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1 Introduction

2 Syncretism: Phenomenon and Theory

3 Some further phenomena
Morphology

- Course in the “Foundational Module” in the M.A. program
- Other courses in this module: “Phonology” (Eva Zimmermann, Tue, 9-11); “Syntax” (Imke Driemel, Fri, 9-11)
- Goal of the Module: Preparation for other MA courses
- Credit Points: Portfolio Exam – complete assignments in all courses
- Course Website (with slides and material): https://home.uni-leipzig.de/assmann/index.php?site=ws1920mo
- For papers and updates on the schedule, send me an e-mail.
- The course is heavily based on previous courses by Philipp Weisser: http://www.philippweisser.de/
  Fabian Heck: https://home.uni-leipzig.de/heck/kurse.ws.1617.htm
Assignments in this course

- 2 short presentations:
  - Give a detailed presentation of a morphological phenomenon (for inspiration see section 3)
  - one presentation about a phenomenon of inflection, one about a phenomenon of derivation/compounding
  - Choosing a phenomenon of a language that you are a native speaker of, that you have a good knowledge of, or that you have access to via a speaker is highly encouraged
Oct 16: Basics I: Goals and Phenomena  
Oct 23: Basics II: Lexical Integrity: What is a word?  
Oct 30: Basics III: Distributed Morphology  
Nov 06: Basics IV: Distributed Morphology  
Nov 13: Basics V: Early vs. Late Insertion  
Nov 20: **Holiday, no class**  
Dec 04: Inflection II: Corbett and Baerman (2006)  
Dec 11: Inflection III: Presentations  
Dec 18: Inflection IV: Presentations  
Jan 08: Derivation I: Aquaviva (2008)  
Jan 15: Derivation II: Booij (2005)  
Jan 22: Derivation III: Presentations  
Jan 29: Derivation IV: Presentations  
Feb 05: Buffer/Final discussion
Background
Expectations and Wishes
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</table>
What is morphology?

... something with words, right?
What is a word?
(1) My husband likes to take off his shoes at takeoff.
(2) Where’s the bathroom?
(3) Greenhouse gases cause the greenhouse effect.
What is a morpheme?

Roughly

The smallest sequence of sounds (the form) that systematically corresponds to a certain meaning.

Form → Meaning
(4) My husband likes to take off his shoes at takeoff.
(5) Where’s the bathroom?
(6) Greenhouse gases cause the greenhouse effect.
Research questions in morphology

General questions:
- Representation: What is the inner structure of words?
- Rules: What are the rules that generate these representations?
- Constraints: What are the constraints that the rules are subject to?

(More) Concrete questions:
- What is going on if there is no one-to-one correspondence between form and meaning?
- Are there different types of morphemes?
- Are morphemes always combined in the same way?
- How do morphological rules interact with syntactic and/or phonological rules? Are there true morphological rules?
Identify all the morphemes (their forms and meanings)!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morpheme</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Morpheme</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nokali</td>
<td>‘my house’</td>
<td>mopelomes</td>
<td>‘your dogs’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nokalimes</td>
<td>‘my houses’</td>
<td>ipelo</td>
<td>‘his dog’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mokali</td>
<td>‘your house’</td>
<td>pelo</td>
<td>‘dog’</td>
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<tr>
<td>ikali</td>
<td>‘his house’</td>
<td>nokwahmili</td>
<td>‘my cornfield’</td>
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<td>mopelo</td>
<td>‘your dog’</td>
<td>kwahmili</td>
<td>‘cornfield’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One-to-one mapping between form and meaning?

(8) Finnish present tense
   1sg  puhu-t
   2sg  puhu-n
   3sg  puhu-∅
   1pl  puhu-mme
   2pl  puhu-tte
   3pl  puhu-vat

(9) German present tense
   1sg  kauf-e
   2sg  kauf-st
   3sg  kauf-t
   1pl  kauf-en
   2pl  kauf-t
   3pl  kauf-en
**Syncretism** is an (apparent) n-to-one mapping of meaning to form.

![Diagram showing the mapping of 1pl.indicative to -en and 3pl.indicative to -en](image-url)
In principle, we could assume that there are two entries in our mental lexicon, which just happen to be homophonous (accidental form identity).
How many markers are there in English?

(12) English present tense

1sg  buy-∅
2sg  buy-∅
3sg  buy-s
1pl  buy-∅
2pl  buy-∅
3pl  buy-∅

What about the German -t marker (3sg, 2pl)?
Towards a theory of syncretism

Question: How do we decide what’s homophony and what’s syncretism?

**Syncretism Principle (adapted from Müller (2004))**

Identity of form implies identity of meaning (in a domain D, unless there is evidence to the contrary).

(13)  

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
1\text{pl.indicative} & ? & 3\text{pl.indicative}
\end{array}
\]
Question: How do we decide what’s homophony and what’s syncretism?

Syncretism Principle (adapted from Müller (2004))
Identity of form implies identity of meaning (in a domain D, unless there is evidence to the contrary).

(14) \[ \text{pl.indicative} = \text{pl.indicative} \]
A given morphological marker/\textit{exponent} can realize/contribute only a subset of the morphosyntactic \textbf{features} present in the syntax.

