

1. Topic-Morphology

2. Sub-topics- Kinds of morphology

3. Outcomes:

- a. Understanding of morphology as a linguistically practical concept
- b. Understanding an evolution of language

4. Terminology

- Morphology – study of internal structure of words
- Morpheme – the smallest linguistic unit which has a meaning or grammatical function. Words are composed of morphemes (one or more). There are some complications with this simple definition. sing·er·s, home·work, moon·light, un·kind·ly, talk·s, ten·th, flipp·ed, de·nation·al·iz·ation The order of morphemes matters: talk·ed ≠ *ed·talk, re·write ≠ *write·re
- Morph. The term morpheme is used both to refer to an abstract entity and its concrete realization(s) in speech or writing. When it is needed to maintain the signified and signifier distinction, the term morph is used to refer to the concrete entity, while the term morpheme is reserved for the abstract entity only.
- Allomorphs – morphemes having the same function but different form. Unlike the synonyms they usually cannot be replaced one by the other. (1) a. indefinite article: an orange – a building b. plural morpheme: cat·s [s] – dog·s [z] – judg·es [əz] (2) a. matk·a ‘mothernom’ – matek ‘mothersgen’ – matc·e ‘motherdat’ – matč·in ‘mother’s’

Classification Of Morphemes

Bound and Free

- Bound – cannot appear as a word by itself. -s (dog·s), -ly (quick·ly), -ed (walk·ed); -te (d’el’a·te ‘do2pl’), -y (žen·y ‘women’), vy- (vy·j’it ‘walk out’)
- Free – can appear as a word by itself; often can combine with other morphemes too. house (house·s), walk (walk·ed), of, the, or hrad ‘castle’, žen ‘womanroot = gen.pl.’, p’res ‘over’, nebo ‘or’ Past tense morpheme is a bound morpheme in English (-ed) but a free morpheme in Mandarin Chinese (le) (3) a. Ta He chi eat le past fan. meal. ‘He ate the meal.’ b. Ta He chi eat fan meal le. past. ‘He ate the meal.’

Root and Affix

root – nucleus of the word that affixes attach too. In English, most of the roots are free. In some languages that is less common (Lithuanian: Billas Clintonas). Compounds contain more than one root: home·work; železo·beton ‘reinforced concrete’

• affix – a morpheme that is not a root; it is always bound –

suffix: talk·ing, quick·ly; mal·'y 'smallmasc.sg.nom', kup·ova·t 'buyimperf' –

prefix: un·happy, pre·existing; do·psat 'finish writing', nej·m'en'ě 'least' –

infix: common in Austronesian and Austroasiatic lgs (Tagalog, Khmer) Tagalog: basa 'read' b·um·asa 'readpast' – surat 'write' – s·um·ulat 'wrote' very rare in English: abso·bloody·lutely, –

circumfix: morpheme having two parts that are placed around a stem Dutch collectives: berg 'mountain' ge·berg·te 'mountains' *geberg, *bergte vogel 'bird' ge·vogel·te 'poultry' *gevogel, *vogelte Czech po+ . . . +': Vltava → Po·vltav·'1 'Vltava river area' (*povltava, *vltav'1); Pobalt'1, pohoř'1, pohranič'1, potrub'1, pobřež'1, poles'1

Suffixes more common than prefixes which are more common than infixes/circumfixes

Content × Functional

• Content morphemes – carry some semantic content car, -able, un-

• Functional morphemes – provide grammatical information the, and, -s (plural), -s (3rd sg) jsem 'past aux 1sg', -a 'gen.sg' (m'ěst·a 'towngen')

Derivation vs. Inflection

• inflection – creating various forms of the same word lexeme – an abstract entity; the set of all forms related by inflection (but not derivation). table – table·s uč·'1·m – uč·'1·s – uč·'1 – uč·'1·me lemma: A form from a lexeme chosen by convention (e.g., nom.sg. for nouns, infinitive for verbs) to represent that set. Also called the canonical/base/dictionary/citation form. E.g., break, breaks, broke, broken, breaking have the same lemma break ending – inflectional suffix

• derivation – creating new words slow – slow·ly – slow·ness uč·i·t – uč·i·tel – uč·i·tel·ka – uč·i·tel·sk'y – uč·i·tel·ova·t – vy·uč·ova·t

Inflection vs. Derivation:

• Derivation tends to affect the meaning of the word, while inflection tends to affect only its syntactic function.

• Derivation tends to be more irregular – there are more gaps, the meaning is more idiosyncratic and less compositional.

• However, the boundary between derivation and inflection is often fuzzy and unclear.

Morphological processes

- Concatenation (adding continuous affixes) – the most common process Often phonological changes on morpheme boundaries.

- Reduplication – part of the word or the entire word is doubled: – Tagalog: basa ‘read’ – ba·basa ‘will read’; sulat ‘write’ – su·sulat ‘will write’ –

Afrikaans: amper ‘nearly’ – amper·amper ‘very nearly’; dik ‘thick’ – dik·dik ‘very thick’ –

Indonesian: oraN ‘man’ – oraN·oraN ‘all sorts of men’ (Cf. orangutan) –

Samoan: alofa ‘loveSg’ a·lo·lofa ‘loveP l’ galue ‘workSg’ ga·lu·lue ‘workP l’ la:poPa ‘to be largeSg’ la:·po·poPa ‘to be largeP l’ tamope ‘runSg’ ta·mo·mope ‘runP l’ –

English: humpty-dumpty – American English (borrowed from Yiddish): baby-schmaby, pizza-schmizza

- Morpheme internal changes (apophony, ablaut) – the word changes internally – English: sing – sang – sung, man – men, goose – geese (not productive anymore)

References

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