ENG 235: Morphology and Syntax of English — Fall 2005: TUE & FRI 12.00-13.30
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A&F'S PRINCIPLES 1 TO 4 (FROM NIDA 1949)

PRINCIPLE 1

Forms with the same meaning and the same sound shape in all their occurrences are instances of the same morpheme.

(1) a. *bueno* 'good', *rico* 'delicious', *útil* 'useful' *Spanish*
b. *buenísimo* 'very good', *riquísimo* 'very delicious', *utilísimo* 'very useful'

PRINCIPLE 2

Forms with the same meaning but different sound shapes may be instances of the same morpheme if their distributions do not overlap.

(2) a. seat–/**s**/
b. shade–/**z**/
c. hedg–/**əz**/
d. ox–/**n̩**/
e. fish–/**ø**/

PRINCIPLE 3

Not all morphemes are segmental.

(3) a. r**u**n — r**a**n
b. sp**ea**k — sp**o**ke
c. **ea**t — **a**te

(4) a. br**ea**th$_N$ — br**ea**the$_V$
b. cl**o**th$_N$ — clothe$_V$
c. house$_N$ — house$_V$

PRINCIPLE 4

A morpheme may have zero as one of its allomorphs provided it has a non-zero allomorph.

(5) a. fish
b. fish–/**ø**/
c. shark
d. shark–/**s**/

(6) a. *sakana* 'fish' (SG) *Japanese*
b. **sakana*–/**ø**/ (PL)

Japanese: no non-zero plural allomorph.