# Morphology

# 1. Morphology:

Look at the following examples: works, worker, working, worked = work + -s, -er, -ing, ed talks, talker, talking, talked = talk + -s, -er, -ing, ed

*Morphology:* is the analysis of the structure of words.
 Or, the study of the internal structure of the word.

# 2.1 Morpheme:

Look at the following examples: works, worker, working, worked = work + -s, -er, -ing, ed talks, talker, talking, talked = talk + -s, -er, -ing, ed

- -s, -ing, ed are units of grammatical function.
- work, talk,-er are units of meaning.
- work, talk, -s, -er, -ing, ed are morphemes.

# Morpheme: a minimal ( the smallest) unit of meaning or grammatical function.

Identify the morphemes the following words:

- Reopened.
- Returned.
- Tourists.
- Writers.
- Unhappy
- Foolishness
- Undressed.
- Carelessness.

## 2.2 Free and Bound Morpheme:

Look at the following:

Re<u>open</u>ed, Re<u>turn</u>ed, <u>Tour</u>ists, <u>Write</u>rs, Un<u>happy</u>, <u>Fool</u>ishness, Un<u>dress</u>ed, <u>Care</u>lessness.

- There are two types of morphemes:
  - \* open, turn words
  - \* re-, -ed, -ist, -er, un-, affixes
- Free morpheme: a morpheme that can stand by itself as a single word.
- The free morphemes can be identified as the set of separate English word forms such as basic nouns, adjectives, verbs, etc.

## 2.2 Free and Bound Morpheme:

- Bound morpheme: a morpheme that can not stand alone and must be attached to a free morpheme.
- All affixes (prefixes and suffixes) are bound morphemes in English.
- when bound morphemes are attached to a free morpheme, free morpheme (basic word) is called *a stem*.

Re-	<u>open</u>	-ed	<u>Tour</u>	-ist	-S
prefix	<u>stem</u>	suffix	<u>stem</u>	suffix	suffix
bound	free	bound	free	bound	bound

Identify free and bound morphemes in the following words:

Re<u>turn</u>ed

<u>Write</u>rs

Un<u>happy</u>

**Fool**ishness

Un<u>dress</u>ed

Carelessness.

### 2.3 Lexical and Functional Morphemes:

• Look at the following free morphemes:

open, turn, between, and, the, he

Free morphemes fall into two categories:

- Lexical Morpheme: a free morpheme that is a content word, such as verbs, nouns----.
- \*New lexical morphemes can be easily added to language.
- \* Therefore, described as an 'open' class of words.

#### 2.3 Lexical and Functional Morphemes:

- Functional Morpheme: a free morpheme that is used as a function word, such as conjunctions (and), prepositions (in), articles (the), pronouns (he).
- \*New functional morphemes can not be added to language.
- \* Therefore, described as a 'closed' class of words.

#### 2.4 Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes:

Look at the following bound morphemes: good*ness*, care*ful*, pay*ment* work*s*, work*ing*, work*ed* 

Bound morphemes fall into two categories:

 Derivational morpheme: a bound morpheme used to make new words or words of different grammatical category.

good –good*ness*, care- care*ful*, pay- pay*ment* 

happy-*un*happy, judge-*mis*judge

### 2.4 Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes:

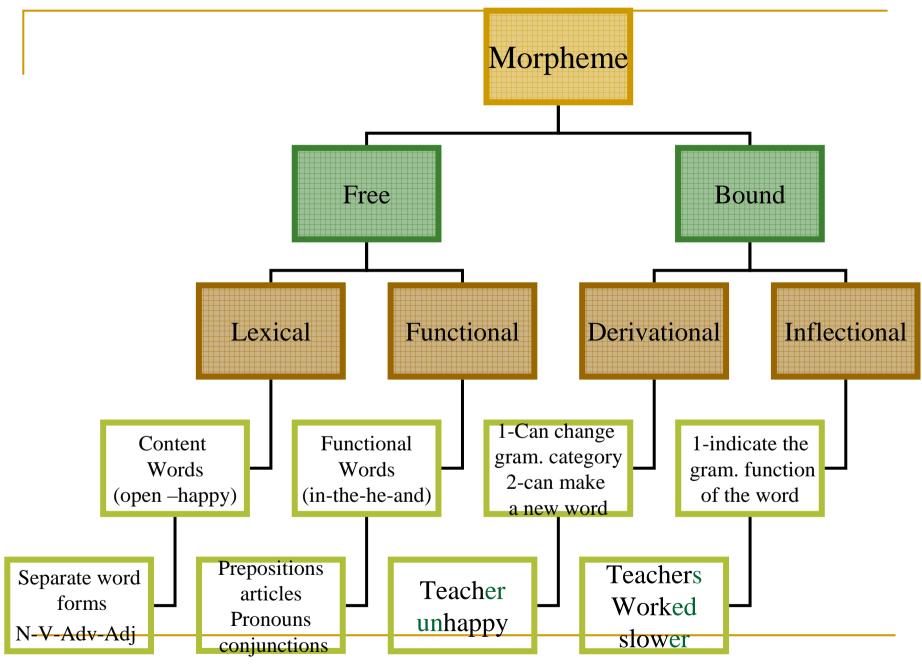
- *Inflectional morpheme:* a bound morpheme used to indicate the grammatical function of a word.
  works, work*ing*, work*ed*
- English has eight inflectional morphemes:
  - Noun+ possessive -'s, plural -s
  - Verb+ 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular -s, present participle -ing, past tense -ed, past participle –en
  - Adjective+ comparative -er, superlative -est
- In English, all the inflectional morphemes are *suffixes*.

#### 2.4 Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes:

- Inflectional morphemes never change the grammatical category.
- book (N) books, book's (N)
- work (V) work*s*, work*ing*, work*ed* (V)
- Slow (adj) slower, slowest (adj)
- Derivational morphemes can change the grammatical category.
  good –good*ness*, care- care*ful*, pay- pay*ment*
- Whenever there is a derivational and an inflectional suffixes in the same word, *the derivational should be followed by the inflectional suffix*.

*lexical+ derivational + inflectional* 

teach er s



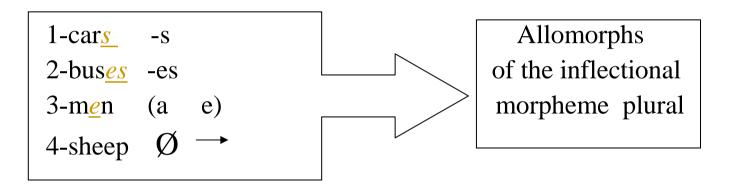
Altweejry Thekra

Identify the morphemes in the following:

- When he arrived, the old man had an umbrella and a large plastic bag full of books.
- Free: L lexical F functional
- Bound: D derivational I inflectional

# 3.1 Allomorph:

 Look at the different morphological realizations of the inflectional morpheme –s (plural)



- <u>Allomorph: one version of a morpheme.</u>
- (-s 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular) finishes- works -es, -s
- (-s Plural) cars, buses, men, sheep -s, -es, change a to e,  $\emptyset$
- (-ed Past tense) smoked-worked -d,-ed

Read Ch. 9 Syntax