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Intro 2 Lx
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MORPHOLOGY:
Derivation vs. Inflection

Derivation – methods of forming new words from already existing ones.

Derivation tends to affect the category of the word (non-, un-, -less, -ful, -hood). Inflection, on the other hand, tends to affect only its syntactic function.

Derivation tends to be more irregular - there are more gaps, the meaning is more idiosyncratic and less compositional.

- may change categories of words e.g. Noun > Verb, Verb > Adjective, e.g. Adj. *trying*
- less productive than inflection

Inflection – production of word-forms corresponding to a given lexeme,

Inflectional suffixes are required to make a sentence grammatically correct, but they add little meaning to the word.

They **never** change a word from one grammatical class to another, but each grammatical class has its own special set of inflectional suffixes.

{-s}, {-ed}, {-ing}, {-’s}, {-er}, {-en}, {-est}, {-s} are the English inflectional suffixes.

Criteria for distinguishing inflectional from derivational morphemes:

1. Change of category
2. Productivity
3. Semantic consistency (consistency in meaning)
4. Position

Change of category

Derivational morphemes can change the grammatical category of the base:

- to act_v actor_N
- free_{adj} freedom_N
- hospital_N to hospitalize_v
- to count_v countable_{adj}

- quick_{adj} quickly_{adv}

Examples where derivation does not change category are:

- Produce_v reproduce_v
- Friend_N friendship_N
- Practical_{adj} impractical_{adj}

Productivity

Inflectional morphemes tend to be more productive than derivational morphemes.

Productive derivational morphemes: un-, mis-, non-, -er, -less, -ation. Less productive derivational morphemes are: en-(enslave), -hood, -dom, -fold (two-fold), a- (atypical).

Semantic Consistency

Derivational morphemes are semantically less consistent than inflectional morphemes.

1. *cars* 'more than one car'

- *tables* 'more than one table'
- *shoes* 'more than one shoe'

2. *computerize* 'put into a computer' 'put into X'

- *modernize* 'make (more) modern' 'make more X'
- *brotherize* 'provide with a brother' 'provide with X'

Position

In English, inflectional morphology occurs after derivational morphology. Inflectional morphemes are always suffixes, whereas derivational morphemes are both suffixes and prefixes.

- Derivational suffixes:
 - -tion action -ness laziness
- Derivational prefixes:
 - dis- disbelieve re- rearrange