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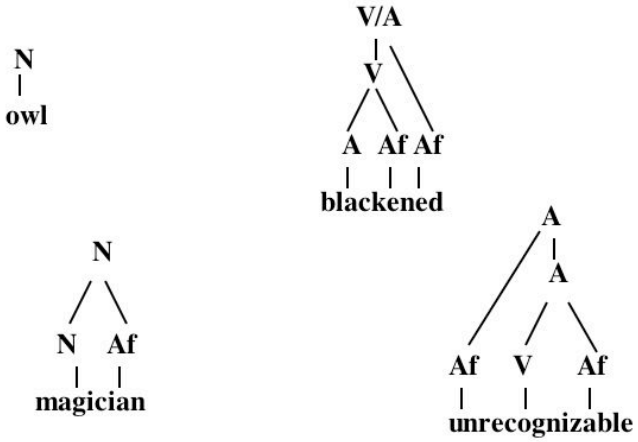
Morphology – Word Formation and Word Structure

I. Words…

A. …carry meaning in addition to a phonological form
B. …are stored in a speaker's mental dictionary = **lexicon**.
C. …are known as "lexemes".
D. …are the smallest "free form" in a language – that is, the smallest unit where you can leave a space between it and the next thing when you're writing something down.
E. …are made up of **morphemes** = smallest unit which carries *information*
    a. owls = owl + s (1 word, 2 morphemes). owl = "owl", s = "more than 1, plural"
    b. complex word = 2 or more morphemes. Ex: owls
    c. simple word = 1 morpheme. Ex: owl
    d. free morpheme: can stand on its own. Ex: owl
    e. bound morpheme: can't stand on its own. Ex: "s".
    f. **morph** = sound form of morpheme (as opposed to the sound + meaning). So, **/si/** is the morph for both the word that means "ocean" and the word that means "look".
    g. *Note:* What is free and what is bound varies from language to language. Ex: Just because the plural marker is a bound morpheme in English doesn't mean that it's a bound morpheme in another language.
F. Allomorphy = same meaning, but different phonological form (morph)
    a. a vs. an = "one" or "some". Ex: **A** fox and **an** owl walk into a bar…
    b. /s/ vs. /z/ vs. /əz/ = plural. Ex: /kæts/, /awlz/, /faksəz/

II. Word Structure

A. **Root** = core of word which carries the major component of meaning. Always belongs to a **lexical** category → **N**oun, **V**erb, **A**djective, **P**reposition. Example: owl, fly, sly, above
B. **Affix** = bound morpheme which adds additional meaning to the word. Can be added to root or root + other affixes. Ex: -en, -ed, -s, -er, -ation, -ian, -ize, un-, re-
C. Words are made up of roots and one or more affixes.
D. Word structure examples:



III. Morphological Processes

A. **compounding** = putting 2 or more words together to make a new word. Ex: out+house = outhouse, tooth+brush = toothbrush, book+keeper = bookkeeper

B. **affixation** = addition of an affix
   a. **prefix**: affix to front of base → **re**+activate = reactivate
   b. **suffix**: affix to back of base → stark+**ly** = starkly
   c. **infix**: in the middle of the base → (only one variant in English) abso + **friggin** + lutely = abso'friggin' lutely

C. **cliticization** = **clitics** are members of a lexical category which behave like words in meaning and function, but need a **host**. Ex: They'**re** heeeeeeere… (**'re** = are = lexical category V)
   a. **enclitic** = attach to end of host. Ex: They'**re** heeeeere…
   b. **proclitic** = attach to the front of host. Ex: (Spanish) Lisa **lo** ama. = (Lisa him loves).

D. **internal change** = substitution of one nonmorphemic segment for another.
   a. f**oo**t → f**ee**t, g**oo**se → g**ee**se (plural)
   b. r**i**de → r**o**de (past)

E. **suppletion** = replace morpheme with entirely different one for grammatical contrast.
   Ex: be (root) → am (present tense)

F. **reduplication** = repeat all or part of base for some contrast in meaning
   Ex: (Turkish) /iji/ = well, /iji iji/ = very well [intensifier]

IV. Derivation

A. **Derivation** is an affixal process that forms a word with a meaning and/or category that is *different* from its base. Derived words become independent items.
   Ex: magic + ian → magician

B. Examples of derivational affixes. Note: Only suffixes are able to change a word's catgeory.

-able	V → A	kissable, huggable, teasable
-ment	V → N	resentment, enjoyment, retirement
-ic	N → A	imbecilic, idyllic, idiotic
-ize	N → V	crystallize, idolize
-en	A → V	redden, blacken, deaden
-ness	A → N	silliness, sexiness
anti-	N → N	anti-Bush, antioxidant
un-	A → A	unfair, unclear, unfavorable
dis-	V → V	disrespect

C. How to decide the order of affixation. Ex: unhappiness. Is it…
   a. unhappiness = unhappy + ness = (un + happy) + ness
   b. unhappiness = un + happiness = un + (happy + ness)

Look at what the prefix "un-" attaches to: N? *unhealth, *unfreedom. A? unruffled, untrue. Therefore, we see that "un-" likes to attach to Adjectives. We then think that the derivation is *(un+happy)+ness* rather than *un+(happy+ness)*.

