

UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND MODERN LANGUAGES

MORPHOLOGY & SYNTAX

SCLE 5133

Morphology



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What's Morphology?



➤ Morphology

The study and description of word formation (as inflection, derivation, and compounding) in language.

➤ Morphology

The branch of linguistics (and one of the major components of grammar) that studies word structures, especially in terms of morphemes. Adjective: *morphological*.

➤ Morphology

The study of “forms of words” , or the structure of words.

Morphology

- “Morphology” means the study of “morphemes”.

The smallest, minimal, unit which has a meaning or grammatical function. In English and many other languages, words can be broken down into parts that known as **morphemes**.

unhappiness

un-happi-ness

horses

horse-s

walking

walk-ing

➤ In English, words like **plays, player, played, playing** must consist of one element **play** and a number of other elements such as **-s, -er, -ed** and **-ing**.

➤ Examples

➤ **re-** arrange **-ed** → **3 morphemes**

➤ (minimal unit of meaning(again)- minimal unit of meaning-
minimal unit of grammatical function(indicate past tense)

➤ **econom** **-ist** **-s** → **3 morphemes**

➤ (minimal unit of meaning economy-minimal unit of
meaning(ist),marking "person who does sth."-minimal unit
of grammatical function(-s)(indicate plural).

Morphology

- Smallest meaningful units are called **morphs**.
- Classes and categories of similar **morphs** are called **morphemes**.
- **Morphemes** are not tangible but abstract types or groups that we assume exist because of how **morphs** pattern in languages as they are used by speakers.
- Every **morpheme** contains an infinite no. of **morphs**, all identical in meaning and similar (though not identical) phonetically.

Morphology

- A **morph** is simply the phonetic representation of a **morpheme** - how the **morpheme** is said. This distinction occurs because the **morpheme** can remain the same, but the **pronunciation** changes. It is the actual instance of smallest meaningful unit.
- A **morpheme** is defined as the class or category of similar **morphs**. If you cannot '**split**' the word any further into **smaller parts**, then this is the **morpheme**, e.g. '**the**' is a morpheme as there is no smaller unit of meaning within it. '**Unthinkable**' has three morphemes - '**un-**' '**think**' and '**-able**'.

Types of Morpheme

There are several important distinctions that must be made when it comes to morphemes:

Free Morpheme

Free morphemes are morphemes which can stand alone. We have already seen the example of "yes".

Free morphemes are those that can stand alone as words. They may be **lexical morphemes** ({serve}, {press}), or **grammatical(functional) morphemes** ({at}, {and}).

in English, **free morphemes** can be identified as the set of separate word forms such as *basic nouns, adjectives, verbs*, etc. e.g. *care, teach, help, above....*

Bound Morpheme

Bound morphemes: never exist as words themselves, but are always attached to some other **morpheme**. We have already seen the example of “**un**”.

When we identify the number and types of **morphemes** that a given word consists of, we are looking at what is **referred to** as the **structure** of a word.

Every word has at least **one free morpheme**, which is referred to as the **root, stem, or base**.

We can further divide **bound morphemes** into **three categories**:

prefix

un-happy

suffix

happi-ness

infix

abso-blooming-lutely

The general term for all three is **affix**.

A **bound morpheme** is a morpheme that only appears as part of a larger word.

The **morphemes** that occur only in combination are called **bound morphemes** (e.g., -ed, -s, -ing).

e.g. un-, -er, -less, -ed, -ing and ect.

Unhappy, teacher, careless, talked, teaching.

