

# Linguistics - Lesson 7 - 2022/11/17

Midterm - December 15th

Morphology - Many different approaches to define words

Morpheme - minimal linguistic unit which carries function

Mental lexicon

Mental dictionary - what it means to know a word

- Form - How it is pronounced, how it sounds
- Meaning(s) -

Knowing a word - making a connection between form and meaning. Usually arbitrary

- lexical category - part of speech

Lexical categories:

- Content words/Open class items:  
(proper) nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs
- Function words/closed class items  
prepositions, determiners, pronouns, quantifiers, modal/auxiliary verbs, conjunctions/connectors, interrogatives, discourse markers

Words belonging to different lexical categories have different morphological "stuff" we can do to them. Verbs have tense.

Open class items stand on their own. They have independent meaning

Function words connect different content words, or refer to them. They have no independent meaning.

Open class items are much more *productive*, Most new words are open class, while the list of closed class items rarely accepts new members(words).

Content words have independent semantic content and absorb members much more easily.

Function words have no independent semantic content and do not absorb new members easily.

paint er  
 stem affix

painters

painter s  
 stem suffix

paint er s  
 stem suffix suffix  
 stem

paint er s  
 root suffix suffix  
 stem

A root cannot be broken into further peices.

effectively

effect ive ly  
 root suffix suffix  
 stem

un happiness  
 prefix root suffix

In principle, Both "unhappi" or "happiness" can be considered the stem.

Option 1: un happiness  
 prefix root suffix  
 stem

Option 2: un happiness  
 prefix root suffix  
 stem

## Word formation rules

- Input: Sing (verb)  
 Rule: Add suffix -s  
 Output: Sings (Verb - In 3rd person singular)
- Input: Slow (adjective)  
 Rule: Add suffix -er  
 Output: Slower (Adjective in "more")

So for the above case (unhappiness):

- Input: Adjective  
Rule: Add -ness  
Output: (Abstract) noun
- Input: Adjective  
Rule: Add un-  
Output: Adjective (Opposite/negated meaning)

So, given the above rules - The "correct" deconstruction for our purposes would be option 1, because "happiness" is not an adjective to be used as input to the second rule:

un happiness  
 prefix root suffix  
 stem

When deconstructing words to their given parts, we have to account for how a speaker is assumed to construct the word in their own mind.

disagreements

dis agreements  
 prefix root suffix

dis agreement s  
 prefix root suffix suffix

- Input: Verb  
Rule: add -ment  
Output: Noun
- Input: Noun  
Rule: add -s  
Output: Plural Noun
- Input: Verb  
Rule: add dis-  
Output: Verb (Negated meaning)

So, according to the above rules, this would be the deconstruction:

dis agreement s  
 prefix root suffix suffix  
 stem  
 stem

root: agree

stem 1: disagree

stem 2: disagreement

word: disagreements

suffixes: -ment, -s

prefix: dis-

unlockable

un lockable  
prefix root suffix

un lockable  
prefix root suffix

root: lock

Is the stem lockable or unlock?

Possible rules:

- Input: Verb  
Rule: Add -able  
Output: Adjective (denotes ability)
- Input: Adjective  
Rule: Add un-  
Output: Adjective (Opposite/negated meaning)
- Input: Verb  
Rule: Add un-  
Output: Verb (Opposite/negated meaning, to do the reverse)

Multiple different deconstructions work here

un lockable - Cannot be locked  
prefix root suffix  
stem

un lockable - Can be unlocked  
prefix root suffix  
stem

Different deconstructions of the word can give a completely different meaning.

nonrefundable

non re fundable  
prefix prefix root suffix  
stem  
stem

overgeneralization

overgeneral iz ation  
prefix root suffix suffix  
stem  
stem

irreplaceability

ir re placeabil ity  
prefix prefix root suffix suffix  
stem  
stem  
stem