Word Structure

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Linguistics 503
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Outline

Linking forms to meaning

Example types (Lotuko, Sudan)

MINIMAL PAIR	One thing differs	i. idulak atulo ema 　'The man is planting grain.' ii. idulak atulo afui 　'The man is planting peanuts.'
RECURRING PARTIAL WITH CONSTANT MEANING	One thing the same	iii. ohonya eito erizo 　'The child is eating meat.' iv. amata eito aari 　'The child is drinking water.'

Pattern-matching

Form	Meaning	Function
ema	grain	Object
aful	peanuts	Object
eito	the child	Subject

i. idulak atulo ema
O
'grain'

ii. idulak atulo afui
O
'peanuts'

iii. ohonya eito erizo
S
'the child'

iv. amata eito aari
S
'the child'

i. The man is planting grain.
ii. The man is planting peanuts.
iii. The child is eating meat.
iv. The chid is drinking water.

Pattern-matching

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ema	grain	Object
aful	peanuts	Object
eito	the child	Subject
		Subject

i.   idulak   atulo   ema
     S   O
     'grain'

ii. idulak   atulo   afui
     S   O
     'peanuts'

iii. ohonya   eito   erizo
     S
     'the child'

iv. amata   eito   aari
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atulo	the man	Subject

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             S   O
             'the man' 'grain'

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    S O
    'the child' 'meat'

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		S	O
		'the child'	'meat'
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		S	O
		'the child'	'water'

Pattern-matching

Form	Meaning	Function
ema	grain	Object
aful	peanuts	Object
eito	the child	Subject
atulo	the man	Subject
erizo	meat	Object
aari	water	Object
		Verb

i. The man is planting grain.
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i.	idulak	atulo	ema
	V	S	O
		'the man'	'grain'
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	V	S	O
		'the man'	'peanuts'
iii.	ohonya	eito	erizo
	V	S	O
		'the child'	'meat'
iv.	amata	eito	aari
	V	S	O
		'the child'	'water'

Pattern-matching

Form	Meaning	Function
ema	grain	Object
aful	peanuts	Object
eito	the child	Subject
atulo	the man	Subject
erizo	meat	Object
aari	water	Object
idulak	is planting	Verb

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iii.	ohonya	eito	erizo
	V	S	O
		'the child'	'meat'
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		'the child'	'water'

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		'the child'	'water'

Testing hypotheses I

Hypotheses

Data

v.   ohonya   odwoti   aful

The girl is eating the peanuts.

Form	Meaning
ema	grain
aful	peanuts
eito	the child
atulo	the man
erizo	meat
aari	water
idulak	is planting
ohonya	is eating

Syntax
VSO

Testing hypotheses I

Hypotheses

Form	Meaning
ema	grain
aful	peanuts
eito	the child
atulo	the man
erizo	meat
aari	water
idulak	is planting
ohonya	is eating

Data

v. ohonya   odwoti   aful
    is eating
    The girl is eating the peanuts.

Syntax	
VSO	VSO

Testing hypotheses I

Hypotheses

Form	Meaning
ema	grain
aful	peanuts
eito	the child
atulo	the man
erizo	meat
aari	water
idulak	is planting
ohonya	is eating

Syntax	
VSO	VSO

Data

v. ohonya   odwoti   aful
    is eating   peanuts
    The girl is eating the peanuts.

Testing hypotheses I

Hypotheses

Data

v. ohonya   odwoti   aful
    is eating   the girl   peanuts
    The girl is eating the peanuts.

Form	Meaning
ema	grain
aful	peanuts
eito	the child
atulo	the man
erizo	meat
aari	water
idulak	is planting
ohonya	is eating
odwoti	the girl

Syntax	
VSO	VSO

Lotuko: Sudan

(a) Confirm or disprove hypotheses developed thus far; (b) Find the meanings of any unknown words; (c) Fill in the blanks in [h] and [i].

a	idulak atulo ema	'the man is planting grain'	
b	idulak atulo aful	'the man is planting peanuts'	
c	ohonya eito erizo	'the child is eating meat'	
d	amata eito aari	'the child is drinking water'	
e	ohonya odwoti aful	'the girl is eating peanuts'	
f	abak atulo ezok	'the man hit the dog'	
g	amati odwoti aari	'the girl is drinking water'	
h	_____	'the girl hit the child'	
i	ohonya ezok erizo	_____	

Hypotheses

Form	Meaning
ema	grain
aful	peanuts
eito	the child
atulo	the man

Syntax
VSO

Testing hypotheses II

h   odwoti abak eito 'the girl hit the child'
i   ezok ohonya erizo 'the dog is eating meat'

Hypotheses

Form	Meaning
eito	the child
erizo	meat
ezok	dog
ohonya	is eating
abak	hit
odwoti	the girl
Syntax	
VSO	

Criteria

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- But however confident we may be, we proceed with the assumption that all our hypotheses are revisable.

