04 - Words and morphemes

Nick Riches

Newcastle University

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04 - Words and morphemes

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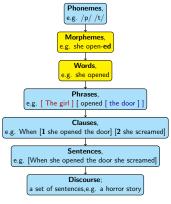
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Language structure can be thought of as hierarchy;



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 $WORD = Minimal\ Standalone\ Symbolic\ Unit\ (MiSS)\ (or\ smallest\ standalone\ unit\ of\ meaning)$

 $\mathsf{MORPHEME} = \mathsf{Smallest} \ \mathsf{unit} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{meaning}$

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Free versus bound

1. Jack is (really) try-ing to run fast-er

Bound morphemes

- 1. Affixes = Prefixes, suffixes
- 2. infix

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Fan-bloody-tastic / abso-blooming-lutely

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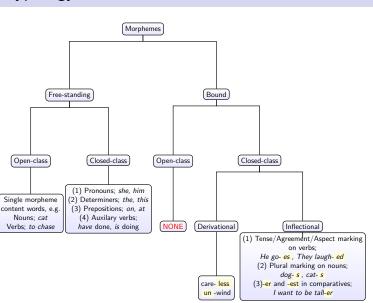
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<u>Inflectional</u> morphemes - minor modifications to a word's meaning

<u>derivational</u> - to <u>derive</u> a new word, either by substantially changing meaning or altering word class.

Morphologically **simple** versus **complex**.

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2. Can you correct the following sentences? What is wrong with them?

- 1. He see the cat eats the food.
- 2. My house is big than yours.

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How does the pronunciation of the past tense vary across the following sentences?

- 1. He dropped the book
- 2. He turned the corner
- 3. She skidded on the mat

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4. What's the problem with the following sentences?

- 1. He is uneducated and untolerant
- 2. While Jack is a sporty person, Anna is more booky
- 3. While Mary embraced motherhood, she wasn't so keen on wifehood
- 4. Jane quickly realised the falseness of the information.

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1. While INFLECTIONAL morphemes are involved in syntactic processes, DERIVATIONAL morphemes are

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 While INFLECTIONAL morphemes are involved in syntactic processes, DERIVATIONAL morphemes are not.

INFLECTIONAL morphemes participate in phonological processes to a greater extent than DERIVATIONAL morphemes Relevance of words and morphemes

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 While INFLECTIONAL morphemes are involved in syntactic processes, DERIVATIONAL morphemes are not.

- INFLECTIONAL morphemes participate in phonological processes to a greater extent than DERIVATIONAL morphemes
- 3. While INFLECTIONAL morphemes are very productive (we can add them to many words), DERIVATIONAL morphemes are less productive.

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- INFLECTIONAL morphemes participate in phonological processes to a greater extent than DERIVATIONAL morphemes
- While INFLECTIONAL morphemes are very productive (we can add them to many words), DERIVATIONAL morphemes are less productive.
- While DERIVATIONAL morphemes can come at the beginning and ends of words (prefixes and suffixes), INFLECTIONAL morphemes can only come at the end (suffix)

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1. Derivational morphemes are longer

- 2. Derivational morphemes have more specific meanings
- 3. Derivational morphemes are more language-specific

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 Inflection (adding inflectional morphemes), e.g. <u>laugh-ed</u>

- 2. Derivation (adding derivational morphemes), e.g. <u>un-do</u>
- 3. Compounding (taking two words and "squishing" them together), e.g. fire man, book seller

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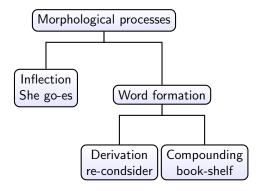
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Figure: Morphological processes



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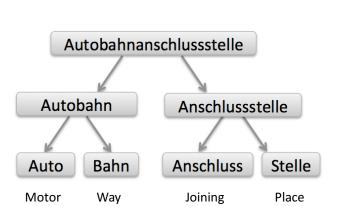
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e.g. skypeable (derivation)

red jacket man/woman (a mysterious handsome stranger you see on the Metro every morning) (compounding)



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root suffix

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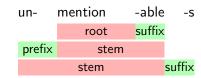
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Morphological abilities severely affected

Tense-marking difficulties in language-impaired children

Derivational morphology may be useful for building vocabulary

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Mean length of utterance (MLU)

Determines an individual's approximate language level

Number of morphemes
Number of utterances

Designed to measure an individual's linguistic productivity

"old macdonald had a farm"

"I've got this one and this one and this one"

Counting morphemes

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nflection vs word-buildin

Morphological abiliites

EXERCISE

minute exercis

23 / 26

We normally only count the morphemes which an individual is **using productively**.

Inflectional versus derivational morphemes?

EXERCISE

04 - Words and morphemes

Nick Riches

Relevance of words and morphemes

hierarchy

The hiera

Definitions

Words versus morphemes

Categorisi

A typology

nflectional vers

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EXERCISE

Syntactic conte

onological variabil oductivity

Word-building
Inflection vs word-building

Morph in LIs

Morphological abili

EXERCISE

ninute exercise

1. CHI: Let me play with it

2. CHI: The dinosaur swimmed across the lake

3. CHI: Then he tooked off hat

4. CHI: And then he put it in the Jam Jar

EXERCISE

04 - Words and morphemes

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Inflectional versus

XERCISE

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Word-building
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Morph in LIs

Morphological abiliite

EXERCISE

inute exercise

- 1. CHI: Let me play with it = 5
- 2. CHI: The dinosaur swimm -ed across the lake = 7
- 3. CHI: Then he took -ed off hat = 6
- 4. CHI: And then he put it in the Jam Jar = 8
- (5 + 7 + 6 + 8) / 4 = MLU (in morphemes) of 6.5

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercise

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Counting morphem

5 minute exercise

Look at these examples. What does the suffix 'mouth' mean? How do you pronounce it in each word?

- 1. Portsmouth
- 2. Plymouth
- 3. Tynemouth
- 4. Grangemouth
- 5. Cockermouth