

MORPHOLOGY

Chapter 2 Part 1
The Words of Language



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LINGUISTICS - II

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Definition of «Morphology» and «Morpheme»
2. Bound and Free Morphemes
 1. Prefixes and Suffixes
 2. Infixes
 3. Circumfixes
3. Roots and Stems
 1. Bound Roots

WHAT IS MORPHOLOGY?

- » Morphology is the branch of linguistics that studies *the **structure of words***.
- » Morphology deals with the syntax of complex words and parts of words, also called **morphemes**, as well as with the semantics of their lexical meanings.

WHAT IS MORPHEME?

- » Morphemes are *the **minimal unit** of word building in a language*; they cannot be broken down any further into recognizable or meaningful parts.

MORPHEMES

A single Word may be composed of one or more morphemes:

desire

1 morpheme

desire+able

2 morphemes

desire+able+ity

3 morphemes

un+desire+able+ity

4 morphemes

MONOMORPHEMIC WORD

A word that consists of one morpheme is called «monomorphemic word.»

cat

dog

finger*

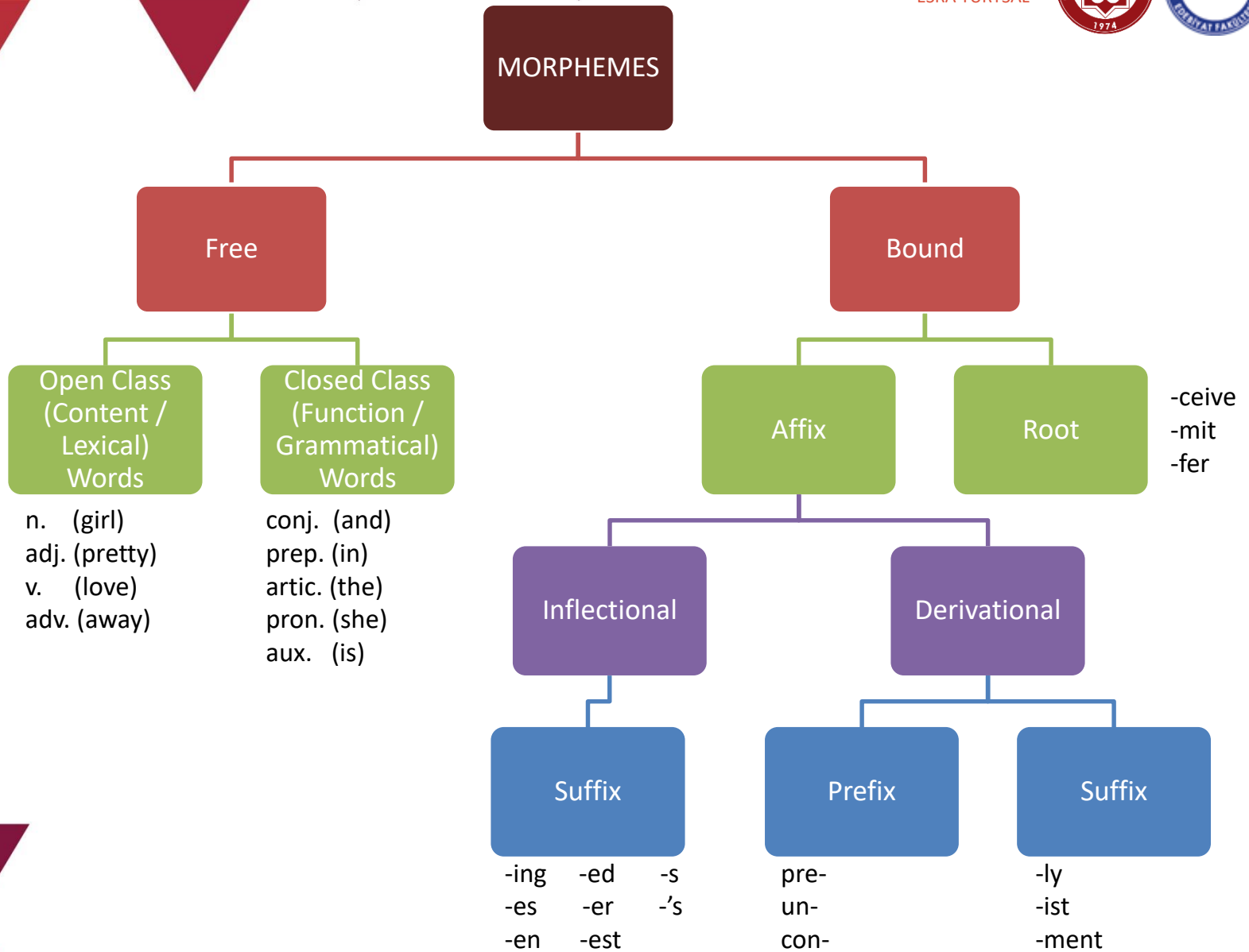
*The final -er syllable in finger is not a separate morpheme because a finger is not “something that fings.” Thus, it is a monomorphemic word.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Morpheme \neq Syllable

