

Syntactic Typology and Universals

- Ling 105-

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(she/her)

Week 1, Class 1

Roadmap for today's class

1. Overview of the Syllabus

2. *What is Morphology?*

3. How do I pronounce my own name?

Giuseppina > Giusi > Giù [dʒu]

4. What pronouns do I use to refer to myself?

She/Her

A first definition of Morphology

“the study of word structure”

- structure of *individual* words, as well as the *grammatical rules* which words are formed
- we need terminology to be able to discuss the parts of words

Etymology of the word “morphology”

Initial terminology

Stem of a word = its core, the part that bears its central meaning

Ex: In 'unbearable' the stem is bear; In disrespect the stem is 'respect'

➤ Material added to the stem, thus modifying its meaning in some way:
principally of **prefixes** and **suffixes**

- The suffix **-able** is suffixed to bear to form *bearable*; and the prefix **un-** is added to the result to obtain *unbearable*
- Often, multiple prefixes and suffixes can be added to the same stem, producing more elaborate words: *unbearability*, *hyperunbearability*.

➤ **Affix**: a technical term that covers both prefixes and suffixes

Q: Suppose we want a term that generalizes over stems, prefixes, and suffixes, i.e. over all the building blocks from which words are assembled:
what term should we use?

Initial terminology

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what term should we use?

MORPHEME

“A morpheme is the smallest linguistic unit that bears a meaning”

- To show how a word is divided into morphemes, one can separate the morphemes with hyphens:

un-bear-abil-ity

- When discussed by themselves, prefixes and suffixes are indicated with hyphens:
prefixes as *un-*, suffixes as *-ity*

Leading research questions of the field of Morphology (1)

- Basic/Initial Questions

- *what are the components of the morphology of a language?*
- *what are the rules that form the words from their constituent morphemes?*

Leading research questions of the field of Morphology (2)

- Further Questions:

- *how do we best analyze morphological data?*
- *how is morphology linked to other modules of the linguistic analysis like phonology and syntax?*

Two kinds of Morphology

- Most linguists acknowledge at least a rough distinction between two kinds of morphology:

word formation vs. **inflectional morphology**

➤ Inflectional morphology = **grammatical morphology**

Inflectional Morphology

Examples:

- tense on verbs
 - present tense *love-s*, past tense *jump-ed*)
- number on nouns
 - singular *pie*, plural *pies*
- person and number agreement in verbs
 - She *love-s* vs. They *love*

Morphological analysis (1)

- In order to make sense of any newly encountered language, we also need to figure out the structure of the morphology.
- How?
 - gathering data
 - determining what morphemes are present
 - writing the rules that form the words from their constituent morphemes

Morphological analysis (2)

Method for morphological analysis:

- compile a collection of morphologically similar words and their meanings
- scrutinize it to determine which phoneme sequences remain the same whenever the meaning remains the same
- isolate the meaningful chunks, i.e. **morphemes**

Morphological analysis (3): Turkish Case study

➤ fragment of the nominal morphology (=morphology for nouns) in **Turkish**

DATA

1. el	'hand'
2. eli	'hand (object)'
3. ele	'to (a) hand'
4. elde	'in (a) hand'
5. elim	'my hand'
6. elimi	'my hand (object)'
7. elime	'to my hand'
8. elimde	'in my hand'
9. elin	'your hand'
10. elini	'your hand (object)'
11. eline	'to your hand'
12. elinde	'in your hand'
13. elimiz	'our hand'
14. elimizi	'our hand (object)'
15. elimize	'to our hand'
16. elimizde	'in our hand'
17. eliniz	'your (plur.) hand'
18. elinizi	'your (pl.) hand (obj.)'
19. elinize	'to your (pl.) hand'
20. elinizde	'in your (pl.) hand'