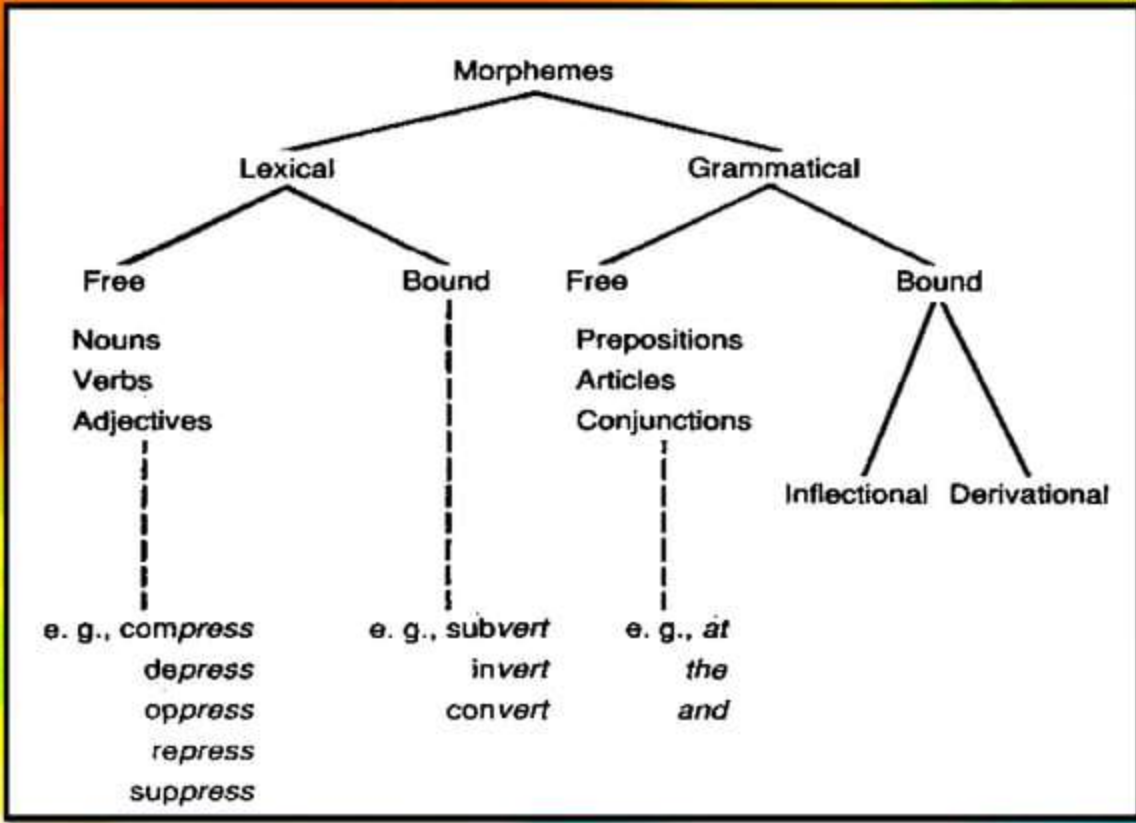
all **prefixes** and **suffixes** are **bound morphemes**.

*when **free morphemes** are used with **bound morphemes** attached, the basic word forms are known as **stem**. e.g.

care	-less	-ness
stem	suffix	suffix
(free)	(bound)	(bound)
Un-	dress	-ed
Prefix	stem	suffix
(bound)	(free)	(bound)

How many types of morphemes are there?

- Bound morphemes
- Free morphemes
- Root morphemes
- Stem morphemes
- Derivational morphemes
- Inflectional morphemes
- Affixes: prefixes and suffixes
- Grammatical morphemes



➤ There are a number of English words in which the element treated as **stem** is not a **free morpheme**,

➤ E.g. in words like :

reduce , repeat and receive

➤ we can identify the bound morpheme ,

➤ **re** at the beginning,

But the elements (-duce, -peat and -ceive)

are not separate word forms and that is

why they cannot be **free morphemes**,

these types of forms are called "**bound stems**"

to distinguish between them and "**free stems**" .



The image features a dark, textured background with several vintage crayon boxes scattered around. In the top left, a green box is open, showing several crayons in various colors (red, blue, purple, yellow, white). Below it is a yellow box with green text that reads "PRESTITE CRAYONS (PRESSED)" and "8 CRAYONS". In the top right, another green box is partially visible, also containing crayons. In the bottom right, a yellow box with green text is visible, with "PRESTITE CRAYONS (PRESSED)" and "8 CRAYONS" partially shown. In the center, a white rectangular card is placed at an angle, containing the word "root" in a simple black font.

root

A root is a morphemes that cannot be analyzed into smaller parts.

