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CAMBODIA INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTITUTE

Assignment

**Subject: Applied Linguistics**

**Topic: Morphology**

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The image features a light gray background with a subtle radial gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are clusters of realistic water droplets of various sizes, rendered with soft shadows and highlights. Faint, large, light-gray text is visible in the background, reading "MORPHOLOGY" and "STRUCTURE".

# MORPHOLOGY

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# KEY TERMS

**Morphology:** a scientific study of the structure and form of words or phrases.

**Morphemes :** a minimal unit of the meaning or grammatical function.

# I. Introduction

The original usage of the morphology is in biology. But, it has also been used to describe the type of investigation that analyzes all those basic “**elements**” used in language. The elements that have been describe in the form of a linguistic message technically known as **morphemes**.

## II. Morphemes

**Morphemes** is a minimal unit of the meaning or grammatical function.

In English, we organize the word forms such as talks, talkers, talked, and talking must consist of one element talk, and a number of other elements such as –s, -er, -ed, and –ing which are described as **morphemes**.

## II. Morphemes

The units of grammatical function include forms used to indicate past tense or plural.

For example

*The police **reopened** the investigation.*

The word reopened consists of three morphemes.

- Minimal unit of meaning is open
- Minimal unit of meaning is –re ( again)
- Minimal unit of grammatical function is –ed (past tense)

## II. Morphemes

### *Tourists*

The word *tourists* also contains three morphemes.

- Minimal unit of meaning is **tour**
- Minimal unit of meaning is **-ist** ( person who does something)
- Minimal unit of grammatical function is **-s** (plural)

## 1. Free morphemes

**Free morphemes** is the morphemes that can stand by themselves as single words.

For example

- Open
- Tour

It can generally be identified as the set of separate English word forms such as basic nouns, adjectives, verbs.

## A. Lexical morphemes

The words like: girl, man, house, tiger, sad, long, yellow, sincere, open, ect. Are known as free morphemes, but these free morphemes are called lexical morphemes. They are the set of ordinary nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

We can add new lexical morphemes to the language easily. So they are treated as “open” class of words.

## B. Functional morphemes

The words like: and, but, because, etc. are known as free morphemes, but these free morphemes are called lexical morphemes. They are the set of functional words such as conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and pronouns.

We never add new functional morphemes to the language, so they are described as a “closed” class of words.

## 2. Bound morphemes

**Bound morphemes** are the forms that cannot stand alone and are typically attached to another form, exemplified as re-, -ist, -ed, -s.

This set is familiar to affixes (prefix and suffix). All the affixes in English are bound morphemes.

## 2. Bound morphemes

Free morphemes that use with bound morphemes are technically known as **stem**.

For example

Undressed			carelessness		
Un-	dress	-ed	care	-less	-ness
Prefix	stem	suffix	stem	suffix	suffix
(Bound)	(free)	(bound)	(free)	(bound)	(bound)

## A. Derivational morphemes

**Derivational morphemes include**

**- Prefix: re-, ex-, mis-, co-, un-, pre-,.....**

Example:

Redo

misunderstanding

**- Suffix: -ful, -less, -ment.....**

Example:

careful

Payment

## B. Inflectional morpheme

- **Inflectional morpheme** are used to indicate grammatical function of the words.

These are used to show :

- |              |   |                     |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Noun      | + | - 's, -s            |
| 2. Verb      | + | -s, -ing, - ed, -en |
| 3. Adjective | + | -est, -er           |

### III. Morphological description

**Inflectional morpheme** never changes the grammatical function of the words.

Example:

older, cuter

**Derivational morpheme** can changes the grammatical function of the words.

Example:

leader, driver

# Summary

## Morphemes

### 1. Free morphemes

A. Lexical morphemes (child, teach)

B. Functional morphemes ( and, the)

### 2. Bound morphemes

A. Derivational morphemes (re-, -ness)

B. Inflectional morpheme (-'s, -ed)

## IV. Problems in morphological description

In the analysis of different languages, there are problematic cases. But the solution of the problem are clear.

For example

The relationship between *law* and *legal*

- law (noun)
- legal (adjective)

+ *Law* is the result of borrowing into old English (lagu) from a Scandinavian source over 1000 years ago.

+ *Legal* was borrowed from the Latin from (legalis = of the law) about 500 years.



The relationship between mouth and oral

- mouth (noun)
- oral (adjective)

+ *Mouth* is from old English.

+ *Oral* was borrowed from Latin.

Consequently, there is no relationship between the noun *law* and *legal*, *mouth* and *oral*.

A full description of English morphology will have to take account of both historical influence and the effect of borrowed element.

## V. Morphs and allomorphs

**Morphs** is the actual form used to realize morphemes.

For example, the forms consists of two morphs

- Car + -s = cars      or      car + plural (inflection)= cars
- Bus + -es = buses      or bus + plural (inflection)=buses

So, there are at least two morphs (-s and -es) used to realize the inflectional morpheme (inflections) plural.

## V. Morphs and allomorphs

**Allomorph** is the actual form of the morphemes that are different and the zero-morph ( $\varnothing$ ).

For example:

- Sheep + zero-morph ( $\varnothing$ ) = sheep
- Man + plural = men
- Go + past tense = went

## VI. Other Languages (1)

We can find other form and patterns realize the basic types of morphemes we have identified.

For examples, we attach a derivation morphemes to a stem, then add an inflectional morpheme.

## VI. Other Languages (2)

<b>Stem</b>	<b>Derivational</b>	<b>Inflectional</b>	
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Dark	+ en (make)	+ ed (past)	= darkened {english}
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Mic (die)	+ tia (cause to)	+ s (future)	= mictias (will kill)
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{aztec ( central america)}

Difference patterns occur in other languages.

## VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, studying the morphology is very important for the learner. Although it is the small unit, it is the grammatical function in the linguistics. The learners of linguistics should understand the usage of the morphology and have to be careful the forms that are different. In other languages also have morphology.

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Thank you