 2 allomorphs: *a* and *an*
- English plural has 3 allomorphs: *cats*, *dogs*, *horses*
- A morpheme with only one pronunciation is *sometimes* said to have only one allomorph.

MORPHOLOGICAL PHENOMENA

1. AFFIXATION

- Extremely common morphological process in a language
- There are three kinds of affixes
 - a. prefix → attached to the front of its base
de-activate, re-play, inter-marry, in-accurate
 - b. suffix → attached to the end of its base
govern-ment, hunt-er, kind-ness

c. infix → a type of affix that occurs within a base

Javanese : gumuyu, jimiwit, cemokot

Indonesian : geligi

Tagalog: takbuh-tumakbuh, lakad- lumakad,
pili?-pinili? (um and in 'past')

2. CLITICIZATION

- Some words are unable to stand alone as independent forms for phonological reasons.
- 'clitics' → attached to another word in the sentence
- Enclitics → clitics that are attached to the end of a preceding word
- Proclitics → attach to the beginning of a following word
 - a. I'm leaving now. - sometimes indicated in English with apostrophe
 - b. They're here now
 - c. French - Jean *t'*aime
 - d. Clitics are not like affixes because they belong to their own lexical category (verb, noun, etc.)

- Key difference: that unlike all affixes all the clitics are members of a lexical category such as verb, noun (or pronoun), or preposition

Ex:

1. English : 'm' for 'am'. 's' for is, and 're' for 'are'
2. Indonesia: -pun and -lah

3. INTERNAL CHANGE

1. substitution process of one non-morphemic segment for another

➤ An internal change in English

sing-sang, sink-sank, drive-drove, foot-feet,
goose-geese

2. Ablaut → vowel alternations that mark grammatical contrasts in this way

4. SUPPLETION

- A morphological process whereby a root morpheme is replaced by a phonologically unrelated form in order to indicate a grammatical contrast.

ex:

go

went

be

was, were

5. STRESS AND TONE PLACEMENT

- a base can undergo a change in the placement of stress or tone to reflect a change in its category.
- Stress placement in English

verb	Noun
implant	implant
import	import
present	present

6. REDUPLICATION

- Another common morphological process in certain languages
- Not in English
- Duplicates all or part of the base to which it applies to mark a grammatical or semantic contrast.
- Javanese, Indonesian, Sundanese

1. Dwilingga
meja-meja, mlaku-mlaku
2. Dwilingga salin swara
bola-bali, bolak-balik, mondar-mandir
3. Dwi purwa
lelaki, papancang, pepatah
4. Reduplikasi derevasional dan paradigmatis
 - a. derevasional : kuda-kuda, mata-mata
 - b. paradigmatis : meja-meja

COMPOUNDING

- The combination of lexical categories of lexical categories (nouns, adjectives, verbs, or prepositions) to create a larger word.
- Noun+ noun
street light, campsite, bookcase
- Adjective + noun
bluebird, happy hour, high chair
- Verb + noun
swear word, washcloth,
- Preposition + noun
outhouse, overlord, in-group

Compounds vs non compounds (O'Grady, p. 135)

ENDOCENTRIC VS EXOCENTRIC COMPOUNDS

- a. Endocentric compound : denotes the concept of the head (usually rightmost component).

Ex: spoon **feed** (feed with a spoon),
teaspoon (spoon for tea)

Plural involves making plural of head, even it's irregular

ex: wisdom teeth= type of teeth, plural 'teeth' rather than *wisdom tooth,

ENDOCENTRIC VS EXOCENTRIC COMPOUNDS

b. Exocentric compound: denotes something else.
ex: redneck (not a red neck, but a type of person)
redhead (not a red head, but a person with red hair)

Plural usually involves standard 's' plural marker on the end of the entire word.

ex: walkman ≠ type of men, plural 'mans' rather than *walkmen

- Saber tooth, bigfoot, clubfeet, walkman

OTHER TYPES OF WORD FORMATION

- a. Conversion
- b. Clipping
- c. Blends
- d. Backformation
- e. Acronyms
- f. Onomatopoeia
- g. Word manufacture/coinage

A. CONVERSION

- An extremely productive way of producing new words in English.
- Able to produce words of almost any form class, particularly open class
- It is totally free process and any lexeme can undergo conversion into verbs or adjectives into nouns.
- It does not add an affix. It resembles derivation because of the change in category and meaning that it brings about. It is called zero derivation.

