Tutorial 9
Morphemes and allomorphs

November 14, 2024

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this tutorial, you should be able to:

- Decompose a "word" into its individual morphemes
- Analyze linguistic data and construct a morpheme "dictionary"
- Identify bases and affixes
- Identify allomorphs

Morphemes

In class we learned the *morphemes* are the smallest systematic pairing of both form and meaning or grammatical function. And the right morphemes can combine to construct larger words. We also learned that there are different types of morphemes, such as *root* and *affixes*; affixes themselves can be further classified as prefix, suffix, circumfix, infix, etc. Roots can even combine to form compounds. With these in mind, consider the prompts below and respond accordingly.

1. Determine how many morphemes the following English words/phrases contain. The first one is done for you as an example

English word	Number of morpheme(s)
candy	1
crocodile	
disappear	
semicircle	
band-aid	
anti-racist	
North American English	
internationalizing	

2. Consider the following dataset from Hungarian and respond to the prompts (2a–d) that follow.

ʃiɛtɛk	‘I hurry’	ʃiɛthɛts	‘you (sg.) can hurry’
ʃiɛts	‘you (sg.) hurry’	ʃiɛthɛt	‘he/she can hurry’
ʃiɛt	‘he/she hurries’	ʃiɛthɛtyŋk	‘we can hurry’
ʃiɛtyŋk	‘we hurry’	ʃiɛthɛttyŋk	‘we could hurry’
ʃiɛttɛk	‘you (pl) hurry’	ʃiɛthɛttɛk	‘you (pl) can hurry’
ʃiɛtnɛk	‘they hurry’	ʃiɛthɛttɛtɛk	‘you (pl) could hurry’
ʃiɛthɛtɛk	‘I can hurry’	ʃiɛthɛtnɛk	‘they can hurry’

a. Identify the Hungarian morphemes that correspond with their English glosses below. Make sure to put a dash in the correct place.

hurry _____ 3sg _____ 3pl _____

1sg _____ 1pl _____ can _____

2sg _____ 2pl_____ past tense _____

b. Determine the number of morphemes the Hungarian word ʃiɛthɛttyŋk ‘we could hurry’ contain.

c. Identify the root of ʃiɛthɛttyŋk ‘we could hurry’

d. What bases and affix types can you identify in *siethettünk* [ʃiɛthɛttyŋk] ‘we could hurry’? Fill-in the table below.

base	affix	affix type

Allomorphs

We also learned in class that morphemes can surface with different pronunciations; these different surface forms of a morpheme are called allomorphs. An example in English is the plural morpheme /-s/, which can surface as [-s] in *cats*, [-z] in *dogs*, or [-əz] in *roses*. With this in mind, consider the prompts (3a–f) below and respond accordingly.

3. Consider another dataset from Hungarian

a:llok	'I stand'	a:llhɒtok	'I can stand'
a:lls	'you (sg) stand'	a:llhɒts	'you (sg) can stand'
a:ll	'he/she stands'	a:llhɒt	'he/she can stand'
a:lluŋk	'we stand'	a:llhɒtuŋk	'we can stand'
a:lltok	'you (pl) stand'	a:llhɒttok	'you (pl) can stand'
a:llnɒk	'they stand'	a:llhɒtnɒk	'they can stand'

a. Now fill in your dictionary and then compare it to what you found in 2. Again, make sure to put a dash in the correct place.

stand _____ 3sg _____ 3pl _____

1sg _____ 1pl _____ can _____

2sg _____ 2pl _____

b. What allomorphs does the Hungarian affix 'can' have?

c. What allomorphs does the Hungarian 1sg suffix ('I') have?

d. What allomorphs does the Hungarian 1pl suffix ('we') have?

e. What allomorphs does the Hungarian 2pl affix ('you') have?

f. What allomorphs does the Hungarian 3pl affix ('they') have?

g. What allomorphs does the Hungarian past tense affix have?