

LINGUISTICS

THIRD YEAR

LECTURE (10): MORPHOLOGY

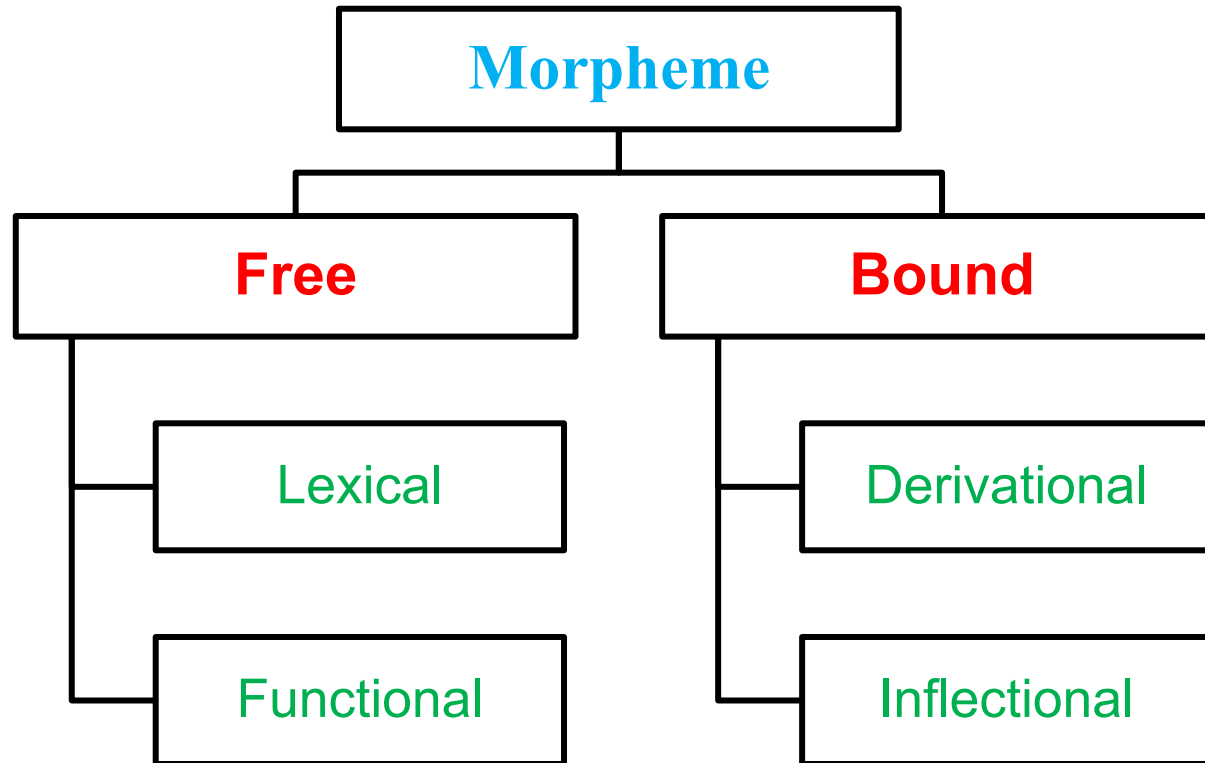
MORPHOLOGY AND MORPHEME

- **Morphology** is the study of words, how they are formed, and their relationship to other words in the same language. It analyzes the structure of words and parts of words such as stems, root words, prefixes, and suffixes.
- **A morpheme** is the smallest meaningful constituent of a linguistic expression. In English, morphemes are often but not necessarily words. Morphemes that stand alone are considered **roots** (such as the morpheme *cat*); other morphemes, called **affixes**, are found only in combination with other morphemes. For example, the *-s* in *cats* indicates the concept of plurality.
- We can recognize that English word forms such as *talks*, *talker*, *talked* and *talking* consist of one element *talk*, and a number of other elements such as *-s*, *-er*, *-ed* and *-ing*.
- All these elements are described as **morphemes**.



TYPES OF MORPHEME

A Morpheme is conventionally divided into:



FREE AND BOUND MORPHEMES

1. Free morpheme: can stand by themselves as single words. They can be identified as the set of separate English word forms such as basic nouns, adjectives, verbs, etc. For example, *open* and *tour*.

