

Generating Words

Background: Elemental Linguistic Components and Lexicalization

The Candidates

- A noise deployed in the language
[p^h] (Phones)
- A set of noises deployed systematically in a certain way
/p/ (Phoneme)
- {-able} (Affixes)
- **Words**
Opposable

Words are the elemental building blocks from the perspective of language users.

Lexicalization



Bird-like-machine-shaped-concave-instrument-for-eating-with



English → airplane spoon

French → cuillère en forme d'avion

German → flugzeuglöffel

Plane/Spoon: wenchiaawang/iStock/Thinkstock; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Word Building Processes



English → airplane spoon

French → cuillère en forme d'avion

German → flugzeuglöffel

Where do words come from?

- Simplex (i.e., word, chair, dog)

No processes visible

Complex

- Morphologically (i.e., doggy)
(tune in later)
- Compounding (i.e., armchair)
- Conversion (i.e., butter as noun,
butter as verb)
- Clipping (i.e., burger)
- Blending (i.e., smog)
- Folk etymologies (i.e., crayfish)

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Compounds

Can occur orthographically as:

No orthographical indication

- wet suit

Glued together

- greenhouse
- blackboard

Hyphenated

- child-proof
- father-in-law

The semantic test

Does it mean something different from its component parts?

The phonetic test

Is it stressed like a single word or multiple words?

Compounds



wét súit



wétsuit

Scuba Diver: painterr/iStock/Thinkstock; Suit/Cloud: mocoo/iStock/Thinkstock; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Compounds



greenhouse



green house

Greenhouse: Dorling Kindersley/ISTock/Thinkstock; House: wenchiaowang/ISTock/Thinkstock; Hand: Noedelhap/ISTock/Thinkstock

Compounds

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semantic test

phonetic test

The semantic test

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Hand: Noedelhap/ISTock/Thinkstock

Conversion (Double-dipping)

One word phonologically functioning in at least two ways.

Word	Look at the context			
Meaning 1	butter	dirty	ship	empty
Meaning 2	toast	clean	nail	paint
Meaning 3				
.	butter (as noun)		butter (as verb)	
.	"He put butter on the toast."		"He buttered the toast."	
.	NOT " There was buttered on the table. "			
Stress patterns				
Verb		Noun		
• permít		• pérmit		
• contést		• cóntest		
• survéy		• súrvey		

Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Clipping

The form of the word shrinks

professor	→ prof
hamburger	→ burger
demonstration	→ demo
submarine	→ sub
delicatessen	→ deli
electronic mail	→ e-mail
World Wide Web	→ web
Internet	→ net

Current-usage comparison with parallel terms

- Longer
- Phonologically and conceptually similar

Historical comparison

- Longer
- Phonologically and conceptually similar

Acronyms/Abbreviations

	Pronouncable	Letter-enunciation	
acronyms	{ Radar Scuba Snafu Fubar	{ CBC U.S.A. WWW PR	abbreviations

Jargon, Argot, Slang

Related to clipping, in terms of efficiency,
but users have to be in, and others are therefore out.

Blends

smoke/fog	→ smog	Current-usage comparison with parallel terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple words • Phonologically and conceptually similar
motor hotel	→ motel	
aerobic exercise	→ aerobicize	
breakfast/lunch	→ brunch	Historical comparison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple words • Phonologically and conceptually similar
information/entertainment	→ infotainment	
education/entertainment	→ edutainment	
Northern Telecom	→ NorTel	