

MORPHOLOGY

Morphology is a study of the structure of the word and of the rules involved in word formation and interpretation.

WORDS: How do we distinguish between words?

- 1. Pronunciation (?)

to, too

DIFFERENT PRONUNCIATION

a door, adore

SAME PRONUNCIATION

- 2. Meaning (?)

to, too

DIFFERENT MEANING

teacher, someone who teaches

SAME MEANING

A word is a *minimal free form*



it may occur in isolation

The *dog* chased the cat.

The cat was chased by the *dog*.

Different positions!

Who are they? The hunters.

-er, -s → may not occur alone: they are *not free forms!*

MORPHEME: a minimal meaning-bearing unit.

SIMPLE WORDS consist of one morpheme.

Example: *house*

COMPLEX WORDS consist of more than one morpheme.

Example: *houses:* house + s

slowly: slow + ly

FREE MORPHEME: A morpheme that can be a word by itself (for example, *house, they, play*)

BOUND MORPHEME: A morpheme that must be attached to another morpheme (for example, the plural marker *-s*, the past tense marker *-ed*).

ALLOMORPHS: variants of a morpheme.

Examples:

- the morpheme that represent indefiniteness in English, has two forms: *a, an* (*a* table, *an* apple) → predictable!
- the plural morpheme has three forms: *-s, -z, -əz* (*books, dogs, churches*) → predictable!

REPRESENTING WORD STRUCTURE:

ROOT MORPHEMES are morphemes that constitute the core of the word, and carry the major component of meaning.

AFFIXES are morphemes that do not belong to a lexical category and are always bound.

dog, hunt-er, book-s → ROOT MORPHEMES!

(*-er, -s* → BOUND MORPHEMES!)

BASE:

A base is a form to which an affix is added.

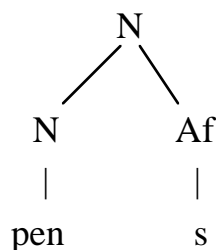
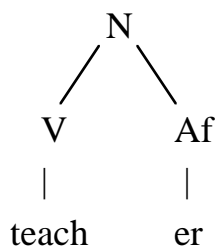
Example: *blackened*

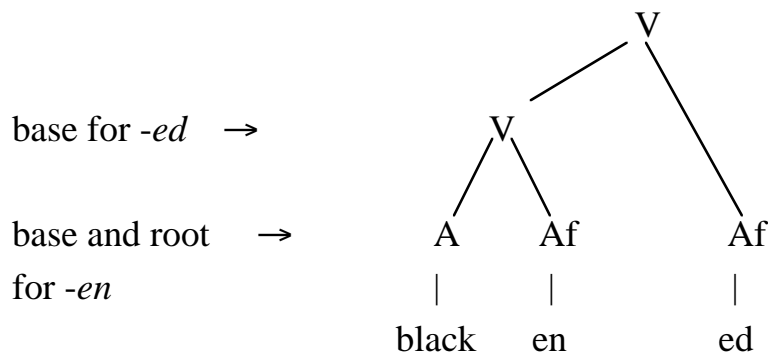
black: root for *blackened*; also, it is the base for *blacken*

In many cases, the base is also the root: *tables, played*

TREE STRUCTURES: they represent the details of a word's internal organization.

(N = noun; V = verb; Af = affix; A = adjective)





STUDY *Figures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3* on pp. 124-125.

SOME COMMON MORPHOLOGICAL PHENOMENA

1. **AFFIXATION:** the addition of an affix.

AFFIXES: *suffixes, prefixes, infixes*

SUFFIXES are bound morphemes that occur *after* other morphemes.

- s: houses
- er hunterer
- ist: violinist
- ly: slowly

PREFIXES are bound morphemes that occur *before* other morphemes.

re-: replay

in-: inaccurate

bi-: bilingual

pre-: prehistoric

INFIXES are bound morphemes that occur *within* another morpheme.

Tagalog (a language spoken in the Philippines):

lakad ‘walk’ l-*um*-akad walked

Study <i>Tables 4.4</i> and <i>4.5</i> on p. 127
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2. **DERIVATION** creates a new word by changing the *category* and/or the *meaning* of the root to which it applies.

NOUN TO ADJECTIVE

nation -al

child -ish

passion-ate

VERB TO NOUN

sing -er

shoot -ing

protect -ion

ADJECTIVE TO ADVERB

slow -ly

sharp -ly

NOUN TO VERB

hospital -ize

vaccin-ate

English derivational affixes:

<i>Table 4.13</i> on p. 132
