

## Chapter Four: Morphology

**Morpheme** → the smallest meaningful unit of the language

### 1. CLASSIFICATION BASED ON FORM

**Free morpheme** → 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

**Bound morpheme** → cannot stand alone

- **Inflectional morphemes** → mark properties such as tense, number, etc.
  - 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** → 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*

### 2. CLASSIFICATION BASED ON MEANING

**Lexical free vs. Grammatical free**

Lexical free morphemes	Grammatical free morphemes
a) Presence is determined by what talk about	a) Presence is obligated by grammar
b) Concreteness	b) Abstractness
c) Infrequency	c) Frequency
d) Open-set membership	d) Closed-set membership
e) Almost always carry stress	e) 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. MORE ON INFLECTION

**Person** → most often subject-verb agreement

**Number** → singular-dual-plural

**Gender** → meaning ‘kind’ or ‘sort’ / masculine-feminine-neuter, e.g., *amigo* (‘friend, masc.’) vs. *amiga* (‘friend, fem.’)

**Case** → the roles played by the various nouns

*In the shopping center, John gave Mary the salesperson’s card number.*

# the giver *John* is the subject of *gave* (the **nominative** case)

# the *card number* is the direct object (the **accusative** case)

# the recipient *Mary* is the indirect object (the **dative** case)

# *salesperson’s* is the possessor (the **genitive** case)

**Tense** → locates an event relative to the moment of speaking / past-present-future

**Aspect** → whether an action is (or was) completed, ongoing, repeated (iterative), etc.

(1) John was painting the kitchen → imperfective

(2) John painted the kitchen → perfective

**Mood** → expresses **modality** – aspects of meaning having to do with possibilities, a speaker’s belief, or attitude about the content of an utterance / words like *can*, *must*, or *should*

# **indicative**, making declarative assertions, e.g., *Life is full of misery*

# **interrogative**, asking questions, e.g., *Why is the sky blue?*

# **imperative**, giving commands, e.g., *Leave the room*

# **subjunctive**, expressing desire or hope, e.g., *I demand he be released*

# **conditional**, expressing what one would or should do, e.g., *Lisa might be able to solve the issue if she comes earlier*

# **evidentiality**, indicating a degree of certainty about a proposition, e.g., *I’m sure that it will die*

*venire* ‘to come’

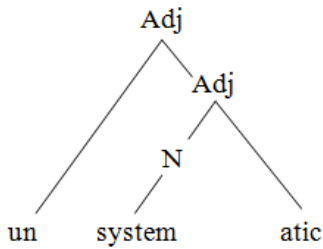
Spero	che	venga	presto	domani
hope	that	come	early	tomorrow

I hope that he/she comes early tomorrow.

Vieni	a	casa	presto
come	to	home	soon

Come home soon.

#### 4. HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF WORDS

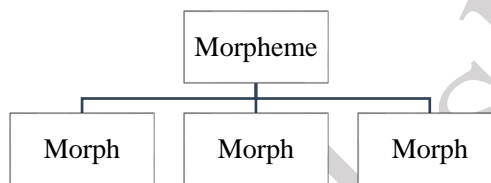


#### 5. MORPHEME, MORPH, ALLOMORPHS

**Morpheme** → a mental representations

**Morph** → when morphemes are pronounced

**Allomorphs** → all versions of one morpheme



#### 6. EXTRA POINTS

##### # affix

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

*Adjective*

fikas 'strong'

*Verb*

fumikas 'to be strong'

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

*Affirmative*

Palli 'it is hot'

*Negative*

ik- + pall + -o 'it isn't hot'

# **monomorphemic word** consists of a single free morpheme such as *pill*

# teachers = teach + -er (derivational) + -s (inflectional)

# **cranberry morpheme** → compounds whose first element is clearly a bound morpheme which occurs nowhere outside these compounds

# **suppletive form**

# **lexical gap**