

Chapter Four: Morphology

Morpheme → the smallest meaningful unit of the language, e.g. *unkindness*: *un-*, *kind*, *-ness*.

1. CLASSIFICATION BASED ON FORM

Free morpheme → a single morpheme which can stand by itself.

- **Lexical words** → refer to concepts like objects, actions, attributes and ideas that we think of
- **Function words** → show grammatical relations between other words of a sentence

Bound morpheme → a morpheme that cannot stand alone

- **Inflectional morphemes** → mark properties such as tense, number, gender, case and so forth
 - Nouns → plural morpheme *-s* and possessive morpheme *'s*
 - Verbs → past morpheme *-ed*, progressive morpheme *-ing*, past participle morpheme *-en*, and third person singular *-s*
 - Adjectives → comparative morpheme *-er* and superlative morpheme *-est*
- **Derivational morphemes** → are added to form a new word
- **Root** → a morpheme which remains when all affixes are stripped

Add an affix to the root → **stem**: system (root) + *-atic* (affix) = systematic (stem)

- **Clitic** → a kind of contraction, e.g. *'ve*, *'m*.

2. CLASSIFICATION BASED ON MEANING

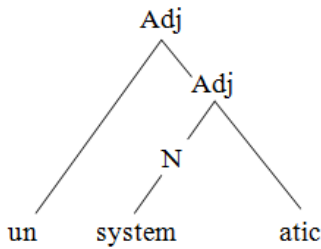
Lexical free vs. Grammatical free

Lexical free morphemes	Grammatical free morphemes
a) Their presence is directly determined by what we are talking about.	a) Their presence is obligated by the grammar of the language.
b) Concreteness	b) Abstractness
c) Infrequency	c) Frequency
d) Open-set membership	d) Closed-set membership
e) They almost always carry stress.	e) They typically lack stressed syllable.

Lexical bound vs. Grammatical bound

Lexical bound morphemes	Grammatical bound morphemes
a) Function change	a) No function change
b) Non-productivity	b) Productivity
c) Suffixability	c) Non-suffixability
d) Irregular meaning	d) Regular meaning

3. HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF WORDS

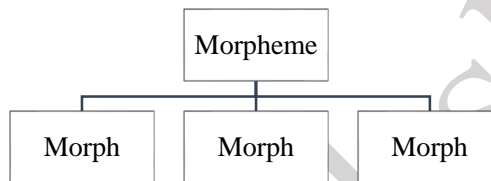


4. MORPHEME, MORPH, ALLOMORPHS

Morpheme → a mental representations

Morph → when morphemes are pronounced

Allomorphs → all versions of one morpheme



5. EXTRA POINTS

5.1. Affix

- **Infixes** → morphemes that are inserted into other morphemes:

Adjective

fikas ‘strong’

Verb

fumikas ‘to be strong’

- **Circumfixes** → morphemes that are attached to a base morpheme both initially and finally;

discontinuous morphemes:

Affirmative

Palli ‘it is hot’

Negative

ik- + pall + -o ‘it isn’t hot’

5.2. Root may be free or bound.

5.3. Monomorphemic word consists of a single free morpheme such as *pill*.

5.4. *teachers* = *teach* + *-er* (*derivational*) + *-s* (*inflectional*)

5.5. Cranberry morpheme → compounds whose first element is clearly a bound morpheme which occurs nowhere outside these compounds

5.6. An inflected morpheme in which the regular rules do not apply is called **suppletive form**.

5.7. Lexical gaps

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