

Linguistics 201 A Concise Introduction to Linguistics

Chapter 4 - The Morphological Component (pgs. 89-111)

- Phonology - study of the sound system of language.
 - o The minimal unit of phonology is the phoneme and a phoneme conveys no meaning in itself.
 - o Phonemes can be strung together in specific ways to produce meaningful units of language.
 - These units are called morphemes.
- Morphemes - are the smallest units of meaning. This means that morphemes cannot be broken down further and remain meaningful.
 - o Bound Morpheme - is a morpheme that cannot stand by itself, it must be attached to another morpheme to have meaning.
 - -s, for example, means more than one when it is attached to another word but by itself it has no meaning.
 - o Free Morpheme - a morpheme that can stand alone and still have meaning.
 - Cat, for example, still has a meaning even though it is only one morpheme.
- Root - a morpheme, usually but not always a free morpheme, that serves as a building block for other words.
 - o Words can be built by adding morphemes to the root, these added bound morphemes are called **affixes**.
 - Affixes that are added before the root are called **prefixes**.
 - Affixes that are added after the root are called **suffixes**.
- Compound - a word that is made up of two or more roots.
 - o Some examples are: lighthouse, greenhouse, bluebird, blackbird, chalkboard, etc.
- Closed-Form Compounds - compounds that have the individual morphemes fused together; there are no spaces in the word.
 - o Some examples are: schoolhouse, evergreen, into, textbook, etc.
- Hyphenated Compounds - compounds that have the morphemes fused by hyphens.
 - o Some examples are: father-in-law, eight-year-old, etc.
- Open-Form Compound - compounds that have spaces in between the individual morphemes.
 - o Some examples are: real estate, half brother, etc.
- Head of a Compound - similar to its topic, that is, the main, most general, or core meaning of the compound. The head also determines the grammatical function of the compound.
 - o An example of a compound would be blackbird. The head of that compound would be bird since it is the core meaning.
 - o In schoolhouse the head of the compound is house therefore schoolhouse is a noun. The head of the compound determines whether the word is an adjective, noun, verb, etc.
- Lexical Categories - the major classes of grammatical categories into which words can be divided.
 - o Parts of Speech - a system of grammatical categories for classifying words according to their usage or function; (nouns, verbs, etc.)

- Bound Morpheme - is a morpheme that cannot stand by itself, it must be attached to another morpheme to have meaning.
 - o There are two types of bound morphemes:
 - Derivational Morpheme - a morpheme that can change the lexical category of a word or change the meaning of a form of the word.
 - Inflectional Morpheme - a morpheme that serves only a grammatical function and does not change the lexical category of a word or its meaning.
- Allomorph - a variation of a morpheme.
 - o The meaning "more than one," which is usually expressed as the suffix -s can be pronounced three different ways. Each of these different pronunciations is a allomorph.
 - Morphophonemic Rules - rules that specify which allomorph of a morpheme will be used in a specific phonetic environment.
- Typology - a branch of linguistic that studies the structural similarities of languages.
 - o Languages are put into the same branches if their characteristics are similar.
- Morphological Typology - is the study and classification of language based on how morphemes create words.
- There are two types of language:
 - o Analytic (or Isolating) Language - is a language in which most words are single morphemes.
 - In an ideal analytical language, every word would be a single free (or root) morpheme, and there would be no bound morphemes.
 - In reality, languages classified as analytical might have low numbers of bound morphemes.
 - o Synthetic Language - uses bound morphemes to affect the meaning or mark the grammatical function of a free morpheme.
 - There are three types of synthetic language:
 - Fusional or Inflectional Language - is one type of synthetic language in which one bound morpheme may convey several bits of information.
 - Agglutinating Language - is a type of synthetic language in which each bound morpheme adds only one specific meaning to the root morpheme.
 - Polysynthetic Language - is a type of synthetic language in which each word is equivalent to a whole sentence in other languages.
- Open classes of words (content words) - are types of words such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs that grow in number in a language.
- Closed classes of words (function words) - are types of words such as prepositions and pronouns in which the growth is very limited.
- Some morphemes are more productive than others in creating new words.
 - o Morphemes like -ly, -s, pre-, etc. are much more productive in creating words than a morpheme like Boysen-.
- Neologisms - are newly formed words.
 - o Cultures that are more technologically advanced than other cultures will create more neologisms than others.
 - They have more things to name.

- There are nine processes used to form new words:
 - o Compounding - creating a words with more than one root.
 - o Acronyms - words formed from the first letter or letters of more than one word.
 - Different than initialisms because they are pronounced like any other word.
 - FBI is an initialism because you just say the letters.
 - o Foreign Word Borrowing - borrowing words from other languages and inputting them into your own.
 - Many words have been borrowed from other languages and there is no change, not even spelling in English.
 - o Clipping - deleting a section of a word to create a shortened form.
 - For example, stat - statistics.
 - o Blending - is the process of taking two or more words (compounding), clipping parts off one or more of the words, and then combining them.
 - Blend - is a word that is the result of the process of blending.
 - Carry a little bit of the meaning of both words used in the blend.
 - Example; Nylon is a blend of Vinyl and Rayon.
 - o Derivation - is the process of forming a new word by adding a derivational affix to a word.
 - Numerous affixes in English can be used in this productive way.
 - Example; Deplane comes from the root plane and has the derivational affix de- added to the front.
 - o Back-Formation - is used to form a new word through the process of analogy by removing an affix or what appears to be an affix from that word.
 - Analogy - is a process by which one form of a word is used as the model for constructing another word or structure.
 - For example; the word televise came from the word television instead of being the root for it.
 - o Eponyms - words formed from people's names.
 - An example of this would be Ponzi scheme which is named after Charles Ponzi who created a fraudulent investment scheme.
 - o Trade Names - are new words invented to label new products.
 - Xerox is a product name but it is now used even though the machine you use may be made by another manufacturer.
 - Google is used as a noun and verb in relation to any search engine, not necessarily Google.
- Etymology - the study of the history of words.
 - o A lot of words will change meaning over several hundred years.
 - For example, the word butcher used to mean "one who slaughters goats," but now it is used in a broader sense as "one who slaughters and/or prepares all types of meat".
- Noun - is a word that refers to names, persons, places, attitudes, ideas, things, qualities, or conditions.
 - o There are different types of nouns: