Introduction to English Linguistics

3: Morphology and Word Formation
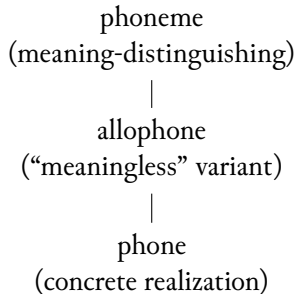
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SEIT 1737

Part I: Morphology
Part II: Word Formation

Systems and Nomenclature

Phonology

phoneme
(meaning-distinguishing)
|
allophone
("meaningless" variant)
|
phone
(concrete realization)

Systems and Nomenclature

Phonology

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Morphology

morpheme
(meaning-carrying)

|

allomorph
("meaningless" variant)

|
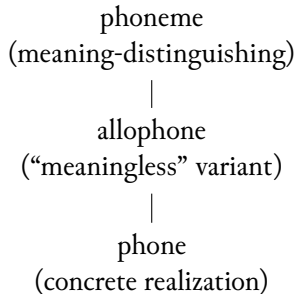
morph
(concrete form)
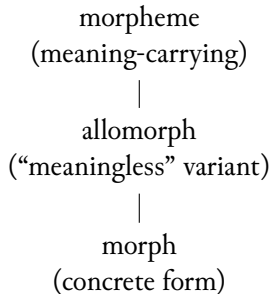
Allomorphs of {PLURAL} (for Nouns)

Example	Phonemic Form
birds	/z/
cats	/s/
houses	/ɪz/
oxen	/ən/
children	"vowel change"* + /rən/
geese	fronting of the stem vowel
sheep	∅

*Descriptions are synchronic:
the vowel in *children* predates that in *child*.

Allomorphs of {ADVERBIAL DERIVATION} (for Adjectives)

Example	Phonemic Form
rapidly	/lɪ/
fast	∅

Free Morphemes

Can form a word by themselves

Lexical Morphemes

- ▶ Refer to something outside of language
- ▶ **Open class**: new words may easily be coined
- ▶ Nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs

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Functional Morphemes

- ▶ **Closed class**: words are rarely added
- ▶ Prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions

Bound Morphemes

Inflectional Morphemes

- ► Carry grammatical information
- ► Do not refer to anything outside of language
- ► Mostly do not change a word's part of speech
- ► **Closed class,** eight members:
    - ► plural *-s*; possessive *-'s*; third person singular *-s*; aspectual *-ing*; tense markers *-ed* (past) and *-ed/-en* ("perfect"); comparative *-er*; superlative *-est*; and allomorphs of these where applicable
    (And, some say, *-self*.)

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Derivational Morphemes
- ► Typically change a word's meaning
- ► May change its part of speech
- ► Carry no grammatical information
- ► **Closed class,** but substantial
  - ► *un-*, *-ness*, *dis-*, *de-*, *-ation*, *-ling*, etc.

Lexical Morphemes
- ► Refer to something outside of language
- ► **Open class**
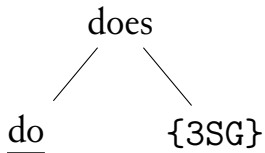 - ► *palaeo-*, *hydro-*, *thermo-*, *-graphy*

