

MORPHOLOGY

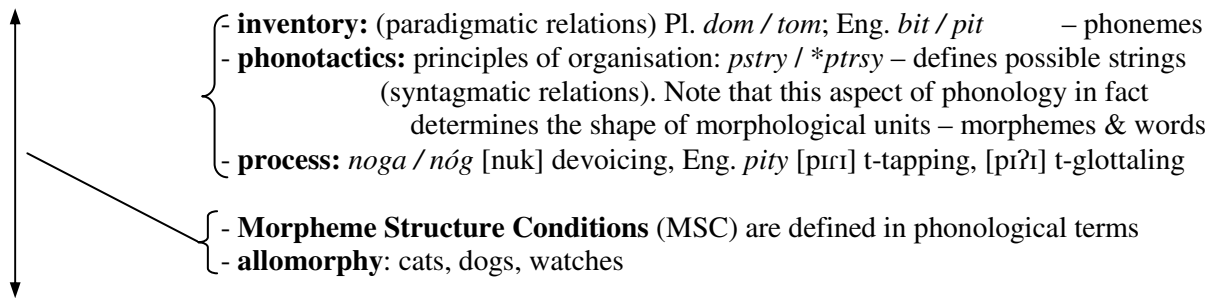
Morphology – a working definition:

A study of the internal structure and formation of words

(1) Linguistic knowledge for linguists

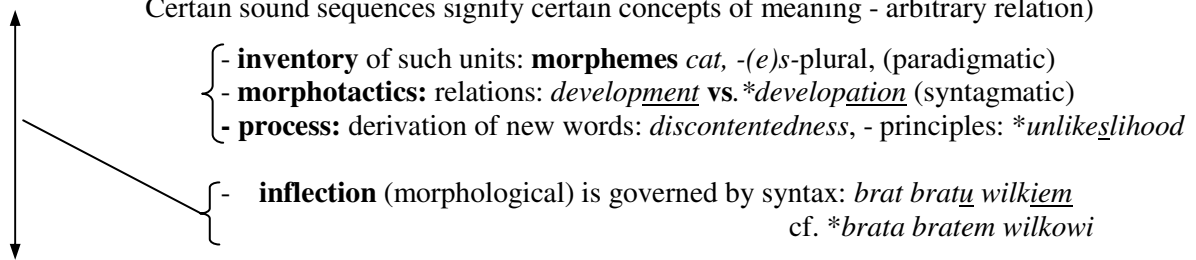
player – playground – game
 inventory – arrangement – process

Phonology: Knowledge of the sound system (which sounds are in that language and which are not (k^hɪæŋ))



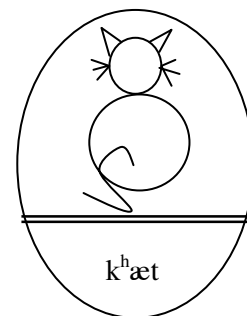
Morphology: Knowledge of the meaning of words (how to relate sounds and meanings.

Certain sound sequences signify certain concepts of meaning - arbitrary relation)



Syntax: - ???

(2) **Morpheme** – basic element of meaning¹, a phonological form² that is arbitrarily united with a particular meaning³ and that cannot be analysed into simpler elements⁴



(3) Morphology: basic terms and concepts

dis-content-ed-ness: state of being discontented
dis-content-ed: characterised by discontent
dis-content: the opposite of content
content: noun 'satisfied' based on adjective content

Discontentedness is a morphologically **complex** form, *content* is the **root**, *dis-*, *-ed*, *-ness* are **affixes**, and **bound morphemes** because they cannot occur in isolation, the root *content* is a **free morpheme**, *dis-* is a **prefix**, *-ed* and *-ness* are **suffixes**, the morpheme that converts the adjective into the noun *content* is called **zero morpheme** – function without form cf. also *a cook / to cook*.