(15) \[ \text{pl.indicative} \rightarrow [-en] \]
Is that enough? I

\[(16) \quad \text{German present tense} \]
\[
1\text{sg} \quad \text{kauf-e} \\
2\text{sg} \quad \text{kauf-st} \\
3\text{sg} \quad \text{kauf-t} \\
1\text{pl} \quad \text{kauf-en} \\
2\text{pl} \quad \text{kauf-t} \\
3\text{pl} \quad \text{kauf-en} \\
\]
The Subset Principle

- The assumption of underspecification can have the effect that several markers are potentially applicable to the same morphosyntactic context.
- This competition is resolved by the Subset Principle: More specified markers take precedence over less specified markers.

**Subset Principle (formal definition)**

A Vocabulary Item \( V \) is inserted into a syntactic head \( X \) if (i) and (ii) hold:
(i) The morphosyntactic features of \( V \) are a subset of the morphosyntactic features of \( X \).
(ii) \( V \) is the most specific Vocabulary Item fulfilling (i).
(17) German present tense
1sg   kauf-e
2sg   kauf-st
3sg   kauf-t
1pl   kauf-en
2pl   kauf-t
3pl   kauf-en
(18)  a. Sie und wir spielen im Finale.  
     they and we play in.the finale  
     b. *?Sie und ihr spielt im Finale.  
     she and you.PL play in.the finale
Is “2pl” a meaning?

- The **suffixes** (endings) for the verbal paradigm are agreement markers. Do they carry meaning of their own?
- We can differ between **lexical** and **functional** morphemes. Lexical morphemes have a lexical meaning, functional morphemes have a function.
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Allomorphy

A one-to-n mapping of function to form.

(19) Korean
    a. pada (‘sea’) → pada-ga (‘sea’, nominative)
    b. mur (‘water’) → mur-i (‘water’, nominative)
Multiple Exponence

One feature is expressed by multiple morphemes inside a word.

(20) Choguita Rarámuri (Tarahumara) (Uto-Aztecan, Mexico)

a. kipá ‘snow’ → i-kibá ‘snow a lot’

b. bahí ‘drink’ → a-pahí ‘drink a lot’

c. sitákame ‘be red, sg’ → i-sirákame ‘be red, pl’
Apophony: A sound change indicates a change in meaning.

Suppletion: A partial or complete change of the morpheme indicates a change in meaning.

(21) German

a. schreibst (‘write’, 2sg, prs. ind.) → schriebst (‘write’, 2sg, pst. ind.)

b. bin (‘be’, 1sg. prs. ind.) → war (‘be’, 1sg, pst. ind.)
Tone

Not only phonological segments can make up morphemes, but also suprasegmental material, for example tone:
“˘”: high tone
“ˆ”: low tone

(22) Hausa
a. shá (‘to drink’) → shâ (‘drinking’)
b. tshí (‘to eat’) → tshî (‘eating’)


Reduplication

A part or the entire base is copied and affixed to the base.

(23) Illokano (Austronesisch, Philippinen)

a. púsa (‘cat.sg’) → pus-púsa (‘cat.pl’)
b. kláse (‘class.sg’) → klas-kláse (‘class.pl’)

Words are formed by inserting vowels to a consonantal root.

(24) Arabic

a. ktb (concept of writing) → kataba (‘He writes’)
b. ktb (concept of writing) → kitaab (‘book’)

Subtractive Morphology

Meaning is expressed by taking something away.

(25) Alabama (Muskogean, USA)
   a. balaa-ka (‘lie’, sg) → bal-ka (‘lie’, pl/iterativ)
   b. kolof-li (‘cut’, sg) → kol-li (‘cut’, pl/iterativ)
Seemingly wrong word forms are used in a given semantic and syntactic context.

(26) Latin
   a. am-o (‘love’, 1sg, prs. active) $\rightarrow$ am-or (‘love’, 1sg, prs. passive)
   b. sequ-or (‘follow’, 1sg, prs. active) $\rightarrow$ — (‘follow’, 1sg, prs. passive)
Inflectional Classes

Connected to allomorphy, different markers can express the same meaning. Classes can be made up according to the allomorphs and there are no phonological conditions.

(27) Russian
   a. zavod-∅ (‘factory’, nom) → zavod-u (‘factory’, dat)
   b. komnat-a (‘room’, nom) → komnat-e (‘room’, dat)
   c. mest-o (‘place’, nom) → mest-u (‘place’, dat)
Morphemes that do not behave like affixes. Often, they are phonologically weak elements, that are not affixed to a stem, but “lean” on a host. A clear definition is tricky.

(28) English
   a. I would like to say something.
   b. I’d like to say something.

**Notation:** \[ l\text{d} \text{like to say something} \]
Order of morphemes is not fixed. There are two or more options with the same meaning.

(29) Turkish

a. Gör-dü-y-se-k  
   see-PFV-COP-COND-1PL  
   ‘If we have seen’

b. Gör-dü-k-Ø-se  
   see-PFV-1PL-COP-COND  
   ‘If we have seen’
Conversion

change of the syntactic category of an element (a noun or an adjective) and the associated semantics without change in form

(30) English

a. “... I may be the new girl, but you can’t brain wash me. Just OshKosh B’Gosh me ...” (The Simpsons, Season 15, Episode 3, ‘The President Wore Pearls’, Song ‘I Am Their Queen’)

b. “... This cuting up suits me. There’s beauty within me. So let’s Olsen twin me” (ibid.)
“Fugenelement”: a sound sequence that is inserted to compound to morphemes

(31) German

a. Huhn (‘child’) + Ei(‘egg’) → Hühnerei (‘chicken egg’)
b. Ansicht (‘view’) + Karte (‘card’) → Ansichtskarte (‘post card’)
c. Hund (‘dog’) + Leine (‘leash’) → Hundeleine (‘dog leash’)


