

Morphology

- Ling 105-

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(she/her)

Week 2, Class 1

Roadmap for today's class

1. Morphology Lab 2 (find material on *BruinLearn*)
2. Morphemes and Allomorphs
 - rules of alternation
3. Suppletion
4. Morphology Lab 3

Morphology Lab 2: Turkish

Morphemes and Allomorphs

allomorphs

- Complication!
 - morphemes may have **different phonological shapes** under different circumstances

For example:

plural morpheme in English is sometimes pronounced [s]

<cats> [kæts]

sometimes [z]

<dogs> [dɒgz]

and sometimes [-əz]

<faces> [feisəz]

When a single affix has more than one shape, linguists use the term **allomorph**

allomorphs in Turkish affixes

Turkish first-person possessive suffix: five allomorphs

-im	<i>ev</i>	'house'	<i>ev-im</i>	'my house'
	<i>dil</i>	'language'	<i>dil-im</i>	'my language'
-üm	<i>köy</i>	'village'	<i>köy-üm</i>	'my village'
	<i>gün</i>	'day'	<i>gün-üm</i>	'my day'
-um	<i>yol</i>	'way'	<i>yol-um</i>	'my way'
	<i>tuz</i>	'salt'	<i>tuz-um</i>	'my salt'
-ım	<i>ad</i>	'name'	<i>ad-ım</i>	'my name'
	<i>kız</i>	'girl'	<i>kız-ım</i>	'my daughter'
-m	<i>baba</i>	'father'	<i>baba-m</i>	'my father'

The crucial properties which define the suffixes above as being allomorphs are that they have the **same meaning** and occur in **different environments** in **complementary distribution**.

phonological allomorphs

- morphemes can be different in shapes
- being phonologically similar is a common property of allomorphs, but is not a necessary one:
 - Allomorphs that have this property are **phonological allomorphs**.
 - The formal relation between two (or more) phonological allomorphs is called an **alternation**.

describing alternations (I)

Formation of plural in some German words:

<i>Tag</i>	[ta:k]	'day'	<i>Tage</i>	[ta:gə]	'days'
<i>Hund</i>	[hʊnt]	'dog'	<i>Hunde</i>	[hʊndə]	'dogs'
<i>Los</i>	[lo:s]	'lot'	<i>Lose</i>	[lo:zə]	'lots'

- alternations can be described with a special set of **morphophonological rules**
- such rules were *historically* phonetically motivated, but now affect morphology
- as for now, let's think about phonological allomorphy in terms of a **single underlying representation** that is affected by rules under certain conditions.
- The endpoint of our descriptions is what is actually pronounced, i.e. the **surface representation**.

describing alternations (I)

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<i>Hund</i>	[hʊnt]	'dog'	<i>Hunde</i>	[hʊndə]	'dogs'
<i>Los</i>	[lo:s]	'lot'	<i>Lose</i>	[lo:zə]	'lots'

- (a) underlying representations (symbols: / /)
- (b) the respective rules in the examples
- (c) application of rule and surface representations (resulting word-forms; symbols [])

- (a) underlying representation /ta:g/
- (b) rule: a voiced obstruent becomes voiceless in syllable-final position
- (c) application of rule and surface form: /ta:g/ → [tag]

describing alternations (II)

Formation of plural in some Russian words:

<i>zamok</i>	'castle'	<i>zamk-i</i>	'castles'
<i>kamen'</i>	'stone'	<i>kamn-i</i>	'stones'
<i>nemec</i>	'German'	<i>nemc-y</i>	'Germans'
<i>nogot'</i>	'nail'	<i>nogt-i</i>	'nails'

Let's describe the above alternation following these steps:

- (a) underlying representations (symbols: / /)
- (b) the respective rules in the examples
- (c) application of rule and surface representations (resulting word-forms; symbols [])

describing alternations (II)

Formation of plural in some Russian words:

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(a) /zamoki/ 'castle (sg.)'

