

Language and the Speaker: What is language? - II

Language Conflict and Language Rights
Chapters 2 and 3
Spring 2018

Words and word structure: morpheme classes

Morpheme classes	free	bound
content	dog believe to (in He went to school) of (in oldest brother of Sue)	un- (in unkind) -able (in lovable) -ment (in government) re- (in rewrite)
grammatical	to (in He wants to leave) of (in donation of money)	-s (plural noun suffix) -ed (past tense verb suffix)

Words and word structure: allomorphs

Sometimes, the past tense ending sounds like the simple consonant [d], as in:

solve + [d] → solved

try + [d] → tried

Other times, the addition of *-ed* to a word is pronounced [t], as in:

laugh + [t] → laughed

pass + [t] → passed

Finally, the addition of *-ed* to a verb that itself ends in [t] or [d] will result in its being pronounced as a full syllable, [əd].

hate + [əd] → hated

hood + [əd] → hooded

Words and word structure: Making words with >1 morpheme

Affixation

Suffix:	believe	+	-able		→	believable
Prefix:	un-	+	believable		→	unbelievable
Infix:	fan	+	-stinkin-	+	tastic	→ fanstinkintastic

general

[general] **iz(e)**

over [generaliz(e)]

[overgeneraliz] **ation**

[overgeneralization] **s**

Adjective

Verb

Verb

Noun (singular)

Noun (plural)

Morphology – questions / comments

What is the longest word made up of different morphemes?

Longest English word in a major dictionary:

Pneumono-[ultra-[[micro-[scop-]]ic]]-silico-volcano-coniosis

Words and word structure: Making words with >1 morpheme

Affixation

tie	Verb	
[tie] able	Adjective	
un [tieable]	Adjective	
“You got the laces wet and tangled, and now they’re untieable.”		[not able to be tied]

tie	Verb	
un [tie]	Verb	
[untie] able	Adjective	
“You didn’t tie the laces too tight this time, so they’re still untieable.”		[able to be untied]

Words and word structure: Making words with >1 morpheme

Compounding

Compound words have one main stress. Multiword phrases have multiple main stresses.

BLUEbird vs. BLUE BIRD “Not all blue birds are bluebirds.”

Space bar and hyphens don't necessarily tell you whether something is a word or not:

cave man, cave-man, caveman

Meanings are unpredictable from the parts: garbage man, milkman, fireman, caveman



Morphology – questions / comments

In Korean, the prefix hak (학) is used to denote something school related.

hakkyo(학교) = school haksaeng(학생) = student

However, it can also have a similar meaning when used as a suffix, for example:
kyeongjehak(경제학) means economics major

			<u>Japanese</u>	<u>Chinese</u>	<u>Korean</u>	
学	(학)	=	study	gaku	xue	hak
学生	(학생)	=	student	gakusei	xuesheng	haksaeng

Words and word structure: Making new words

Clipping

Psychology	→	Psych	Physics	→	X Phys
Chemistry	→	Chem	Astronomy	→	X Astro
Alligator	→	Gator/ X Alli	Crocodile	→	Croc/ X Dile
Telephone	→	Phone	Microwave	→	X Wave

Blending

Motor + hotel	=	Motel	Bar + stool	=	X Bool
Breakfast + lunch	=	Brunch	Lunch + dinner	=	? Linner

Borrowing

English “Strike” to Japanese (2 ways); “telephone” to Hebrew; Odawa “tchitmoo” to English.

Words and word structure: Making new words

Initialisms

International Business Machines	→	IBM	[ay-bee-em, NOT ibum]
Department of Defense	→	DoD	[dee-oh-dee, NOT dod]

Acronyms

North Atlantic Treaty Organization	→	NATO	[nayto, NOT en-ay-tee-oh]
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	→	NASA	[naesuh, NOT en-ay-es-ay]

Genericization

Kleenex, q-tip, xerox

Grammar: Organizing words into expressions

Word order

The manager that promoted Joan

The manager that Joan promoted

Grammatical case /noun inflection

I/me, he/him, she/her, we/us, they/them, who/whom

Grammatical agreement / verb inflection and gender agreement

I bidd-e yow go forth

thow bidd-est me go forth

he bidd-eth yow go forth

they bidd-en us go forth

[I bid you go forth]

[you bid me go forth]

[he bids you go forth]

[they bid us go forth]

Organizing words into expressions: calculating meaning

Phrases calculated from word meanings

The meaning of the whole calculated from the meaning of the parts.

Simple intersection. green balloon / walk on one's toes

Relative intersection. large balloon / walk slowly

Non-intersection. fake diamond

Idioms

Eat my dust, bark up the wrong tree, beat around the bush

Can also have literal meanings: My dust was eaten by many people. ????

Fixed expressions: Eat **that** dust, bark **at** the wrong tree, beat around **two** bushes