Morphology: Morphological processes

Intro To Lx

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- ◆ **Morphological processes can be concatenative or non-concatenative**

- ◆ **Concatenative morphology**: putting morphemes together, one after the other (like affixation)

- ◆ **Non-conctenation refers to word internal changes**.

CONCATENATIVE PROCESSES

- **Compounding**
- **Affixation**

Compounding

♦ Forming words by combining two or more existing forms.

♦ Compounds can be **open** (post office), **closed** (keyboard) or **hyphenated** (mass-produced).

♦ But generally, compounds are often ***hyphenated when they modify nouns.*** Compare:

♦ *fifty-yard-wide field & a field fifty yards wide*

Endocentric vs Excocentric compounds

- **The semantic head** of the compound is its right most word;
- If it is a **noun** the compound will be a noun (ice-tea);
- If it is a **verb**, it will be a verb (deep-fry);
- If is a **feminine** noun, the compound will be feminine (head-waitress).

Endocentric compounds

◆ Some compounds are **compositional**; the meaning of the new word is determined by combining the meanings of the parts.

◆ **Endocentric** compounds have the semantic head inside the compound.

   ■ B**ook cover** (a kind of cover), **lazer printer** (a kind of printer) .

Excocentric compounds

- Other compounds are **non compositional:** the meaning of the new word cannot be determined by combining the meanings of the parts.

- Excocentric compounds' semantic head is outside the compound.

  - **Pick pocket** (does not denote a kind of pocket) **loud mouth** (does not denote a kind of mouth. (the semantic head in both words is **person**)

Affixation

◆ **Affixation:** words are formed by adding affixes to a base (stem/root).

- V + -able   >>>   Adj: predict-able
- V + -er   >>>   N: sing-er
- un- + A   >>>   A: un-productive
- V + -ed   >>>   V: play-ed

Affix

- ◆ The general term for bound morphemes that are added to roots and stems is **affix**.
- ◆ If an affix appears before the root/stem, it is a **prefix**, if it appears after the root/stem, it is a **suffix**.
  - ■ Un-mark-**ed-ness**
  - ■ Un-friend-li-ness

Discontinuous affixes

- **Circumfixes** are affixes that **come in two parts**. *One attaches to the front of the word, and the other to the back.*
  - Dutch: berg 'mountain' **ge**-berg-**te** `mountains'
- **Infixes** are segmental strings that appear **within a root**.
  - Tagalog: basa `read' b-**um**-asa `read past'

NON CONCATENATIVE PROCESSES

◆ **Internal modifications**

◆ **Blending**

◆ **Conversion**

◆ **Back-derivation**:**(back-formation)**

◆ **Clipping**

◆ **Acronyms (acronymization)**

Internal modifications

Vowel modification

◆ [i] – [æ] *begin – began, ring – rang,*

◆ [i:] – [əu] *speak spoke, steal – stole,*

◆ [ai] - [au] *bind – bound, find – found,*

Internal modifications

- **Total modification (suppletion):**
- *go – went, good – better – best.*

Blending

- A process of word coinage in which **phonetic fragments of two or more words** are put together to create a single word.
- breakfast + lunch   **brunch**
- motor + hotel   **motel**
- cybernetic + organism   **cyborg**
- telephone + marathon   **telethon**
- web + seminar   **webinar**

Conversion

- Conversion involves a change in the **function** of the base but **its form remains the same.**
- *(a) pilot – (to) pilot,*
- *(a) cook – (to) cook,*
- *empty – (to) empty*
- *(a) pardon – to pardon*

Back-derivation: (back-formation)

- **Back-derivation**: The formation of a new word by the deletion of a *supposed suffix*:
- *beggar > beg*
- *editor > edit*
- *sculptor > sculpt*
- *electrocution > electrocute*
- *enthusiasm > enthuse*
- *television > televise*
- **babysitter> babysit**

Clipping

♦ **Clipping**: a word is reduced or shortened without changing its meaning.

- The four types of clipping are:
  - **Back clipping: doc**(tor), **demo** (nstration),
  - **Fore-clipping**: (alli)**gator**, (tele)**phone**
  - **Middle clipping**: **flu** (influenza) **jams** (pajamas)
  - **Complex clipping** is removing multiple parts from multiple words as in *sitcom* from *situation comedy; **op art** (optical art), **navi cert** (navigation certificate).*

Acronyms

♦ **Acronyms** are abbreviations that act as normal words

- ■ *Laser*: **l**ight **a**mplification by **s**imulated **e**mission of **r**adiation

- ■ *Radar* : **r**adio **d**etecting **a**nd **r**anging