- Testable predictions are falsifiable.

Meaningful parts (Isthmus Zapotec, Mexico)

kañee	'feet'	kaʒigi	'chins'
ñeebe	'his foot'	ʒigibe	'his chin'
kañeebe	'his feet'		
ñeeluʔ	'your foot'	ʒigiluʔ	'your chin'
kañeetu	'your (pl) feet'	kaʒigitu	'your (pl) chins'
kañeedu	'our feet'	kaʒigidu	'our chins'

Linking form to meaning

Example types (Isthmus Zapotec, Mexico)

MINIMAL TRIPLET	One thing differs	i. kañeetu
		  'your (pl) feet'
		ii. kañeebe
		  'his feet'
		iii. kañeedu
		  'our feet'

RECURRING PARTIAL WITH CONSTANT MEANING	One thing the same	iii. kañeetu
		  'your (pl) feet'
		iv. kaʒigidu
		  'our chins'

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Meaningful elements

Identify the meaningful elements using the methods of MINIMAL CONTRAST and RECURRING PARTIALS. Fill in the blanks.

kañee	'feet'	kaʒigi	'chins'
ñeebe	'his foot'	ʒigibe	'his chin'
kañeebe	'his feet'	??	'his chins'
ñeeluʔ	'your foot'	ʒigiluʔ	'your chin'
kañeetu	'your (pl) feet'	kaʒigitu	'your (pl) chins'
kañeedu	'our feet'	kaʒigidu	'our chins'
		kaʒikeluʔ	'your shoulders'
_____	'foot'	_____	'chin'
_____	'your foot'	_____	'his shoulder'

Morphemes

Definition

Morphemes are the smallest indivdually meaningful elements in the utterances of a language.
Hockett (1958)

Fine points

1. The word 'smallest' in 'smallest individually meaningful element' does not entail smallness. It just means containing no other meaningful elements inside you. 'a' is a morpheme in 'amoral' because it means 'not', as we see in other words like 'atonal', 'atheistic', and 'asymmetric' , but so is 'Mexic(o)' in 'Mexican', because 'Mexic(o)' contains no meaningful subparts.

2. Similarly smallness does not guarantee something is a morpheme. /b/ is NOT a morpheme because it is not a RECURRING PARTIAL WITH CONSTANT MEANING. There is no meaning element common to words like /bɪn/,/bæt/,/bit/, and /bɪt/.

3. A single sound or sequence of sounds may be a morpheme in context A but not in context B if it does not function to signal a meaning in context B. Thus, 'a' is not a morpheme in 'ape', 'amos', 'air', or 'aphid'.

Examples

How many morphemes in the following English words?

incomprehensibility
disability
undoable
redistribution
caterpillar
Canadians
warmth
feet
freed
cranberry

Discussion

incomprehensibility	in-comprehen(d)-able-ity
disability	dis-able-ity
undoable	un-do-able
redistribution	re-distribute-tion
caterpillar	caterpillar
Canadians	Canada-(i)an-s
warmth	warm-th
feet	feet
cranberry	cran-berry

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warmth	warm-th (cf. length, width, heal(thy)th)
feet	feet
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feet	feet (not foot + pl?)
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Canadians	Canada-(i)an-s
warmth	warm-th (cf. length, width, heal(thy)th)
feet	feet (not foot + pl?)
cranberry	cran-berry (but what does *cran-* mean?)

