

Introduction to English Linguistics

3: Morphology and Word Formation

Part I: Morphology

Part II: Word Formation

Systems and Nomenclature

Phonology

phoneme
(meaning-distinguishing)

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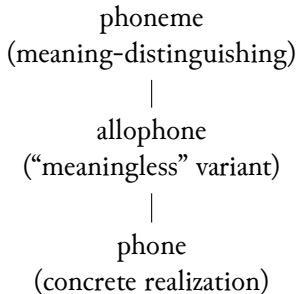
allophone
("meaningless" variant)

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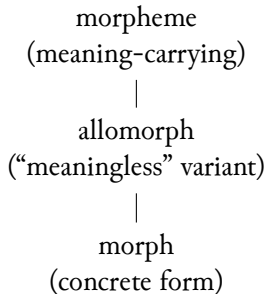
phone
(concrete realization)

Systems and Nomenclature

Phonology



Morphology



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

- ▶ **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

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.

Bound Morphemes

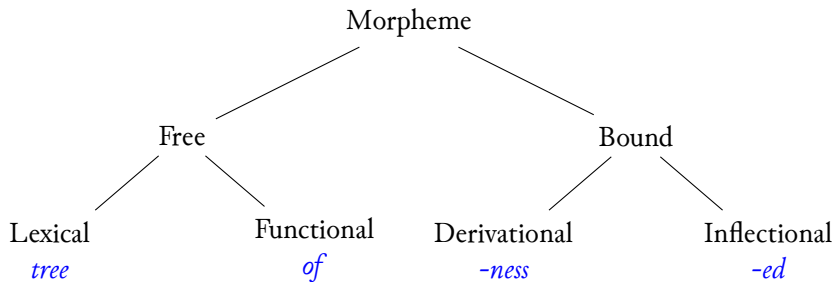
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Inflectional Morphemes

- ▶ 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*.)

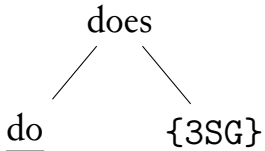
Morpheme Typology



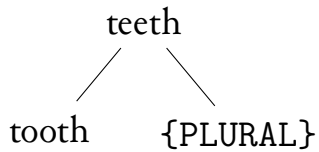
Language Types

- ▶ Isolating: a low morpheme-per-word ratio, no inflectional morphemes
- ▶ Analytic: a low morpheme-per-word ratio (Mandarin, MnE)
- ▶ Synthetic: a high morpheme-per-word ratio
 - ▶ Fusional: overlays units of meaning (Latin, German, OE)
 - ▶ Agglutinative: serializes units of meaning (Finnish, Turkish)

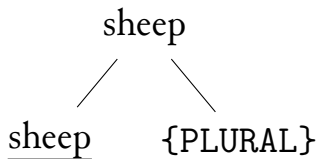
Morphological Structure: Inflectional Morphemes



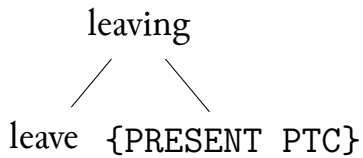
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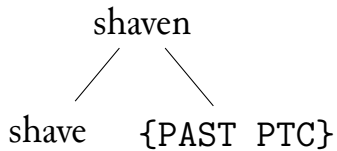
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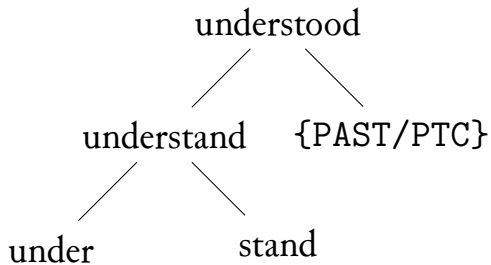
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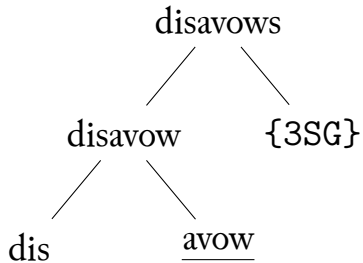
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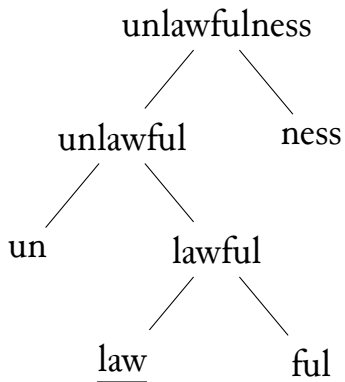
Morphological Structure: Mixed Morphemes



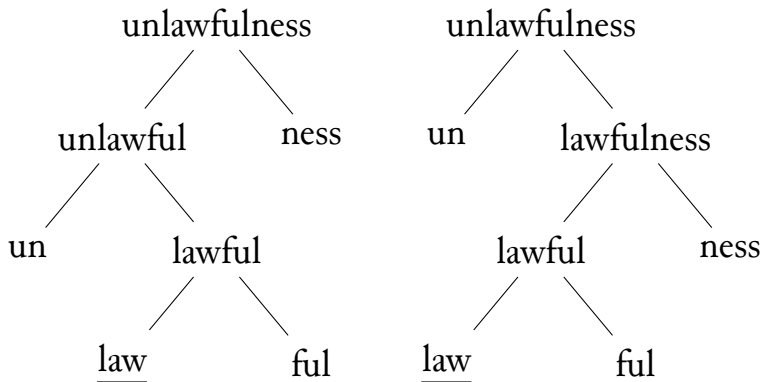
Morphological Structure: Mixed Morphemes



Morphological Structure: Derivational Morphemes



Morphological Structure: Derivational Morphemes



Morphology Exercise

See handout.

Part I: Morphology

Part II: Word Formation

Coinages Without Linguistic Precedent

Ex nihilo

- ▶ A new coinage with no formal precedent
- ▶ e.g. *quark* (Brit. /kwa:k/, 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*.

Compounding

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

Conversion (1/2)

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

Straightforward and “borderline” 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-*.

Conversion (2/2)

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 diminutive suffix

- ▶ *Andy*
- ▶ *telly*

Borrowing

Straightforward loan

- ▶ 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
- ▶ aspirin
- ▶ pasteurize
- ▶ mentor
- ▶ scrooge

Trade Name

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

- ▶ Walkman
- ▶ Kleenex

Abbreviations

Initialism

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

- ▶ GDR
- ▶ TV

Acronym

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

- ▶ radar
- ▶ laser
- ▶ NATO
- ▶ WYSIWYG

Word Formation Exercise

Create one or more new or existing word forms using the morphemes listed on the handout “Common Derivational Morphemes in PDE” in combination with lexical morphemes supplied by yourself.

Morphologically analyze the new forms as on the handout “Morphology Exercise” and draw a tree diagram for each form.

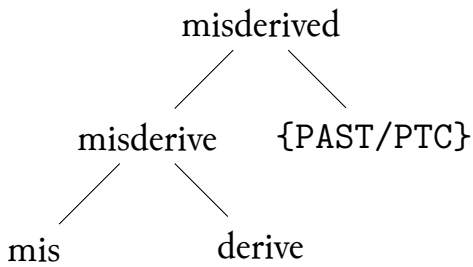
Example (1/2)

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

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Example (2/2)





P. S. Langeslag