LESSON TWO IN LINGUISTICS

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(to group 1,2,3,4,5&6)

MORPHOLOGY

Introduction

In our lesson of phonology,we followed how sounds function in different languages.They follow rules and principles proper to each language .In a similar vein of development ,we will examine how words are formed in a language and the imposed constraints on word structure .The patterns of formation are different from one language to another,the result of which they are classified under different types:

1-**Analytic** (isolating)

2-**Synthetic** (inflectional)

3-**Agglutinative** (affixing)

(Typological and genealogical classifications p4-7,D.Craddol,J.Cheshire and J.Swann (1987)).

We will return to this in our concluding part.

A-Morphology:word formation

Morphology is the study of morphemes (**morph** meaning **form** in Greek). **Morphemes** are the **smallest units** of **meaningful form** like the phonemes are the smallest units of meaningful sound in a language system .

The morphemes are **formatives** .Words can be decomposed into smaller meaningful elements .They are free and bound morphemes :

    a-free morphemes :words like room, sky, fair, school , girl ….etc may stand alone meaningfully (they are free morphemes) and they may be attached to other units known as bound morphemes eg:

fair ⟶ fair**ly ,school**⟶school**s , mistake**⟶ mistak**able ,text**⟶ **ur**text,

sky⟶ski**es –room**⟶room**s –girl**⟶ girl**ish….**

    b-Bound morphemes : They do not stand by themselves ,yet they carry full grammatical meaning eg: ly –s -es – ish….. they

belong to the **closed set.**The closed set consists of **function morphemes**(non – roots=the functors) eg: determiners, conjunctions ,pronouns,……etc. **Lexical morphemes** make an open set(they are content words-**contentives =** free forms with lexical value eg: noun,verb,adverb…..etc) They are an **open class** to word formation =new words are continually being added as we will see later in coinage, blending… etc

 Functors are empty of semantic content. Clitics are another type of functors (leaning on hosts =clitikos in Greek) eg I **am** ➞ am is a clitic ,I cannot= can'**t** ➞ t an enclitic and do you=**d**'you ➞d proclitic

Halpern.A(1998)clitics , the handbook of morphology

Briefly ,**words = morphemes (single & joined)**

 -The morpheme which carries the basic meaning of a word is called a **root** or a **base** .

-The bound morphemes get attached to the root or base.They are called **affixes** They are three types named with respect to their place in the word :

Prefix ⟶it precedes the base as in **un**fair,**re**place ,**dis**like ….

Suffix ⟶ it follows the base as in fair**ly** ,real**ly,** man**ly** ,boy**ish** ,care**ful…. Infixes /inflexes** are rare in English .The affix is inserted inside the base making it a discontinuous phonological sequence eg: abso**blooming**lutely(Mind you, I was taught this but in practice I never heard it used by anybody)

Learn more about infixes in Sloat & Trager (1978)

C-Kinds of affixes

Affixes are inflectional and derivational morphemes :

1-**Inflectional** affixes modify the word grammatically**.** They are not universal. Analytic languages like Chinese and Vietnamese have none(p231,D.J.Allerton)

English has 8 inflectional suffixes .They have strictly a grammatical function :

1- 3rd person singular :walk**s** ,brush**es** , sing**s…..**
2- Past tense : play**ed**, clean**ed**, lift**ed** ……
3- Progressive form: play**ing** ,clean**ing** ,lift**ing**……
4- P participle: driv**en** ,clean**ed** , s**u**ng….
5- Possessive suffix or s-genetive eg : the boy'**s** shirt, cow's milk …..
6- Comparative er :fast**er**, high**er**, wid**er**……

7- Superlative –est :fast**est,** high**est** , wid**est** …..