Cranberry morphs

Definition

Morphemes that can only occur inside words and cannot occur as words on their own are called BOUND *morphemes.*

Example

incomprehensibility	*in-comprehen(d)-able-ity*
disability	*dis-able-ity*
undoable	*un-do-able*
redistribution	*re-distribute-tion*
Canadians	*Canada-(i)an-s*
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Roots/affixes

Example

connect, connection, reconnect, connectivity, disconnect

Definition

The CORE *morpheme of the word is called the* ROOT. *The other morphemes are called affixes. (to be revised).*

ROOT	AFFIX
Usually free	always bound
Lexical	grammatical
Open class	closed class

Prefixes				Suffixes		
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
af_1	af_2	af_3	ROOT	af_4	af_5	af_6

Word types

a.	Affixes added onto a single root	in*comprehens*ibility, dis*abil*ity, un*do*able, re*distribu*tion, *Canadi*ans, *warm*th
b.	Compound words (more than one free root)	chairman, underside, outhouse, butterfly, teethmarks

Question

Consider *cranberry*. *berry* is a root. What is *cran-*?

Open/closed class morphemes

Definition

*A **closed class affix** is one of a small set of affixes that can occur with a particular function in a word of a particular part of speech. Often the function is a associated witha particular morpheme position in words of that part of speech. In that case, the morphemes which can occupy that position constitute a **position class**.*

Members of the same position class can never co-occur.

Example

*The **comparative morpheme** -er is a closed class morpheme which expresses comparative meaning; er is a suffix on adjectives. Another example of the same position class is the **superlative morpheme**, -est, which expresses superlative meaning.*

Position class Motivations

Observations about Isthmus Zapotec words

General	*No word contains more than one prefix or more than one suffix*
	Occurrences of the plural and possessive markers are independent
Possessor	*Possessors are always identified by suffixes*
	More than one possessor mark disallowed
PLural	*Plurality is always identified by a suffix (ka-)*
	More than one plural mark disallowed

Position class chart

-1 (NUMBER)	0 ROOT	1 (POSSESSOR)
ka- 'plural'		-be '3sg'
		-luʔ '2sg'
		-tu '2pl'
		-du '1pl'

Criteria

1. Items in the same position class never co-occur.

2. Roots all go in one position called 0.

3. Morphemes expressing the same grammatical category (tense, number, person) all go in one position, if possible.

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Example: Gee Togo

	Example	Size	Gloss
a.	biʔ-ʃu-ni	3	'I came'
b.	bai-ʃu-ni	3	'I went'
c.	dos-ʃu-me	3	'you(sg) ran.'
d.	meʔ-ʃu-mi	3	'they spoke'
e.	bai-te-mi-leʔ	4	'will they go?'
f.	biʔ-paʔ-ni-do	4	'I am not coming'
g.	dos-ʃu-ni-risa	4	'I ran first'
h.	bai-paʔ-me-duʔa	4	'you(sg) only are going'
i.	dos-te-mi-risa-leʔ	5	'will they run first?'
j.	bai-ʃu-ni-tuʃi	4	'I went suddenly'
k.	meʔ-te-mi-risa-do-leʔ	6	'will they not speak first?'
l.	biʔ-te-me-duʔa-do	5	'you(sg) only will not come'
m.	meʔ-paʔ-mi-tuʃi-leʔ	5	'are they suddenly speaking?'

Gee position class: Version 1

	ROOT	TNS	PNUM	FIRST	SUDD	ONLY	NEG	QUE
k.	meʔ	te	mi	risa			do	leʔ
i.	dos	te	mi	risa				leʔ
l.	biʔ	te	me			duʔa	do	
m.	meʔ	paʔ	mi		tuʃi			leʔ
e.	bai	te	mi					leʔ
f.	biʔ	paʔ	ni				do	
g.	dos	ʃu	ni	risa				
h.	bai	paʔ	me			duʔa		
j.	bai	ʃu	ni		tuʃi			
a.	biʔ	ʃu	ni					
b.	bai	ʃu	ni					
c.	dos	ʃu	me					
d.	meʔ	ʃu	mi					

Gee position class: Version 2

	ROOT	TNS	PNUM	ADV	QUE
k.	meʔ	te	mi	risa do	leʔ
i.	dos	te	mi	risa	leʔ
l.	biʔ	te	me	duʔa do	
m.	meʔ	paʔ	mi	tuʃi	leʔ
e.	bai	te	mi		leʔ
f.	biʔ	paʔ	ni	do	
g.	dos	ʃu	ni	risa	
h.	bai	paʔ	me	duʔa	
j.	bai	ʃu	ni	tuʃi	
a.	biʔ	ʃu	ni		
b.	bai	ʃu	ni		
c.	dos	ʃu	me		
d.	meʔ	ʃu	mi		