A root is the base form of a word which cannot be further analyzed without left without total loss of identity. It is that part of the word left when all the affixes are removed.

A **stem** is that part of a **word** to which **grammatical Affixes** are added. It may consist -amongst others

- a) solely of a **single root morpheme** (i.e. a simple stem as in **dog**)
- b) two root morphemes (i.e. a compound stem, as in **blackbird**)
- c) **root morpheme plus a derivational affix** (i.e. a complex stem, as in **unscrew**)



a):cats: single root

morpheme:

cat+ **inflectional suffix** -s

b):crowbars: two root morphemes

(crow + bar) + **inflectional suffix** -s

c):inventions : root morpheme

invent+ **lexical suffix** -ion + **inflectional suffix** -s





Lexical morphemes

(is that set of ordinary nouns, adjective and verbs that carry the).

- A word that conveys information in a text or speech act is known as a lexical word.



Functional morphemes

(grammatical) morphemes are morphemes that consist of the functional words in the language such as conjunctions, prepositions, articles and

pronouns.

e.g. and, in, the, that, it, she ...etc.

(A) Derivational morphemes

Are those bound morphemes that we use in making new words or making words of a different grammatical category from the stem.

e.g.

good(adj + ness(derivational morpheme

=goodness(noun

care(noun + ful(derivational morpheme) =careful(adj

A list of derivational morphemes concludes

suffixes:- ish less ly etc

prefixes:- re- pre- un- ex- mis- co- ...etc

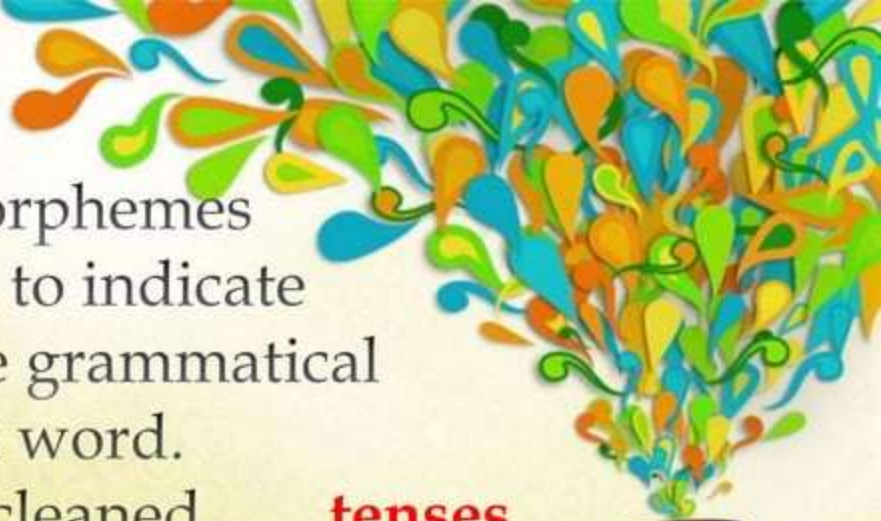
Inflectional morphemes

Are those morphemes that are used to indicate aspects of the grammatical function of a word.

clean+(-ed)=cleaned

tenses

***inflectional morphemes are also called(inflections).**



* English language has eight inflectional morphemes.

1. -'s (possessive) with nouns

2. _s (plural)

*Jane's brother

* pens

3.-ing (present participle)

4. -s (3rd person singular)

5.-ed(past tense)

6. -en(past participle)

with verbs

*teaching

*she likes

*played

*forgotten

7. - est (superlative)

8. -er (comparative)

with adjectives

*happiest

*happier

Morphological description

-what's the difference between inflectional morpheme and derivational morpheme?

-inflectional morpheme ,never change the grammatical category of a word.

-Old (adj.) → Older (adj.)

while derivational morpheme can change the grammatical category of a word ,

-teach (v.) → teacher (n.)

Just for fun



“We finally agreed to disagree about agreeing to the agreement that we disagreed about before we agreed we would agree, prior to disagreeing to change the part that we agreed not to disagree on when we agreed to the disagreeable part of the agreement. But they want it in writing.”

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Thank You

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