

More morphology

before we start:

- first problem set is due ‘today’ (ending at dawn tomorrow)
- will try to put a new one up today
- finally figured out how to let you enroll yourselves in sections...
- anything else?

last time we saw:

lexicon contains morphemes, with information on:

- sound
- meaning
- bound vs. free
- prefix vs. suffix (vs. infix vs....)

there are more kinds of morphemes to talk about, and we will.

but first, another kind of information we're going to have to list.

industri-**al**
nation-**al**
autumn-**al**

-al attaches to a ...

*assert-**al**
*impress-**al**
*industrializ-**al**

industri-**al**
*industrializ-**al**
industrializ-**ation**-**al**

-ation creates ...

lexicon contains **morphemes**, with information on:

- sound
- meaning
- bound vs. free
- prefix vs. suffix
- what kind of morpheme they can attach to
- what kind of category they create

In fact, sometimes the information about what a morpheme can attach to isn't just information about categories:

sincere	-ity
chaste	-ity
scarce	-ity
curious	-ity
deep	-th
wide	-th
warm	-th

And there can be idiosyncratic information about what happens when the morphemes combine, too:

electri[k]-al
electri[s]-ity

hum	humm-ed
leap	[lep]-t
go	[wen]-t
sing	sang

- **-i[k]** and **-i[s]**,
leap and **[lep]**
-[d] and **-[t]**
are **allomorphs**; different forms that a single morpheme takes in combination with other morphemes.

And there can be idiosyncratic information about what happens when the morphemes combine, too:

electri[k]-al
electri[s]-ity

hum	humm-ed
leap	[lep]-t
go	[wen]-t
sing	sang

- **-i[k]** and **-i[s]**,
leap and **[lep]**
-[d] and **-[t]**
are **allomorphs**; different forms that a single morpheme takes in combination with other morphemes.

(there is often a *default allomorph*. e.g., if I tell you that there's a verb *fleap*, you're going to assume that the past tense is *fleaped*, not *flept*)

Word structure

What does *-ment* attach to? What's the resulting category?

government, treatment...

*bodyment, *powerment...

How about *em-*?

embody, empower...

So why is there this contrast?

*body**ment**, *power**ment**...

embodiment, **empowerment**...

		N
	V	Aff <i>ment</i>
Aff <i>em</i>		N <i>power</i>

- *em*: 'sister' is an N, 'mother' is a V
- *ment*: 'sister' is a V, 'mother' is an N

sometimes we may want to distinguish multiple, similar affixes...

un-wrap, un-tie

un-likely, un-happy

sometimes we may want to distinguish multiple, similar affixes...

un-wrap, **un-tie**

un-likely, **un-happy**

so what does **un-** attach to? and what does it create?

here's another affix to think about:

drink-**able**

break-**able**

watch-**able**

what does *-able* attach to? and what does it create?

Okay, so *un*₁- attaches to Verbs, and creates Verbs
(meaning “undo the effects of the Verb”):

un-wrap, un-tie

And *un*₂- attaches to Adjectives, and creates Adjectives:
(meaning “not Adjective”)

un-likely, un-happy

And *-able* attaches to Verbs, and creates Adjectives:
(meaning “can be Verbed”)

drink-able, break-able

Okay, so *un*₁- attaches to Verbs, and creates Verbs
(meaning “undo the effects of the Verb”):

un-wrap, un-tie

And *un*₂- attaches to Adjectives, and creates Adjectives:
(meaning “not Adjective”)

un-likely, un-happy

And *-able* attaches to Verbs, and creates Adjectives:
(meaning “can be Verbed”)

drink-able, break-able

so what’s the structure of *unlockable*?

Now let's start talking about allomorphs a little more systematically.

Allomorphy: Polish plurals

jezyk 'language'

garnek 'pot'

sok 'juice'

wuk 'bow'

jezyki 'languages'

garneki 'pots'

soki 'juices'

wuki 'bows'

Allomorphy: Polish plurals

jezyk 'language'

garnek 'pot'

sok 'juice'

wuk 'bow'

brzek 'bank of a river'

dwuk 'debt'

wuk 'lye'

jezyki 'languages'

garneki 'pots'

soki 'juices'

wuki 'bows'

brzegi 'banks of a river'

dwugi 'debts'

wugi '(kinds of) lye'

Allomorphy: Polish plurals

jezyk ‘language’

garnek ‘pot’

sokk ‘juice’

wuk ‘bow’

brzek ‘bank of a river’

dwuk ‘debt’

wuk ‘lye’

jezyki ‘languages’

garneki ‘pots’

sokki ‘juices’

wuki ‘bows’

brzegi ‘banks of a river’

dwugi ‘debts’

wugi ‘(kinds of) lye’

Allomorphy: Polish plurals

jezyk ‘language’

garnek ‘pot’

sokk ‘juice’

wuk ‘bow’

brzek ‘bank of a river’

dwuk ‘debt’

wuk ‘lye’

jezyki ‘languages’

garneki ‘pots’

sokki ‘juices’

wuki ‘bows’

brzegi ‘banks of a river’

dwugi ‘debts’

wugi ‘(kinds of) lye’

wuk ‘bow’ and *wuk* ‘lye’ are a *minimal pair*.

Allomorphy: Polish plurals

jezyk <u>k</u> ‘language’	jezyk <u>gi</u> ‘languages’
garnek <u>k</u> ‘pot’	garnek <u>gi</u> ‘pots’
sok <u>k</u> ‘juice’	sok <u>gi</u> ‘juices’
wuk <u>k</u> ‘bow’	wuk <u>gi</u> ‘bows’
brzek <u>k</u> ‘bank of a river’	brzeg <u>gi</u> ‘banks of a river’
dwuk <u>k</u> ‘debt’	dwug <u>gi</u> ‘debts’
wuk <u>k</u> ‘lye’	wug <u>gi</u> ‘(kinds of) lye’

wuk ‘bow’ and *wuk* ‘lye’ are a *minimal pair*.

-->we’ll never be able to predict which *k*’s change to *g*’s
in the plural....

Allomorphy: Polish plurals

jezy <u>k</u> ‘language’	jezy <u>k</u> i ‘languages’	jezy <u>k</u>
garne <u>k</u> ‘pot’	garne <u>k</u> i ‘pots’	garne <u>k</u>
sok <u>k</u> ‘juice’	sok <u>i</u> ‘juices’	sok <u>k</u>
wu <u>k</u> ‘bow’	wu <u>k</u> i ‘bows’	wu <u>k</u>
brze <u>k</u> ‘bank of a river’	brze <u>g</u> i ‘banks of a river’	brze <u>g</u>
dwu <u>k</u> ‘debt’	dwu <u>g</u> i ‘debts’	dwu <u>g</u>
wu <u>k</u> ‘lye’	wu <u>g</u> i ‘(kinds of) lye’	wu <u>g</u>

plus a rule: **g** changes to **k** at the end of a word.

MIT OpenCourseWare

<https://ocw.mit.edu>

24.900 Introduction to Linguistics Spring 2022

For more information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit <https://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.