

# Morphological structure of English words

**(WORDS)**

Lecture **# 3**

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# Language Units

- Morphemes
- Words
- Word groups
- Phraseological units

# MORPHEME

- **morphe** – “form”
- **-eme** “the smallest unit”

**Morphemes**- are the smallest meaningful unit of form

- *cannot be segmented into smaller units*
- *can occur in speech only as constituent parts of words*
- *are divided into lexical morphemes and grammatical morphemes*

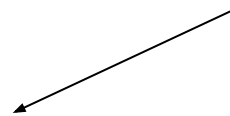
# Non-root morphemes (Derivational)

- Inflectional morphemes (inflections)

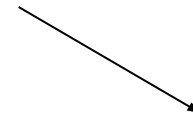


*endings*

- Affixational morpheme (*affixes*)



*prefixes*




*suffixes*



functional



derivational

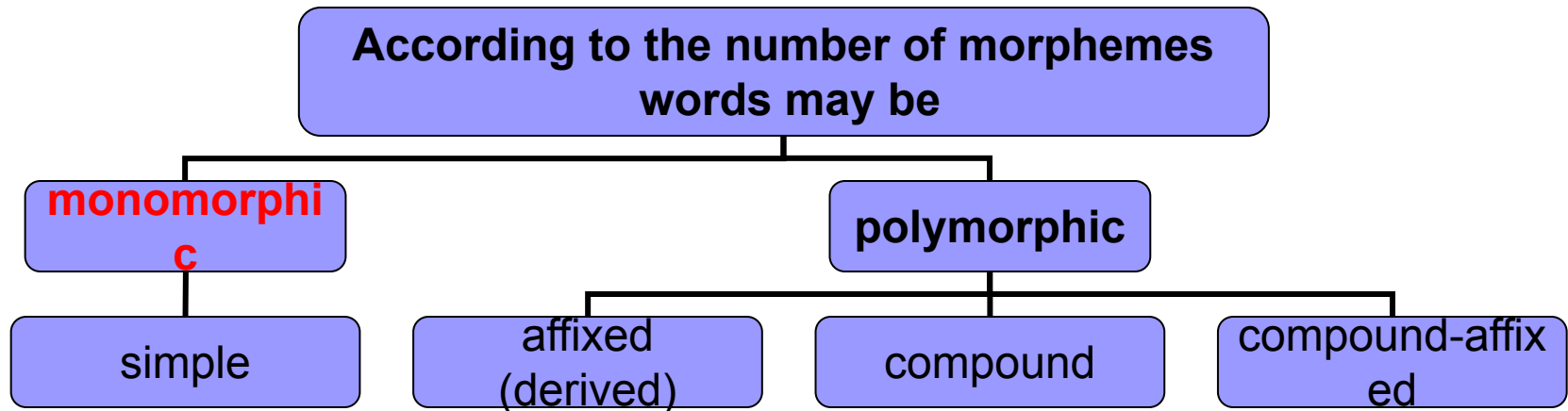


*Глокая куздра  
штеко будланула бокра  
и курдячит бокрёнка*

*(Л.Щерба)*

# STRUCTURAL TYPES OF WORDS

(Дубенец Э.М.)



# Monomorph (root) words

- Consist of one-root morpheme

*EX small, dog, make*



**SIMPLE**

one root morpheme + (functional affix)

*EX asked, seldom, cat, longer*

# POLYMORPHIC WORDS

- **Affixed ( derivatives)** = one root morpheme + one or more derivational affixes or functional affix (inflexion)

EX. acceptable, outdo, dislikes, discouragement

- **Compound words** = two or more root morphemes + functional affix (inflexion)

EX. eye+balls, wait- and- see

- **Compound-affixed words** = two or more root morphemes + one or more derivational affixes + functional affix (inflexion)

EX. job- hoppers, autotimer



# STRUCTURAL TYPES OF WORDS (Зыкова И.В.)

According to the number of  
morphemes  
words may be

monomorph  
ic

polymorphi  
c

monoradical

polyradical

# MONORADICAL words

- **Radical-suffixal** (*one root morpheme + one or more suffixal morphemes*)

*Ex acceptable, acceptability*

- **Radical-prefixal** (*one root morpheme + a prefixal morpheme*)

*Ex unbutton*

- **Prefixo-radical-suffixal** (*one root morpheme + prefixal and suffixal morphemes*)

*Ex disagreeable*

# POLYRADICAL words

- Two or more roots without affixational morphemes

*Ex* book- stand, lamp- shade

- Two roots or more + one or more affixational morphemes

*Ex* safety- pins, pen- holder



# Morphemic analyses

Segmenting words into the constituent morphemes -

the method of Immediate and  
Ultimate Constituents

# Procedure of morphemic analyses

- Based on a binary principle when each stage of the procedure involves two components the word immediately breaks into- The Immediate Constituents (ICs)
- Each IC at the next stage in its turn is broken into the smallest meaningful elements incapable of further division – The Ultimate Constituents (UCs)

## Ex friendliness

- 1) Friendly- IC + -ness UC
- 2) Friend- UC + -ly UC

The word consists of 3 UCs



## Derivational structure

is the nature, type and arrangement of the immediate constituents (ICs) of the word.

## Derivational base

Is the part of the word that determines its individual lexical meaning

## Derivational affixes

Are immediate constituents (ICs) of derived words


# Derivational patterns (DP)

Is a regular meaningful arrangement, a structure that imposes rules on the order and the nature of the derivational bases and affixes that may be brought together.

**DPs represent the derivational structure at different levels:**

**a) structural types.** Patterns of this level are structural formulas which specify the class membership of Immediate Constituents and the directions of motivation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \longrightarrow & N \\ A + -sf & \longrightarrow & N \end{array}$$

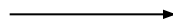


According to structural formulas all words may be classified into:

- Suffixal derivatives *blackness*
- Prefixal derivatives *rewrite*
- Conversions *a cut*
- Compound words *music-lover*



b) **structural patterns** specify the base classes and individual affixes which refer derivatives to specific parts of speech



EX The DP n + -ish A signals a set of adjectives with the lexical meaning of resemblance

EX The DP a + -ish A signals a set of adjectives meaning a small degree of quality

## C) **Structural –semantic patterns** specify

semantic peculiarities of bases and individual meanings of affixes

EX n + -ess → N (a female animate being) - **lioness**

EX n+ -y → A (resemblance) - **birdy**

- 
- “not” \ “without” \ “opposite of”

Nameless, disapprove, inattention

- “exceeding” \ a great extent” or “a large amount of”

Oversleep, superclever, extra-soft

- “similarity \ resemblance”

Flowerlike, babyish

- “very small” \ “not enough”

Booklet, duckling, miniskirt

# Morphemes and Words

## WORD

- particular meaning
- particular sound form
- capable of a particular grammatical employment
- able to form a sentence
- autonomous

## MORPHEME

- particular meaning
- particular sound form
- not autonomous
- constituent part of a word
- not divisible into smaller meaningful units