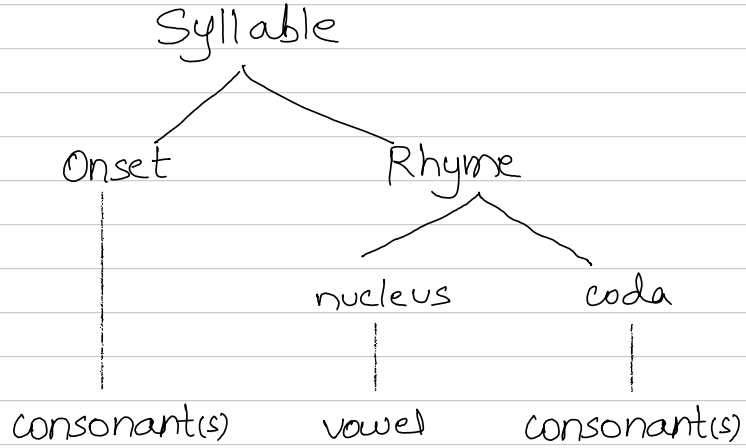
2025 Aug 03. 04

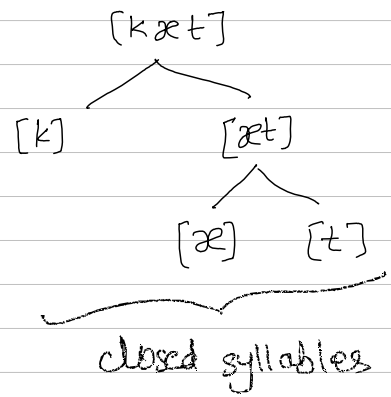
Syllable
- Must contain a vowel (-like sound including diphthongs)

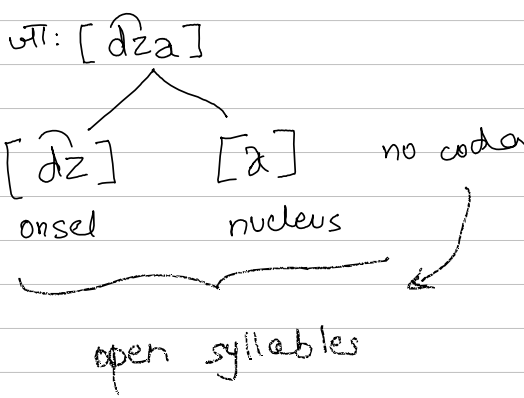
- Most common: CV

Onset - Rhyme

Rhyme: has vowel
↑
nucleus







CV, CCV, CVC... In Nepali?

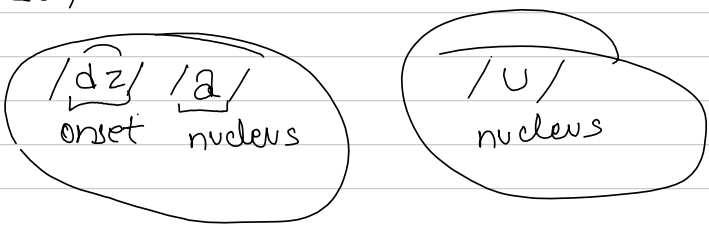
Consonant clusters

- More than one consonant in Onset and Coda
  i.e. CC

  Stop stupids!
  www or world wide web?

