

2nd lecture / Morphology

Morphology and Word Formation

key concepts : Words and morphemes , Root, derivational, inflectional morphemes

Morphemes, allomorphs, morphs , Words , English inflectional morphology

Introduction

This lecture is about words—their relationships, their constituent parts and their internal organization. We believe that this information will be of value to anyone interested in words, for whatever reason; to anyone interested in dictionaries and how they represent the aspects of words we deal with here; to anyone involved in developing the vocabularies of native and - non-native speakers of English .

Exercise

Divide each of the following words into their smallest meaningful .

.Parts :1 . landholder, smoke-jumper, demagnetizability

2 -Each of the following sentences contains an error made by a non . native speaker of English. In each, identify and correct the incorrect word

- .a. I am very relax here
- .b. I am very boring with this game
- .c. I am very satisfactory with my life
- .d. Some flowers are very attracting to some insects
- .e. Many people have very strong believes
- .f. My culture is very difference from yours
- .g. His grades proof that he is a hard worker
- h. The T-shirt that China drawing. (from a T-shirt package from (China

In general terms, briefly discuss what English language learners must

.learn in order to avoid such errors

3 . words and morphemes

In traditional grammar, words are the basic units of analysis. Grammarians classify words according to their parts of speech and identify and list the -forms that words can show up in. Although the matter is really very complex for the sake of simplicity we will begin with the assumption that we are all generally able to distinguish words from other linguistic units. It will be sufficient for our initial purposes if we assume that words are the main units used for entries in dictionaries. In a later section, we will briefly describe .some of their distinctive characteristics

‘Words are potentially complex units, composed of even more basic units called morphemes. A morpheme is the smallest part of a word that has ‘(grammatical function or meaning (NB not the smallest unit of meaning ‘we will designate them in braces—{ }. For example, sawed, sawn, sawing ‘{and saws can all be analyzed into the morphemes {saw} + {-ed}, {-n}, {-ing and {-s}, respectively. None of these last four can be further divided into ‘meaningful units and each occurs in many other words, such as looked .mown, coughing, bakes

Saw} can occur on its own as a word; it does not have to be attached} to another morpheme. It is a free morpheme. However, none of the other morphemes listed just above is free. Each must be affixed (attached) to some other unit; each can only occur as a part of a word. Morphemes that must .be attached as word parts are said to be bound

Affixes are classified according to whether they are attached before or after the form to which they are added. Prefixes are attached before and {-suffixes after. The bound morphemes listed earlier are all suffixes; the {re of resaw is a prefix. Further examples of prefixes and suffixes are presented .

Root, derivational, and inflectional morphemes

Besides being bound or free, morphemes can also be classified as root, derivational, or inflectional. A root morpheme is the basic form to which other morphemes are attached. It provides the basic meaning of the word .The morpheme {saw} is the root of sawers. Derivational morphemes are added to forms to create separate words: {-er} is a derivational suffix whose addition turns a verb into a noun, usually meaning the person or thing.