

LING 21000: Morphology

Winter 2017

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| Class time & location: | Wieboldt 106, TTh 10:30-11:50 |
| Section time & location: | Wieboldt 130, F 1:30-2:20 |

1 Course description

Morphology is concerned with both the internal structure of words and the relationship between word structure and other parts of human language. (Of course, this definition assumes that we know what words are. This is a non-trivial question and one we will spend a good deal of time grappling with.) We will look at data from typologically diverse languages to try to understand the variation that occurs in natural language morphology. What kind of operations (or processes, or principles, or constraints) do languages use when they build words, and in what ways do these operations (or processes, or principles, or constraints) distinguish morphological structures from those found in syntax and phonology?

We will address the following topics:

- The MORPHEME: when do we need it, and when does it fall short?
- Distinguishing between DERIVATION and INFLECTION: how do we motivate this distinction, and how useful does it turn out to be?
- The challenge of NON-CONCATENATIVE MORPHOLOGY: can this be reconciled with the morpheme as the bedrock of morphological analysis?
- The PARADIGM: an epiphenomenon, or something more substantive?

By the end of the quarter, students will be able to:

- Identify the major operations/processes at work in natural language morphology.
- Analyze morphological patterns from a wide variety of unrelated languages.

- Utilize (and critique) the major morphological typological classification(s).
- Explain the motivations behind different theories of word structure, both morpheme-reifying and morpheme-chucking.

Although some time will be devoted to formalisms, our focus is on data, analysis, and typology.

2 Readings

We'll be using a combination of book chapters and research articles over the course of the quarter. You do not need to buy any books for this course. Three textbooks are being held on reserve at the Regenstein if you'd like to look at them in more depth:

- *Understanding Morphology*, 2nd edition (2010), by Martin Haspelmath and Andrea Sims.
- *What is Morphology?*, 2nd edition (2011), by Mark Aronoff and Kirsten Fudeman.
- *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*, 2nd edition (2003), by Laurie Bauer.

Excerpted chapters from these three books will be provided in PDF format on the Chalk site, as will all other required readings for the course. The last two pages of this syllabus give a full reading list.

If possible, please print out the readings before coming to class. This way, you'll be less glued to your laptop screens and more engaged in the lecture and discussion.

3 Grading

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| Attendance and participation: | 10% |
| Weekly questions, posted to Chalk: | 25% |
| Problem sets: | 35% |
| Final exam: | 30% |

Please come to lecture and to section, and please be prepared to participate in discussion about the problems we're working on and/or the readings we're working our way through.

Because the assigned readings can get dense – and because you'll pay more attention to them this way! – please post two response questions to Chalk each week. The two questions should be posted by Wednesday at 6PM; you are welcome to post them earlier if you like. Each question should respond to a different reading. In the event that more than two readings are assigned for a given week, you don't need to post any extra responses.

You'll regularly be assigned problem sets that ask you to analyze data. Some of the data will come from English and other familiar tongues; other data will come from languages that you've probably never heard of before. You are encouraged to work with your peers on these problem sets, subject to two conditions:

1. You must write up your own analysis.
2. You must state the names of the colleagues you worked with.

The same two conditions apply to the final exam, which will be due during week 11.

4 Information on response questions posted to Chalk

These questions should do two things. First, they should get you to think critically about the readings and to focus in on areas which you find particularly challenging, noteworthy, etc. Second, they should let me and Robert know what topics we should devote special attention to during lectures and in section (and on the homework assignments). Ideally, you will show us through these questions that you've done the reading in a thoughtful fashion. Length-wise, two sentences to a paragraph sounds about right per question, though you can of course write more if you feel like you have more to say. Please remember that you are required to post two questions per week, each responding to a different reading. (Except for week 7, there'll always be at least two readings assigned per week.) Please post them by 6PM on Wednesdays so that Robert and I can review them in time for section and lectures.

5 Academic honesty

My policy is to trust that you will do honest work. It is difficult to regain that trust in the case of plagiarism; in addition, the College imposes strong (but well-justified) penalties in the case of plagiarism. So let's avoid problems later on by agreeing now, at the start of the quarter, to follow our institution's standards for academic honesty.

6 Week-by-week plan

Week 1 (January 3rd & 5th)

- Topics: Introduction to morphology, and 'wordhood'.
Readings: Aronoff and Fudeman 2011: chapter 1, Bauer 2003: chapter 4.
Optional reads: Haspelmath and Sims 2010: chapters 1 and 2.

Week 2 (January 10th & 12th)

- Topics: Morphemes, with special discussion of English suffixes including *-able/ible*, *-ful*, *-th*, *-ness*, *-hood*, *-mit*, *-ceive*, *-ize*, and *-ify*.
Readings: Bauer 2003: chapters 7 and 9, chapter 7 from Whaley 1997 (*Introduction to Typology*).

Problem set 1 due on Thursday the 12th.

Week 3 (January 17th & 19th)

- Topics: The division between inflection and derivation, with examples drawn from definite and indefinite paradigms in Hungarian.
- Readings: Bickel and Nichols 2007 ('Inflectional Morphology'): sections 1-3, Haspelmath and Sims 2010: chapter 5.
- Optional reads: Anderson 1985.