Multisyllabic words

জীব: /ʤ͡ʒaʊ/



নই: /tʌrʌ/

/tʌ.rʌ/

/t/ /ʌ/ /r/ /ʌ/
onset nucleus onset nucleus

বাংলা: /gʰʌrko/

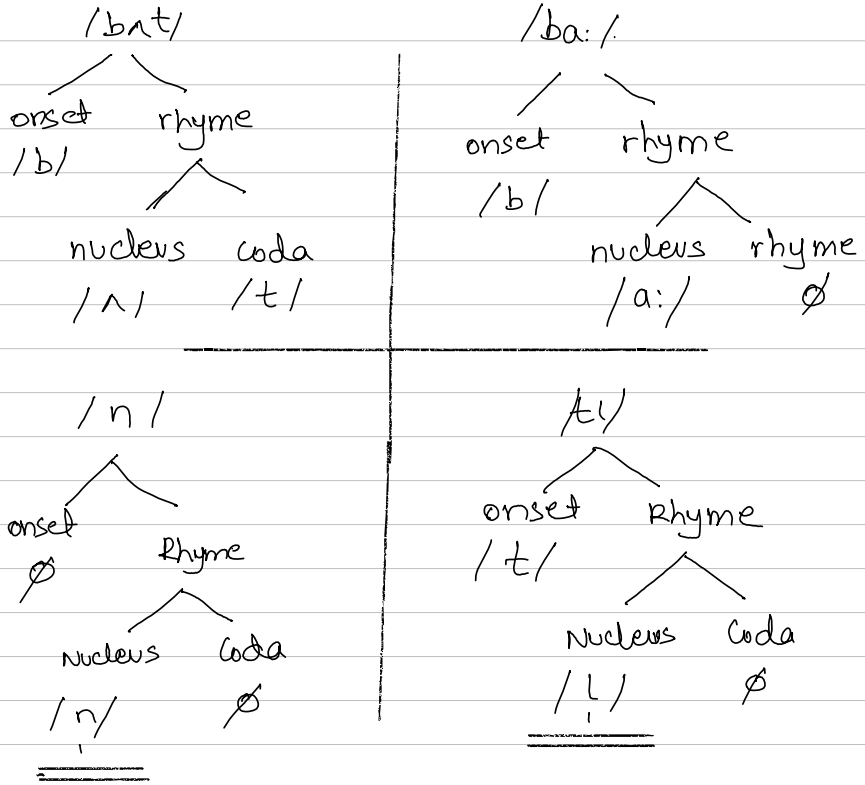
/gʰʌr.ko/

/gʰ/ /ʌ/ /r/ | /k/ /o/
onset nucleus coda | onset nucleus

Not so simple cases

- In Nepali phonology, Vowel is mandatory in a syllable. -not the case in all other languages
- Syllabic consonants can form the Nucleus

/bʌt.n/ /'ba:.tl/
CVC.N̩ CV.CC̩



खाऊ एउटा औलो ज्वाल

/pwal/

/pw/ /a/ /l/

* Semivowels (/w/, /j/)
  - do not form the nucleus of a syllable
  - usually form coda or onset

* Vowels
  - form the nucleus of a syllable, always

* Consonants
  - do not form the nucleus
  - form onset and coda

* syllabic consonants
  - can form the nucleus

* Dipthongs
  - can form the nucleus

Coarticulation

- Large consonant clusters are reduced in casual conversational speech, specially when they occur in the middle of a word.
- In fast occuring spontaneous speech articulators move from one sound to the other without stopping.
- So one sound is made almost at the same time as the other without stopping reducing them. ⇒ Coarticulation.

2025.08.04

Morphology

कुट्नेत्सु /kutnetsu/
What is this in English?

[कुट् नै- त्सु
Beat will - I]

What looks like a single form consists of a number of elements.

* The study of basic forms in language (e.g. words) and the principles that combine them → morphology

* Morpheme: Smallest meaningful units in a language (e.g. -es, -हरु, all prefixes, suffixes)
  · morphemes are the minimal units of form & meaning (linguist)

  - go, go+es
  - bull + dog
  - राम + हरु, बा ल + राम
  - un + believe + able

* Grammatical functions of morphemes
  · They serve some grammatical functions
  · Pluralization: -es, -s, e.g.: dog-s, cat-s
  · Tense (past): -ed, ~~-d~~, e.g.: kill-ed, walk-ed

* Types:
  - free morphemes
  · can stand by themselves independently
  · Most words that we come across: eat, sit

- Bound morphemes
  - These are generally prefixes & suffixes to free morphemes.
  - Cannot stand independently, and do not have complete independent meaning
  - Modify the meaning of free morpheme when attached

* When attached ∈ Bound Morphemes, Free Morphemes form the stem of the word.