(4) Problems with morphemes as defined above

zero morpheme – function without form cf. also *a cook / to cook*

empty morpheme – structure/form with no meaning: *cran-berry, mal-ina, par-o-wóz, dw-u piętrowy*

some morphemes are not meaningful in isolation but acquire meaning only in combination with other specific morphemes

-ceive, -mit, -berry, etc.

relceive, perlceive, conlceive, delceive

relmit, perlmit, comlmit, sublmit, translmit, adlmit

inlept (*ept), inlane (*ane), inlcest (*cest), inlert (*ert), dislgusted (*gusted)

uplholster (*downlholster), downlhearted (*uplhearted), outllandish (*inllandish), outlskirts (*inlskirts)

strawlberry, gooselberry, cranlberry

a possible way out: treat these as lexemes even though there is visible morphological complexity

(5) allomorphy (alternations of the phonetic shape of morphemes)

- phonologically conditioned: *cats, dogs, watches, but/buty, bok/boki*
- morphologically (grammatically cond: pl. *-e konie, -owie panowie, -a okna*
- lexically conditioned *dziecko/dzieci, ptak/ptaszek vs. rok/roczek*

(6) Inflectional vs. derivational morphology

derivation – methods of forming new lexemes from already existing ones

- may change categories of words e.g. Noun > Verb, Verb > Adjective, e.g. Adj. *trying*
- less productive than inflection

inflection – production of word-forms corresponding to a given lexeme, Pres. Part. *trying*

it marks gender, number, case, tense, voice, e.g. *cats, he brings, wanted, was killed*

(7) Morphological Processes

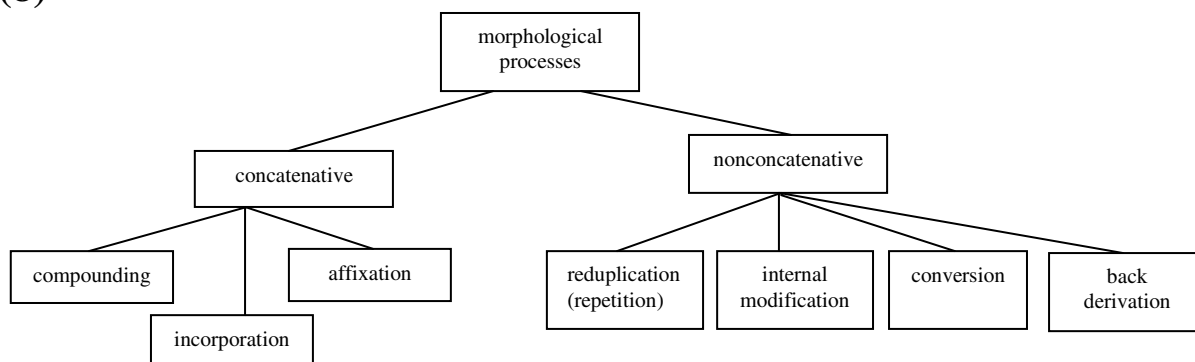
Q: What mechanisms are employed by speakers of a language to change or modify the meaning of a particular base-form?

morpheme = function & form: logically, modifications of form will be involved in morphological processes – adding or subtracting material (accompanied by a change in meaning)

concatenative morphology: putting morphemes together

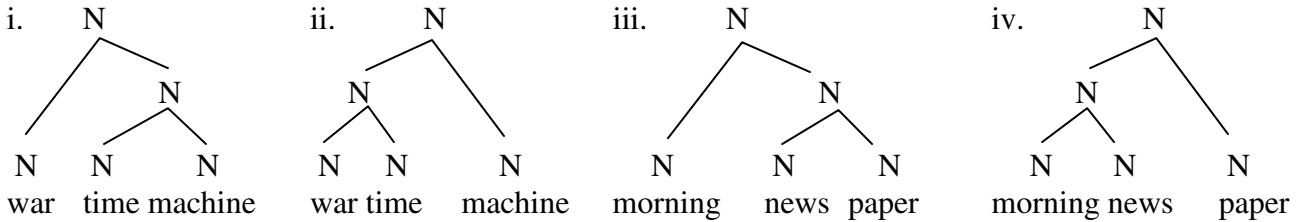
non-concatenative: modifying internal structure of morphemes

(8)



(9) CONCATENATION:

- **compounding** e.g. *girlfriend, seaside*



recursiveness: a compound may itself become a modifier of a compound.

