

Introduction to Linguistics – LANE 321

CHAPTER 7 – MORPHOLOGY

What is Morphology?

- What is a 'word'?
- Items marked in black separated by spaces!
- In Swahili :::: *nitakupenda*
- In Arabic :::: يجبرها
- I will love you (ni= I/ ta= will/ ku= you/ penda= love)
- He forces her/ he is forcing her
- The concept 'word' turns out to be a complex fuzzy category.
- consider '*elements*' rather than '*words*'

Morphology is the field of linguistics that studies the internal structure of words

Morphemes

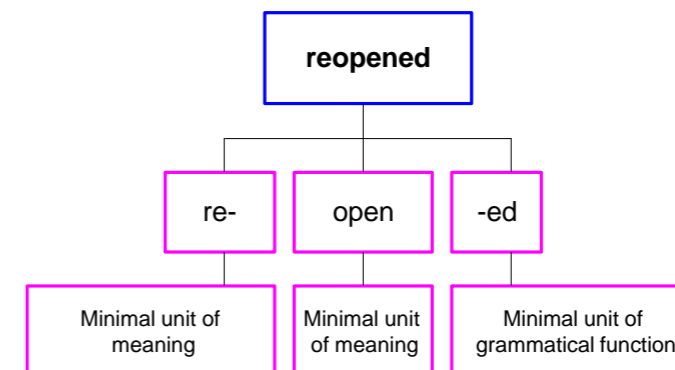
- Talk, talks, talker, talked, talking
- consist of (one element 'talk' + other elements '-s, -er, -ed, -ing')
- All these elements are described as **morphemes**

A morpheme: A minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function

Can't be broken down any further

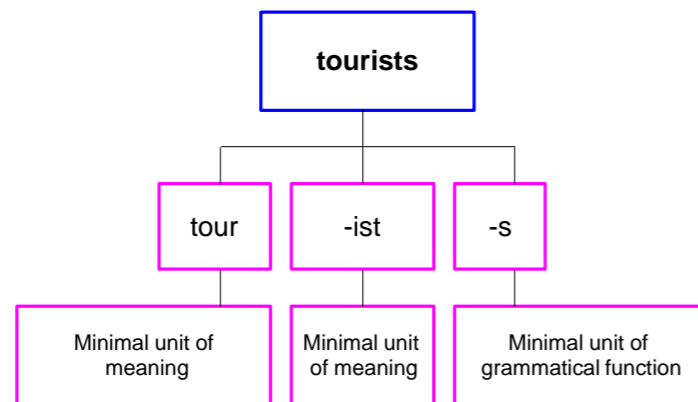
Morphemes

*The police **reopened** the investigation.*

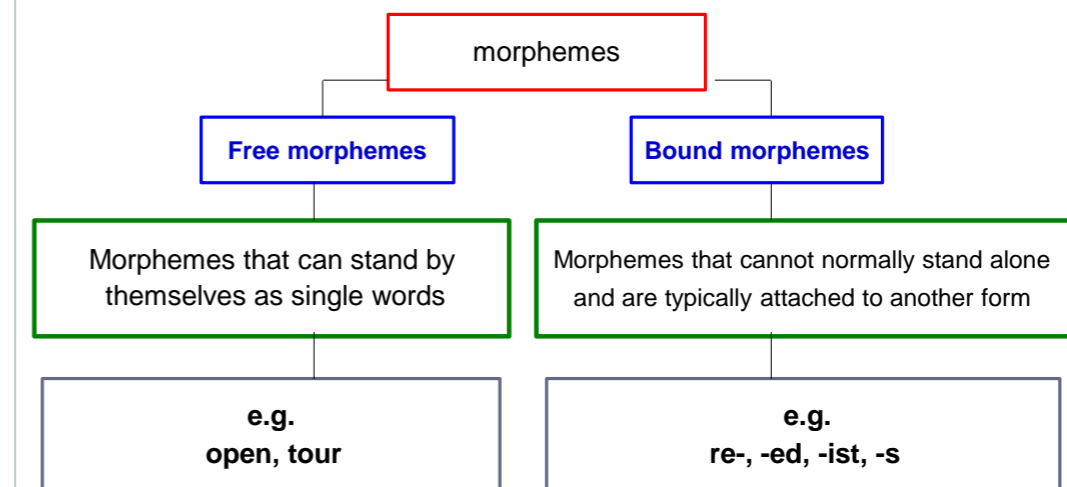


Morphemes

The *tourists* were so happy.



Free & bound morphemes



Free & bound morphemes

- All affixes (prefixes & suffixes) in English are **bound morphemes**.
- **Free morphemes** = separate English word forms (basic nouns, adjectives, verbs, etc.)
- When free morphemes are used with bound morphemes, the basic word forms are known as **stems**

undressed

<i>un-</i>	<i>dress</i>	<i>-ed</i>
prefix	stem	suffix
(bound)	(free)	(bound)

carelessness

<i>care</i>	<i>-less</i>	<i>-ness</i>
stem	suffix	suffix
(free)	(bound)	(bound)

Free morphemes: Lexical & Functional

Lexical morphemes:

- ordinary nouns, adjectives and verbs
- carry the 'content' of the messages we convey
- e.g. *girl, man, house, tiger, sad, long, yellow, open, look, break*.
- New lexical morphemes can easily be added to the language, so they are treated as an open class of words

Functional morphemes:

- Functional words (conjunctions, prepositions, articles, pronouns)
- e.g. *and, but, when, because, on, near, above, in, the, it, them*.
- Because we almost never add new functional morphemes to the language, they are described as a closed class of words.

