

Introduction to Linguistics

Assignment 5

A Examine the following words:

inaccurately, bravery, painters, deactivating

1. Divide the following English words into morphemes. Indicate the stem(s), root and suffixes/prefixes (there could be more than one option).
2. Indicate for each affix whether it is inflectional or derivational.

Explain your decision using the relevant criteria (there could be more than one option).

- inaccurately

The word 'inaccurately' is broken down into its constituent morphemes: 'in', 'accurate', and 'ly'. Brackets are used to group them: 'in' is bracketed as a prefix, 'accurate' as the root, and 'ly' as a suffix. A larger bracket underneath 'in' and 'accurate' groups them together as the stem.

- root: accurate
- prefix: in-

This is a derivational affix

- Change of meaning (Adjective → Adjective of opposite meaning)
- Restricted productivity

thirsty → *inthirsty

- suffix: -ly

This is a derivational affix

- Change of lexical category (Adjective → Adverb)
- Change of meaning (inaccurate → To do with inaccuracy)
- Restricted productivity

big → *bigly

- stem: inaccurate

- bravery

The word 'bravery' is broken down into its constituent morphemes: 'brave' and '-ry'. Brackets are used to group them: 'brave' is bracketed as the root, and '-ry' as the suffix.

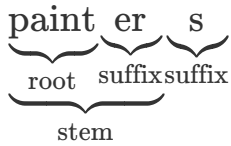
- root: brave
- suffix: -ry

This is a derivational affix

- Change of lexical category (Adjective → Noun)
- Low productivity

strong → *strongery

- painters



- root: paint
- suffix: -er

This affix is derivational

- Change of meaning

Person who paints (job)

- Limited transparency

When -er is on some nouns, it can mean "place of-", or "machine that does -"

printer - Place of printing

computer - Device that computes (Although this was originally a job)

- Limited productivity

keyboard → *keyboarder

- suffix: -s

This affix is inflectional

- Same lexical category (Noun)

- Change of grammatical category

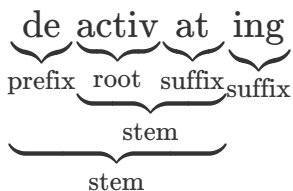
number: Noun → Plural Noun

- Highly productive

- High transparency - When -s is added to a noun, it makes it plural

- stem: painter

- deactivating



- root: active

I considered splitting this into "act" and "ive", but I really don't think about this word that way.

- prefix: de-

This affix is derivational

- Change of meaning (Verb → Opposite Verb)

- Limited productivity

kill → *dekill

- suffix: -at

This affix is derivational

- Change of lexical category (Adjective → Verb)

- Change of meaning (Active → To make Active)

- Limited productivity

small → *smallate

- suffix: -ing

This affix can be inflectional or derivational

inflectional:

- Change of grammatical category
tense: Present progressive
- Transparent meaning
- Highly productive

derivational:

- Change of lexical category (Verb → Noun (gerund form))
- stem 1: activate
- stem 1: deactivate

B Examine the following sets of data (relate to the process in each column separately in case it is relevant). For each set of data:

1. provide the name of the morphological process that takes place and explain it shortly
2. Is this process derivational or inflectional? Explain.

Tagalog

(there are two different processes, relate the second and third columns separately)

basa	'read'	bumasa	'Read!'	babasa	'will read'
tawag	'call'	tumawag	'Call!'	tatawag	'will call'

Rendille (Kenya)

ínám	'boy'	inám	'girl'
áram	'husband'	arám	'wife'

- For the **Tagalog** data:

In the first column, we have an **infix affix**. After the first consonant we add -um-. I would consider this inflectional (Command verb, Same lexical category).

In the second column we have an example of **reduplication** where the first syllable is duplicated in the word. This too I would consider inflectional (Future tense, Same lexical category)

- For the **Rendille** data, we have an example of **stress shift**. The stress in the masculine forms are on the first vowel, and in the feminine forms on the second vowel. This too I would consider *inflectional* as it changes the gender of the Noun.