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Words and their parts

Thorsten Trippel

Fakultät für Linguistik und Literaturwissenschaft

Universität Bielefeld

thorsten.trippel@uni-bielefeld.de

Overview

- Components of words
- Word formation
 - Simplex words
 - Derived words
 - Compound words

Words

Morphology

Basic concepts in
morphology

Structure of words

Compounds

Derivation

Summary

Exercise: what is a word?

- With your neighbour:
- Try to define the word **word**

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Hypothesis

- a string of letters separated by a space
 - 4u: CU2morrow?
- a string of speech sounds separated by a pause
 - howmanywordsareherewithoutapause
- one or more morphemes which can stand alone
 - “illicit”???
- smallest unit of a sentence
 - Hhm

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Baseline

- we know what a word is (!)
- words make up “sentences”
 - “sentences”: syntax
- pronunciation with speech sounds
 - speech sounds = phonemes = phonology
- meaningful (sub)structure of words
 - structure of words: morphology

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What is morphology?

- The study of the formation of words
- Morphemes: the smallest units of a language that carry meaning. A word can be comprised of one or more morpheme.
 - try = attempt to do something
 - try + “in the past” = tried
 - try + “at the moment” = trying
 - ...

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Identify the meaningful units of the following words

- Identify
- the
- meaningful
- units
- of
- the
- following
- words

- maybe
- some
- more
- complicated
- example
- using
- witchcraft
- to
- find
- terms

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Identify the meaningful units of the following words

- Identif-y
- the
- mean-ing-ful
- unit-s
- of
- the
- follow-ing
- word-s

- may-be
- some
- more
- complicat-ed
- example
- us-ing
- witch-craft
- to
- find
- term-s

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Basic concepts in morphology (1)

- Simple word:
 - consists of only one morpheme.
 - Example: boy, man, radio, book, paper, magnet, house, compute
- Complex word:
 - contains more than one morpheme (i.e. ≥ 2 morphemes).
 - Example: computer, boys, radio-recorder, bookshelf, magnetize, acidfree

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Task: Find words

- Find at least 20 simple words
- Find at least 20 complex words
 - Which of them are similar?
 - Can you describe the similarity?
- Can you find a relation between some of your simple words and complex words?

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Basic concepts in morphology (2)

- Free morpheme:
 - can occur as a simple word.
 - Example: boy, man, radio,...
- Bound morpheme:
 - can only occur in connection with other morphemes. Example: -s, -ion, un-, -ize, ...
- Allomorph:
 - Variant forms of a morpheme
 - Example: a -- an, plural -s /s/ -- /z/ -- /z/

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Task: free and bound morphemes

- Make a list of 20 free morphemes
- Find bound morphemes

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Structure of words

- several parts
- root: carries the meaning
 - unbelievable: believe
- affixes: other parts [bound morphemes]
- prefix: affixes that attach before the root
- suffix: affixes that attach after the root
 - example: In unbelievable “un” is a prefix and “able” a suffix.
- base: form to which an affix is attached

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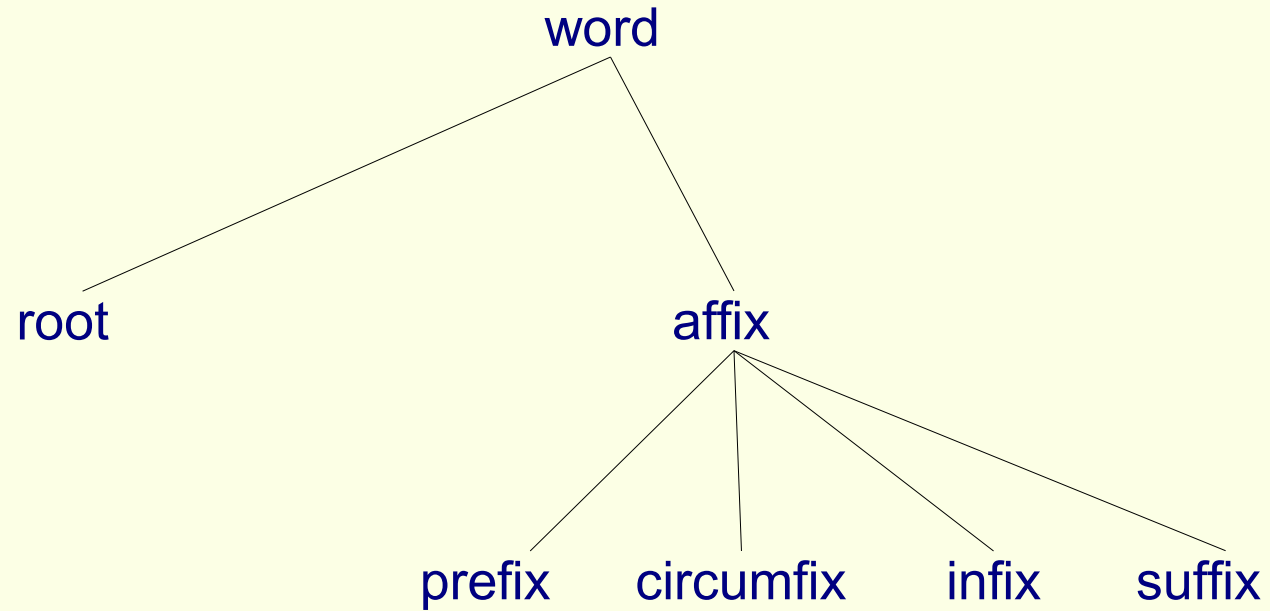
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Hierarchy of concepts



