Morphology II

Ling 301 (Spring 2021)

Joseph Pentangelo

The College of Staten Island

Remember from last week...

- Words are stored in the lexicon

- Each word has its own lexical entry

- Lexical entries contain a form, meaning, and lexical category

- The morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit in a language

- Each word contains at least one morpheme

Form: /kæsl̩/
Meaning: Large stone building
                with turrets
Lex. cat.: noun

What we'll cover tonight

1. Inflection vs. Derivation

2. Morphological Processes

3. Recap

Inflection vs. Derivation

- **Derivation** creates new words, with new lexical entries.

- For example, *fighter* (*fight + -er*) has a different lexical entry than *fight*. And *firefighter* has a different lexical entry than *fire* and *fighter*.

- **Inflection** conveys grammatical information. It does <u>not</u> create new lexical entries, but indicates a different grammatical form of an existing lexical entry.

- For example, *fighting* (*fight + -ing*) is part of the lexical entry for *fight*. And *firefighters* (*firefighter + -s*) is part of the lexical entry for *firefighter*.

- Inflected forms of a word are listed in their lexical entry.

Inflectional affixes

Affix	Example
-'s (possessive)	John's car
-s (plural)	Three cars
-s (3rd person singular)	He drives
-ed (past tense)	walked
-ing (progressive)	I am walking
-er (comparative)	smaller
-est (superlative)	smallest
-en (past participle)	eaten

Not all inflection in English is done with affixes.

If putting a verb into past tense is inflection, then what about verbs like *drink → drank*, *fall → fell*, and *wake → woke*?

If comparative and superlative forms of an adjective are inflection, then what about *good → better → best*, and *bad → worse → worst*?
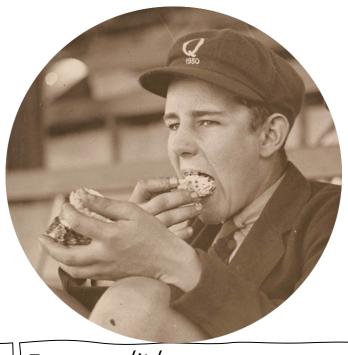
We'll discuss this shortly.

Different from the derivational suffix *-er* 'one who does something', as in *farmer*.

Inflection is listed in lexical entries

Form: /kæsl̩/
Meaning: Large stone building
             with turrets
Lex. cat.: noun
Plural: castles /kæsl̩z/
Poss.:   castle's /kæsl̩z/

Form: /ʤʌmp/
Meaning: Leap into air
Lex. cat.: verb
3rd.sg.p: jumps /ʤʌmps/
past: jumped /ʤʌmpt/
prog.:   jumping /ʤʌmpɪŋ/
p.part.:   jumped /ʤʌmpt/

Form: /it/
Meaning: Consume and digest
Lex. cat.: verb
3rd.sg.p: eats /its/
past: ate /eɪt/
prog.:   eating /itɪŋ/
p.part.:   eaten /itn̩/

Not an affix;
still inflection.

Morphological Processes

- Affixation
- Compounding
- Reduplication
- Alternation
- Suppletion

Morphological Processes

- **Affixation**
- Compounding
- Reduplication
- Alternation
- Suppletion

Most common word-formation process in English. Used for inflection and derivation.

- Affixes attach to a stem.
- In English, we have **prefixes** and **suffixes**.

  exam<u>s</u>   <u>re</u>fill
  the plural -s is a suffix   re- 'again' is a prefix

- There are also **infixes**, which appear inside of a stem. Much more common in other languages. (See Tagalog examples in the text.)
- English *fricking* is often described as an infix in constructions like:

  fantastic → fan<u>fricking</u>tastic

Is plural -*s* inflectional or derivational?

What's another inflectional suffix?

Is *re-* 'again' inflectional or derivational?

What's another derivational prefix?

Morphological Processes

- Affixation
- Compounding
- Reduplication
- Alternation
- Suppletion

Reconstruction – how is this word built?

construct	'to construct'
re- + construct	'to construct again'
reconstruct + -ion	'the state of being reconstructed' (*-ion* makes a verb into a noun, e.g. *action, option*)

Reconstruction has a prefix *re-* and a suffix *-ion.*

Activity – how is this word built?

act	'to act'
act + -ive	'habitually acts' (*-ive* makes a verb into an adjective)
active + -ity	'something that one can do' (*-ity* makes an adjective into a noun, e.g. *rapidity, stupidity*)

Activity has two suffixes, *-ive* and *-ity*

Morphological Processes

- Affixation
- Compounding
- Reduplication
- Alternation
- Suppletion

Fearlessness – how is this word built?

How many morphemes are there in *fearlessness*?

Does *fearlessness* have the same lexical entry as *fear*?

Does *fearlessness* have the same lexical entry as *fearless*?

What does the lexical entry for *fearlessness* look like?

Tearfully – how is this word built?

How many morphemes are there in *tearfully*?

Does *tearfully* have the same lexical entry as *tear*?

