BA-Aufbaumodul: Levels of Linguistic Analysis I – Words and Sentences, Structure and Meaning (Mi 10-12; R. 209)

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Handout 2: Morphological analysis

- 1. Morpheme vs morph
- The **morpheme** is defined as the smallest meaningful unit in a language
- disagreement and/or inconsistency concerning the exact characterization
 - (i) a formal unit
 - (ii) an abstraction from the concrete forms
- the term 'morph' only refers to (i)
- 2. Morphological vs morphemic analysis
- the relation one morpheme = one morph doesn't always hold (cf. Brinton 79-82):

	1	1 ` ` `
(1) a. fish	1 morph fish	2 morphemes {FISH}+{pl}
b. cars	2 morphs <i>car+s</i>	2 morphemes {CAR}+{pl}
c. smaller	2 morphs <i>small+er</i>	2 morphemes {SMALL}+{compr}
d. better	1 morph better	2 morphemes {GOOD}+{compr}
e. worked	2 morphs work+ed	2 morphemes {WORK}+{past}
f. we	1 morph we	3 morphemes $\{1^{st} p\}+\{sg\}+\{m\}+\{obj\}$

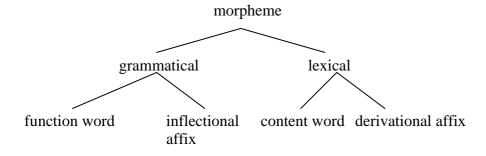
Exercise 1: Give morphological and morphemic analyses of the type in (1) for the following words: *mice*, *considered*, *worse*, *you*, *best*, *helplessly*, *went*.

- we speak of **zero morphs** if a given morpheme has no concrete phonetic realization
- we speak of **portmanteau morph(eme)s** if two or more morphemes are expressed by a single morph (e.g. –*s* on verbs expresses both present tense, third person, and singular)

Exercise 2: Is the word form *oxen* an example of two morphemes being realized by one morph? Give arguments for and against such a statement!

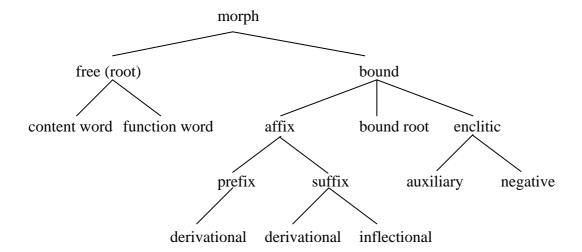
3. Types of morpheme

NB: As with words and phonemes 'morpheme' can refer to both types and tokens



- See Handout 1 for differences between inflection and derivation
- Roughly, inflection produces word forms and derivation (as other types of word formation) produces new lexemes

4. Types of morph



- Are roots always free? No! Consider (2):
- (2) a. <u>leg</u>-ible e. <u>clar</u>-ity
 b. <u>audi</u>-ence f. <u>obfusc</u>-ate
 c. <u>magn</u>-ify g. <u>applic</u>-ant
 - d. rend-ition
- The underlined morphs in (1) cannot occur independently, i.e. they are bound. They are all borrowed from Latin (directly or via French); cf. also *audible*, *auditory*, *audition*, *audience*, *magnitude*, *render*, *renderable*, *magnific*, *magnificate*, *magnificence*, *clarify*, *claritude*, *applicable*, *application*, *applicative* etc.
- **cranberry morphemes** as an extreme case these morphs occur only in one word: *cran-*, *huckle-* and *gorm-* in *cranberry*, *huckleberry* and *gormless*
- **combining forms** (words containing two or more bound roots): mainly technical terms such as *electrolysis*, *electroscopy*, *microscopy*, *microcosm*, *biography*, *democracy*, *microscope* etc. (borrowings from Greek)
- **Enclitics** are bound forms which derive from independent forms and must be attached to the word preceding them:
 - (3) a. will, shall > 'll

 b. would, had > 'd

 c. is, has > 's

 d. are > 're

 e. have > 've

 f. am > 'm

 (4) not > -n't (hasn't, isn't,

 mustn't, shouldn't etc)

Exercise 3

(a) Can you think of a reason why -en may attach to some adjectives, but not to others, as shown below?

blacken, broaden, stiffen, ripen, deafen, tighten, soften, loosen *thinen, *longen, *slimen, *nearen, *slowen, *narrowen, *holyen, *noblen

(b) Can you think of a reason why -ed may attach to some nouns, but not to others, as shown below?

brown-haired, kind-hearted, low-spirited, left-handed, narrow-minded, strong-headed *brown-coated, *heavy-pursed, *long-skirted, *one-childed, *two-catted, *silly-hatted

Reading for next week: Carstairs-McCarthy ch. 5 + 6 (obligatory); Brinton 94-109 (optional; see Basismodul Reader)