- coffee table*
- coffee table repair*
- coffee table repair service*
- coffee table repair service management*
- coffee table repair service management improvement*
- coffee table repair service management improvement award...*

- **incorporation:** similar to compounding, typically as noun-incorporation where a nominal stem is fused with a verbal stem to yield a larger, derived verbal stem, e.g. *to globe-trot*

- **affixation (suffixation, prefixation, interfixation, infixation, circumfixation, transfixation)**

Most frequent method of forming morphologically complex words: typically a combination of a stem or root with a bound morpheme.

suffix follows the base: *dom-ek*. Most common type of affixation. Commonly category changing

prefix is added in front of the base: *un-happy, pod-wiazać*. Category change infrequent (*en-throne*)

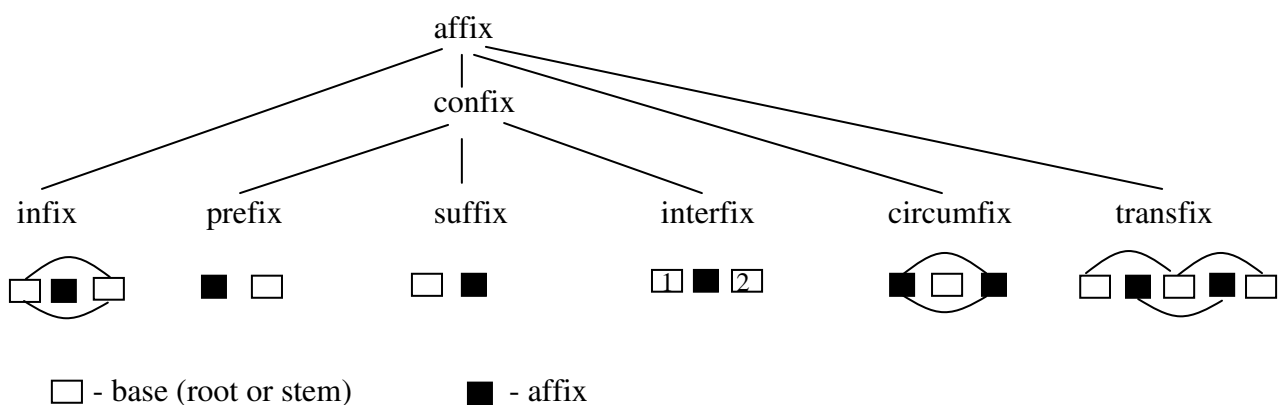
interfix: precedes one root but follows another: *śrub-o-kreć, Geburt-s-tag*

infix: and affix that divides the root: *al-bloody-mighty, Uni-bloody-versity*, but **tea-bloody-cher*

circumfix: a discontinuous morph composed of two parts which embrace the base element: *frag-en, ge-frag-t, trink-en, ge-trunk-en*, cf. prefixal-suffixal *dlugi – po-dłuż-ny, grób – na-grob-ek*, where pref. and suff. are also independent affixes, cf. English *bold – em-bolden, live – en-liven*.

transfix: a discontinuous affix cuts across the morpheme, like two interlocking combs, e.g. in Semitic (templatic) languages: *k-t-b* 'write', inflection and derivation is done by vowels, *kátab* 'write', *kitáab* 'book', *kútub* 'books', etc.

(10) Summary of affixation



(11) NON-CONCATENATIVE MORPHOLOGY:

- **Reduplication:** (repetition / copying) Malay *orang* ‘man’, *orang-orang* ‘men’. Reduplication is relatively common in **onomatopoeic expressions**. e.g. *ćwir ćwir*, *gę gę*, *hau hau*, *kra kra*, *ku ku*, *kwa kwa* English: *quack-quack*, *cuckoo*, *bow-wow*. Cf. also compound formation: *ding-dong*, *tick-tack*, *zig-zag*, *riff-raff*, *criss-cross* (non-exact reduplication)

- **Internal modifications,**

Apophony a morphological process consisting in replacing word-internal segments (two consonants or two vowels) Result: inflectional or derivational oppositions: singular / plural, present / past, verb / noun. English: *fling* / *flung* (**brung* made by children as a mistake by analogy)

- **Vowel modification**

–‘strong’ verbs in English: [ɪ] – [æ] *begin – began*, *ring – rang*, *sing – sang*, [i:] – [ou] *speak – spoke*, *steal – stole*, *weave – wove*, [ai] – [au] *bind – bound*, *find – found*, *wind – wound*.