Ex: a sign > to sign >

a signal > to signal

to commit > *commission* > *to commission*

- Check O'grady p. 157

B. CLIPPING

- A process that shortens a polysyllabic word by deleting one or more syllables
e.g. Prof for professor, burger for hamburger, doc for doctor, ad for advertisement, auto for automatic, lab for laboratory, porn for pornography
refrigerator → fridge

C. BLENDS

- Words that are created from non-morphemic parts of two already existing items.

e.g. brunch from breakfast and lunch

smog from smoke and fog

spam from spiced and ham

telethon from telephone and marathon

D. BACKFORMATION

- A process that creates a new word by removing a real or supposed affix from another word in a language

e.g. resurrect from resurrection,
 housekeep from housekeeper,
 enthuse from enthusiasm

E. ACRONYMS

- A word coined by taking the initial letters of the words in a title or phrase and using them as a new word.
- Not every abbreviation counts as an acronym
- To be acronym, the new word must not be pronounced as a series of letters, but as a word.
- Ex:
 1. Value Added Tax → VAT, /vi ei ti/ is abbreviation but /væt/ is acronym.
 2. Beginners' All-purpose symbolic Instruction code → Basic
 3. Generally Recognised As Save → GRAS

F. ONOMATOPOEIA

- Words whose sound represents an aspect of the thing that they name
- They are not exact phonetic copies of noises, their form can differ from language to language.

English

Cock-a doodle-doo

Meow

Chirp

Bow-bow

Japanese

kokekoko

nya

pil-pil

wan-wan

Tagalog

kuk-kukauk

ninyaw

tiriirit

aw-aw

G. WORD MANUFACTURE OR COINAGE

- A word is created *ex nihilo*, with no morphological, phonological or orthographic motivation whatsoever.
- It is common in cases where industry requires a new and attractive name for a product.
Ex: Kodak, dacron, Orlon, Teflon
- It sometimes creates new words from name.
Ex: kleenex, xerox, watt, curie, fahrenheit.
- The words, scientific words, are abstracted from long technical phrases

BORROWING

- New words enter a language through borrowing from other languages.
- English borrowed a lot of French words as a result of Norman invasion in 1066.
- Leak, yacht (from dutch)
- Barbecue, cockroach (spanyol)
- Piano, concerto (italian)

DERIVATION & INFLECTION

➤ forms a word with a meaning and or category **distinct from that of its base** through the addition of an affix.

ex:

1. -ment govern-ment
2. -er teach-er
3. -or edit-or

Some English derivational affixes (O'Grady, p. 129)

Analysis of (complex) Derivations (O'Grady, pp. 130-133)

INFLECTION

- Inflection does not change either the grammatical category or the type of meaning found in the word to which it applies.

e.g.

-ed past walk + ed

-s 3rd sing present sing + s

-ing Progressive say + ing

-er comparative tall + er

-est superlative tall + est

MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

1. Do not assume that the morpheme in the language you are analysing is the same as in English. In Korean, for example, morphemes indicating location follow rather than precede the noun (hakkyo-eyse is literally 'school at')
2. Do not assume that every semantic contrast expressed in English will also be manifested in the language you are analysing. In China, the same pronoun form can be used to refer to a male or a female (there is no distinction he-she)

MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

3. Do not assume that every contrast expressed in the language you are analysing is manifested in English. For example, some languages distinguish more than two number of categories and some languages make multiple tense contrast.
4. Remember that a morpheme can have more than one form (allomorph). Just as the English plural suffix in other languages can have more than one realization.