

Practice datasets: Morphological analysis

1 Nouns - Anishinaabemowin (AKA Ojibwe, Algonquian)

Ojibwe is a severely endangered Algonquian language spoken in the Great Lakes region and Canada. It's also the 4th most widely spoken Indigenous language in the US and the 2nd most spoken Indigenous language in Canada.

It's an agglutinative language, and most "sentences" are conveyed by one really long verb. But the language can also form very complex nouns, which this dataset explores. In fact, the language-internal name for the language *Anishinaabemowin* shows how complex nouns can be formed!

- (1) anishinaabe- mo- win
 native.person- speak.language- nominalizer
"speaking the native language"

1.1 Nouns: singular and plural

(2) name	"sturgeon"	(8) ʒi:fi:b	"duck"
(3) ogima:	"chief"	(9) e:siban	"raccoon"
(4) o:dʒi:	"fly"	(10) name:g	"sturgeons"
(5) emikwa:n	"spoon"	(11) ogima:g	"chiefs"
(6) wa:ka:ʔigan	"house"	(12) o:dʒi:g	"flies"
(7) amik	"beaver"	(13) manido:g	"spirits"

- What is the Ojibwe plural morpheme?
- List all the roots.

1.2 Diminutive & augmentative nouns

Diminutive morphemes are added to words to add a meaning of smallness, youngness, affection, or endearment to the original meaning of the word. **Augmentative** morphemes do the opposite. They add meanings such as bigness or a more intense sense of the original word.

(14)	e:mikwa:ne:ns	"little spoon"
(15)	wi:giwa:me:ns	"little house"
(16)	ase:ma:ns	"cigarette"
(17)	manido:ns	"bug/flying insect"
(18)	ifkode:ns	"match"
(19)	o:dʒi:ns	"little fly"
(20)	ʒi:fi:be:ns	"little duck"
(21)	gitʃie:siban	"big raccoon"
(22)	gitʒiogima:	"great leader"
(23)	gitʃiemikwa:nens	"big spoon"
(24)	giʃimanido:	"great spirit"

- What is the Ojibwe diminutive morpheme?
- What is the Ojibwe augmentative morpheme?

1.3 Possession

(25)	nigo:ko:fim	"my pig"
(26)	niname:m	"my sturgeon"
(27)	nizi:fɪ:bim	"my duck"
(28)	no:s	"my father"
(29)	no:komis	"my grandmother"
(30)	ni:ka:nis	"my dear friend"
(31)	nidakwe:m	"my wife"
(32)	nidogima:im	"my chief/leader"
(33)	go:komis	"your grandmother"
(34)	go:ka:nis	"your friend"
(35)	go:ko:f	"your pig"
(36)	gidakwe:m	"your wife"
(37)	giwa:ka:ʔigan	"your house"

- What is the Ojibwe morpheme for "my"?
- What is the Ojibwe morpheme for "your"?

1.4 Adjectives?

Other morphemes can be added, or *incorporated* into nouns in Ojibwe, too. Here are some additional data points with adjective-like meanings within the noun.

(38)	gitʃimadʒie:siban	"big, wicked raccoon"
(39)	wa:bamik	"albino beaver"
(40)	makadewamik	"black beaver"
(41)	ga:skamik	"smoked beaver"

- What are the Ojibwe morphemes for "wicked", "albino", "black", and "smoked"?

References

- [1] Newell, H. & Piggott, G. 2014. Interactions at the syntax-phonology interface: Evidence from Ojibwe. *Lingua* 150 332-362.
- [2] The Ojibwe People's Dictionary. (n.d.). <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/search?>