

Morphology

- *morphe* (Greek – form, shape) + *ology* (science of knowledge)
- **Morphology** (the science of word forms)
the study of the internal structure of words, and the rules by which words are formed

Morphology: the word of language

- Important part of our linguistic knowledge.
- A word is not a simple sequence of morphemes. It has an internal structure.



WORD

- **“A unit of expression which has universal intuitive recognition by native speaker, in both spoken and written language”**

(Crystal)

- **“A minimal free form”**

(Bloomfield)

WORD

- **“The smallest of linguistic unit which can occur on its own in speech or writing”**
(Richard & Schmidt)
- **“A unit of meaning”**
(Finch)

What it means to “know” a word:

- To understand the word when it is written or spoken.
- To recall it when you need it.
- To know how to use it with the correct meaning.
- To know how to use it in a grammatically correct way.
- To know how to pronounce it correctly.
- To know how to spell it correctly
- To know how to use it in the right situation.
- To know when (and when not) to use it.
- To know if it has positive or negative connotations.
- To know which other words you can and can't use with it.

WHY STUDY MORPHOLOGY?

- to gain an understanding of
 - where our words come from
 - what the properties of words are
 - how parts of words add together to form meaningful separate words
 - how we build our mental stock of words
 - how dictionaries are formed

WHY STUDY MORPHOLOGY?

- antidisestablishmentarianism

anti+dis+establish+ment+ari+an+ism

DICTIONARIES

Lexicography

- Who makes them? How?
- What do they include? Leave out?
- Are morphemes like *un-* and *-ment* in your dictionary?
- Linguists call the “word list” of words and morphemes you know, and their attendant properties, the LEXICON.



Types of Words

- Simple words
 - Words with just one free morpheme
 - Tree
- Complex words
 - Words with a free morpheme and one or more bound morphemes
 - trees
- Compound words
 - Words that consist of two free morphemes
 - teacup

Word Classifying

- **Content Words – Lexical words**
 - Parts of speech
 - Noun
 - Verb
 - Adjectives
 - Adverbs
- Denote concept such as objects, action, attributes and ideas
- Carry the main meanings in sentences
- **Open class** words – we can add new words to these classes

Word Classifying

- **Function Words**
- Their role is largely or wholly grammatical
- Have grammatical function in sentences
- Do not carry the main semantic content
- **Closed class** words since the number of function words are limited in a language.

Types of Function Words

Type	Example	Example	Example
Determiners	The	This	My
Quantifiers	One	Every	Several
Pronouns	You	Yourself	Who
Auxiliaries	Is	Has	Might
Prepositions	In	Before	Of
Conjunctions	And	If	However
Particles	Up	Down	Around
Intensifiers	Rather	Very	so

What is a morpheme?

Morphemes

- **likely & unlikely**
- **developed & undeveloped**
- *un-* is a prefix - negative meaning.
- *-ly* in 'likely' is a adverbial suffix.
- *-ed* in 'developed' is a suffix morpheme.

What is a morpheme?

- **Definitions:**

A **morpheme** is the minimal meaningful unit of a language

- **Example:** un+system+atic+al+ly

Examples of Morphemes

- One morpheme
boy (one syllable)
desire, lady, water (two syllables)
crocodile (three syllables)
salamander (four syllables) or more syllables
- Two morpheme
boy + ish
desire + able
- Three morpheme
boy + ish + ness
desire + able + ity
- Four morpheme
gentle + man + li + ness
un + desire + able + ity
- More than four
un + gentle + man + li + ness
anti + dis + establish + ment + ari +
an + ism

How many types of morphemes are there?

- Bound morphemes
 - Free morphemes
 - Root morphemes
 - Stem morphemes
- Derivational morphemes
- Inflectional morphemes
 - Affixes: prefixes and suffixes
- Grammatical morphemes

Bound morphemes

- **Bound morphemes** (affixes) must be attached to the word.
- They are prefixes, infixes, suffixes and circumfixes.
- Such as {-ment} as in *development, arrangement, appointment*) or they may be grammatical (such as {-s1} = plural as in *boys, girls, and cats*).

Free morphemes

- **Free morphemes** are those that can stand alone as words.
- **Example:** girl, system, desire, hope, act, phone, happy

Example of word formation

- Root believe (verb)
- Base believe + able (verb + suffix)
- Base un + believe + able
(prefix + verb + suffix)
- Word un + believe + abl(e) + ly
(prefix + verb + suffix +
suffix)

Example of word formation

- Root system
- Base system + atic
- Base un + system + atic
- Base un + system + atic + al
- Word un + system + atic + al + ly

Morpheme

Free Morpheme

Bound Morpheme

Zero Morpheme

A free morpheme is the morpheme that can occur on its own in the language. For example: boy, cat, on, the, an, horse, car etc.

