

Problem Set 2 – Morphology

Reading: [due Oct 30]

Bender, Chapters 2-4.

Fromkin, Rodman, Hyams, Chapter 3 [OPTIONAL!]

Do the reading by October 30. Send questions wrt. to the readings, the exercises below, or otherwise related to morphology before our meeting on Oct. 30 to tatjana.scheffler@uni-potsdam.de.

Exercises: [due Nov 6]

(Exercises partially taken from Fromkin, Rodman, Hyams (2007) "An Introduction to Language", Chapter 3)

Exercise 1:

Divide the following words into morphemes:

- (1) a. retroactive
- b. befriended
- c. televise
- d. margin
- e. endearment
- f. psychology
- g. unpalatable
- h. holiday
- i. grandmother
- j. morphemic
- k. mistreatment
- l. deactivation
- m. saltpeter
- n. airsickness
- o. won't

Exercise 2:

The examples in (2), (3) and (4) below show possible word forms and impossible ones, which are preceded by an asterisk (*). Divide the words into morphemes, and say which morphological processes are involved:

- (2) a. right – rightist – rightists
- b. right – rights – *rightsist
- (3) a. foot – football – footballs
- b. foot – feet – *football
- (4) a. sleepwalk – sleepwalked
- b. sleepwalk – *sleptwalk

Based on your analysis, what can you conclude about the order of application of morphological rules?

Exercise 3:

What does the derivational suffix *-able* mean in the examples below? Find three examples where it is not *transparent* (i.e. it means something else).

- (5) a. zippable
b. usable
c. stoppable
d. learnable

Exercise 4:

All of the following words end in *-er*. Is '*er*' a morpheme in all of the words? Is it the same morpheme in all of the words? Provide proof of your answers. To do a morphological proof, you must (1) point out which elements of the word you believe to be morphemes; (2) prove their morphemehood: first, give the meaning of each morpheme you find in the word and, second, for bound morphemes, give at least two more examples of words that contain the same bound morpheme with the same meaning.

- (6) taller, river, shorter, farmer, either, smarter, caller, painter, finger, sweeter, other, never, teacher, cover

Exercise 5: (Search in morphologically annotated corpora)

Open the Cosmas II corpus search system and choose the archive TAGGED-T (pos-tagged corpora). Find examples for the following kinds of constructions. In each case, list some examples (i.e., export the first 20 examples), give your search string, and describe how you proceeded/what heuristics you used. If you have trouble with the German data, please get help from the other students!

- a) the plural form 'Kontos' ('bank accounts'). Try to exclude singular uses
b) adjectives that start with the prefix 'un-'
c) preposition stranding ("da weiß ich nichts von" = 'that, I know nothing of')
d) double marking of a causal relation by 'denn' and 'nämlich'. A positive example is:

Denn viel schlimmer als künstliche Gerichte aus genauso künstlichem Fleisch ist **nämlich** der Name des Spiels, der den jungen Spielern vorgaukelt, dass für das Kochen ausschließlich die Mama zuständig ist.

Questions c) and d) can't be solved exactly – try to see how far you can get!

I will give an introduction to the tag set and Cosmas II on the 30th.

Cosmas II: (registration needed but free of charge)

<https://cosmas2.ids-mannheim.de/cosmas2-web/>

Search help for Cosmas II:

<http://www.ids-mannheim.de/cosmas2/web-app/hilfe/suchanfrage/eingabezeile/syntax/>

<http://www.ids-mannheim.de/cosmas2/web-app/hilfe/suchanfrage/eingabezeile/kochbuch/bsp-annotation.html>