Does *tearfully* have the same lexical entry as *tearful*?

What does the lexical entry for *tearfully* look like?

Form: /fiɹlɪsnɪs/
Meaning: the state of being without fear
Lexical Category: noun

Form: /tiɹfl̩i/
Meaning: in a way that is marked by tears
Lexical Category: adverb

Morphological Processes

- Affixation
- **Compounding**
- Reduplication
- Alternation
- Suppletion

Two words are combined to form a new word. Used for derivation, not inflection.

- Inconsistently spelled. Might have a space in between!

- The words that are combined may have affixes or not. E.g. *girlfriend* (two free words) vs. *air conditioner* (where *conditioner* has an affix).

- Unique stress pattern called compound stress.
  - rédneck vs. red neck
  - bláckbird vs. black bird
  - gréenhouse vs. green house
  - bóyfriend vs. boy friend

- Meaning is **noncompositional.** Compound words mean more than just the two words together would mean. A bluebird is a specific kind of blue bird, and a greenhouse is a specific kind of structure (often not green, and almost never a house).

What's another compound word?

Does *girlfriend* have the same lexical entry as *girl*?

Does *girlfriend* have the same lexical entry as *friend*?

Morphological Processes

- Affixation

- **Compounding**

- Reduplication

- Alternation

- Suppletion

Adjective Test

In English, adjectives precede the noun they modify.
the big television, the red sprinkles, the warm toast

Even though it may look like two words, a compound is a single noun.
best friend, filing cabinet, space station

Adjectives <u>cannot</u> come between the two elements of a compound.

Steps

1. Pick an adjective.
2. Try to modify the word you're testing.
3. If the adjective <u>can</u> come between the elements, it is <u>not</u> a compound word.

Morphological Processes

- Affixation

- Compounding

- Reduplication
- Alternation
- Suppletion

Steps

1. Pick an adjective.
2. Try to modify the word you're testing.
3. If the adjective <u>can</u> come between the elements, it is <u>not</u> a compound word.

best friend

1. adjective: tall
2. My tall best friend = grammatical.
   *My best tall friend = ungrammatical.

best friend is a compound word

two-car garage

1. adjective: big
2. My big two-car garage = grammatical
   *My two big car garage = ungrammatical
   *My two-car big garage = ungrammatical

two-car garage is a compound word

Morphological Processes

- Affixation
- Compounding
- **Reduplication**
- Alternation
- Suppletion

Duplicate either an entire word, or part of it.

- English does not do this systematically, but it does appear in some colloquial uses (e.g. "Do you like-like her?")

- This is systematic in some other languages. Indonesian, for example, uses reduplication to form plurals (which is inflection).

Singular	Plural
rumah 'house'	rumahrumah 'houses'
ibu 'mother'	ibuibu 'mothers'
lalat 'fly'	lalatlalat 'flies'

Morphological Processes

- Affixation

- Compounding

- Reduplication

- **Alternation**

- Suppletion

A sound inside of a word changes to change the meaning of the word. Very common in English, but most words that have it are really old. Used for inflection, not derivation.

Irregular plurals:
- man → men   [æ] → [ɛ]
- woman → women   [ʊ] → [ɪ]
- goose → geese   [u] → [i]
- foot → feet   [ʊ] → [i]

Irregular verbs:
- ring, rang, rung   [ɪ] → [æ] → [ʌ]
- drink, drank, drunk   "
- sing, sang, sung   "
- swim, swam, swum   "
- sink, sank, sunk   "

Did/do any of you say *bring, brang, brung*?
How about *thunk* instead of *thought*?

Morphological Processes

- Affixation
- Compounding
- Reduplication
- Alternation

- **Suppletion**

An inflected form of a word may have a totally different phonological form than the root word does. Used for inflection, not derivation.

For example: past tense of a verb.
Most verbs add the affix *-ed* (e.g. *walk → walked*) or undergo alternation (e.g. *swim → swam*)
Suppletion forms the past tense of some highly irregular verbs:
is → was   go → went

Another example: comparative and superlative.
Most adjectives add the comparative affix *-er* (e.g. *bigger*) and the superlative affix *-est* (e.g. *biggest*)
Suppletion forms the comparative and superlative in two cases:
good → better → best   bad → worse → worst

Morphological Processes

- Affixation (inflection and derivation)
- Compounding (derivation)
- Reduplication (not really used in English)
- Alternation (inflection)
- Suppletion (inflection)

Recap

Inflection:
- changes grammatical information
- does not create a new lexical entry
- affixation, alternation, or suppletion

Derivation:
- changes meaning (and possibly lexical category)
- creates a new lexical entry
- affixation or compounding

Affixation: add a bound morpheme (inflectional or derivational)

Compounding: add two or more words together (derivational)

Reduplication: duplicate a word or part of a word

Alternation: change one sound inside of a word (inflectional)

Suppletion: totally different phonological form (inflectional)

Give me examples of...

- Derivational affixation
- Inflectional affixation
- Compounding
- Alternation
- Suppletion