

# 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\*

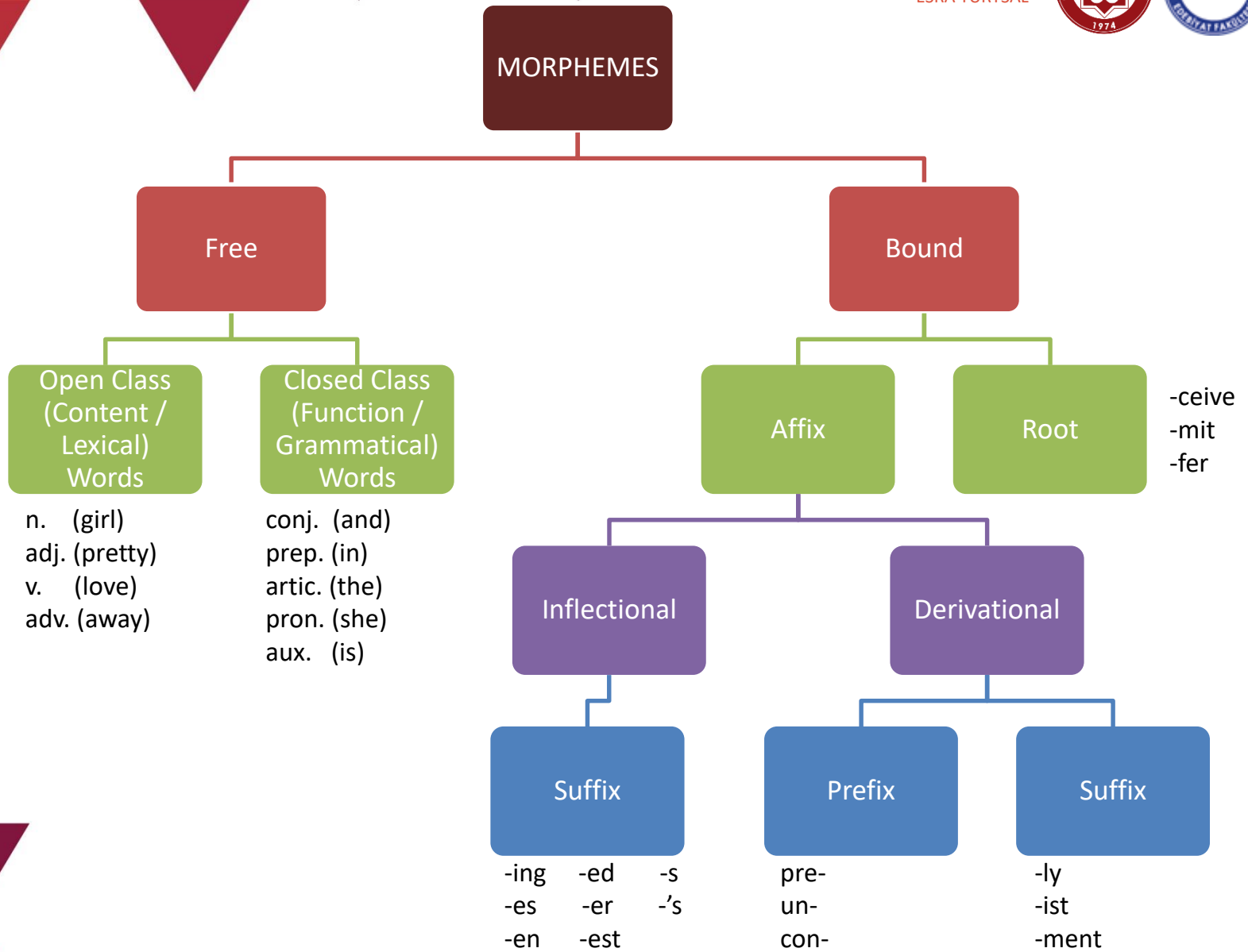
\*The final -er syllable in finger is not a separate morpheme because a finger is not “something that fings.” Thus, it is a monomorphemic word.

# 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*



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