Gee position class: Version 2

	ROOT	TNS	PNUM	ADV	QUE
k.	meʔ	te	mi	risa do	leʔ
i.	dos	te	mi	risa	leʔ
l.	biʔ	te	me	duʔa do	
m.	meʔ	paʔ	mi	tuʃi	leʔ
e.	bai	te	mi		leʔ
f.	biʔ	paʔ	ni	do	
g.	dos	ʃu	ni	risa	
h.	bai	paʔ	me	duʔa	
j.	bai	ʃu	ni	tuʃi	
a.	biʔ	ʃu	ni		
b.	bai	ʃu	ni		
c.	dos	ʃu	me		
d.	meʔ	ʃu	mi		

Two morphemes
in one slot! Bad!

Gee position class: Correct

	0	1	2	3	4	5
	ROOT	TNS	PNUM	MANNER	NEG	QUE
k.	meʔ	te	mi	risa	do	leʔ
i.	dos	te	mi	risa		leʔ
l.	biʔ	te	me	duʔa	do	
m.	meʔ	paʔ	mi	tuʃi		leʔ
e.	bai	te	mi			leʔ
f.	biʔ	paʔ	ni		do	
g.	dos	ʃu	ni	risa		
h.	bai	paʔ	me	duʔa		
j.	bai	ʃu	ni	tuʃi		
a.	biʔ	ʃu	ni			
b.	bai	ʃu	ni			
c.	dos	ʃu	me			
d.	meʔ	ʃu	mi			

Gee position classes: final chart

Corpus-based analysis of the grammar of Gee verbs

0	1		2		3		4		5	
	TNS		PNUM		MAN		NEG		QUE	
	-ʃu	'past'	-ni	'1sg'	-duʔa	'only'	-do	'not'	-leʔ	'que'
	-paʔ	'pres'	-me	'2sg'	-risa	'first'				
	-te	'fut'	-mi	'3pl'	-tuʃi	'sdnly'				

When position classes work

(a) Fixed linear ordering: each morpheme has a consistent precedes/follows relation with all the others

> *Present tense morpheme ALWAYs immediately follows the root.*

(b) An affix expresses exactly one grammatical category (TENSE, PERSON/NUMBER, NEG, QUE)

(c) Consistency: Affixes with the same grammatical category have the same ordering relation with other morphemes.

> *ALL tense morphemes immediately follow the root. NOT: Present tense immediately follows the root, future immediately precedes.*

Agglutination

AGGLUTINATING LANGUAGES

Morphemes are strung together like 'beads on a string'; the first bead is the root. Each morpheme expresses one concept.

Other morphological types

ANALYTIC   No morphology. Each word is one morpheme. Chinese. To a large extent, English

FUSIONAL   Multiple affixes to a word, but each affix may en-
SYNTHETIC   code a set of grammatical categories PORTMAN-
INFLECTIONAL   TEAU MORPHEMES

POLYSYNTHETIC   Words built out of multiple root. One word clauses
                    (incorporationm of one word into another).

Fusional

(a) Many PORTMANTEAU morphemes
(b) Suppletion: No affix added. Form of root changes, resulting in a portmanteau morpheme
(c) Being a fusonal language is a tendency, a matter of degree. Although primarily analytic, English has many fusional features.

Italian	am	-o	
English	love	-s	
		simple present first singular active indicative	
English	go $\sim$ went		
	bring $\sim$ brought		
	see $\sim$ saw		
	good $\sim$ better		
	bad $\sim$ worse		

Polysynthetic

Onandaga, North America

waʔ -ha -yvʔkw -ahniːnu -ʔ
PAST he/it tobacco buy   ASPECT
'He bought tobacco'

Rembarrnga, Australia

yarran   -məəʔ -kuʔpi -papna -ni -yuwa
1pl.IO/3sg.SUBJ might sweat smell   INF along.PRES
'It (the kangaroo) might smell our sweat along (i.e. as we try to sneak up on it)'

Hockett, Charles F. 1958.

A Course in modern linguistics.
New York: Macmillan.