8-Plural-s: house**s**, room**s ,**hall**s ,** shoe**s**……

In addition to the above ,English contains other forms of irregular inflections they are referred to by **suppletion , umlaut and Ablaut .**

Suppletion :It describes the relationship between two words that are connected through inflectional morphology but have quite different forms as in

(Am- is- are) and (was –were), (go-went) ,(good- well-better),(bad-worse),(we-us)……etc

Umlaut : It is borrowed from German as in (Foot-feet) ,(mouse-mice) ,(tooth-teeth) ,(louse-lice)……etc

Ablaut : It is an alternation of vowels in a root to indicate tense as in: s**i**ng-s**a**ng, dr**i**ve-dr**o**ve ,r**i**de-r**o**de, r**u**n-r**a**n …..etc

d-Morphemic variation

In the context of phonemes we observed how some phonetic environments lead to phonemic variation producing allophones of the kind aspirated p k t and non-aspirated p k t in English .**Morphemic variation** is also caused by the phonetic environment resulting **allomorphs (**variants of a morpheme)for example, the plural morpheme in English has **five allomorphs.** They are phonologically conditioned (they are predictable in the same way as 3rd person singular verbs and progressive assimilation):

1-Plural S = /S/ occuring after voiceless stops p, t & k+ fricative f & /**th**/ as/ ث / in eg : ta**ps**-ra**ps** –hi**ts**-si**ts**-ki**cks**-ta**kes**-sni**fs**-cou**ghs**-sleu**ths**-my**ths**

2- S =/ Z / occuring after voiced stops or continuants d,b,g,l,n,m,v,r,y,w,& th=ذ

As in :Han**ds** –ru**bs**-hu**gs-**pee**ls**-lea**ns**-har**ms**-sha**ves**-clea**rs**-pla**ys**-vo**ws**-ba**thes-**

3-S=/ IZ / occurring after voiced+ voiceless sibilants s, z,j,sh (ش) tj, tsh as in: hi**sses**-kis**ses**-snee**zes**-tea**ses**-rou**ges**-mira**ges**-bru**shes**-da**shes**-ra**ges**-ju**dges**-sna**tches** and cat**ches .**

Beige,prestige ,rouge, barrage, camouflage ,mirage ,fuselage ,dressage ,massage ,sabotage ,& montage (words of french origin)end with a j- sound

Thomas Burns Mc Arthur & Roshan Mc Arthur (2005) Concise oxford companion to the English language

4- A fourth plural comprises a group of irregular unpredictable forms (it is not conditioned by a phonetic environment . It works like umlaut forms:

ox ⟶ oxen

goose ⟶ geese

mouse ⟶ mice

child ⟶ children

5-Zero allomorph as in fish –deer-sheep-information-fruit-aircraft…..etc

Inflectional morphemes follow different patterns in different languages.

In English ,nouns inflect for plural formation with a final plural suffix as described above or take a fusional form (very troublesome) such as goose-geese, foot-feet . Arabic nouns follow many patterns eg بنات -بنت مقاهي -مقهى منازل - منزل

The plural morpheme is an infix (آ) but in سؤال-اسئلة امام-ائمة سرير اسرة the plural morpheme is a prefix + a suffix (ة + آ) where as the plural noun women= نساء اونسوة two plural forms with a missing base (root form) and a different root form امراة =woman (singular women (امراة)gets plural women(نساء-نسوة))

Infants solved the problem by providing مراوات plural for امراة singular following the predominant plural pattern.

Bound roots do not occur in isolation (they are not free morphemes) .They gain meaning only after being combined eg **ceive-cept-ject- mit-clude……**

as in :con**ceive** , re**ceive,** de**ceive** ,per**ceive,**

con**cept**ion ,de**cept**ion,in**cept**ion, re**cept**ion

in**ject**ion ,con**ject**ion

re**mit** ,trans**mit** ,ad**mit** ,per**mit** ,sub**mit** ,com**mit**

con**clude**,in**clude**,se**clude**,pre**clude**….

Other unusual forms are described as **reduplications** eg ack ack –rat a tat …..