- a. **Lexical Morphemes** are an ‘open’ class of ordinary words including nouns, adjectives, and verbs that carry the ‘content’ of the messages we convey. Some examples are: *girl, man, house, tiger, sad, long, look*.
- b. **Functional Morphemes** are a ‘closed’ class of words that consist of largely of the functional words in the language such as *conjunctions* (*but, and, when, because*), *prepositions* (*on, near, above, in*), *articles* (*the, an, a*), *qualifiers* (*few, little, many*), and *pronouns* (*it, them, you, he, she*).

2. Bound Morphemes cannot normally stand alone and are typically attached to another form, exemplified as *re-*, *-ist*, *-ed*, *-s*. These forms were described as **affixes**.

- a. **Derivational Morphemes** are bound morphemes used to make new words or to make words of a different grammatical category from the base. For instance, *good* (adj) = *goodness* (n).
- b. **Inflectional Morphemes** are bound morphemes which are not used to produce new words in the language, but rather to indicate aspects of the grammatical function of a word. They are used to show if a word is plural or singular, if it is past tense or not, and if it is a comparative or superlative form, and so on.

INFLECTIONAL VS. DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES

Inflections

1. An inflectional morpheme never changes the grammatical category of a word. For example, both **old** and **older** are adjectives.

2. They come last in a word. They do not pile up only one ends a word.

Examples: *shortened, industrializing, cities*

3. They go with all stems of a given part of speech: they are systematic.

Examples: *he eats, drinks, plays, entertains.*

Derivations

1. However, a derivational morpheme can change the grammatical category of a word. For example, the verb **teach** becomes the noun **teacher** if we add the derivational morpheme **-er**

2. They usually **do not close off a word**. One can sometimes add multiple derivational suffixes and an inflectional suffix to the same word.

Examples: *fertile = fertilize = fertilizer = fertilizers*

3. Derivational suffixes are **arbitrary**.

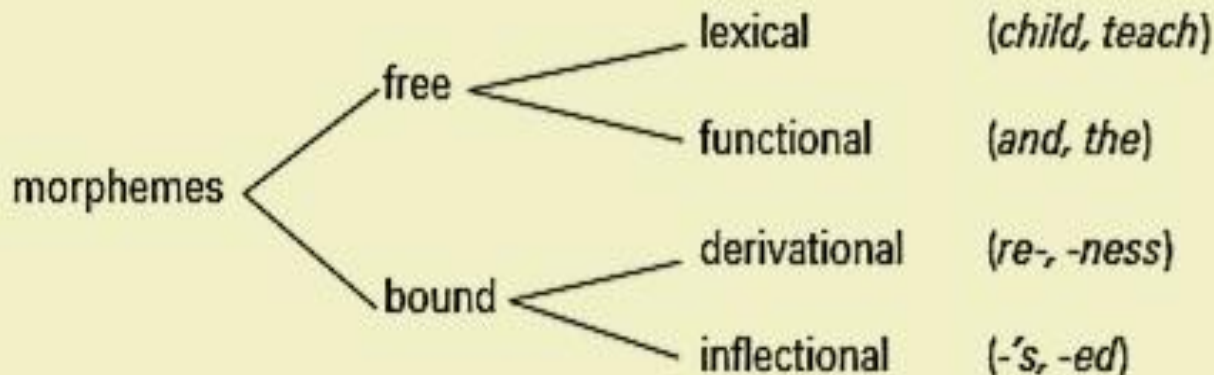
Examples: To make a noun from the verb *move* (V.) = *movement* (N.), while *fail* (V.) = *failure* (N.)

MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

The child's wildness shocked the teachers

<i>The</i>	<i>child</i>	<i>'s</i>	<i>wild</i>	<i>-ness</i>	<i>shock</i>
functional	lexical	inflectional	lexical	derivational	lexical
<i>-ed</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>teach</i>	<i>-er</i>	<i>-s</i>	
inflectional	functional	lexical	derivational	inflectional	

A useful way to remember all these different types of morphemes is in the following chart.



PROBLEMS IN MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

- The inflectional morpheme **-s** is added to **cat** and we get the plural **cats**.
- What is the inflectional morpheme that makes **sheep** the plural of **sheep**, or **men** the plural of **man**?
- And if **-al** is the derivational suffix added to the stem **institution** to give us **institutional**, then can we take **-al** off the word **legal** to get the stem **leg**? Unfortunately, the answer is “No.”