Morpheme Typology

Morpheme

Free

Bound

Lexical
tree

Functional
of

Derivational
-ness

Inflectional
-ed
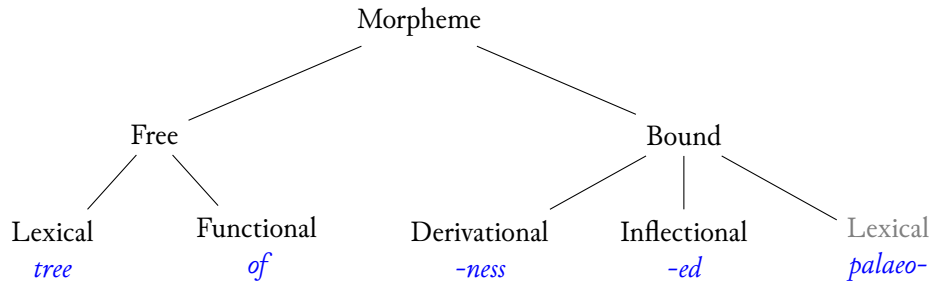
Lexical
palaeo-

Morpheme Typology in Mair

Type	Lexical	Grammatical	Derivational
Free	fish	of	N/A
Bound	-graphy	-ness	-ing

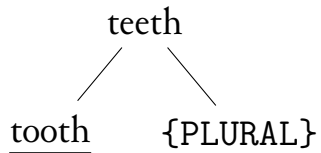# Language Types

▶ Isolating: a low morpheme-per-word ratio, no inflectional morphemes (Vietnamese, Yoruba)

▶ Analytic: a low morpheme-per-word ratio (Mandarin, Modern English)

▶ Synthetic: a high morpheme-per-word ratio
  ▶ Fusional: overlays units of meaning (Latin, German, Old English)
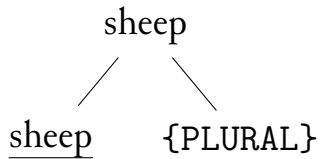 ▶ Agglutinative: serializes units of meaning (Finnish, Turkish)

Morphological Structure: Inflectional Morphemes

```
              does
             /    \
           do      {3SG}
```

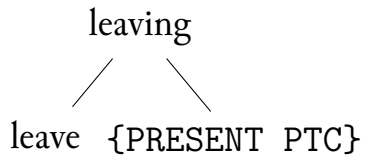# Morphological Structure: Inflectional Morphemes

```
              teeth
             /      \
         tooth      {PLURAL}
```

Morphological Structure: Inflectional Morphemes

```
                sheep
                /    \
          sheep      {PLURAL}
```

Morphological Structure: Inflectional Morphemes

leaving
leave   {PRESENT PTC}

Morphological Structure: Inflectional Morphemes

shaven
shave   {PAST PTC}

Morphological Structure: Mixed Morphemes

```
                        understood
                       /          \
              understand          {PAST/PTC}
             /          \
         under          stand
```

Morphological Structure: Mixed Morphemes

```
              disavows
              /      \
        disavow      {3SG}
        /     \
     dis      avow
```

Morphological Structure: Derivational Morphemes
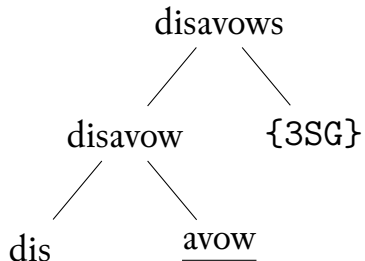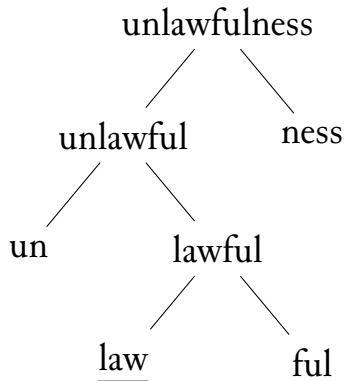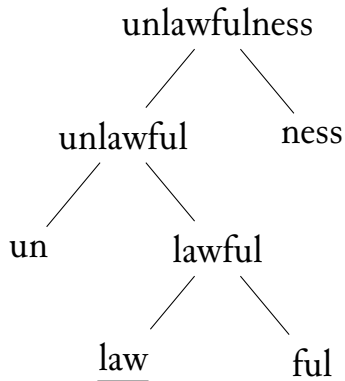
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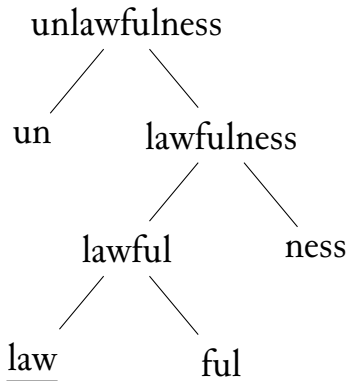
Part I: Morphology
Part II: Word Formation

