

Lgcs 10. Lecture Notes. Tues 7 Sept 2010.

0. Announcements

- Reminder: Assignment 1 due this Thurs, Sept. 9th.
- No additional reading for next time.

1. The big picture

- Linguistics is the scientific study of human (natural) language.
- We will investigate natural language through the analysis of data from a variety of languages.
- We will adopt a cognitive viewpoint: We will investigate language as a knowledge system within the mind of the language user (a mental *grammar*), which can be studied empirically and modeled formally
- Big picture questions: How is grammar structured? How is it acquired? Which aspects of grammar (if any) are innate and universal, and which are learned and specific to particular languages?

2. From last time

Terminology: *lexicon, morpheme, free, bound, complex, simple, root, base/stem, prefix, suffix, affix, allomorph, conditioned variation, portmanteau, analytic, synthetic, agglutinating, fusional, subject-verb agreement.*

An **infix** is a morpheme added inside the root. An infix is a type of affix.

Cebuano: If the root begins with a V, add the prefix *in*. If the root begins with a C, add the infix *in* after the first C.

Class Exercise 1: Do Exercise 2.7 (a) and (b) (from Chapter 2).

Class Exercise 2:

- What is the **word-formation rule** for the suffix *-ful*, based on the following: *helpful, thoughtful, beautiful, *meanful, *happiful, *thinkful*.
- Give tree structures for the following words: *undeniable, unhelpfulness*.

Class Exercise 3: If you haven't already, do the following from the morphology problems packet: Luiseno (31); Quiché (32); Cree (39); **Hanunoo (42); Isleta (36)**.

3. Conditioned vs. free variation

Conditioned variation: plural morpheme *-s* in English. **Free variation** = morphological variation in which there is no (known) conditioning environment. Example: Reverential forms in Zapotec. (Section 2.4.3, p. 47.)

Class Exercise 4: Exercise 2.10.

4. Beyond affixation

Reduplication is a process by which all or part of a word is copied to indicate a change in meaning or usage.

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| Turkish | | | |
| tʃabuk | 'quickly' | tʃabuk tʃabuk | 'very quickly' |
| javaf | 'slowly' | javaf javaf | 'very slowly' |
| iji | 'well' | iji iji | 'very well' |
| gyzel | 'beautifully' | gyzel gyzel | 'very beautifully' |
- | | | | |
|------------|---------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Indonesian | | | |
| oraŋ | 'man' | oraŋ oraŋ | 'all sorts of men' |
| anak | 'child' | anak anak | 'all sorts of children' |
| maŋga | 'mango' | maŋga maŋga | 'all sorts of mangoes' |

(3) Northern Tepehuan (Uto-Aztecan, spoken in northwestern Mexico):

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>rabbit</i>	tosi	totosi
<i>man</i>	kuli	kukuli
<i>foreigner</i>	obai	obai
<i>tree</i>	ushi	ushi
<i>son</i>	mara	mamara
<i>turkey</i>	tova	totova
<i>fish</i>	aasi	aasi
<i>older brother</i>	siugi	sisiugi

5. More terminology

5.1 Lexical vs. grammatical: *happy* vs. *the*.

Nouns, verbs, and adjectives are all **lexical** morphemes. These morphemes generally denote “concepts that can be described with words or illustrated with pictures.”

They are **open** class categories (i.e., new members can be added to them.)

Lexical morphemes contrast with **grammatical** morphemes, e.g., the definite determiner *the*, the suffix *-ness*, plural *-s*. These are generally **closed** class categories (i.e., new members cannot be added to them.)

Prepositions such as *in* and *above* are often classified as grammatical morphemes, because they are a **closed** class and “express a limited range of concepts.”

5.2 Derivation vs. inflection: *friendless* vs. *friends*.

We’ve already seen that affixes can be used to create words out of other words. For example, *less* forms an adjective from a noun, e.g., *friendless*. A **derivational** morpheme forms a word with a meaning and/or category distinct from that of its base, e.g., *less*. Words formed via derivational morphology, e.g., *friendless*, are called **derived** words. Some derivational morphemes in English:

<i>-ness</i>	A → N	<i>-less</i>	N → A	<i>un-</i>	V → V
<i>-able</i>	V → A	<i>un-</i>	A → A	<i>re-</i>	V → V

In contrast, the creation of different grammatical forms of a word is called **inflection**. For example, plural *-s* and progressive *-ing* are inflectional morphemes. These morphemes **never** change lexical category. English has **only** the following inflectional morphemes:

Plural	<i>-s</i>	<i>I like my friends.</i>
Possessive	<i>-s</i>	<i>I like my friend's dog.</i>
Comparative	<i>-er</i>	<i>weirder</i>
Superlative	<i>-est</i>	<i>weirdest</i>
3 rd Per. Sing. Pres.	<i>-s</i>	<i>She talks.</i>
Past tense	<i>-ed</i>	<i>She talked.</i>
Progressive	<i>-ing</i>	<i>She is talking.</i>
Past participle	<i>-ed, -en</i>	<i>She has talked.</i> <i>She has eaten.</i>

Inflected words are words that have inflectional morphemes, e.g. *friends*, *talked*, *weaknesses*.

The set of related words **inflected** from a single root is called a **paradigm**.

(4) Some English verb paradigms (based on Table 2.2 from the text):

verb	present	past	present participle	past participle
chew	chews	chewed	chewing	chewed
hit	hits	hit	hitting	hit
find	finds	found	finding	found
write	writes	wrote	writing	written
go	goes	went	going	gone

In cases of **suppletion**, the expected base of a paradigm is missing. E.g., *go/went*, *good/better/best*. Here, *went*, *better*, and *best* are all **suppletive**.

Class Exercise 5: Exercise 2.13.