–In German it is called **ablaut**: *backen – buk – gebacken*, *beginnen – begann – begonnen*

–Plural of some English nouns: [u(:)] – [i:] *foot – feet*, *goose – geese*, *tooth – teeth* [au] – [ai] *mouse – mice*, *louse – lice*, [æ] – [e] *man – men*

Cf. German **umlaut** in the plural: *Apfel / Äpfel*, *Mutter / Mütter*, *Tochter / Töchter*, *Vater / Väter*, *Vogel / Vögel* (umlaut: vowel change reducible to a phonological adjustment in terms of a feature)

- **Consonant modification**

–Noun/Verb in English: [θ] – [ð] *mouth – mouth*, *sheath – sheathe*, *wreath – wreathe*, [f] – [v] *belief – believe*, *grief – grieve*, *proof – prove*, [s] – [z] *advice – advise*, *device – devise*, *house – house*, *use – use*, [s] – [d] *defence – defend*, *offence – offend*, [t] – [d] *bent – bend*, *ascent – ascend*, *descent – descend*,

–augmentative in Polish: *nos – noch*, *włos – włoch*, *mięso – mięcho*

- **Mixed modification**

– more than one segment, e.g. English present/past: *catch – caught*, *seek – sought*, *teach – taught*, Verb / Noun: *live – life*, *bath – bathe*, *breath – breathe*, *cloth – clothe*

- **Total modification (suppletion):**

go – went, *good – better – best*.

- **Conversion:** the status of conversion as a morphological process on a par with compounding, affixation, reduplication or modification is not clear. This is if: ...if morphology is the study of the systematic aspect of **complex words**... it is just a **word-class exchange**. But the derivations: (a) *pilot* – (to) *pilot*, (to) *cook* – (a) *cook*, *empty* (to) *empty* **are** methods of word coinage! It is just modification of Function but not of Form. Also, conversion can be made to look like affixation if we assume the existence of the so called... **zero-morpheme**. Agent [cook]_V > [[cook]_V+Ø]_N, Causative [empty]_A > [[empty]_A+Ø]_V.

- **Back-derivation:** (back-formation) found in derivation and not inflection. The formation of a new lexeme by the deletion of a suffix, **or supposed suffix**, form an apparently complex form by analogy with other instances where the suffixed and non-suffixed forms are both lexemes. E.g. *laser* > *to lase* where *laser* comes from an acronym! *preemptive* > *preempt* Also: *transcription* – *to transcribe*, *contraception* – *to contracept* (*transcribe*, *contraceive*). Diachronically speaking the following are also back derivations: *beggar* > *beg*, *editor* > *edit*, *peddler* > *peddle*, *sculptor* > *sculpt*, *automation* > *automate*, *electrocution* > *electrocute*, *enthusiasm* > *enthuse*, *television* > *televise*. Polish examples: augmentative: *beczka – beka*, *butka – buła*, *piłka – pila*, *szpilka – szpila*

- **Clipping:** a polysyllabic lexeme is shortened in a more or less arbitrary fashion. E.g.
back clipping: *advertisement* > *ad*, *fanatic* > *fan*, *dormitory* > *dorm*, *gymnasium* > *gym*,
rhinoceros > *rhino*, *temperature* > *temp*, *Joseph* > *Jo*, *Jesus* > *Jee*
fore-clipping: *hamburger* > *burger*, *violoncello* > *cello*, *telephone* > *phone*, *caravan* > *van*
mixed clipping: *influenza* > *flu*, *refrigerator* > *fridge*
- **Blending:** (contamination) a process of word coinage in which phonetic fragments of two or more words are put together to make a single lexeme. A blend is an amalgamation of the input forms also from the semantic point of view: e.g. *smog* = *smoke* and *fog*, *brunch* = *breakfast* and *lunch*, *the Chunnel* = *channel*, *tunnel*, *motel* = *motor*, *hotel*
- **Acronimisation:** artificial word-manufacturing, usually used with names of new scientific discoveries, trade names, organization names, offices: *AIDS* = *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, *LASER* = *light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation*, *UNESCO* = *United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization*, *VIP*, *VAT*, *RADAR* = *radio detecting and ranging*, *SCUBA* = *self-contained underwater breathing apparatus*

