Morphology
- Ling 105-

Spring 2023

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(she/her)

Week 3, Class 1

Roadmap for today's class

1. Concatenative and non-concatenative morphology
2. Affixation
3. Compounding

4. Inspiration for research topics in Morphology

optional reading about suppletion

Bobaljik, J., Harley, H. 2013.

Suppletion is Local: Evidence from Hiaki.

Lingbuzz: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/001982

Morphological Patterns

Morphological structure is much more various than simply affixes combining with bases.

GERMAN

singular	plural		correspondences
Mutter	*Mütter*	'mother(s)'	[u] - [y]
Vater	*Väter*	'father(s)'	[a] - [e:]
Tochter	*Töchter*	'daughter(s)'	[o] - [ø]
Garten	*Gärten*	'garden(s)'	[a] - [e:]
Nagel	*Nägel*	'nail(s)'	[a] - [e:]

Morphological Patterns

- The German examples shows that in the morphological structure a recurrent aspect of meaning (‘plural’) corresponds to a recurrent aspect of form (vowel quality).
- BUT, plural word-forms *cannot* be segmented into two morphemes.
- stem vowel changes

- the notion of **morpheme** needs to be refined and expanded

A morpheme can correspond to a frequently occurring, special subtype of morphological pattern.

Southern Italian dialects: North Calabrese

Adjectives

	+diphthong	-diphthong	+diphthong	-diphthong
	M	F	M	S
SG	ˈbjeddə	ˈbɛdda	ˈgrwossə	ˈgrɔssa
PL	‘cute’	ˈbɛddə	‘big’	ˈgrɔssə

Past participles

	+diphthong	-diphthong	+diphthong	-diphthong
	M	F	M	F
SG	aˈpjertə	aˈpɛrta	ˈkwottə	ˈkɔtta
PL	‘opened’	aˈpɛrtə	‘cooked’	ˈkɔttə

Morphological patterns: classification

- Linguists often distinguish two basic types of morphological patterns:
- concatenative: two morphemes are ordered one after the other
- non-concatenative: everything else.

English

- concatenative: /kat/- + -/s/ = <cats>
- non-concatenative: /ˈfʊt/ - /ˈfiːt/ ‘foot, feet’

Morphological patterns: classification

- Most of the examples of morphologically complex words that we have seen so far can be neatly segmented into roots and affixes, and are therefore **concatenative patterns**.

- In process terms, concatenative patterns can be described as derived by **affixation** (subtypes suffixation, prefixation, etc.) and **compounding**.

Affixation

- Affixation involves combining morphemes in a certain way
- combinatory potential of an affix = which types of morphemes may combine

For example:

<dis>- and <respect> may combine via **affixation** and form <disrespect>

- affixes and bases do not combine randomly

For example suffix -<able> attaches only to verbs

**intelligentable* is not a potential word

combinatory potential of affixes

The combinatory potential of an affix *cannot* be (entirely) predicted from its meaning.

For example:

prefix <non>- is identical in meaning to <un>-

it commonly attaches to nouns (e.g., “non-brainer”)

less readily it attached to adjectives (“non-linear”, but *non-hot)

Combinatory potential must be specified along with other information about the affixation process.

Combinatory potential of affixes

- Combinatory potential must be specified along with other information about the affixation process.
- As with <un>-, <non>- and -<able>, the word-class of the base is an important factor for combinatory potential.
- Linguists sometimes say that affixes 'select' a particular word-class to attach to.

a. Combinatory potential of *un-*	[— A]
b. Combinatory potential of *-able*	[V —]
c. Combinatory potential of comparative *-er*	[A —]
d. Combinatory potential of *-ful*	[N —]

(__ = affix)

Compounding

- A compound is a process of **word formation**
- The output of this process is a complex lexeme that can be thought of as consisting of two or more **base lexemes**

- In the simplest case, a compound consists of two lexemes that are joined together (called '**compound members**')
- Rather than attaching an affix to a stem, compounding concatenates two stems

  (concatenate = chain together)

Examples of English compounds

N + N	*lipstick*	(*lip*N + *stick*N)
A + N	*hardware*	(*hard*A + *ware*N)
V + N	*drawbridge*	(*draw*V + *bridge*N)
N + V	*babysit*	(*baby*N + *sit*V)
N + A	*leadfree*	(*lead*N + *free*A)
A + A	*bitter-sweet*	(*bitter*A + *sweet*A)

- compounding rules may differ in **productivity**
- in English, the N + N pattern is extremely productive
- novel N + N compounds are created all the time
- by contrast, the V + N pattern and N +V are unproductive; limited to a few lexically listed items

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English Noun Compounding Rule

$[\ X_1\ ]_{\text{Noun}} + [\ X_2\ ]_{\text{Noun}} \rightarrow [\ [\ X\ ]_{\text{Noun}}\ [\ X\ ]_{\text{Noun}}\ ]_{\text{Noun}}$

Meaning: "an X_2 that has something to do with X_1."

More rules of affixation in English

I. Negative <un>- Rule

$$[\ X\ ]_{\text{Adjective}} \rightarrow [\ \text{un}\ [\ X\ ]_{\text{Adjective}}\ ]_{\text{Adjective}}$$ (X = Adjective)

For example: *untrue, unhappy, unkind, untidy, unlucky, uncommon*, etc.

