

## Chapter 9, Problem 1: Inflectional Lexical Rules With No Morphological Effect

- A. While the rules do not change the phonological form, they do have important an important syntactic effect: namely, the licensing of *words* with the necessary features.

We can't use *lexemes* directly in tree structures, as only lexical sequences whose second element is of type *word* can be used to construct word structures. Since all well-formed trees must have word structures at the bottom, even lexeme entries which don't exhibit any morphological alternations must be converted to words via lexical rules.

Moreover, each of the lexical rules in question adds some crucial syntactic information (number, in the case of the noun rule, and FORM values, in the case of the verb rules).

- B. Quite a few nouns lack singular forms, for example *trousers*, *scissors*, and *kudos*; the traditional name for such words is *pluralia tantum*. Many of the others are homophonous with nouns that do have singulars: *pants*, *glasses*, *spectacles*, etc.

Verbs lacking non-3rd-singular forms are extremely rare. We know of two: *behoove*, which requires *it* as its subject and hence has only the 3rd-singular form in the present tense; and *beware*, which occurs only in [FORM base] uses.

The modals themselves are exceptions to the Base Form LR, as they can't appear after other modals (in most varieties of English):

(i)\*You would should stop that.

(ii)\*You will must leave then.

We can account for these cases by saying that *should* and *must* lack a base form.