Zero morphemes are those morphemes which are physically not present in the word, yet fulfill the grammatical requirement of the language. For example:

Sg	pl	Sg	Pl
Sheep	-> Sheep+ \emptyset	Boy	Boy+s
Fish	-> Fish+ \emptyset	Cat	Cat+s
Deer	-> Deer+ \emptyset	Dog	Dog+s

VS

Grammatical Morpheme

Lexical Morpheme

CLOSED CLASS

OPEN CLASS

The morphemes of this category are called 'closed class' morphemes because the number of these morphemes remain limited. For examples: English still has only three articles even when it passed thru three stages of development. Other examples of this class are prepositions, pronouns etc.

Rest of the entries in a Dictionary

Empty Morpheme →

Unlike Zero morphemes, Empty morphemes are those morphemes which are there in the word as far the form is concerned but they do not have any meaning. Examples:

a) person → person + al

b) tribe → trib-e + al

|

\emptyset

But

c) fact → fact + u + al

d) sense → sens-e+u+al

|

\emptyset

In (c)&(d), the bound morpheme -u- is the case of Empty morpheme.

Affixes

Portmanteau Morpheme

A bound morpheme which has more than one meaning, e.g. V+s/ -es, here '-es' has at least two meaning, 3rd Person & Singular. Also the Luganda examples in this context

Prefixes

Infixes

Suffixes

Circumfixes

Derivational – morphemes

- Root + Derivational Morpheme --> a new word with a new meaning. (usually change grammatical class)
- N + Derivational Morpheme --> Adj.
Ex. Boy + ish, Luck + y
- Verb + Derivational Morpheme --> Noun
Ex. Remove + al, Clear + ance
- Adj. + Derivational Morpheme --> Adverb
Ex. Exact + ly, quiet + ly

Inflectional – morphemes

- Flective morphemes have grammatical meaning or function in the sentence.
- They never change part of speech.
- For example -Bound Morpheme:
- Ex. -s, -ed, -er
- He sails the ocean blue.
- He sailed the ocean blue.
- He`s stronger than the storm.

Eight English Inflectional Morphemes

- -s plural
- -'s possessive
- -s 3rd pers. sing. present
- -er comparative
- -est superlative
- -ed past tense
- -ed past participle
- -ing present participle & gerund
- Mary saw her friends**s**.
- Mary **'s** hair is short.
- Mary wait**s** at home.
- Mary has shorter hair than **Kate**.
- Mary has the short**est** hair.
- Mary **opened** the door.
- Mary has visit**ed** the museum.
- Mary was watch**ing** TV.
- Mary likes swim**ing**.

The major differences between derivational and inflectional morphemes

Inflection / Inflectional marker	Derivation / Derivational marker
It does not change the meaning of the word	It changes the meaning of the word
It does not change the Grammatical Category	It changes the grammatical Category “May change” was added later
Less in number	Plenty in number
Easy to segment / find out	Sometimes difficult to segment/ find out
Very productive	Less productive
Mostly suffixed (with some exception)	It could be affixed in all possible way
Once added to the word, no further formation of the word is possible= ‘stem’	One marker may serve as the ‘base’ to form another word, thus multiple affixation is possible

Affixes: prefixes and suffixes

- **Affix:** a morpheme that comes at the beginning (prefix) or the ending (suffix) of a base morpheme.
- **Note:** An affix usually is a morpheme that cannot stand alone.
- **Examples:** *-ful, -ly, -ity, -ness*. A few exceptions are *able, like, and less*.

Affixes: prefixes and suffixes

- **Prefix:** an affix that comes before a base morpheme. The *un-* in the words *unzip*, *unlock*, *undo* is a prefix.
- **Suffix:** an affix that comes after a base morpheme. The *-s* in *cats* is a suffix; The *-ness* is a suffix in *happiness*.

Affixes (prefix, suffix, infix and circumfix) are all bound morphemes.

Prefixes	Suffixes	Infixes	Circumfixes
<p>Bound morphemes which occur only before other morphemes.</p> <p>Examples: un- (<i>uncover, undo</i>) dis- (<i>displeased, disconnect</i>), pre- (<i>predetermine, prejudge</i>)</p>	<p>Bound morphemes which occur following other morphemes.</p> <p>Examples: -er (<i>singer, performer</i>) -ist (<i>typist, pianist</i>) -ly (<i>manly, friendly</i>)</p>	<p>Bound morphemes which are inserted into other morphemes.</p> <p>Example: <i>Fikas</i> "strong" <i>fumikas</i> "to be strong"</p> <p>(Bontoc Language)</p>	<p>Bound morphemes that are attached to a root or stem morpheme both initially and finally.</p> <p>Example: <i>chokma</i> "he is good" <i>ik + chokm + o</i> "he isn't? good"</p> <p>(Chickasaw Language)</p>