BBI3212 ENGLISH SYNTAX AND MORPHOLOGY

Topics
- What is morphology
- Difference between morphology and syntax
- Words and morphemes
- Word classes (syntactic categories of words)
- Classes of morphemes
- Constituents of words
- Representing the internal structure of words using tree diagrams and labeled bracketing
- Derivational and inflectional processes
- Word formation processes in English

Syntax and Morphology
- Morphology – study of words, its parts and rules that govern their combination
  - Words – what are the component parts of words, and the principles that govern the combination of these parts into whole words. Morphemes – smallest unit of sound and meaning, building blocks of words.
- Syntax – the study of how words, phrases and clauses are put together to form sentences
  - Sentences – analyzed into its constituent parts, and the principles that govern the combination of these parts.

Why do we need to study the structure of language?

MORPHOLOGY (in linguistics)
- STUDY OF WORDS
- CLASSIFICATION OF WORDS
- HOW SEGMENTS OF WORDS ARE PUT TOGETHER
- ANALYSIS OF WORD STRUCTURE
- WORD FORMATION PROCESSES
- TO UNDERSTAND THE SYSTEM AND RULES INVOLVED IN WORD FORMATION AND INTERPRETATION – it is a linguistic description of words

CELL MORPHOLOGY
http://www.smartsciencepro.com/structure-animal-cell-plant-cell/

Ref: “The morphology of word structure” O’Grady & deGuzman
**MORPHOLOGY**

1. Study of the structure of words:
   1. What are the component parts of words? (chop them up into the smallest parts you are able to do so (basic building blocks))
   2. How are these component parts put together to form the whole word? (put them together again – what principles or rules determine this?)

2. The LEXICON consists of words

   - SEPARATE ITEMS/WORDS
     - i.e. table, meal, eat, ate, go, happy, unhappy, operation, national, headhunter, etc
   - WORDS FORMED FROM BASIC WORDS
     - Through application of certain rules to basic words
     - e.g. time table, meals, jogging, undergo, unhappy, etc

3. Which of the following is correct (in English)?
   - Oldest
   - Bestest
   - Cleverest
   - Spoonest
   - Soonest

   *How did you know?*

4. Identify the word categories (syntactic categories) of the words in RED

   T'was brillig, and the slithy toves
   Did gyre and gimble in the wabe
   All mimsy were the borogoves
   And the mome raths outgrabe

   (Lewis Carrol, "Through the Looking Glass", 1993, p. 21)

   *HOW DID YOU KNOW?*

5. You know:
   - The syntactic categories of words (nouns, adjectives etc) and word order
   - Which words are content words (lexical category) and which are function words, (non-lexical category)
   - Rules of word formation such as affixation e.g. one book, two books => one tove, two toves e.g. adjective: funny, sleepy => slithy, mimsy
   - Roots and bases of words: hats => raths

6. What is a word?

   - The smallest free form found in language
     - I am over here.
     - Here I am.
     - She's as good as I.
   - *I, here, as, am, good, she's, over* = words

   - Words can occur in isolation and/or in different positions in a sentence
NON-WORDS

- Compare with non-words
  - The work is **unfinished**.
  - The work is *finished*

- un-, -ed are not words. They must be attached to another form, in a fixed/regular manner.

- Their positions within a word are fixed.

WORDS – SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES

- **Lexical categories / meaning or content words**
  - Nouns
  - Verbs
  - Adjectives
  - Adverbs

Lexical words are open-class words

Give examples for each of the above categories

WORDS – SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES

- Non-lexical (functional) categories / grammatical words
  - Auxiliaries – is, may, have, could
  - Intensifiers/qualifiers – very, quite, pretty, more, too, rather, ever so, maybe, often, hardly, perhaps, quite
  - Prepositions – above, behind, in, for, of, under
  - Conjunctions – and, or, so, as, but

Prepositions and modal auxiliaries may be regarded as functional or lexical
Non-lexical words are closed-class words.

TESTS/CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING A WORD’S CATEGORY

- The meaning of the word – **MEANING TEST/SEMANTIC**
  - whether the meaning of the word fit the definition of the category
- Sentence-slot test – **DISTRIBUTION TEST/SYNTACTIC**
  - Whether the word can co-occur with certain other words in a sentence, phrase or clause; the position the word can take in a sentence, phrase or clause
- Word suffix test – **INFECTION TEST/ MORPHOLOGICAL**
  - Whether the word can be inflected in the same ways that known classes of words do; whether they can “take” certain inflections characteristic of that class of words

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- **Nouns** – name things, persons, animals, places or concepts
  - table, Ali, dream, happiness, Kuala Lumpur, monkey
- **Verbs** – refer to actions/ processes and states
  - kick, jump, be, like, feel, have
- **Adjectives** - describes the property of nouns
  - beautiful girl, bad wolf
### Adverbs
- modifies the meaning of a verb, adjective or another adverb
  - read **loudly** (modifies verb)
  - read **really** loudly (modifies adverb, also called intensifier)
  - extremely **sad** (modifies adjective)

### Distribution Test
**TESTS FOR NOUN**
- Attach a determiner (e.g. article, adjective, possessive pronoun)
  - *the* boy, *silly* girl — sounds OK: 'boy', 'girl' are probably nouns
  - his girl — 'girl' is a noun
  - silly little girl — 'little' is not a noun. But then you can't say 'silly little'. It has to be 'silly little girl'.

