

Morphology.

- Morphemes: is the science and study of the smallest grammatical units of language and their formation into words including inflection, derivation and composition. Broadly it is the study of the patterns of word forms.
- It is a level of structure between the phonological and the syntactic.
- Morphology is the grammar of words and syntax is the grammar of sentences.
- The way morpheme combine to form words is called Morphology of the language whereas syntax refers to the arrangement of words in phrases and sentences.
- It is synchronic as well as diachronic.

Morphemes.

- Minimal units of grammatical structure are called morphemes.
- Morphemes are distinct syntactical units which form words.
- has a grammatical function.
- is not divisible or analyzable into smaller forms.
- It may or may not have a meaning and a phonological representation.
- sheep and fish have two morphemes. One has a phonological representation but the second does not have a phonological representation and it is called zero morpheme.
- It can be monosyllabic or polysyllabic in nature.
- It has been called "grammatical moneme" by Martinet and is also called glosseme.

Morph: Any phonetic shape or representation of a phoneme is a morph. When the word can be segmented into parts, it is called morph. Each morph represents a particular morpheme.

- Each morph represents a particular morpheme but each morpheme does not have a morph. e.g. sheep has one morph but two morphemes. e.g. went, sheep.
- Allomorph → non-distinctive variant of a morpheme. It is a family or class of morphs which are phonologically and semantically identical. It happens that a particular morpheme is not represented everywhere by the same morph but by different morphs in different environment. The alternative phonological representation of such morpheme is called allomorph.
e.g. /z/ a plural morpheme - /z/, /-s/, /iz/ and Ø

Morphology: Morphonology: the study of different shapes of allomorphs which is half-way between phonology & morphology.

Zero Suffix: When plural morpheme is present but its phonetic representation is zero.

e.g. sheep: sheep + Ø

deer deer + Ø

cattle cattle + Ø

Classification of Morphemes

- Ronald W. Langacker divided morphemes into lexical morphemes and grammatical morphemes.

Lexical Morphemes: nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives and have independent meaning.

Grammatical Morphemes: preposition, articles, conjunctions, forms indicating number, gender and so on.

Free and Bound Morphemes:

Morphemes which occur free are free morphemes eg child.
" " " do not " " " bound morphemes eg.
ness, ed, ment

a) Roots and affixes: Root is left when all affixes are removed. Root morphemes may be bound or free.
All affixes are bound morphemes.

b). Inflection and Derivation: Such affixes that do not allow further affixation of a suffix are called inflectional affixes while derivational affixes allow further affixation. eg agreement, agreements.

c) Class maintaining: and Class Changing:
Class maintaining do not change the part of speech. boy, boyhood.
Class changing do change the parts of speech
teach → teacher

Morphemes: Bound bases: Morphemes which serve as a root for derivational form but never appear as free forms include, cicle