

## Problem Set 1 – Morphology

Do the reading by October 30. Send questions wrt. to the readings, the exercises below, or otherwise related to morphology before our meeting on Oct. 30 to [tatjana.scheffler@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:tatjana.scheffler@uni-potsdam.de).

### Exercises: [due Nov 5]

(Exercises partially taken from Fromkin, Rodman, Hyams (2007) “An Introduction to Language”, Chapter 3)

#### Exercise 1:

Divide the following words into morphemes:

- (1) a. retroactive
- b. befriended
- c. televise
- d. margin
- e. endearment
- f. psychology
- g. unpalatable
- h. holiday
- i. grandmother
- j. morphemic
- k. mistreatment
- l. deactivation
- m. saltpeter
- n. airsickness
- o. won't

#### Exercise 2:

The examples in (2), (3) and (4) below show possible word forms and impossible ones, which are preceded by an asterisk (\*). Divide the words into morphemes, and say which morphological processes are involved:

- (2) a. right – rightist – rightists
- b. right – rights – \*rightsist
- (3) a. foot – football – footballs
- b. foot – feet – \*football
- (4) a. sleepwalk – sleepwalked
- b. sleepwalk – \*sleptwalk

Based on your analysis, what can you conclude about the order of application of morphological rules?

**Exercise 3:**

What does the derivational suffix *-able* mean in the examples below? Find three examples where it is not *transparent* (i.e. it means something else).

- (5)    a. zippable  
       b. usable  
       c. stoppable  
       d. learnable

**Exercise 4:**

All of the following words end in *-er*. Is '*er*' a morpheme in all of the words? Is it the same morpheme in all of the words? Provide proof of your answers. To do a morphological proof, you must (1) point out which elements of the word you believe to be morphemes; (2) prove their morphemehood: first, give the meaning of each morpheme you find in the word and, second, for bound morphemes, give at least two more examples of words that contain the same bound morpheme with the same meaning.

- (6)    taller, river, shorter, farmer, either, smarter, caller, painter, finger, sweeter, other, never, teacher, cover

**Exercise 5: Language Profile**

Consider your chosen language. Over the course of the semester you will compile a short profile of this language and some of its features. Thus, for each question about your language that you are asked in the problem sets, consider that you want to be able to past them all together in the end to make a (relatively) coherent little text. Make sure your short paragraph answers are understandable on their own, but don't make them too long. It is good to include examples, graphics, etc.

**IMPORTANT:** If you include information from external sources (websites, papers, grammars, dictionaries, textbooks, etc.), you **must** cite them correctly. In linguistics (and computational linguistics) we typically use author-year citation style like: "Chomsky (1982) argued ..." or "Finnish has 15 cases (author, year) ...". If you use information from the web, grammars or textbooks for this language profile you don't have to put a citation in every sentence (since I'm assuming all this info is collected from outside sources anyway) – provided that you list the references you used at the bottom.

(a) Write one paragraph (!) briefly introducing your language (similar to what you presented in class).

(b) Present the basic morphology of your language (2-3 paragraphs). Is it agglutinative, isolating, ... ? (What do these terms mean?) What types of words are *inflected* and for what categories? What types of *agreement* are there? Which morphological processes are used in this language? Give one or two examples of sentences with *glosses* (i.e., each morpheme is marked and translated). (You can probably find example sentences in linguistics papers)

If your language has very little morphology, don't worry! That is also interesting.