

Assignment 1

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Question 1: Degree of synthesis in text (see Haspelmath & Sims (2010: 4-6))

Please find a short text (try to aim for 200 words) in your native language (please write down the name of the language). Conduct a (tentative) morphological analysis of the text by adding hyphens in between morphemes.

- Is it hard to do the morphological analysis? Which problems do you encounter?
- Calculate the degree of synthesis by dividing the number of morphemes by the number of words. We will compare in class (both cross-linguistically, and within the same languages).

Solutions:

John Fitzgerald Kennedy (May 29, 1917 – November 22, 1963), often refer-ed to by his initial-s JFK and Jack, was an America-n polit-ic-ian who serve-d as the 35th preside-nt of the Unite-d State-s from January 1961 un-til his assassin-at-ion in November 1963. Kennedy serve-d at the heigh-t of the Cold War, and the major-ity of his work as preside-nt concern-ed relat-ion-s with the Soviet Union and Cuba. A Democrat, Kennedy re-present-ed Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Re-present-ative-s and Senate prior to becom-ing preside-nt. Kennedy was born in-to a wealth-y, polit-ic-al family in Brookline, Massachusetts. He graduate-d from Harvard Univers-ity in 1940, be-fore join-ing the U.S. Nav-al Re-serve the follow-ing year. During World War II, he command-ed a series (2 morpheme- 1 (series) + 1 zero-morpheme) of PT boat-s in the Pacific theater and earn-ed the Navy and Marine Corp-s Medal for his serv-ice. After a brief stint in journ-al-ism, Kennedy re-present-ed a work-ing-class Boston 88 district in the U.S. House of Re-present-ative-s from 1947 to 1953. He was sub-sequent-ly elect-ed to the U.S. Senate and serv-ed as the junior Senat-or from Massachusetts from 1953 to 1960. While in the Senate, Kennedy publish-ed his book, Profile-s in Courage, which won a Pulitzer Prize. In the 1960 preside-nt-ial elect-ion, he narrow-ly defeat-ed Re-public-an opponent Richard Nixon, who was the incu-m-bent vice preside-nt. Kennedy's administrat-ion include-d high tension-s with commun-ist state-s in the Cold War. As a result, he in-crease-d the number of America-n military adviser-s in South Vietnam.

- Is it hard to do the morphological analysis? Which problems do you encounter?

Soln: Yes, I faced some problems while performing the morphological analysis. Here are some of them

- Is it correct to perform morphological analysis of proper noun? E.g. “United State” or words like “mother”.

- Would there still be two morphemes in a past participle verb where the word has changed. E.g. “Went”
- b. Calculate the degree of synthesis by dividing the number of morphemes by the number of words. We will compare in class (both cross-linguistically, and within the same languages).

Soln: Number of morphemes = 139

Number of words = 238

Therefore, the degree of synthesis = $\frac{139}{238} = 0.584$

Group Assignment

Members-Sangeet Sagar, Sijie Wu, Sharmila Upadhyaya

Question 2: Michoacán Nahuatl morphology

Perform a morphological analysis on these sentences of Michoacán Nahuatl (ncl). For each morpheme, say whether it is a root, prefix, or suffix, and identify its function. (This exercise is Problem 179 in Merrifield et al. 1987. Used with permission.) (source: Lyovin, Anatole V., Brett Kessler, and William R. Leben. 2017. An Introduction to the Languages of the World. Oxford: Oxford University Press.)

1. ni-kot̪i-k I slept.

ni- (verb prefix): I

kot̪i (verb root): sleep

-k (verb suffix): (past tense)

2. kot̪i-k i-ʃolul His child slept.

kot̪i (verb root): sleep

-k (verb suffix): (past tense)

i- (noun prefix): his

ʃolul (noun root): child

3. ti-juli You live.

ti- (verb prefix): you (subject)

juli (verb root): live

4. juli mo-siwal Your wife lives.

juli (verb root): live

mo- (noun prefix): your

siwal (noun root): wife

5. net̃-lamat̃iltia He informs me.

net̃- (verb prefix): me

lamat̃iltia (verb root): inform (default subject: he)

NOTE: Sentence functions on default object. “me” is missing.