### Distribution Test
**TESTS FOR VERBS**
- Add a modal in front of the word: *can* grow, *will* grow: 'grow' is a verb.
- 'terror' — *will* terror (nope). 'terror' is not a verb.

### Inflection Test (suffix test)
**TESTS FOR NOUN**
- Add **-s** to a word: — get a plural (meaning more than one)
  - cakes — more than one cake: therefore 'cake' is probably a noun.
- Add **'s** to a word: — get the meaning 'belonging to'
  - Henry's — belonging to Henry as in 'Henry's bag': therefore Henry is probably a noun.

### Inflection test (suffix test)
**TESTS FOR VERBS**
- Add suffix **-ed** to get past tense form
  - Walked — past tense of 'walk': 'walk' is probably a verb
- Add suffix **-ing** to get present participle form
  - Growing — 'grow' probably a verb.

### Inflection Test (suffix test)
**TESTS FOR VERBS**
- Read Miller Chapter 4 on Word Classes for more information about syntactic categories of words.
MORPHEMES

REMEMBER THIS?

- Study of the structure of words:
  1. What are the component parts of words?
     (chop them up into the smallest parts you are able to do so (basic building blocks))
  2. How are these component parts put together to form the whole word?
     (put them together again – what principles or rules determine this?)

A MORPHEME -- THE SMALLEST UNIT OF LANGUAGE THAT CARRIES INFORMATION ABOUT MEANING OR GRAMMATICAL FUNCTION

- postman -> post + man (2 morphemes) (√)
- think -> th + ink (X) (not 2 morphemes)

TWO CATEGORIES OF MORPHEMES
- FREE
- BOUND

FREE MORPHEMES
- A morpheme that can be a word by itself
- E.g. Good, fox, joy
- Good, fox, joy =⇒ simple words (single morpheme/simplex)
  [Foxes, joyous =⇒ complex words (two or more morphemes)]

Free morphemes can be open-class or closed-class depending on whether they are lexical or non-lexical words

BOUND MORPHEMES
- A morpheme that must be attached to another element
- E.g. Foxes (-es), joyous (-ous)

Bound morphemes are closed-class.

4 POINTS ABOUT MORPHEMES

1. Morphemes are not syllables.
   e.g. ‘forest’ has 2 syllables, but 1 morpheme
   ‘birds’ has one syllable, but 2 morphemes

2. Identical spellings/sounds do not indicate identical morphemes
   e.g. The morpheme –er in seller vs taller
       one who ‘sells’ to a greater degree

3. There are exceptions to the general rule that a morpheme carries a more or less constant meaning realised by a more or less constant form.
   e.g. [boy] + [PLU] = boys
       but [man] + [PLU] = men, not *mans
       and [ox] + [PLU] = oxen, not *oxes

4. Morpheme boundaries in words may shift and meanings of morphemes may change over time.
   e.g. historically, ‘hamburger’ originated from Hamburg + er
   Nowadays, it is analysed as Ham + burger as evidenced by the existence of similar words ‘cheeseburger’, ‘fishburger’ etc.
How many morphemes do these words have?
- Water
- Hunt
- Ladylike
- Operate
- Crocodile
- Inoperative
- Prank
- Singer

Which are simple words/ complex words?
REPRESENTING WORD STRUCTURE

MORPHEMES /CONSTITUENTS OF WORDS
- ROOTS
  - Root morpheme - carries the major meaning of the word
  - They are mostly morphemes of the Lexical category
  - E.g. Darken → Dark = root
- AFFIXES
  - Non lexical category
  - Bound morphemes
  - E.g. Darken → -en = affix

CONSTITUENT STRUCTURE

How are words structured? How are morphemes put together to form words?

INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF WORDS

- UNHAPPY

A

un

happy

Root and base for un-

Tree diagram
REPRESENTATION – TREE DIAGRAM

INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF WORDS
• OPERATIONAL
  $[[\text{operate}\}_N, \text{ion}]_A, \text{al}]_N$

Root and base for
-ion

- V Af Af
  operate ion al

Base for -al

Questions
• Indicate whether the underlined words are roots or bases to the affixes.
  • Unhappy
  • Taller
  • Pretest
  • Activation
  • Straightener
Questions

• Add as many affixes as are appropriate to the following roots/bases. State the syntactic categories of the root/base and the new word after affixation:
  - Care
  - Disinfect
  - List
  - Corrupt
  - Terror

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