2-**Derivational affixes** :they modify the word lexically .The prefix generally alters (changes) the meaning of a word whereas the suffix alters its part of speech eg:**dis + appear =disappear (**prefix **dis** changed the meaning of **appear)**

Write + er =writer (suffix **er** changed the word class of **write** from a verb to a noun)** Here are more examples :

-Prefixed bases :remove **– fore**tell – **geo**sciences –**em**power –**para**phrase – **re**open –**un**tie –**em**bolden- **un**do-**down**load -**un**derline –**ur**text- **co**-auther- self control- **de**frost –**semi**final –**uni**form……

Suffixed bases :repair**able** –act**or** –happi**ly**–sav**ing** –settl**ement** –hope**ful** – rest**ive** –imprecat**ion**-jobl**ess** –business**wise** –notice**able** –bore**dom**–mad**ness**…

Remark: inflectional affixes are final eg :lean**ed,** room**s** ,shoe**s……….**

Derivational affixes occur closer to the base and allow successive derivations: fool-foolish –foolishness & foolishly ,Job-jobless-joblessness

They make longer words : unfaithfulness ,unsurmountable ,ungentlemanliness

ANTIDISESTABLISHMENTARIANISM (see similar long words on internet)

R.H.Robins (p258) pointed out a further division of derivational affixes .they include class maintaining and class changing affixes .**Class maintaining** produce a derived form of **the same class** .**Class changing** produce a derived form of **another class**.

a-Class maintaining prefixes

ir+ responsible (adj)= irresponsible (adj)

in+ accurate (adj) =inaccurate (adj)

im+ penitent (adj)=impenitent (adj)

un+ happy (adj)=unhappy (adj)

un+ rest (noun)=unrest (noun)

re+ write (verb)= rewrite (verb)

in+ judicious (adj)= injudicious (adj)

b-**Class changing prefixes**

en +danger (noun)=endanger (verb)

in +take (verb)=intake (noun)

re+ new (adj)=renew(verb)

de+ frost(noun) =defrost (verb)

Words like move, form ,joke ,trap ,tie…..are nouns and verbs at the same time so we need to consider whether we are using a verb or a noun eg :in+joke (noun)= injoke (noun)➡class maintaining prefix

In+ joke(verb)=injoke (noun)→class changing prefix .

Prefixes like cross ,ultra ,brand ,semi ,auto ,co &more save the same class of morphemes with an altered meaning eg final→ semi final ,gestion →auto gestion modern→ ultra modern ,fertilize→cross fertilize .

c- Class maintaining suffixes

dance (noun)+er= dancer (noun)

play (noun)+er =player (noun)

sin (noun)+ er =sinner (noun)

friendly(adj)+ly =friendly (adverb)

manly (adj)+ly =manly (adverb)

kindly(adj)+ly=kindly (adverb)⟹ these adjectives followed the process of haplology (elision of some sounds occurring in a sequence of similar articulation)

advocate (verb) =advocate (noun)⟹ no change in spelling in this type of words :

estimate (verb)=estimate (noun)

import(verb)=import(noun) ,conduct(verb)=conduct(noun),separate(verb)=separate (adj)...etc.These pairs of words are distinguished by a shift of stress and a

syllable weakening.

Remark:Please use a dictionary to see the difference.

d- Class changing suffixes

emancipate (verb)+ion =emancipation (noun)

dance (verb)+ er=dancer (noun)

pre empt (verb)+ive =preemptive (adj)

run (verb) +er =runner (noun)

remorse (noun)+less =remorseless (adj)

furious (adj)+ ly=furiously (adverb)

Suffixes like hood ,wise ,ship,dom ….etc may or may not change word class eg:

 Free (adj) +dom=freedom (noun)

Fief (noun)+dom= fiefdom (noun)

Neighbour (noun)+hood =neighbourhood (noun)

Citizen (noun)+ ship =citizenship (noun)

Clock (noun)+wise =clockwise (adverb)

B- word formation processes in human language

Linguists use many technical terms to describe the processes of word-building (word formation) in languages :

1-Coinage : Generally trade names for companies ,pharmaceutical products and technological terms are the most typical sources for new **coinages =newly invented words** eg :Xerox-machine for making copies ,paracetamol ,chloroquine ,skype and so forth.Some coinages are direct eponyms eg : diezel (the German Rudolf Diezel),Don Quixote (hero of Servantes novel)

2-Borrowing :languages borrow words from one another eg : karaoke & tsunami (Japanese) kiosk & yogurt (Turkish) alcohol ,lemon ,algebra (Arabic) ,shampoo (hindi) ,piano ,pizza (Italian)…etc

Borrowing is also made by means of calquing (loan translation) eg : gratte ciel = sky scrapers and by transliterating eg :internet in Arabic : الانترنيت or taking words as they are from their sources .

