Linguistics - Lesson 7 - 2022/11/17

Midterm - December 15th

Morphology - Many different approached 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/auxilary verbs, conjunctions/connectors, interogatives, 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.





painters

$$\underbrace{\text{painter s}}_{\text{stem suffix}}$$

A root cannot be broken into further peices.

effectively

$$\underbrace{\text{effect ive}}_{\text{root suffix}}\underbrace{\text{ly}}_{\text{suffix}}$$

$$\underbrace{\mathrm{un}}_{\mathrm{prefix}} \underbrace{\mathrm{happiness}}_{\mathrm{root}} \underbrace{\mathrm{suffix}}$$

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

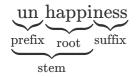
Rule: Add -ness

Output: (Abstract) noun

Input: Adjective
 Rule: Add un-

Output: Adjective (Opposite/negated meaning)

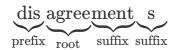
So, given the above rules - The "correct" deconstruction for our purposes woud be option 1, because "happiness" is not an adjective to be used as input to the second rule:



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





• Input: Verb

Rule: add -ment Output: Noun

• Input: Noun

Rule: add -s

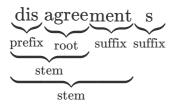
Output: Plural Noun

• Input: Verb

Rule: add dis-

Output: Verb (Negated meaning)

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



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-

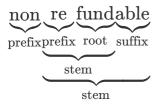
Output: Verb (Opposite/negated meaning, to do the reverse)

Multiple different deconstructions work here

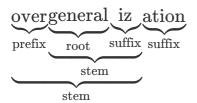
$$\underbrace{un\ lockable}_{prefix}\underbrace{root\ suffix}_{stem} \text{- Cannot be locked}$$

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

nonrefundable



over generalization



irreplaceability