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Task: complete the sentences!

- Every word contains a _____
- A morpheme that is also a word is called a _____
- A morpheme that needs a root to make up a word is called a _____
- An affix in front of a base is called a _____, behind a base it is called a _____
- Both, simple words and complex words can be the _____ for a more complex word.
- Every _____ is a _____, but not every _____ is a _____.

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Task: complete the sentences!

- Every word contains a **__base__**
- A morpheme that is also a word is called a **__free morpheme__**
- A morpheme that needs a root to make up a word is called a **__bound morpheme__**
- An affix in front of a base is called a **__prefix__**, behind a base it is called a **__suffix__**
- Both, simple words and complex words can be the **__base__** for a more complex word.
- Every **__(root,(suffix, prefix))__** is a **__(base, suffix)__**, but not every **__(base, suffix)__** is a **__(root,(suffix, prefix))__**.

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Processes of forming words

- compounding
- derivation
- Other processes involved
 - inflection

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Compounds: at least two roots

- nouns combine with
 - nouns (fire engine),
 - adjectives (greenhouse),
 - verbs (swimming suit) and
 - prepositions (afterthought)
- verbs combine with
 - adjectives (dry clean),
 - verbs (breakdance)
 - prepositions (underestimate)
- adjectives combine with
 - prepositions (ingrown)
 - adjectives (red hot)

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Constituents of compounds

- head:
 - second part of compound
 - word class
- modifier: specifies the compound

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Task

- Find other compounds in English with a head that is a
 - noun
 - verb
 - adjectives
- Find other compounds in English with a modifier that is a
 - noun
 - verb
 - adjectives
 - prepositions

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Derivation

process of adding a morpheme to a base by which the meaning and/or wordclass of the base changes

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Example derivations

BASE	Affix	Result
write (verb)	-er	writer (noun)
write (verb)	-ing	writing (noun)
write (verb)	re-	rewrite (verb)
treat (verb)	-ment	treatment (noun)
treat (verb)	mis-	mistreat (verb)
treatment (noun)	mis-	mistreatment (noun)

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Consequences of derivation

- Suffixes change the wordclass of the base, prefixes the meaning
- Derived words are productive, i.e. they can be used for further word formation, either serving as a base in derivation, or they can be inflected.
- The list of derivational affixes is fixed (it is a closed class).

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Some English suffixes

Suffix	Wordclass (base)	--	wordclass (derived)
-able	Verb	--	Adjective
-ant	Verb	--	Noun
-(at)ion	Verb	--	Noun
-er	Verb	--	Noun
-ing	Verb	--	Noun
-ing	Verb	--	Adjective
-ive	Verb	--	Adjective
-ment	Verb	--	Noun
-ful	Noun	--	Adjective
-(i)al	Noun	--	Adjective

Suffix	Wordclass (base)	--	wordclass (derived)
-(i)an	Noun	--	Adjective
-ic	Noun	--	Adjective
-ize	Noun	--	Verb
-less	Noun	--	Adjective
-ous	Noun	--	Adjective
-ate	Adjective	--	Verb
-en	Adjective	--	Verb
-ity	Adjective	--	Noun
-ize	Adjective	--	Verb
-ly	Adjective	--	Adv
-ness	Adjective	--	Noun

Some English prefixes

Prefix
anti-
de-
dis-
ex-
in-
mis-
re-
un- (with adjectives)
un- (with verbs)

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Zero derivation

- special phenomenon in English
- words can change wordclass without the addition of other morphemes (=by adding an empty morpheme)

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BASE	Derived
Xerox (the company)	to xerox (make a photocopy)
thread	to thread (to put a thread through the eye of needle; can also be used metaphorically)
house	to house (to shelter someone or something)

Task

- select of the following parts of speech 3 each:
 - verbs
 - nouns
 - adjectives
- derive as many words as possible from them!

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Summary

- defined morphology
- introduced different kinds of morphemes
- discussed word formation
 - compounding
 - derivation

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CU next week

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