

The internal structure of words

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Morphology - an introduction

- Morphology: form, shape, internal structure of words and processes of word formation

- Basic unit: Morpheme

↓
smallest, indivisible meaningful component

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Types of morphemes

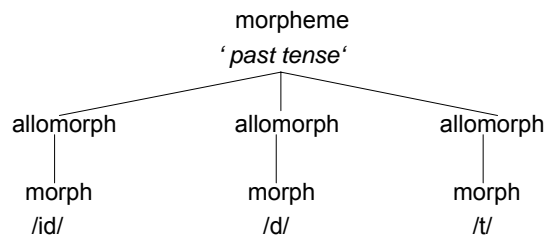
- Free vs. bound (affixes)
- Bound morphemes
 - derivational
 - inflectional
- Morphemes, morphs and allomorphs

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Types of morphemes

- Morphemes, morphs and allomorphs



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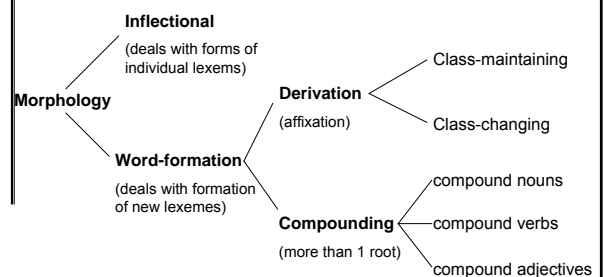
Types of morphemes

- Roots
the irreducible core of a word
- Affixes
a morpheme that only occurs when attached to some other morpheme (e.g. root)
- Stems
part of a word that exists before any inflectional affixes
- Bases
any unit to which affixes of any kind can be added (derivational, inflectional)

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Word-formation



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Word-formation

- Composition/ compounding
- Derivation
- Zero-derivation/ conversion
- Clipping
- Blending
- Backformation
- Acronyms

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Lexical morphology

- Model with the word rather than the morpheme as key unit of morphological analysis
- Claim: symbiotic relationship between rules for the morphological structure of a word and the phonological rules of words
- Rules are present in lexicon- organised in blocks called **strata** (levels, layers)
- Strata are arranged hierarchically

Katamba, Francis (1993): Morphology. Houndsmill: Macmillan.

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Lexical strata

- Two classes of English affixes
 - Neutral:
 - » No phonological effect on base
 - » *Abstract - abstract-ness; home - home-less*
 - Non-neutral
 - » Effect on the consonant or vowel segments, or the location of stress
 - » *Strategy - strategic; employ - employee; wide - width*
- Referred to as secondary and primary affixes

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Ordering of lexical strata

- Affixes are added at different strata in the lexicon
- Each stratum has associated with it a set of morphological rules that determine the word formation process
- These rules are linked to phonological rules
- inflectional and derivational word-formation processes belong to stratum 1 or 2

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Derivation

- Ordering of strata in the lexicon reflects ordering of word-formation processes
- Primary (non-neutral) affixes are attached first at stratum 1
- Secondary (neutral) affixes are attached at stratum 2 : input = root + stratum 1 affix
 - stratum 1 affixes are closer to the root
 - stratum 2 affixes form outer layer

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Derivation - Examples

- Stratum 1 affixes:
 - *-ity: sane > sanity; extreme > extremity*
 - *-ory: explain > explanatory*
 - *-acy: supreme > supremacy*
- Stratum 2 affixes:
 - *-ness: remote > remoteness*
 - *-ful: purpose > purposeful*
 - *-ly: severe > severely*
 - *-wise: money > moneywise*

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Inflection

- Similar to derivational processes
 - stratum 1: non-neutral processes
 - stratum 2: neutral processes
- Stratum 1 affixes are mostly
 - erratic morphemes
 - frozen historical relics
 - borrowed affixes (restricted to loanwords)

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Frozen historical relic - Ablaut

- **Ablaut**: change in root vowel which indicates a change in grammatical function
 - e.g. *ride* > *rode*
- Two ways of representing a morphological concept available (stratum 1: /ai/ > /əu/
stratum 2: suffixing *-ed*)
 - less general process (1) blocks more general process (2)

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Frozen historical relic - Umlaut

- **Umlaut**: the fronting of a vowel if the next syllable contains a front vowel
- Originally phonologically conditioned; became a morphological process to mark plurality for restricted set of nouns
 - *foot* > *feet*; *goose* > *geese*; *louse* > *lice*
- Other fossilised plural affix: *-en*

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Ordering restrictions within the same stratum

- *-ful*, *-less*, *-ness* are stratum 2 affixes
- Can co-occur in a word
- *-ness* attaches to adjective bases to form abstract nouns
 - less* and *-ful* attach to nouns to form adjectives
 - *-less/ -ful* must be attached first (turning word into adjective), before *-ness* can be attached

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Ordering restrictions within the same stratum

- *-less* and *-ful* cannot co-occur
 - for semantic reasons (contradictory meaning)
 - for morphological reasons (both affixes are attached to noun base)
- blocking:

- **power-ful-less*
- **power-less-ful*

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Ordering restrictions within the same stratum

- If both, derivational and inflectional morphemes are attached at same stratum
 - derivational morphemes are closer to root than inflectional morphemes
 - derivational processes precede inflectional processes at the same stratum

e.g.: - *work-er-s*
- **work-s-er*

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Post-lexical processes

- Post-lexical rules work on words once they are fully formed in the lexicon and processed by syntax
- Can apply across word boundaries, to words that have been grouped together in phrases
- E.g.: deletion of word-final alveolar stop in a consonant cluster, if following word has word-initial consonant

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