V. Compounds Again.

A. Category of compounds → determined by **rightmost** morpheme (known as the **head** of the word)

B. Examples

a. Noun Head

i. fire+engine (N+N) = type of engine, not type of fire
ii. green+house (A+N) = type of house, not type of green
iii. jump+suit (V+N) = type of suit, not type of jumping
iv. after+thought (P+N) = type of thought, not type of "after"

b. Verb Head

i. spoon+feed (N+V) = type of feeding, not type of spoon
ii. dry+clean (A+V) = type of cleaning, not type of dry
iii. break+dance (V+V) = type of dancing, not type of breaking
iv. over+look (P+V) = type of looking, not type of "over"

c. Adjective Head

i. sky+blue (N+A) = type of blue, not type of sky
ii. red+hot (A+A) = type of hot, not type of red
iii. over+ripe (P+A) = type of ripe, not type of "over"

C. Compounds vs. Non-compounds: telling the difference

a. Stress

i. Compounds: stress on 1st component. Ex: bláckboard.
ii. Non-Compunds: stree on 2nd component. Ex: black bóard.

b. Modifiers

i. Compounds: can't take modifier on non-head: *a very blackboard.
ii. Non-Compunds: can take modifier on non-head: a very black board

D. Endocentric vs. Exocentric Compounds

a. **endocentric** – compound denotes subclass of head. Plural involves making plural of head, even if it's irregular. Ex: wisdom teeth = type of teeth, plural "teeth" rather than *wisdom tooths.

b. **exocentric** – compound denotes something else. Plural usually involves standard 's' plural marker on the end of the entire word. Ex: Walkmans ≠ type of men, plural "mans" rather than *Walkmen.

VI. Other Types of Word Formation

A. **conversion** (**zero derivation**) = change the category of the word without adding any affixes or otherwise altering the word.

a. butter (N → V)
b. survey (V → N)
c. total (a car) (A → V)
d. (the) poor (A → N)
e. down (a beer) (P → V)

B. **clipping** = shorten polysyllabic word by deleting 1 or more syllables

a. prof (from prof*essor*)
b. auto (from auto*mobile*)
c. porn (from porn*ography*)

C. **blends** = words created from 2 nonmorphemic parts of already existing words
    a. smog (from **sm***oke* and *f***og**)
    b. spam (from **sp***iced* and *h***am**)
D. **backformation** = word created by removing a morpheme perceived as an affix from an already existing word
    a. self-destruction → self-destruct
    b. swindler → swindle
    c. pease → pea
E. **acronym** = taking the initial letters of 2 or more words and pronouncing those as a single word
    a. NASA
    b. AWOL
    c. AIDS
    d. LASER
F. **onomatopoeia** = word which sounds like the thing it names
    a. meow
    b. moo

VII. Inflection

A. Modification of a word's form to indicate the grammatical subclass to which it belongs
    a. plural → +s
    b. past → +ed
    c. grammatical number (1^{st}, 2^{nd}, 3^{rd} person)
    d. grammatical gender (masculine, feminine, neuter)
    e. grammatical case (nominative, accusative, dative, genitive, locative, ablative, etc.)
B. Inflection vs. Derivation
    a. Category Change
        i. Inflection: does not change category
        ii. Derivation: may change category
    b. Affixes
        i. Inflection: can only combine with base *after* other affixes
        ii. Derivation: can combine with base *before* other affixes
    c. Productive (Can you do it nearly all the time, no matter what the word?)
        i. Inflection: productive
        ii. Derivation: non-productive

Exercises

1. Morphemes

For each word below, state 1) how many morphemes it has, 2) whether it is simple or complex, 3) what the root is, 4) what category the root is, 5) what the bound morpheme(s) are, if any. Then draw a derivation tree.

Ex: *slyest* → 2 morphemes, complex word, root: sly, category: A, bound morpheme: -est

a) darkness
b) accidental
c) unbreakable
d) delightful
e) prevail
f) unrequited

2. Turkish Morphemes

Consider the following data from Turkish.

/lokanta/	'a restaurant'	/lokantada/	'in/at a restaurant'
/kapɨ/	'a door'	/kapɨda/	'in/at a door'
/randevu/	'an appointment'	/randevuda/	'in/at an appointment'
/baʃ/	'a head'	/baʃt/	'in/at a head'
/kitap/	'a book'	/kitapt/	'in/at a book'
/koltuk/	'an armchair'	/koltukt/	'in/at an armchair'
/taraf/	'a side'	/taraft/	'in/at a side'

a. Based on this data, what morpheme(s) in Turkish mean(s) "in/at"?
b. Are these allomorphs? If so, list what environments they are found in and try to find a common feature(s) that separates out these environments. If not, state why not.

3. Morphological Processes

Describe what morphological process is going on with the following words.
Ex: Should we absolutely do it? We should *abso-friggin'-lutely* do it! → + infix = affixation

a) One mouse, two *mice*. Therefore, one house, two hice?
b) Jack? He's our resident *giant-killer*.
c) Sure I'll go through the maze with you – but I *went* through it once already.

4. "Red Head"

a) Which word gets the stress if this were a compound? What would this phrase mean? Is this an endocentric compound or an exocentric compound? How do you know?

b) Which word gets the stress if this were *not* a compound? What would this phrase mean?

5. Word Formation

Describe what word formation process is going on with the following words.

Ex: They wanted some glitter so that they could *glitter* her hair. *glitter* (N) → *glitter* (V)
= zero derivation

a) It's too late for lunch and too early for supper…I guess we should have *lupper*.
b) I'm sick of all these triffles – one more *triff*, and I'll scream.
c) Oy…we were subjected to *YAP* – Yet Another Pun.

6. Inflection vs. Derivation

List all the derivational and inflectional affixes in the following sentences.

Ex: *Jareth believed Sarah wouldn't trust him to play fairly.*
Derivational: -ly
Inflectional: -ed

a) The goblins fooled the adventurer yet again.
b) The odds against him were incalculably large to begin with.
c) A craftier adventurer would have an undeniable advantage.
d) But our current adventurer paces impatiently as he waits to see the king.