ACTIVITIES

001 English word structure 241

Subdivide the following words into morphemes and indicate the types of morphemes, using the following terminology: root, stem, derivational affix, inflectional affix, prefix, and suffix.

1. friend	8. hand	15. smart
2. friendly	9. handbag	16. smartly
3. unfriendly	10. handed	17. smartness
4. unfriendliness	11. handedness	18. smartaleck
5. friendship	12. handful	19. smartalecky smarter
6. friendlier	13. handily	20. outsmart
7. befriends	14. handiness	

002 English prefixes 242

Each group illustrates two different functions of the prefixes. Distribute the following three groups separately into two subgroups, each using the functions of their prefixes as criteria.

Group I

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. unfair | 4. insane | 7. disconnect | 10. decode |
| 2. non-smoker | 5. defrost | 8. immoral | 11. unhorse |
| 3. untie | 6. disloyal | 9. asymmetrical | 12. discolour |

Group II

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. misinform | 4. superman | 7. malodorous | 10. infrared |
| 2. maltreat | 5. subhuman | 8. pseudonym | 11. underdo |
| 3. pseudoscience | 6. overdress | 9. misconduct | 12. archduke |

Group III

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. superfix | 4. international | 7. ex-wife | 10. sub rosa |
| 2. foretell | 5. interpose | 8. pre-marital | 11. undercut |
| 3. subway | 6. post-classical | 9. transcite | 12. pre-war |

003 English noun suffixes 243

Indicate the functions of the suffixes in the following nouns

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. gangster | 8. usherette | 15. slavery | 22. kingdom |
| 2. booklet | 9. teenager | 16. princeling | 23. Israelite |
| 3. democracy | 10. boyhood | 17. cowardly | 24. Chinese |
| 4. engineer | 11. friendship | 18. machinery | 25. nunnery |
| 5. waitress | 12. panelling | 19. stardom | 26. Johnnie |
| 6. Londoner | 13. mouthful | 20. ownership | 27. republican |
| 7. daddy | 14. auntie | 21. kitchenette | 28. violinist |
| | | | 29. communism |
| | | | 30. dictatorship |

005 English word formation 245

Examine the following examples and identify which one of the following processes is used in their derivations: acronyms, derivation, conversion, borrowing, compounding, reduplication, clipping.

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. insane | 21. dressmaking | 41. USSR |
| 2. NATO | 22. enslave | 42. glad-hand |
| 3. tick-tock | 23. self-control | 43. vivacious |
| 4. untie | 24. flu | 44. non-smoker |
| 5. misinform | 25. booklet | 45. chutney |
| 6. playboy | 26. robot | 46. UK |
| 7. phone | 27. wishy-washy | 47. youngish |
| 8. doubt | 28. bus | 48. lymphoma |
| 9. oxygen | 29. gangster | 49. wrap |
| 10. malodorous | 30. prof | 50. thongs |
| 11. bilateral | 31. kingdom | 51. walk |
| 12. love | 32. loveseat | 52. sputnik |
| 13. blitz | 33. isocracy | 53. tip-top |
| 14. photo | 34. Chinese | 54. turn |
| 15. seesaw | 35. sari | 55. backwards |
| 16. bewitch | 36. dorm | 56. barbecue |
| 17. laser | 37. bigamy | 57. deaf-mute |
| 18. cheat | 38. employee | 58. crabwise |
| 19. radar | 39. C.O.D. | 59. GHQ |
| 20. bee-sting | 40. childless | 60. baby-sit |