

Seventh Lecture: Title : Types of Morpheme , Oral and Written Speech , Spelling and Pronunciation

Types of Morpheme

A morpheme (derived from the Greek morphé , meaning " shape , form ") is the smallest unit of meaning . A morpheme cannot be reduced into smaller parts without a loss of meaning . A morpheme is different from a syllable , which is a unit of pronunciation .

There are two types of morphemes : free morphemes and bound morphemes . Free morphemes can stand alone . Most words are free morphemes , like the words mentioned above : house , book , bed , light , world , people and so on . Bound morphemes , however , cannot stand alone . These include suffixes , like -s , -er , - ing , -est .

Based on Lieber (2009 : 34) , " Morpheme has two types there is Bound Morpheme and Free Morpheme " . Free morpheme is a morpheme which can stand alone to make a word . Free Morpheme can be found in simple word . A word that contain Free Morpheme has a basic meaning without any addition of grammatical function . Free morpheme can appear with other lexemes of they can stand alone or " free " and Free Morpheme consist two types they are Lexical and Functional Morpheme .

Bound Morpheme is a morpheme cannot stand alone, it needs a combination to make a word. Word that contain Bound Morpheme is a word that has grammatical function such as ed, -s/es, ing, en, er, ed, est. Bound Morpheme appear only together with other morphemes to form a lexemes. Bound Morpheme in general tend to be affixes: Prefix and Suffix.

The zero bound morpheme has no phonetic form and is also referred to as an invisible affix, null morpheme or ghost morpheme. It is useful for analyzing word forms.

A zero morpheme is when a word changes its meaning but does not change its form. In English, certain nouns and verbs do not change their appearance even when they change number or tense.

Sheep, deer, fish, keep the same form whether they are used as singular or plural.

Some verbs like 'hit', 'cut', and 'cost' remain the same in their present and past forms. English verbs in the present tense have a null morpheme in all forms except the third person singular.

Run = the verb root, used in 'I run, you run, we run, they run'.

He runs = run (verb root) + s (3rd person singular)

The verb stays the same in all cases except for the third person singular (he, she, it). This applies to Deutsch in particular; in many other languages the verb form changes according to the subject. Think of French or Italian, where the verb changes according to person and time. That's a lot of changes! In Chinese on the other hand, the verb never changes, and you can only understand the subject from the pronoun used.

Lexical morphemes are words that give us the main meaning of a sentence, text or conversation. These words could be nouns, adjectives and verbs, such as house, book, tree, panther, loud, quiet, big, orange, blue, open, run, talk.

Because we can add new lexical morphemes to a language (new words get added to the dictionary each year!), we call this an 'open' class of words.

Functional (or Grammatical) Morphemes are mostly words that have a functional purpose such as linking or referencing lexical words, ie: prepositions, conjunctions, articles and pronouns. Examples include: and, but, when, because, on, near, above, in, the, that, it, them.

We can rarely add new functional morphemes to the language, so we call this a 'closed' class of words.

Ronald W. Langacker in his book *Language and Its Structure* has divided morphemes into two classes: lexical and grammatical. Lexical morphemes are forms like boy, write, paper and pen. Grammatical morphemes are forms like some, with, a, an, the, to from. Lexical morphemes are nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

They have more or less independent meaning, so that one or a series of lexical forms in isolation can be fairly meaningful. Pen suggests something quite definite to us, as do boy, paper and write. Lexical morphemes are very large in a language; the number may go up to ten million as in English.

Grammatical morphemes are elements like prepositions, articles, conjunctions, forms indicating number, gender or tense and so on. Grammatical morphemes, by and large, do not change frequently: new members in their family in any language are added rather infrequently.

But lexical morphemes go on changing frequently; new members are added to the lexicon quite often. However, the distinction between lexical and grammatical morphemes is artificial and inadequate. 'Hood' is lexical morphemes in she wears a hood, but is not in boyhood.

Oral and Written Language

One of modern linguistics founders, Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) believed that written and spoken word represent two different sign systems – the second exists solely for the purpose of representing the first.

Oral language is primary and written is secondary. Oral speech can exist without corresponding written form, but it can't be the other way around. In fact, the vast majority of languages in the world only recently acquired a written form. It is curious, that many languages in the world still exist in their oral form – out of 7,117 living languages 3,135 are likely unwritten.

Oral speech is a form of language that is expressed in pronounced and audible utterances. This oral language definition means that for communication, words are both spoken and heard. Speech usually has a situational nature. Therefore it is less detailed than written. Often, with such communication, fewer words are required to understand each other than in written communication.