Please go to your kitchen and start naming things around you :

فريجيدار ــطابلة ــمرميطا- كوكوطا ــفور ــتريسيتي ــكويزينيار ــفرشيطة ــكارلاج...الخ

3-Compounding :forming one word out of two joined ones eg : armchair ,sunlight, download ,medical treatment, waiting room....etc

4-Clipping :reducing a long word to a short form eg:bike for bicycle ,telly for television ,flu for influenza ,phone for telephone ….etc

5-Acronymy :stating initials of a sequence of words eg: SCUBA=Self Contained Under Water Breathing , SALT=Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, AIDS,NASA, NATO ,COVID19 =Corona Virus Disease 2019

R.Stockwell & D.Minkova (2009) English Words ,History & structure .

D.Crystal (2004) A glossary of Netspeak .

(2006) language and the Internet

6-Blending :Mixing two words together in a way that the newly produced word takes the beginning from one and the end from another eg: inter**net** +cit**izen** =**netizen** (this new word means a person who uses the internet a lot)

l**pod** +broad**cast** =**podcast(**invented by a BBC journalist in 2004**)**

Situation +**com**edy =**sitcom**

Spoon +f**ork** =**spork**

Plogging is a newly invented word involving two languages Swedish +English **plo**cka upp (Swedish to pick up)+jo**gging**(English running)=**plogging**

This newly invented word means picking up trash while running . Words like spork ,sitcom ,podcast & plogging are portmanteau words (MOT VALISE).

Portmanteau words were first invented by the British mathematician and writer Lewis Carrol in 1865 (author of Alice's adventures in wonderland)

Conclusion :

In the early 19th century ,Von Humboldt classified languages with respect to morphology under three types:

1-Analytic languages :In general ,this type includes ' tone languages' in which pitch distinguishes between words . Their words are simple units with no affixes.Chinese and Vietnamese are perfect examples

2-Synthetic languages : In these languages the bases inflect for tense ,gender number ,category… (grammatical relationships are reflected by inflection where the **affix merges** with the **base** to make fusional forms (as in : fight –faught ,see –saw ,ride –rode….) eg : Latin ,Sanscrit ,Greek ,English & semitic languages like Hebrew and Arabic .

3 –Agglutinative languages : In this type , the affixes are normally joined to the base with little or no morphophonemic change eg: Japanese ,Hungarian , Swahili...)

More researches revealed in the course of time the weakness of a clear cut division between languages ,only the tone languages seem to fit to varying degrees to their type.Other languages display patterns of word formation susceptible to classify them under all types eg English (please take a glance back to examples of derivation and inflection) & Arabic eg the plural inflection : وباء-اوبئة , فم-افواه , سن-اسنان عين-عيون اذن-اذان

Zero allomorph in words like – قمح – بطاطس – بصل

I chose to end this lesson with the words of Alice and the gryphon conversing about the rules of word formation : (Alice 's adventures in wonderland1865)

Alice :I never heard of uglification .

The gryphon :Never heard of uglifying ! you know what to beautify is I suppose ?

Alice: yes ,it means to make prettier .

The gryphon :well then ,if you don't know what to uglify is ,you are a simpleton

⟹ Mapping on the same pattern is one rule among many .

Elsewhere(Through the looking glass 1871) , Humpty Dumpty explained to Alice how he formed the word **slithy** out of **lithe + slimy** . 'It is like a portmanteau' ,he said .

⟹ There are two meanings packed into one word .

Once again ,the course of morphology reminds us of how much language is flexible eclectic and malleable .

Useful books for free downloading :

D.J.Allerton (1979) Essentials of Grammatical Theory .

R.H.Robins (1965) General Linguistics

    An introduction survey

R.P.Stockwell & D.Minkova (2009) English Words ,History and Structure .

2nd edition

Victoria Fromkin: An introduction to language(recommended to you in the first term)

A.Carstairs (2010) The Evolution of Morphology .

(this book is available in the department 's library).