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 (kʰæt))
- inventory: (paradigmatic relations) Pl. dom / tom; Eng. bit / pit – phonemes
- phonotactics: principles of organisation: pstry / *ptrsy – defines possible strings
(syntagmatic relations). Note that this aspect of phonology in fact determines the shape of morphological units – morphemes & words
- Morpheme Structure Conditions (MSC) are defined in phonological terms
- allomorphy: cats, dogs, watches

Morphology: Knowledge of the meaning of words (how to relate sounds and meanings. Certain sound sequences signify certain concepts of meaning - arbitrary relation)
- inventory of such units: morphemes cat, -(e)s-plural, (paradigmatic)
- morphotactics: relations: development vs.*development (syntagmatic)
- process: derivation of new words: discontentedness, - principles: *unlikelihood
- inflection (morphological) is governed by syntax; brat bratu wilkiem
  cf. *brata bratem wilkowi

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-a-wóz, dw-y piętrowy

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

-ceive, -mit, -berry, etc.
receive, perceive, conceive, delceive
relmit, perlimit, comlimit, sublimit, translimit, admimit
inlept (*ept), inlane (*ane), incest (*cest), inlert (*ert), dislgusted (*gusted)
upholster (*downholster), downheated (*upheared), outlandish (*inlandish), outsirts (*inskirts)
strawberry, gooseberry, cranberry

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
(9) **CONCATENATION:**

- **compounding** e.g. girlfriend, seaside
  
  i. N  
  ii. N  
  iii. N  
  iv. N

  war  
  time machine  
  war time  
  machine  
  morning  
  news  
  paper  
  morning news  
  paper

  **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-wiązać. Category change infrequent (en-throne)

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

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


  **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. čwir čwir, ge ge, 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**
  - In German it is called ablaut: *backen* – *buk* – *gebacken*, *beginnen* – *begann* – *begonnen*.
  - 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**
  - augmentative in Polish: *kos – noch*, *wlos* – *włoch*, *mięso* - *mięcho*

- **Mixed modification**

- **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)IN, 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*, *bulka – bula*, *piłka – piła*, *spizika - 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. discolor |

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. transcity | 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
4. engineer 11. friendship 18. machinery 25. nunery
6. Londoner 13. mouthful 20. ownership 27. republican
8. usherette 9. teenager 15. slavery 22. kingdom
10. man 12. panelling 13. mouthful
11. die 14. auntie 15. slavery
12. in 16. princeling 17. cowardly
13. is 18. machinery 19. stardom
14. s 20. ownership 21. kitchenette
15. s 22. kingdom 23. Israelite
17. s 26. Johnnie 27. republican
18. s 28. violinist 29. communistic
19. s 30. dictatorship
20. s 31. kingdom 32. loveseat
21. s 33. isocracy 34. Chinese
22. s 35. sari 36. dorm
23. s 37. bigamy 38. employee
24. s 39. C.O.D. 40. childless
25. s 41. USSR 42. glad-hand
26. s 43. vivacious 44. non-smoker
27. s 45. chutney 46. UK
28. s 47. youngish 48. lymphoma
29. s 49. wrap 50. thongs
30. s 51. walk 52. sputnik
31. s 53. tip-top 54. turn
32. s 55. backwards 56. barbecue
33. s 57. deaf-mute 58. crabwise
34. s 59. GHQ 60. baby-sit

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. une 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. bilaterl 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
20. bee-sting 40. childless 60. baby-sit