What this Course is All About

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Phonological Aspects of Mutation Morphology
EGG 2008

Affixal Morphology vs. Mutation (German)

Affixal Morphology

sg	pl	
Pfeil	Pfeil-e	'arrow'
Kind	Kind-er	'angle'

Mutation Morphology

sg	pl	
Vater	Väter	'father'
Mutter	Mütter	'mother'

Mutation Morphology + Affixal Morphology

sg	pl	
Hahn	Hähn-e	'cock'
Buch	Büch-er	'end'

Backness Mutation in German ("Umlaut")

/a/	→	/ɛ/
/u/	→	/y/
/o/	→	/ø/
/au/	→	/oy/
[+back]	→	[-back]

Voicing Mutation in Aka (Akinlabi, 1996; Wolf, 2005)

Class 5 - singular	**Class 6 - plural**	
gɔ̀àlà	mà-**g**ɔ̀àlà	(game of imitation)
bèlèlé	mà-**b**èlèlé	'sound of waterfall'
dʒámbà	mà-**dʒ**ámbà	'mud'
dèŋgé	ma-**t**èŋgé	'piercing tool'
gásá	ma-**k**ásá	'palm branch'
bàpùlàkà	ma-**p**àpùlàkà	'lung'

Singular of class 5 is expressed by voicing the initial consonant

Mutation

"Process and result of word formation

through changing stems

by sound change" (Bussmann, 1999:509)

Alternative Terminologies

apophony

ablaut

gradation

alternation

internal modification

stem modification

mobile morphology

replacive morphology

stem mutation

internal inflection

Approaches to Mutation

Morphological Approaches

- ▶ Mutation happens in the morphology component of the grammar either by suppletion or morphological rules

- ▶ Mutated forms are the input to phonological computation

(Morpho-)phonological Approaches

- ▶ Mutation happens during phonological computation – the constraints triggering mutation interact with standard phonological constraints

- ▶ The constraints triggering mutation are phonological or morphophonological

Roadmap

► **Today:**
  Overview of Mutation Phenomena
  Overview of (morpho-)phonological approaches

► **Tomorrow:**
  More on Morphological Approaches

► **Rest of the Week:**
  More on specific problems of
  (morpho-)phonological approaches

Basic Claims

- ▶ Mutation is affixation of phonological material + phonology

- ▶ Mutation doesn't require any mutation-specific rules or constraints