Another category is Lexical and Functional Morphemes. Free morphemes are divided into these two types:

* Lexical morphemes: These morphemes carry content, or they are the content words.
  - Ordinary nouns (table, hand)
  - Adjectives (pretty, long)
  - Adverbs (forever, very)
  - Verbs (walk, cry)

  } lexical morphemes

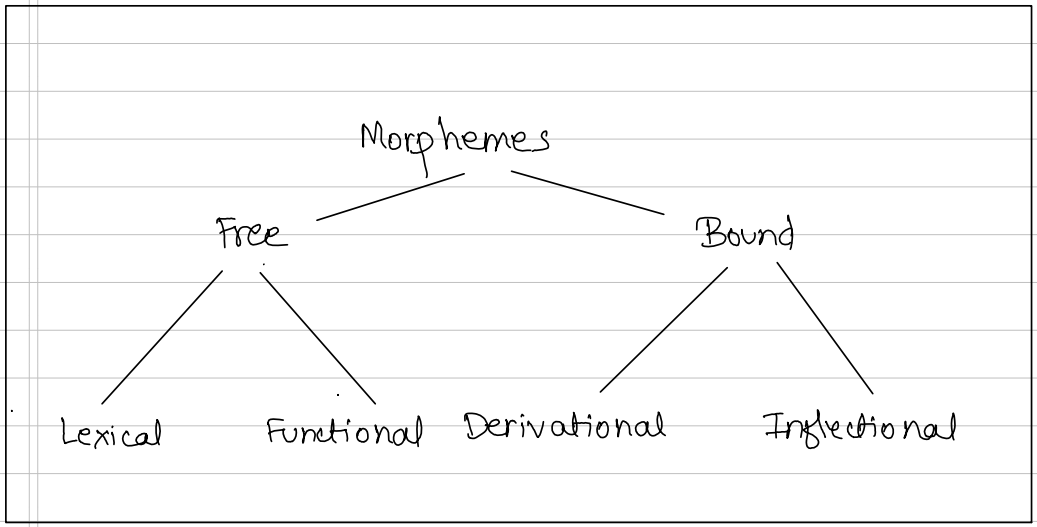
* Functional morphemes: These are fixed set of words.
  - Articles (a, the)
  - Conjunctions (but, nonetheless)
  - Prepositions (up, down)
  - Pronouns (she, they)

  } Functional morphemes

Bound morphemes can be divided into two types: Derivational and Inflectional.

* Derivational morphemes
- When attached to a free morpheme, it makes up a new word or changes the grammatical category of the existing word/stem.
e.g. teach + er = teacher
verb → noun

* Inflectional morpheme
- When attached to a free morpheme it serves a grammatical function of showing whether the word is singual/plural, past tense, comparative/possessive. There are eight inflectional morphemes (all suffixes) in English.
e.g. John's dogs' barked quieter at the thieves.



2025.08.11

thyr + oid
para [thyroid]
hypo [parathyroid]
pseudo [hypoparathyroid]
pseudo [pseudohypoparathyroid]
[pseudopseudohypoparathyroid] ism

Morphemes and Allomorphs

Morpheme: PLURAL (i.e. abstract)
Morph: /s/
Allomorph: [s] [z] [əz]

	allomorphs
• baby, bag, hood, eye	[z]
• book, cat, cap, proof	[s]
• crutch, garage, glass, buzz	[əz]

- Just as phones are actual phonetic realization of phonemes, morphs are the actual forms used to realize morphemes.
- The inflectional morpheme that marks pluralization can be realized in three forms, i.e. it has three allomorphs /-z/, /-s/, and /-əz/.

2025.08.11

Morpheme: Past tense
Morph: /d/
Allomorphs: [-d], [-t], [-id]

Past tense morpheme /d/ is realised as different allomorphs [-d], [-t], and [-id]. In other words, the morpheme underlying the allomorphs [-d], [-t], and [-id] is /d/, which is the past tense morpheme in English.

- Oral alveolar stops: /d/ → [-id]
  e.g. lift → lifted, fold → folded [lɪft] [foʊld]
- Voiceless: /d/ → [-t]
  e.g. bake → baked, jump → jumped, kiss → kissed
  [beɪk] [dʒʌmp] [kɪs]
  [k] [f] [θ] [ɸ] [s] [ʃ]
- All else without anything in common: /d/ → [-d]
  e.g. say → said, grab → grabbed, save → saved
  [seɪd] [gɹæbd] [seɪvd]