Coinages Without Linguistic Precedent

Ex nihilo

- ► A new coinage with no formal precedent
- ► e.g. *quark* (Brit. /kwɑːk/, US /kwɔrk/): subatomic particle that only occurs in pairs and triplets, and has a fractional electrical charge

Onomatopoeia

Formation based on a sound associated with the concept being named: *shriek*, *boom*, *cuckoo*.

Compounding

The combination of preexisting words: *telephone booth*, *no-hitter*

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Endocentric
Head + modifier(s) (in any order): *field trip*, *secretary general*

Exocentric
Headless/hyponym: *redhead*, *must-have*

Copulative
Multihead (summed): *bittersweet*, *stir-fry* (verb)

Appositional
Multihead (complementary/overlay): *maidservant*

Conversion (1/3)

A new lexeme is formed out of an existing word, typically by turning it into a different part of speech.

Zero derivation and stress-shift conversion

- ▶ *soldier* noun > *soldier* verb
- ▶ *con'vert* verb > *'convert* noun

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Derivation

Conversion through the addition of an affix.

- ▶ *green* adjective > *greenness* noun
- ▶ *green* adjective > *ungreen* adjective

-ness and *un-* among the most **productive** derivational morphemes; contrast *be-*.

Back conversion

Removal of a perceived affix (actual or otherwise).

▶ *editor* noun > *edit* verb

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Clipping

Dropping the beginning or end of a word.

▶ *ad*
▶ *phone*
▶ *auto*

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Hypocorism

Clipping in which the omitted final element is replaced with a dimunitive suffix

- ▶ *Andy*
- ▶ *telly*

Conversion (3/3)

Specified as e.g.

- deverbal noun (*'convert*)
- deverbal verb (*set*)
- denominal verb (*table*)
- deadjectival verb (*thicken*)

Borrowing

Straightforward loan

- English *productive* < French *productif*
- English *derive* < French *dériver*

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Loan translation

Translates a compound, or multi-morpheme word, element for element.

- ▶ *Foreword*, *Vorwort* < *praefatio*
- ▶ *Thought experiment* < *Gedankenexperiment*
- ▶ *Gehirnwäsche* < *brainwash*

Blending (Portmanteau Words)

Combining parts of two words into a single new word

- ▶ *motel < motor hotel*
- ▶ *smog < smoke, fog*
- ▶ *hangry < hungry, angry*
- ▶ *sexting < sex, texting*

Eponymy and Trade Names

Eponymy
A common word derived from a proper name

- watt
- pasteurize
- mentor
- scrooge

Trade Name
A product name originating with a manufacturer, whether or not by eponymy

- aspirin
- kleenex
- google

Abbreviations

Initialism

A word formed from the initials of a phrase or longer word and pronounced by spelling it out

- ▶ BBC
- ▶ TV

Acronym

A word formed from the initials (and other letters) of a phrase and pronounced as a word

- ▶ NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
- ▶ nimby (not in my backyard)
- ▶ radar (RAdio Detection And Ranging)
- ▶ laser (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation)

Word Formation Exercise

Create one or more new or existing word forms using the morphemes listed on the Bound
Morphemes information sheet (Common Derivational Morphemes in PDE) in combination
with lexical morphemes supplied by yourself. Morphologically analyze the new forms as on
the Morphology worksheet and draw a tree diagram for each form.

Example (1/2)

- *misderived*
    - *mis-*: derivational morpheme, wrongfulness prefix
    - *derive*: lexical morpheme, verb
    - *-d*: inflectional morpheme, past tense/participle

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Example (2/2)

```
                    misderived
                   /          \
            misderive      {PAST/PTC}
            /        \
          mis       derive
```