When dissecting oral language, one can discover that it consists of several components:

1. Phonology – it defines how sounds are organized, how they are grouped to form words.
 2. Morphology – teaches about the inner structure of words and how they are formed and changed in order to convey a different meaning.
 3. Grammar (syntax) – provides a number of rules, which help to understand the relationship between words; how they should be combined together to make sentences.
 4. Vocabulary & semantics – vocabulary is a set of words that a person uses in speech (expressive vocabulary) and is able to understand (receptive vocabulary), while semantics studies word meaning.
 5. Discourse – shows how tongue is used in communication, in a social situation as a means of conveying certain meanings.
 6. Pragmatics – considers meaning behind words in specific circumstances, how it can change depending on context of interaction. It helps understand the exact meaning of the words in a specific social situation.
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Forming a written language definition is tricky. It can be described as a representation of spoken or gestural language by means of a writing system. No natural language is only written. Written form changes more slowly than the corresponding oral one. Putting it in writing helps with its preservation, but often does not reflect the current state of oral form. Written form exists in order to consolidate as well as transmit information. Written speech is presented, for example, in books, personal or business letters, official documents, etc.

Writing is often *contextual & indirect*. That means that all necessary information is contained only in a text itself. Writing is usually addressed to an unknown reader. In this case, one cannot count on supplementing content with details that are usually understandable without words during direct personal contact.

Written language can be compared to a code, so knowing the sounds of individual letters and how those letters sound when they're combined will help children decode words as they read. Understanding phonics will also help children know which letters to use when they are writing words. Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. For example, the sound k can be spelled as c, k, ck or ch.

Spelling and Pronunciation

Spelling the forming of words from letters according to accepted usage : a sequence of letters composing a word : the way in which a word is spelled . It is a set of conventions that regulate the way of using graphemes (writing system) to represent a language in its written form. In other words, spelling is the rendering of speech sound (phoneme) into writing (grapheme). Spelling is one of the elements of orthography, and highly standardized spelling is a prescriptive element . Spellings originated as transcriptions of the sounds of spoken language according to the alphabetic principle. They remain largely reflective of the sounds, although fully phonemic spelling is an ideal that most languages' orthographies only approximate, some more closely than others. This is true for various reasons, including that pronunciation changes over time in all languages, yet spellings as visual norms may resist change. In addition, words from other languages may be adopted without being adapted to the spelling system .

The relation of spelling and compounding , spelling doesn't tell us what sequences of word constitute a compound whether they are spelled with space between the two word s hyphen or with no separation at all , depending on unique quality or individual quality . meaning of compound it is not always the same meaning of its part such as black board . some compounding words reveal other meaning relations between the parts which are not consistent because many compounds are idiomatic e.g. (boat house , is the place of boat but cat house is not the place of cat.

One of the very important matters to consider with writing competency is spelling. One single misspelled word can change the entire meaning of the sentence. Cook (1997:474) elaborates that "... correct spelling is a sign of education; a spelling mistake is a solecism that betrays carelessness or plebeian origins". Good spelling knowledge is extremely important for effective word recognition, which can greatly enhance reading (Dina and Alia: n.d). Poor spelling causes drastic effects on reading and writing .

Pronunciation is the way in which a word or a language is spoken. This may refer to generally agreed-upon sequences of sounds used in speaking a given word or language in a specific dialect ("correct pronunciation") or simply the way a particular individual speaks a word or language . A word can be spoken in different ways by various individuals or groups, depending on many factors, such as: the duration of the cultural exposure of their childhood, the location of their current residence, speech or voice disorders, their ethnic group, their social class, or their education . the way in which a word is pronounced. "spelling does not determine pronunciation" .It is the act or result of producing the sounds of speech, including articulation, stress, and intonation, often with reference to some standard of correctness or acceptability . Sometimes there are words that have letters don't pronounced e.g. (confusion , castle)

English was largely fixed in the form that was used when printing was introduced (Yule, 2006). English spelling has many homophones. A homophone is a word that is pronounced the same as another word but it differs in meaning. The words may be spelled the same, such as rose (flower) and rose (past tense of "rise") or differently, such as carat, caret and carrot or weather or whether. Due to the homophones, learners confuse to select the correct spelling in writing a discourse act. A distinguished French scholar has mentioned that English has preserved thousands of borrowed words and the spelling of those words have been in their original language, therefore, the foreigner finds it hard to recognize the word and to spell it easily (Baugh & Cable, 1996).
