Lecture 01 Introduction

1. Defining morphosyntax

Morphosyntax: encompasses linguistic strategies and operations to represent syntactic features via morphological marking as opposed to merely combinatorial or syntactic strategies.

Morphosyntactic operation: a relation between one linguistic form and another that correlates with a conventionalised meaning distinction. The relation is ordered from simpler to more complex forms:
- simplest forms: roots
- Operation: usually indicated by a formal operator: prefix, suffix, stress shift (or a combination of these)
- some operations: independent from overt operation (zero morpheme)

2. The core function of morphology

Linguistic operations to fit item into message: lexical (replace lexical item), morphological (modify item or context), periphrastic (combine lexical items)

Examples:
1. Tense, cf. message that requires event location in time
2. Causativization, cf. message that requires CAUSE (x, DIE (y))

Therefore: morphology = the study of shapes; morpheme: a minimal shape, cf. dog – s

3. Words and paradigms

meaning inferred relies on: a) linguistic context, b) extralinguistic context, and c) conventionalised meaning of operators employed

word & paradigm approach: morphemes are rules that involve the linguistic context rather than blocks of linguistic material → a morpheme also interacts with extralinguistic context

bound morpheme: a morpheme to be attached to other morpheme in order to be integrated into discourse, types: affix, root, clitic

-s in dogs

dog: free morpheme

speak: free morpheme, but sprech- is root but must be inflected

4. Clitics

Clitic: bound morphemes functioning on clausal or phrasal level, clitics bind to some other word (host of a clitic)

English: the, a are clitics as they bind to a N

cliticize to heads (the dog), to modifiers (the big dog), to numerals (the 2 big dogs)

→ bind to first position on phrasal level (independent from word class)

most languages: morphophonemic rules affect the boundary reducing the vowel of the
cf. the dog (ðə) vs. the apple (ði)
a takes final nasal before a vowel (an apple)

5. Allomorphs and morphophonemic rules

Allomorph: variant realization of a morpheme, criteria are semantic equivalence and complementarity

→ morphologically determined, cf. sung, stopped, kept

→ phonologically determined, cf. hats, dogs, boxes

morphemes can therefore be conceived of as sets of allomorphs, writing systems: try to represent "underlying"/basic form of a morpheme

Morphophonemic rules: have form of phonemic rules but are restricted to certain morphological contexts
cf. /z/ vs. /s/ → C > -voice

= phonological rule that applies not only for plural markers

purely morphophonemic rule: /in-/ prefix (NOT) becomes /l/ or /r/ when occurring before l and r

6. Root, stem, and derivational operations

Root: unanalysed form that represents the basic lexical content of a word but may not be a word in itself (cf. sprech-)

Stem: has minimally ONE root but is analysable into:
root + derivational morpheme
cf. construct, destruct

Derivational operations: operations which derive an inflectable stem from a root or from another stem

semantically relevant, cf.
1.1. denominalization (book – they book a room)
1.2. nominalization (to look – a great look)
2. change of valence/transitivity
(break, Mary breaks the window; The window breaks)

derivational operations are non-obligatory, i.e. determined by semantics, not by syntax