21. eller	'hands'
22. elleri	'hands (object)'
23. ellere	'to hands'
24. ellerde	'in hands'
25. ellerim	'my hands'
26. ellerimi	'my hands (obj.)'
27. ellerime	'to my hands'
28. ellerimde	'in my hands'
29. ellerin	'your hands'
30. ellerini	'your hands (obj.)'
31. ellerine	'to your hands'
32. ellerinde	'in your hands'
33. ellerimiz	'our hands'
34. ellerimizi	'our hands (obj.)'
35. ellerimize	'to our hands'
36. ellerimizde	'in our hands'
37. elleriniz	'your (pl.) hands'
38. ellerinizi	'your (pl.) hands (obj.)'
39. ellerinize	'to your (pl.) hands'
40. ellerinizde	'in your (pl.) hands'

Morphological analysis (3): Turkish Case study

- “plur.” or “pl.” abbreviate “plural”
- “your (pl.)” is second person plural (possessive, it means “belonging to you”, there being more than one of you”)
- (object) or (obj.) means that that form would be used as the object of a verb

example

-if one were to say in Turkish something like “I saw my hand”
one would use *eli* **WHY?**

Morphological analysis (3): Turkish Case study

➤ Breaking up the words into **morphemes**

A. Finding the **stems**

- search for invariant form paired with invariant meaning
 - every single form begins with the sequence **el-** and has a meaning involving “hands”.
 - It seems inconceivable that “hand” could be anything other than ... ?

question
for you

- we can compare:
 1. **el** ‘hand’
 2. **eli** ‘hand (object)’
 3. **ele** ‘to (a) hand’
- Subtracting out **el-** from the second and third forms, it appears that **-i** and **-e** must be suffixes.
- We can confirm this by casting an eye over the remainder of the data:
 - **e** “goes together” with the English word “to” given in the translations;
 - and likewise **-i** with “(object)”.

Morphological analysis (3): Turkish Case study

➤ Case

- The **-e** and **-i** suffixes apparently denote the grammatical role that the noun plays in a Turkish sentence, a phenomenon called **case**
- Case is fundamentally an inflectional category of nominals
- Case identifies the basic semantic roles of the participants in a clause.
 - In many languages in a sentence like “Man bites dog”
man = nominative; *dog* = accusative
 - the two most common cases.
- Case is not the only way to show who is doing what to whom.
- In languages with no case the work done by case is taken over by strict word order and by prepositions

Morphological analysis (3): Turkish Case study

➤ Typical cases in languages

(each language is different in its cases and their usage)

- Nominative**, usually for subjects of sentences or the citation form of a word
- Accusative**, usually for (direct) objects of verbs
- Dative**, conveying the notion of “to” in English: *I gave the book to the student*
- Locative**, conveying the notion of “at”, “in”, “on”, etc.

In Turkish

- e** is the suffix for the dative case
- i** is the suffix for the accusative case
- de** is the suffix for the locative case

In Ling 105
we become also confident
with analyzing examples from several languages

- We need to know how to **analyze morphosyntactic elements**
 - We need to use the **Leipzig Glossing Rules** to gloss our examples
- Example of glossing an English sentence (2-line analysis)

(1)	This	morning	the	cat	played	with	her.	(Eng)	→	example
	DEM.SG	N.SG	DEF.DET.SG	N.SG	play.PST.3SG	PREP	PRO.3SG.F		→	glosses

We need to be confident with analyzing examples from many languages

- We need to know how to **analyze morphosyntactic elements**
 - We need to use the **Leipzig Glossing Rules** to gloss our examples
 - We need to translate examples into English
- Example of glossing an Italian sentence (**3-line analysis**)

(2) Oggi il	cane	ha	giocato	con me. (Ita)	→	1. example	
ADV	DEF.DET.MSG	dog.MSG	have.IND.PRS.3SG	play.PST.PTCT	PREP PRO.1SG	→	2. glosses
'Today the dog played with me.'					→	3. translation	

Morphology Lab 1

I will see you on Thursday (4/6):
what can we do in the meanwhile?

- review the slides
- start exploring the readings from the textbook
- familiarize ourselves with the *Leipzig Glossing Rules*:
<https://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/pdf/Glossing-Rules.pdf>

STAY SAFE