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 <u>lexical morphemes</u> and <u>grammatical morphemes</u>*

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.)

According to the number of morphemes words may be

monomorphic

polymorphic

simple

affixed (derived)

compound

compound-affixed
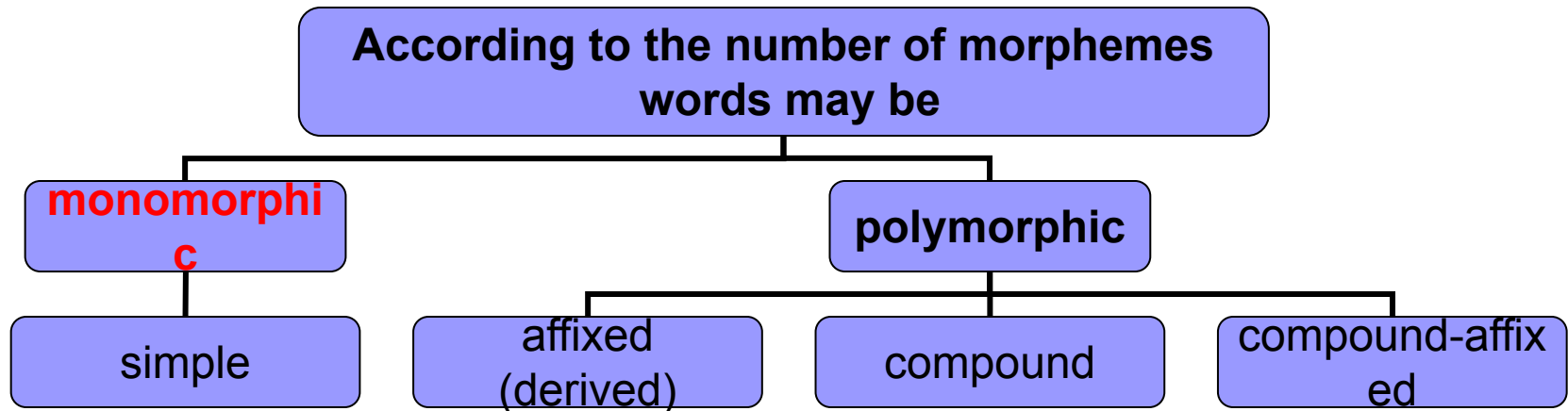
Monomorphic (root) words

- 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

monomorphic

polymorphic

monoradical

polyradical

MONORADICAL words

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

Ex acceptable, acceptability

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

Ex unbutton

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

Ex disagreeable

POLYRADICAL words

- **Two or more roots <u>without</u> affixational morphemes**

  Ex <u>book</u>- <u>stand</u>, <u>lamp</u>-<u>shade</u>

- **Two roots or more + one or more affixational morphemes**

Ex <u>safety</u>-<u>pins</u>, <u>pen</u>-<u>holde</u>r

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

Derivatonal 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. Patters of this level are <u>structural formulas</u>which specify the class membership of Immediate Constituents and the directions of motivation

V $\longrightarrow$ N

A + -sf $\longrightarrow$ N

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

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EX The DP <u>n + -ish   A</u>_*signals a set of adjectives with the lexical meaning of resemblance*

EX The DP <u>a + -ish   A</u>_*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 $\longrightarrow$ N   (a female animate being) - lioness

EX   n+ -y $\longrightarrow$ A   (resemblence) -   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