

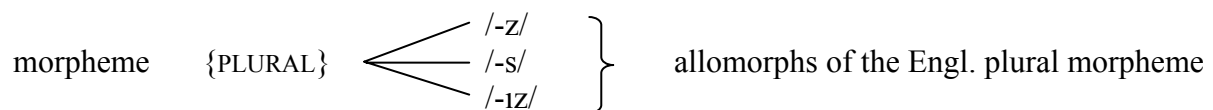
## Morphology II

### 1. Morpho(pho)nology: Morphs, Morphemes and Allomorphs

- Morphology is concerned with the interface between morphology and phonology, and more specifically with the question how morphemes are realized in different phonological contexts.
- Morphemes often occur in different variants: in this case we speak of different **allomorphs** realizing a single morpheme. Allomorphs are really **morphs**, but in order to stress that a group of morphs belong to one morpheme the term ‘allomorph’ is used.
- Allomorphs are phonologically, lexically or grammatically conditioned.

#### 1.1 Phonological conditioning: the English plural morpheme

(1) verbs, bets, kisses



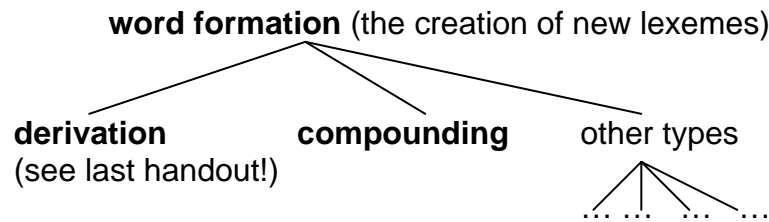
- the phonological form of the stem determines the form of the suffix:  
 /-z/ after vowels and voiced consonants which are not sibilants  
 /-s/ after voiceless consonants which are not sibilants  
 /-ɪz/ after /z/, /s/, /ʒ/, /ʃ/, /dʒ/, /tʃ/ (sibilants)
- formal representation of the rule:  
 (2) {-z} → /-ɪz/ / {/z/, /s/, /ʒ/, /ʃ/, /dʒ/, /tʃ/} \_\_\_\_\_  
       {-z} → /-s/ / [voiceless] \_\_\_\_\_  
       {-z} → /-z/ / [voiced] \_\_\_\_\_
- phonological conditioning of allomorphs is the most regular and most frequent type of allomorphy
- another example: the negative prefix in *impossible*, *incredible*, *inactive*, *illogical*, *irreverent*

Exercise 2: Form the plural of the following nouns and assign them to one of the three classes described above. Justify your decision! *hat*, *judge*, *interaction*, *country*, *hiss*, *class*, *rabbit*, *fear*, *sloy*, *strack*, *spish*

#### 1.2 Lexical (morphological) conditioning: the plural again

- (3) a. ox                ox-en                \*ox-es  
       b. mouse        mice                \*mouse-s

## 2. Word formation



### 2.1 Compounding

- A compound is the combination of two or more free roots that are considered one word (see the criteria for wordhood on the last handout)
- Compounds carry only one primary stress (on the first element):

- (4) a. bláckbird            -        bláck bírd  
      b. White House       -        whíte hóuse  
      c. Énglish teacher -        Énglish Téacher

- **endocentric** compounds: represent a special case of the **head** of the compound: *darkroom*, *daylight*, *waterbed*, *bedroom*, *small talk*
- **exocentric** compounds: compound has a meaning different from that of its components: *egghead*, *blockhead*, *birdbrain*, *paperback*

### 2.2 Other types of word formation

#### 2.2.1 Blend

- two free words are combined and blended, usually by clipping off the end of the first word and the beginning of the second word
- (5) *sm(oke) + (f)og > smog*

#### 2.2.2 Back formation

- speakers derive a morphologically simple word from a form which they analyze, on the basis of derivational and inflectional patterns in English, as a morphologically complex word:
- (6) *typewriter > typewrite*

#### 2.2.3 Clipping

- part of a word is dropped while the meaning is retained:
- (7) *rehab < rehabilitation*

#### 2.2.4 Acronym

- the initial letters of words in a phrase are pronounced as one word
- (8) AIDS < acquired immune deficiency syndrome  
(9) NATO < North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Assignment 1: Exercise 4.9 (2)

Relevant Reading: Brinton 82-86; 93-94; 97-101.

Optional reading: Brinton, rest of ch. 4.

Preparation for next week: Brinton 118-124 (obligatory)