MORPHS AND ALLOMORPHS

- **Morphs** are the actual forms used to realize morphemes. For example,
 - The form **cats** consists of two morphs, **cat +s** (lexical and inflectional morpheme)
 - The form **buses** also consists of two morphs, **bus +es** (lexical and inflectional morpheme)
- **Allomorphs** (like allophones of a particular phoneme), are the different pronunciations of the same morpheme. For example, the morpheme plural takes different forms:
 - **Cats** = **cat + -s**
 - **Buses** = **bus + -es**
 - **Sheep** = **sheep + ∅**
 - **Men** = **man + e**
- In each of these examples, the actual forms of the morphs that result from the morpheme “plural” are different. Yet they are **all allomorphs of the one morpheme**.

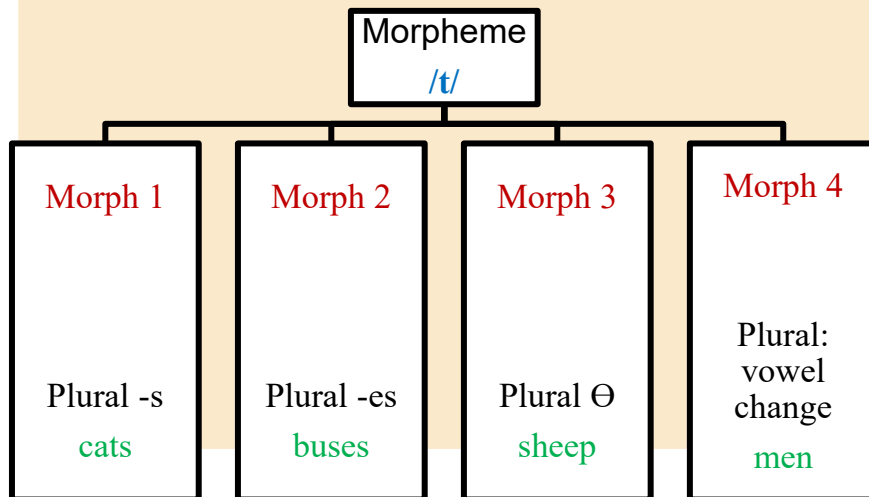
ALLOMORPHS AND ALLOPHONES

Allomorphs

It is realized by **morph** which is the actual forms used to realize **morphemes**

They are the different morphs of the same morpheme.

For example: the morpheme plural takes different forms:

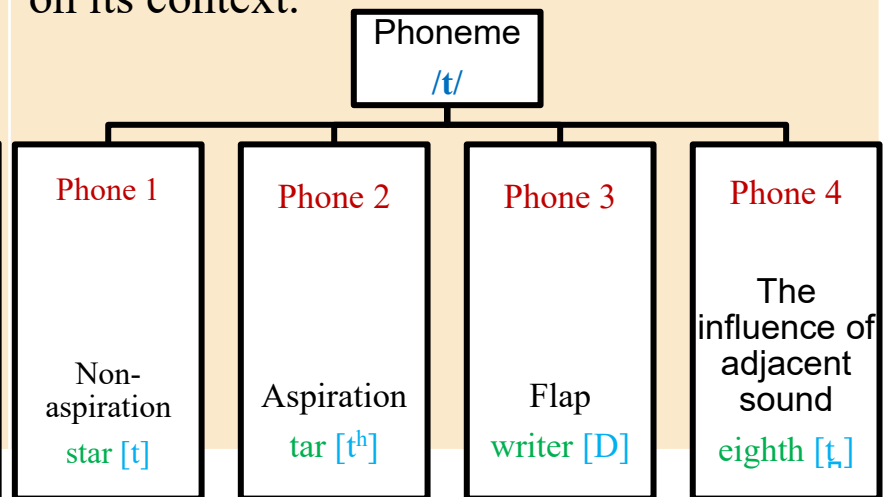


Allophones

It is realized by **phone** which is the actual forms used to realize **phonemes**

They are the different phones of the same phoneme.

For example: All these phones are allophones of the phoneme /t/, depending on its context.





THANK YOU