(b) /o/ and /e/ in the final stem syllable disappears when the stem is followed by a vowel-initial suffix

(c) /zamoki/ → [zamki] 'castle (pl.)'

describing alternation (III)

- Rule for plural morpheme in English

■ Case 1

- underlying: /kæt-z/
- rule: /-z/ → [-s] after voiceless consonants
- surface: /kæt-z/ → [kæts]

■ Case 2

- underlying: -/feis-z/
- rule: [ə] is inserted between root ending [s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ] and morpheme /z/
- synthetic rule: [s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ] + [ə] + /z/
- surface: /feis-z/ → [feisəz]

allomorphs

- Rule for plural morpheme in English
 - Case 3
 - underlying: /dog-z/
 - rule: [ə] is inserted between root ending [s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ] and morpheme /z/ (**does not apply**)
 - surface: /dog-z/ → [dogz]

allomorphs in roots

- Also **roots** and **stems** may have different **allomorphs**

For example:

In English verbs such as <sleep>, <keep>, <deal>, <feel>, <mean>

- the root has the long vowel [i:] in the present-tense forms
- the root has an **allomorph** with short [ɛ] in the past-tense forms:
<slept>, <kept>, <dealt>, <felt>, <meant>

historical motivation of allomorphy

- it is evident that in some cases the historical reason for the existence of the morphophonological rule is for the allomorphy is to facilitate pronunciation
- for instance, if the English plural were uniformly [-z], words such as cats and faces would be almost unpronounceable (try to pronounce [kætz] and [feisz]!)
- We will go back to phonological allomorphs later on!

important aspects about allomorphs

- phonological allomorphs represent a single morpheme whose form varies slightly depending upon the phonological context created by combining morphemes
- it is common to think of the morpheme as the more abstract underlying representation, rather than the more concrete surface word-form
- the underlying and surface representations may be the same, or they may differ as a result of the application of morphophonological rules.
- *however*, it is important to remember that the underlying representation is a tool used by linguists, not by speakers
- there are examples where it seems *unlikely* that there is a single underlying representation in the minds of speakers
 - we see this in another type of allomorphy: **suppletion**

Suppletion: what is it?

- morphemes may also have allomorphs that are not at all similar in pronunciation
 - These are called **suppletive allomorphs**.
- for instance, the English adjective 'good' has the suppletive stem 'bett-' in the comparative degree ('better')

Q: what verb paradigms below display suppletive allomorphs?

<i>bake</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>be</i>
I bake	I go	I am
we bake	we go	we are
she bakes	she goes	she is
he baked	he went	he was
they baked	they went	they were
have baked	have gone	have been

Suppletion: more examples

Italian

verb 'go'
present indicative

SG 1	vado	'I go'
2	vai	'you go'
3	va	's/he/it goes'
PL 1	andiamo	'we go'
2	andate	'you go'
3	vanno	'they go'

adjective 'good'

positive grade 'buono' (MSG)

comparative grade 'migliore' (M/F SG)

superlative grade 'ottimo' (FSG)

Suppletion: definition

*a kind of allomorphy in which
two allomorphs of the same morpheme
are not similar in pronunciation*

there are two subtypes of suppletion:

1. strong suppletion
2. weak suppletion

Morphology Lab 3: Turkish

- If we looked at the Turkish data, the primary finding was that the morphemes could be arranged in a linear order, which could be expressed as five slots.
- In a long word like *ellerimizde* ‘in our hands’, all five slots get filled.
- In an **agglutinating** language like Turkish, every slot is filled with a morpheme.
- By observing the word *ellerimizde* (and/or the other two words on row 36), can you tell me what the order of the morphemes is?

(answer on the next slide: don't look!)

Morphology Lab 3

- If we looked at the Turkish data, the primary finding was that the morphemes could be arranged in a linear order, which could be expressed as five slots. In a long word like *ellerimizde* ‘in our hands’, all five slots get filled

<i>ellerimizde</i>	<i>Stem</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Possessor Person</i>	<i>Possessor Number</i>	<i>Case</i>
	<i>el</i> hand	<i>-ler</i> plural	<i>-im</i> 1st	<i>-iz</i> plur. poss.	<i>de</i> locative

<i>Stem</i>		<i>Plural</i>	<i>Possessor Person</i>		<i>Possessor Number</i>		<i>Case</i>	
el	‘hand’	-ler	-im	1st	-iz	plural	Ø	nominative
ev	‘house’		-in	2nd			-i	accusative
zil	‘bell’						-e	dative
							-de	locative

I will see you on next Thursday (4/13):
what can we do in the meanwhile?

- review the lecture slides
- do reading from the textbook
- take a look at Assignment 1

STAY SAFE