

January 22, 2008

## 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 2–3 *Morphemes & Allomorphy***

<b>morphemes</b>	free vs. bound
<b>allomorphs</b>	phonological vs. lexical vs. morphological conditioning
<b>suppletion</b>	extreme form of allomorphy

**Class 4–6 *Morphological Phenomena***

<b>compounding</b>	endocentric vs. exocentric
<b>other</b>	word formation: backformation, clipping, blending, etc.
<b>affixation</b>	bases (roots vs. stems) affixes (prefix vs. suffix) inflectional vs. derivational affixes conversion / zero derivation
<b>exceptions</b>	cranberry morphemes, bound roots, semi-affixes
<b>compounds</b>	the headedness issue

**Class 7–9 *Lexicalization, Productivity, Processes & Parts of Speech***

<b>lexicalization</b>	regular vs. irregular
<b>folk etymology</b>	history of words
<b>productivity</b>	neologisms and more
<b>constraints</b>	blocking and others
<b>parts of speech</b>	(morpho)syntactic categories & features

**Class 10 *Mid-Term Exam***


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

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