Announcements

- Revised Final Exam date:
- THURSDAY 03/15/2007  08:30-10:20 BAG 131
Today

- What is morphology?
- Types of morphemes

Readings: 5.1, 5.3, 5.4
Morphology

- The study of words and the rules for word formation in a language
What is a word?

- A meaningful unit of language that can stand on its own
- Stored in mental lexicon w/ information about its ‘part of speech’ (noun, verb, adj., etc.)
- Composed of one or more morphemes
Morpheme

- The smallest meaningful linguistic unit
  - apple, cat, help, salamander, fling, lens
  - -er, -ing, -s
  - pre-, un-
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>simple</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>simple + ify</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>simple + ify + cation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>over + simple + ify + cation</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>over + simple + ify + cation + s</td>
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Definitions

- **Affix**: general term for morphemes attached to a **root** or **stem**
  - **prefix**: beginning of word (e.g., *pre-*)
  - **suffix**: end of word (*-ness, -ly, -tion*)
  - **infix**: inside a word
    - Tagalog *[-um-]*: [bili] ‘buy’ → [bumili] ‘to buy’
    - **circumfix**: ‘around’ a word (at both ends)
      - German *[ge- -t]*: *spiel* ‘play’ → *gespielt*
Definitions

- **Root**: forms base for affixes to attach to; cannot be analyzed into smaller parts
- **Stem**: formed when a root is combined with an affix (that other affixes can continue to be attached to)

  root: \(taste\) (verb)

  stem: \(dis + taste\) (prefix + verb)

  stem: \(dis + taste + ful\) (prefix + verb + suffix)

  stem: \(dis + taste + ful + ly\) (prefix + verb + suffix + suffix)
Types of morphemes

- Bound vs. Free
- Derivational vs. Inflectional
- Content vs. Function
Free vs. Bound morphemes

- **Free** morphemes:
  - can occur as an independent word all by themselves
    - Simple words: cat, eat, green, pumpkin, the, is
Free vs. Bound morphemes

- **Bound** morphemes:
  - Cannot stand alone, but must be attached to other morphemes
    - Affixes: *un-*, *pre-*, *dis-*, *-ly*, *-ness*, *-tion*
    - Bound roots:
      - *-ceive* (*conceive*, *receive*, *deceive*, *perceive*)
      - *-sist* (*consist*, *resist*, *desist*, *persist*)
I know a little man both ept and ert.
An intro-?  extro-?  No, he's just a vert.
Sheveled and couth and kempt, pecunious, ane,
His image trudes upon the ceptive brain.

When life turns sipid and the mind is traught,
The spirit soars as I would sist it ought.
Chalantly then, like any gainly goof,
My digent self is sertive, choate, loof.

attributed to David McCord (b. 1897)
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Derivational vs. inflectional affixes

- **Derivational affixes:**
  - when added to a word, make or derive a new word w/ a new meaning…
  - …sometimes changing the part of speech of the word
    - use (v.) + **able** $\rightarrow$ usable (adj.)
    - happy (adj.) + **ness** $\rightarrow$ happiness (n.)
  - …sometimes not
    - un + happy (adj.) $\rightarrow$ unhappy (adj.)
    - re + produce (v.) $\rightarrow$ reproduce (v.)
Derivational vs. inflectional affixes

- **Inflectional** affixes:
  - indicate grammatical roles; do not change basic meaning of the word, e.g.,
    - 3rd per. sg.: -s He walks.  
    - past tense: -ed He walked.  
    - progressive: -ing He is walking.  
    - past participle: -en He has eaten.  
    - plural: -s I have cats.  
    - possessive: ’s cat’s eye  
    - comparative: -er She is older.  
    - superlative: -est She is oldest.