6. ki-lamat̃ilti-k no-siwal He informed my wife.

ki- (verb prefix): he

lamat̃ilti(a) (verb root): inform

-k (verb suffix): (past tense)

no- (noun prefix): my

siwal (noun root): wife

7. ti-wehkawa You endure.

ti- (verb prefix): you (subject)

wehkawa (verb root): endure=hold out

8. wehkawa no-t̃ikawa-lisli My strength holds out.

wehkawa (verb root): endure=hold out

no- (noun prefix): my

t̃i(i)kawa (verb root): strengthen

-lisli (verb suffix): (nominalization)

9. ni-lami-k I finished.

ni- (verb prefix): I

lami (verb root): finish=end=give out

-k (verb suffix): (past tense)

10. lami mo-lamat̃ilti-lisli Your news ends.

lami (verb root): finish=end=give out

mo- (noun prefix): your

lamat̃ilti(a) (verb root): inform

-lisli (verb suffix): (nominalization)

NOTE: “inform” here represents the verb form of “news”

11. lami-k i-t̃ikawa-lisli His strength gave out.

lami (verb root): finish=end=give out

-k (verb suffix): (past tense)
i- (noun prefix): his
tʃikawa (verb root): strengthen
-lisli (verb suffix): (nominalization)

12. mih-tʃikawa-k He strengthened you.

mih- (verb prefix): you (object)
tʃikawa (verb root): strengthen
-k (verb suffix): (past tense)
NOTE: If a <tʃ> is followed by another <tʃ>, it becomes a <h>.

13. ki-tʃikawa He strengthens him.

ki- (verb prefix): he
tʃikawa (verb root): strengthen (default object: him)

14. ki-tʃikawa no-ʃolul He strengthens my child.

ki- (verb prefix): he
tʃikawa (verb root): strengthen
no- (noun prefix): my
ʃolul (noun root): child

15. ki-polua He loses it.

ki- (verb prefix): he
polua (verb root): lose (default object: it)

16. ki-polua kotʃi-lisli He loses sleep.

ki- (verb prefix): he
polua (verb root): lose
kotʃi (verb root): sleep
-lisli (verb suffix): (nominalization)

17. ki-poluk i-tʃikawa-lisli He lost his strength.

ki- (verb prefix): he
polu(a) (verb root): lose
-k (verb suffix): (past tense)
i- (noun prefix): his
tʃikawa (verb root): strengthen
-lisli (verb suffix): (nominalization)

18. netʃ-wililtia He empowers me.

netʃ- (verb prefix): me
wililtia (verb root): empower (default subject: he)

19. mitʃ-wililti-k He empowered you.

mitʃ- (verb prefix): you (object)
wililti(a) (verb root): empower (default subject: he)
-k (verb suffix): (past tense)

20. ki-wililtia mo-ʃolul He empowers your child.

ki- (verb prefix): he
wililtia (verb root): empower
mo- (noun prefix): your
ʃolul (noun root): child

21. netʃ-neki He loves me.

netʃ- (verb prefix): me
neki (verb root): love=want (default subject: he)

22. ki-neki juli-lisli He wants life. (noun)

ki- (verb prefix): he
neki (verb root): love=want
juli (verb root): live
-lisli (verb prefix): (nominalization)

23. ki-neki i-siwal He loves his wife.

ki- (verb prefix): he
neki (verb root): love=want
i- (noun prefix): his
siwal (noun root): wife

24. ki-neki-k no-wililti-lisli He wanted my power.

ki- (verb prefix): he
neki (verb root): love=want
-k (verb suffix): (past tense)
no- (noun prefix): my
wililti(a) (verb root): empower
-lisli (verb suffix): (nominalization)