

Lgcs 10. Lecture Notes. Tues 14 Sept 2010.

0. Announcements

-Exam 1: Tuesday, September 28th. Closed book, closed note.

-Reading: Same as before. Assignment 2 due Thursday.

1. What to know for the exam, so far (as of the end of this class)

-How to analyze the morphological structure of unfamiliar languages.

-Types of morphological (word-formation) processes:

-affixation (prefixation, suffixation, infixation, circumfixation);

-reduplication (total and partial);

-ablaut;

-compounding (headedness);

-cliticization;

-zero derivation (e.g., *ice* N > *ice* V);

-backformation (creating a new word by removing an **apparent** affix, e.g., *cherries* and *pease* were borrowed into English from French, their final sounds were later reanalyzed as plural *-s*, resulting in backformations *pea* and *cherry*).

-How to draw morphological tree structures for complex words. This includes drawing multiple parses (structures) when the morphemes of a complex word may combine in more than one way (when the word is **structurally ambiguous**), and being able to identify which parse corresponds to which meaning.

-Differences between derivation and inflection. In particular, derivation precedes inflection, which constrains the ways in which the morphemes of a complex word may combine. E.g., *replays* has the structure [_{V3rdSingPres} [_v re[_v play]]s].

-Other terminology to know: allomorph, conditioned vs. free variation, zero morpheme, portmanteau, suppletion, productivity (the productivity of a process is the degree of freedom with which it can derive new words).

2. More Practice

(i) Draw tree structures for: *nicer*, *dreamers*, *misbehaves*, *disconnectable*.

(ii) Explain why the following are bad: **nicers*, **disconnectsable*, **healthiful*.

(iii) Consider the following data from Cherokee. How are plurals formed? Identify the morphological processes involved, as well as when each is used.

(1)	Singular		Plural
	achuja	'boy'	anichuja
	agehuja	'girl'	anigehuja
	yvgi	'fork'	diyvgi
	gakohdi	'plant'	digakohdi
	taluja	'basket'	ditaluja
	asgaya	'man'	anisgaya
	a?da	'young animal'	ani?da
	gasaleni	'coat'	digasaleni
	ageya	'woman'	anigeya
	ayvwi	'person'	aniyvwi
	atelido	'plate'	ditelido
	aditohdi	'spoon'	diditohdi
	uguku	'hoot owl'	uniguku
	kanesa?i	'box'	dikanesa?i
	ujiya	'worm'	unijiya
(2)	ugidahli	'feather'	jugidahli
	uweji	'egg'	juweji
	ulvsa?di	'drinking glass'	julvsa?di
	ugaloga	'leaf'	jugaloga
	ulogili	'cloud'	julogili
	uhalvni	'bell'	juhalvni
	unegvha?i	'blanket'	junegvha?i
	unadadesvda	'chain'	junadadesvda

Why is the following unexpected?

(3)	ayohli	'child'	diniyohli
	usdi	'baby'	junisdi

3. Compounding

One of the most common word-building processes across lgs is **compounding**, the combination of two existing words to create a new word:

(4)	N + N	A + N	V + N	P + N
	streetlight	shorthand	swear word	overlord
	table tennis	happy hour	flowchart	outhouse

In English, a compound's word category and core meaning is regularly determined by which word? Consider:

(5)	house cat	cat house
	fish man	man fish

English is thus said to be **head-final**, where the **head** of the compound determines (a) its word category and (b) core meaning (that is, the whole compound denotes a **subtype** of whatever the head denotes.)

Although English compounds are regularly head-final, there are exceptions: *low life*, *saber tooth*, *yellow jacket*, *loudmouth*, *pickpocket*, *red neck*. These compounds are headless, or **exocentric**. Headed compounds are **endocentric**.

Exocentric compounds inflect regularly: *maple leaves* vs. *Maple Leafs*.

There are a number of ways in which compounds behave differently from sequences of two independent words in a sentence. For one, they are pronounced differently:

(6)	<u>Compound</u>	vs.	<u>Non-compound</u>
	bláckboard		bláck bóard
	hótdog		hót dóg
	yéllow jacket		yéllow jácket

They also behave like a single unit in that they resist modification of their constituent parts:

(7)	<u>Compound</u>	<u>Non-compound</u>
	*the very blackboard	the very black board
	*the extremely hot dog	an extremely hot dog
	*a mostly yellow jacket	a mostly yellow jacket

Not all languages are head-final. Consider, e.g., Tagalog:

(8)	tubig ulan	tanod bayan	anak araw
	water rain	guard town	child sun
	'rainwater'	'policeman'	'albino'

And Welsh:

(9)	brws danedd	jwg llaeth
	brush teeth	jug milk
	'tooth brush'	'milk jug'

In these languages, compounds are **head-initial**.

Once formed, compounds themselves can be combined with other words to create new compounds that are often ambiguous, e.g. *kitten shopping network*, *kitten shopping network channel*, *kitten shopping network channel award*, etc.

Incorporation is a special type of compounding, the combination of a word (usually a nominal object) with a verb to form a compound verb. This is common in polysynthetic languages (data below from *Contemporary Linguistics* 2005.)

(10)	Chukchee (Paleosiberian, Siberia)
	<i>Without incorporation</i>
	tə-pelarkən qoranə
	I-leave reindeer
	'I'm leaving the reindeer.'
	<i>With incorporation</i>
	tə-qora-pelarkən
	I-reindeer-leave
	'I'm reindeer-leaving.'

4. Clitics

So far, the affixes we have looked at attach to members of a specific lexical or word category. E.g., plural *-s* combines with nouns, past tense *-ed* combines with verbs.

In contrast, certain morphemes attach **at a particular position within a phrase (or sentence)**, rather than to members of a given word class.

For example, consider where possessive *-s* in English attaches:

- (11) *Tim's cat*
that guy's cat
that guy we met's cat
that guy you think is mean's cat
that guy you used to live next to's cat

Here, possessive *-s* attaches to whatever the last word of the phrase describing the possessor is.

Compare the English plural *-s*, which may only attach to a noun stem:

- (12) *those two **guys** that we talked to*
the two **guy that we talked to*

In this way, this type of morpheme—called a **clitic**—behaves syntactically like an independent word.

At the same time, like bound morphemes—and unlike full-fledged words—clitics are phonologically dependent on another word, that is, they behave as if they were part of another word as far as pronunciation goes; they cannot stand alone. The word they are dependent on is called a **host**.

Are contractions in English like *-s* (of *is*) also clitics? Consider:

- (13) *Tim's here.*
That guy's here.
That guy we met's here.
That guy you think is mean's here.
That guy you used to live next to's here.

If so, why? What are other contractions in English?

5. Discontinuous Morphology

Discontinuous morphemes are morphemes that together correspond to a single meaning, but are separated from each other by other elements of a word.

Examples:

- (i) Circumfixes (Cree)
(ii) Semitic languages, p. 80, Sidebar 2.12:

'write'	'study'	'do'	'copy'		
katab	daras	ʕamal	na'al	'he V'ed'	3 rd masc sing perf
baktib	badris	baʕmil	ban'il	'I V'	1 st sing imperf
iktib	idris	iʕmil	in'il	'V!'	imperative
kaatib	daaris	ʕaamil	naa'il	V-er	active participle
maktuub	madruus	maʕmuul	man'uul	V-ed	passive participle

Do: Exercise 2.29, p. 88.