

September 5, 2006

CLASS 1: INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

WHAT'S MORPHOLOGY AGAIN?

In its most general sense, morphology is the **study of words**. *But hey, what's a word?*

Words:

units of meaning vs. units of sentence structure, pronounceable vs. abstract entities

Word classes:

lexical vs. functional categories, verbal morphology, inflectional classes

Building words:

morphemes, morphological processes, compounds, clitics, allomorphy

Morphology across languages:

agglutination, morphological operations, and other funky stuff

SOME VERY BASIC TERMINOLOGY

A **morpheme** is “the smallest linguistic piece with grammatical function”
— or: *the smallest string of sounds carrying information about meaning/function*.

- **free morphemes** can stand on their own, i.e. be words
- **bound morphemes** need to attach to something

- (1) a. house
b. house-s

- morphemes that are not words (i.e. those that are bound) are called **affixes**
- depending on their position, we're dealing with a *prefix, suffix, infix, circumfix* (?)
- affixes can be **category-sensitive**

- (2) a. polite (adjective) – politeness (noun)
b. drive (verb) – driver (noun)

SOME LARGER ISSUES

- 'language' vs. 'Language'
- components of linguistic systems: syntax — phonology — morphology

ROADMAP OF MASOE MORPHOLOGY COMPONENT**Class 2 *Morphemes & Morphological Phenomena***

morphemes	free vs. bound
allomorphs	phonological vs. lexical vs. morphological conditioning
suppletion	extreme form of allomorphy
compounding	endocentric vs. exocentric
affixation	bases (roots vs. stems) affixes (prefix vs. suffix) inflectional vs. derivational affixes conversion / zero derivation

Class 3 *Affixation, Compounding, Lexicalization*

exceptions	cranberry morphemes, bound roots, semi-affixes
compounds	the headedness issue
lexicalization	regular vs. irregular
folk etymology	history of words

Class 4 *Productivity & Processes*

productivity	neologisms and more
constraints	blocking and others
word formation	backformation, clipping, blending, etc.

You can also go to my previous MASOE courses for more material and handouts.

<http://punksinscience.org/kleanthes/courses/index.html>