Week 4 (January 24th & 26th)

- Topics: Continued discussion of inflection and derivation, plus the typologies of fusion and synthesis (illustrated through toy paradigms).
- Readings: Whaley 1997: chapter 8, Bickel and Nichols 2007: sections 1-3.
- *Problem set 2 due on Tuesday the 24th.**

Week 5 (January 31st & February 2nd)

- Topics: Infixation, with discussion of data from English, Hua, and Cibemba.
- Readings: Chapters 2 and 5 from Yu 2007 (*Natural history of infixation*), Blevins 2014 ('Infixation').
- Optional reads: Yu 2004 on English *-ma-*, Hyman 1994 on causative infixation in Cibemba.

Week 6 (February 7th & 9th)

- Topics: Reduplication, with discussion of data from English, Brazilian Portuguese, Madurese, Tz'utujil, and Cavineña.
- Readings: Inkelas and Downing 2014 ('What is Reduplication? Part 1/2'), Guillaume 2014 ('The Interaction of Reduplication with Word Classes and Transitivity in Cavineña').
- Optional reads: Dahlstrom 1995 ('Fox Reduplication'), Downing and Inkelas 2015 ('What is Reduplication? Part 2/2').
- *Problem set 3 due on Tuesday the 7th.**

Week 7 (February 14th & 16th)

- Topics: Some notes on inflectional classes, plus 'decorative' morphology.
- Readings: Haiman 2014 ('Decorative morphology in Khmer'). (In honor of College Break Day the previous Friday, there aren't any other mandatory readings for this week.)

Week 8 (February 21st & 23rd)

Topics: More on decorative/expressive morphology, plus subtraction/truncation.

Readings: Watkins 2014 ('Grammatical aesthetics in Wa'), Ratliff 2014 ('White Hmong reduplicative expressives').

Problem set 4 due on Tuesday the 21st.

Week 9 (February 28th & March 2nd)

Topics: Can the 'morpheme' be maintained? Or should we jettison it?

Readings: Chapters 3 and 4 from Blevins 2016 (*Word and Paradigm Morphology*), Joseph 2014 ('On arguing from diachrony for paradigms').

Optional reads: Albright 2002 ('Base selection in Analogical Change in Yiddish').

Week 10 (March 7th)

Topics: What have we learned this quarter?

Readings: Wrap-up discussion of previous week's readings.

Final take-home exam due during Week 11.

Full list of readings

1. Albright, Adam. 2002. 'Base Selection in Analogical Change in Yiddish.' In *Proceedings of BLS 28: General Session and Parasession on Field Linguistics*. Berkeley: University of California, Berkeley, 1–13.
2. Anderson, Stephen R. 1985. 'Inflectional morphology.' In *Language typology and syntactic description, volume 3*. Timothy Shopen, editor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 150–201.
3. Aronoff, Mark, and Kirsten Fudeman. 2011. *What is morphology?* 2nd edition. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.
4. Bauer, Laurie. 2003. *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.
5. Bickel, Balthasar and Nichols, Johanna. 2007. 'Inflectional morphology'. In *Language typology and syntactic description* (revised Second Edition). Timothy Shopen, editor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 169-240.
6. Blevins, James P. 2016. *Word and Paradigm Morphology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
7. Dahlstrom, Amy. 1997. 'Fox (Mesquakie) Reduplication.' *International Journal of American Linguistics* 63(2): 205–226.
8. Downing, Laura J., and Sharon Inkelas. 2015. 'What is Reduplication? Typology and Analysis Part 2/2: The Analysis of Reduplication.' *Language and Linguistics Compass* 9/12:516–528.
9. Guillaume, Antoine. 2014. 'The Interaction of Reduplication with Word Classes and Transitivity in Cavineña.' In *Reduplication in Indigenous Languages of South America*. Gale Goodwin Gómez and Hein van der Voort, editors. Leiden: Brill, 313–342.
10. Haiman, John. 2014. 'Decorative morphology in Khmer.' In *The Aesthetics of Grammar: Sound and Meaning in the Languages of Mainland Southeast Asia*. Jeffrey P. Williams, editor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 61–82.
11. Haspelmath, Martin, and Andrea Sims. 2010. *Understanding Morphology*. 2nd Edition. London: Hodder Education.
12. Hyman, Larry. 1994. 'Cyclic phonology and morphology in Cibemba.' In *Perspectives in Phonology*. Jennifer Cole and Charles Kisseberth, editors. Stanford: Center for the Study of Language and Information.

13. Joseph, Brian D. 2014. 'On arguing from diachrony for paradigms.' In *Paradigm Change: In the Transeurasian languages and beyond*. Martine Robbeets and Walter Bisang, editors. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
14. Ratliff, Martha. 2014. 'White Hmong reduplicative expressives.' In *The Aesthetics of Grammar: Sound and Meaning in the Languages of Mainland Southeast Asia*. Jeffrey P. Williams, editor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 179–188.
15. Watkins, Justin. 2014. 'Grammatical aesthetics in Wa.' In *The Aesthetics of Grammar: Sound and Meaning in the Languages of Mainland Southeast Asia*. Jeffrey P. Williams, editor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 99–117.
16. Whaley, Lindsay. 1997. *Introduction to Typology: The Unity and Diversity of Language*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.
17. Yu, Alan C. L. 2004. 'Reduplication in English Homeric Infixation.' In *Proceedings of NELS 34*. Keir Moulton and Matthew Wolf, editors. Amherst, Massachusetts: Graduate Linguistic Student Association.