A morpheme is not equal to a syllable:

- » «coat+s» has 1 syllable, but 2 morphemes.
- » «syl-la-ble» has 3 syllables, but only 1 morpheme



FREE vs. BOUND MORPHEMES

Free Morphemes

- » are those which can stand by themselves or alone as words of a language.

Free Morphemes

Content / Lexical Words

- Content words are sometimes called open class words because we can and regularly do add new words to these classes.
- This group includes nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives
- e.g. happy, run, man, pizza, pretty, easy, facebook, blog, online.

Function / Grammatical Words

- A free morpheme that is used as a function word, such as conjunction or a preposition.
- Function words are sometimes called «**closed class**» words.
- This group includes conjunctions, articles, pronouns and prepositions
- e.g. to, but, and, that, there, first, often, soon, none, all.

BOUND MORPHEMES

- » Never exist as words themselves, but are always attached to some other morpheme. e.g. «**un.**»
- » When we identify the number and types of morphemes that a given word consists of, we are looking at what is referred to as the structure of a word.

BOUND MORPHEMES

We can further divide bound morphemes into four categories:

- » prefix: **un**-happy, **pre**-meditate
- » infix: mother-**in**-law,
un-**fuckin**-believable
- » suffix: happi-**ness**
- » circumfix*: **ge**-lieb-**t** (German)

Affix

*Morphemes are attached to another morpheme both initially and finally.
Also known as: **discontinuous morphemes**

ROOTS AND STEMS

Every word has at least one free morpheme, which is referred to as the **root**, **stem** or **base**.

root: The morpheme that remains when all affixes are stripped from a complex word:
e.g., **system** from un+system+atic+ally

stem: When a root morpheme is combined with an affix, it forms a stem:
e.g., believe (root) → **believe+able** (stem)

ROOTS AND STEMS

base: any root or stem to which an affix is attached is called a «base:» e.g., **system**, **systematic**, **unsystematic**, **unsystematical**.

BOUND ROOTS

Bound roots **do not occur in isolation** and they acquire meaning only **in combination with other morphemes**. For example, words of Latin origin such as receive, conceive, perceive, and deceive share a common root, **-ceive**; and the words remit, permit, commit, submit, transmit, and admit share the root **-mit**. For the original Latin speakers, the morphemes corresponding to **ceive** and **mit** had clear meanings, but for modern English speakers, Latinate morphemes such as **ceive** and **mit** have **no independent meaning**. Their meaning depends on the entire word in which they occur.

cran-berry

huckle-berry

QUESTION #1

The word «teacher» has two morphemes: «teach» and «-er».
Which of the following is true about these morphemes?

	<u>teach</u>	<u>-er</u>
a)	Inflectional	Root
b)	Stem	Inflectional
c)	Root	Inflectional
d)	Bound	Derivational
e)	Root	Derivational

QUESTION #2

Which of the following categories includes content words as well as function words?

- a) Adverbs
- b) Articles
- c) Prepositions
- d) Conjunctions
- e) Adjectives

QUESTION #3

Which of the following is true about the closed class words?

- a) They are composed of inflectional morphemes.
- b) They have content meanings to convey in speech.
- c) They can be articles, auxiliaries, prepositions and pronouns.
- d) New words are likely to be added as a result of language change.
- e) They are also called «lexical words».

QUESTION #4

Which of the following words is monomorphemic?

- a) Computer
- b) Transition
- c) Disabled
- d) Happen
- e) Tourist

QUESTION #5

How many minimal units of meaning are there in the word «deconstructions»?

a) 2

b) 3

c) 4

d) 5

e) 6

THE END

of Morphology
Chapter Two Part One