II. -<able> Rule

$$[\ X\ ]_{\text{Verb}} \rightarrow [\ [\ X\ ]_{\text{Verb}}\ \text{-able}\ ]_{\text{Adjective}}$$ (Meaning: "able to be V'ed")

For example: *breakable, drinkable, readable, adjustable, clickable*, etc.

III. Reversive <un>- Rule

$$[\ X\ ]_{\text{Verb}} \rightarrow [\ \text{un}\ [\ X\ ]_{\text{Verb}}\ ]_{\text{Verb}}$$ (Meaning: "reverse the action of X")

For example: *unseat, unattach, undo, untwist*, etc.

Examples of English compounds

English Noun Compounding Rule

$$[\ X_1\ ]_{\text{Noun}} + [\ X_2\ ]_{\text{Noun}} \rightarrow [\ [\ X\ ]_{\text{Noun}}\ [\ X\ ]_{\text{Noun}}\ ]_{\text{Noun}}$$

Meaning: "an X_2 that has something to do with X_1."

Example

$$[[\ \textit{boat}\ ]_{\text{Noun}}\ [\ \textit{house}\ ]_{\text{Noun}}\ ]_{\text{Noun}}]$$

is a house that has something to do with boats (for example, you keep boats inside it).

- A *houseboat* is a boat that functions as a house.

Headness in compounds

- In compounds like *houseboat or boathouse* or *swordfish* we can detect the **head**

  - *house<u>boat</u>*
  - *boat<u>house</u>*
  - *sword<u>fish</u>*

➢ In English, most compounds have at most one head

➢In other languages two heads are possible

- Standard Modern Greek: ***savatokiriako*** = ‘Saturday-Sunday” = “weekend”

First compound member

- In English the **first compound member** is almost always a **stem**, not an inflected word-form:

  <babysitter>, *babies-sitter

- that can be seen also in languages with richer inflection

Sanskrit

- first compound member in N + N/A compounds shows a vowel-final (or -r-final) form that does not occur as a member of the inflectional paradigm
- this form can thus be regarded as the **pure stem**

First compound member

Sanskrit

- first compound member in N + N/A compounds shows a vowel-final (or -r-final) form that does not occur as a member of the inflectional paradigm
- this form can thus be regarded as the **pure stem**

deva-senā-	'army of gods'	(*devaḥ* 'god')
pitr̥-bandhu-	'paternal relation'	(*pitā* 'father')
pati-juṣṭa-	'dear to the spouse'	(*patiḥ* 'spouse')

First compound member

German V + N compounds

Wasch-maschine	'washing machine'	
	(*wasch-en* 'wash' +	*Maschine* 'machine')
Schreib-tisch	'(writing) desk'	
	(*schreib-en* 'write' +	*Tisch* 'desk, table')
Saug-pumpe	'suction pump'	
	(*saug-en* 'suck' +	*Pumpe* 'pump')

- almost all word-forms of verbs have special suffixes
- *wasch-*, *schreib-* and *saug-* = **pure stems**

Endogenous and Exogenous Compounds

NEXT TIME

Morphology Lab 6

“Unzippabke” has two meanings:

a. My jacket is unzippable, so I went ahead and unzipped it.

b. I tried and tried to unzip my jacker, but it turned out that it was simply unzippable.

Derive the two meanings of ‘unzippable’ by applying the following rules in the right order:

- -<able> Rule
- Negative <un>- Rule
- Reversive <un>- Rule

Morphology Lab 6

a. [tie]$_{Verb}$		stem
[un [tie]$_{Verb}$]$_{Verb}$	‘undo the action of tieing’	Reversive *un*- Rule
[[un [tie]$_{Verb}$]$_{Verb}$ able]$_{Adj}$	‘able to be undone with respect to tieing’	-*Able* Rule
b. [tie]$_{Verb}$		stem
[[tie]$_{Verb}$ able]$_{Adj}$	‘able to be tied’	-*Able* Rule
[un [[tie]$_{Verb}$ able]$_{Adj}$]$_{Adj}$	‘not able to be tied’	Negative *un*- Rule

possible research topics

1. The role of plural affixes in the X language
2. Cases of infixation in X
3. The process of word formation in X
4. The morphology of nominal gender X
5. The formation of past tense in X
6. The formation of compound words in X
7. The use of tone in word formation in X
8. Compounding strategies in the nominal domain of X
9. The role of reduplication in forming plurals in X
10. The morphological structure of X infinitives
11. The use of prefixes in X

X = any language, variety, dialect; spoken or signed; closed corpora language

possible research topics

12. The morpho-phonological features of X nouns
13. The morphology of aspect in X
14. Undetected cases of suppletive paradigms in X
15. The origin of suppletion in the history of X
16. Borrowed compounds and their adaptation in the receiving language X
17. The role of metaphony in X
18. The formation of imperative in X.
19. The morphological nature of classifiers in X
20. From The preposition to affix in the history of X
21. The have morphological causatives in X
22. The bound morphemes of reflexive in X

X = any language, variety, dialect; spoken or signed; closed corpora language

I will see you on next Thursday (4/20): what can we do in the meanwhile?

- review the lecture slides
- do reading from the textbook
- keep working on Assignment 1

STAY SAFE