Bound morphemes: Derivational & Inflectional

Derivational morphemes:

- We use them to make new words or words of a different grammatical category from the stem.
- They include suffixes & prefixes
- e.g. good (adj.) >> goodness (n.)
care (n.) >> careful or careless (adj.)

More examples:

- **-ic** Noun >> Adj alcohol >> alcoholic
- **-ly** Adj >> Adv quick >> quickly
- **-ate** Noun >> Verb vaccine >> vaccinate
- **-ity** Adj >> Noun active >> activity
- **-ship** Noun >> Noun friend >> friendship
- **-ish** Adj >> Noun fool >> foolish
- **-ment** Verb >> Noun pay >> payment

Bound morphemes: Derivational & Inflectional

Inflectional morphemes:

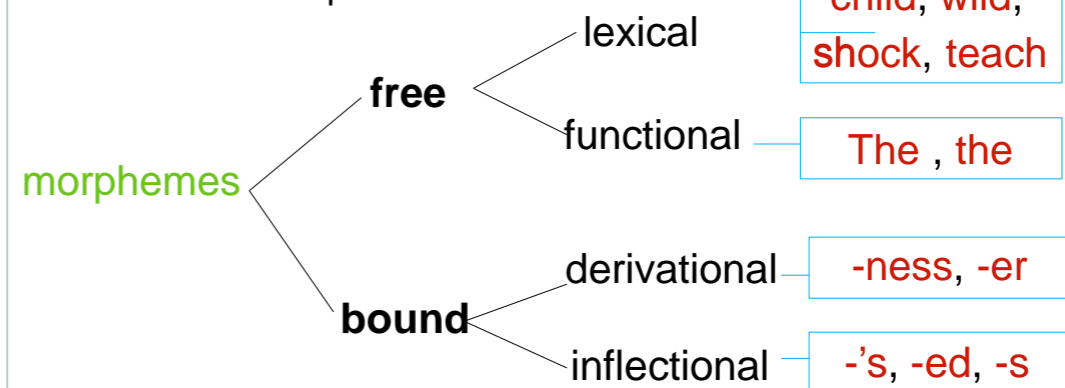
- Not used to produce new words in the language.
- Used to indicate aspects of the grammatical function of a word. (plural, singular, past tense, comparative, possessive)
- In English, all the inflectional morphemes are suffixes.
- English has only **8** inflectional morphemes
 - **Noun**
 - -s plural e.g. books
 - -'s possessive e.g. The girl's book
 - **Verb**
 - -s 3rd person singular simple present e.g. walks
 - -ing present progressive e.g. walking
 - -ed past tense e.g. walked
 - -en past participle e.g. written
 - **Adjective**
 - -er comparative e.g. taller
 - -est superlative e.g. the tallest

Morphological description

- An **inflectional morpheme** never changes the grammatical category of a word.
e.g. old, older, oldest are all adjectives
- A **derivational morpheme** can change the grammatical category of a word.
e.g. teach (v.) >> teacher (n.)
- **Bound morphemes** always appear in order, first **derivational** then **inflectional**. (e.g. *teachers*)

Morphological description

- The child's wildness shocked the teachers
- There are 11 morphemes



Morphs and allomorphs



cars (car + -s) = (lexical + inflectional 'plural')

buses (bus + -es) = (lexical + inflectional 'plural')

- 2 morphs (-s & -es) used to realize the inflectional morpheme 'plural'.
- -s & -es are allomorphs of the morpheme 'plural'

- Cat + plural = cats = (cat + -s)
- Bus + plural = buses = (bus + -es)
- Sheep + plural. = sheep = (sheep + \emptyset)
- Man + plural = men = ($\text{æ} \rightarrow \text{ɛ}$)

Morphs and allomorphs



- **Morphs** are the actual forms used to realize **morphemes**.
- When we find a group of different **morphs**, **all versions of one morpheme**, we can use the prefix 'allo-' and describe them as **allomorphs** of that morpheme

Describe the affixes:

1. *im*possible Derivational prefix
2. terroriz*ed* Inflectional suffix
3. terror*ize* Derivational suffix
4. desk*s* Inflectional suffix
5. *dis*like Derivational prefix
6. human*ity* Derivational suffix
7. Fast*est* Inflectional suffix
8. *pre*mature Derivational prefix
9. *un*tie Derivational prefix
10. dark*en* Derivational suffix
11. fall*en* Inflectional/derivational suffix
12. fast*er* Inflectional suffix
13. lectur*er* Derivational suffix

Analyze the different types of morphemes

- *The young boy played with his friends.*

The	Functional free morpheme
Young	Lexical free morpheme
Boy	Lexical free morpheme
Play	Lexical free morpheme
-ed	Inflectional bound morpheme
With	Functional free morpheme
His	Functional free morpheme
Friend	Lexical free morpheme
-s	Inflectional bound morpheme

References

Yule, George. *The study of language*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Alroqi, Haifa. LANE 321 Introduction to linguistics lecture notes. King Abdulaziz University, 2015.

Thank you