



COURSE CODE: ENG 222

COURSE TITLE: ENGLISH MORPHOLOGY

NUMBER OF UNITS: 3 Units

COURSE DURATION: Three hours per week

COURSE LECTURER: **IYOHA OSAS**

### **INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. define morphemes;
2. explain the role of morphemes in syntactic structures;
3. identify the classes and functions of morphemes;
4. distinguish between derivational and inflectional morphemes;
5. analyse sentences, using morphemes as parameter;

### **COURSE DETAILS:**

WEEK 1: A cursory look at the levels of language

WEEK 2: What is Morphology?

WEEK 3: Morphemes

WEEK 4: The description of morphemes

- Meaning-based - Structure-based

WEEK 6: Word Structure and forms

WEEK 7: Mid semester test

WEEK 8: Words Types

## WEEK 9, 10, 11: Word formation processes

- i. Compounding
- ii. Affixation
- iii. Derivation
- iv. Blending
- v. Clipping
- vi. Acronyms
- vii. Novel creation/ Neologisms
- viii. Sound symbolism
- ix. Creative respelling
- x. Borrowing

## WEEK 12: Revision

## RESOURCES

### • Lecturer's Office Hours:

• Iyoha Osas. Monday – Friday 08:30 - 03:30pm.

• Course lecture Notes: <http://www.edouniversity.edu.ng/...pdf>

### • Books:

1. OluTomori, S. H. 1977. The morphology and syntax of present-day English: An Introduction. Ibadan: Heinemann
2. Aronoff, M. & Kirsten, F. 2005. What is Morphology? MA: Blackwell

## CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT, GRADING AND EVALUATION:

Grading in the course is made up of 30% continuous assessment and 70% final examination. The 30% components of the continuous assessment are as follows:

In-class test - 10

Mid-Semester Test - 10

Quizzes - 5

Written assignment - 5

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### ENG 222: ENGLISH MORPHOLOGY

This course deals with the English word structure which includes the nature and types of morphemes; affixation (derivational and inflectional); as well as phonological and syntactic influences on affixation.

## **MORPHOLOGY**

Morphology deals with the study of morphemes. It has to do with how words are formed in a language. A morpheme is the smallest meaningful grammatical unit. The morpheme should not be confused as a syllable because a syllable is a unit of a word that can be produced with a single breath effort.

The morpheme has to do with syntax while the syllable is connected with phonology. The morpheme is the smallest unit of English grammar.

### **Types of Morphemes**

1. Free morpheme
2. Bound morpheme

#### **Free morpheme**

Free morphemes can exist independently of any other morpheme. Morphemes make up words. The least constituent of a word is a morpheme.

Examples

Broad,table,chair,white,bag,fan,air,pen,hair,shoe,base,battery,sopund,cheese,ball,dough,nut,egg,roll,role, etc

#### **Bound morpheme**

Bound morphemes do not have the capacity to stand independently of other morphemes. They must be attached to free morphemes before their meanings become realised. Examples ‘-ment’, ‘-ate’, ‘-est’, ‘-er’, ‘-s’, ‘-d’, ‘-ed’, ‘-ian’, ‘-an’, ‘-ity’, ‘dis-’, ‘un-’, etc.

#### **Types of bound morphemes**

##### **Derivational bound morpheme**

It derives a new word class from whatever word it is added. It gives a new part of speech. In other words, it changes its meaning.

### **Verb to noun**

- Locate - location
- Accommodate - accommodation
- Educate - education
- Assign - assignment
- Judge - judgement
- Punish - punishment
- Move - movement
- Enjoy - enjoyment
- Entertain - entertainment
- Encourage - encouragement
- Improve - improvement
- Increase - increment
- Amaze - amazement
- Develop - development

#### **-ion**

- Pollute - pollution
- Excrete - excretion
- Extort - extortion
- Communicate - communication
- Vindicate - vindication
- Allocate - allocation

#### **-er**

- Farm - farmer
- Produce - producer
- Mix - mixer
- Scan - scanner

- Speak - speaker
- Work - worker
- Teach - teacher
- Lecture - lecturer

#### **-tion**

- Resume - resumption
- Produce - production
- Install - installation
- Inform - information

#### **-ity**

- Unite - unity
- Disable - disability

#### **-ing**

- Sleep - sleeping
- Farm - farming
- School - schooling
- Pray - praying
- Eat - eating
- Write - writing
- Groan - groaning

#### **Noun to adjective**

- Beauty - beautiful
- Fruit - fruitful

#### **Adjective to noun**

- Able - ability
- Capable - capability

- Happy - happiness
- Good - goodness

### **Verb to adjective**

- Care - careful
- Adore - adorable
- Play - playful

### **Adjective to adverb**

- Happy - happily
- Sad - sadly
- Frank - frankly
- Intelligent - intelligently

### **Derivational morpheme**

-ment, -ful, -ly, -ion, -ation, -iate, -ic, -ial, -ve, -tive, -ian, -er, -or, -un, -ir, -im, -ance, -ize, etc

### **Features of a derivational morpheme**

1. A derivational morpheme is recursive.
2. A derivational morpheme cannot be added after an inflectional morpheme.
3. It changes the meaning of whatever word it is added to.
4. When you add a derivational morpheme to a root morpheme, sometimes, certain letters are elided.

### **Inflectional morphemes**

They are morphemes that when you add them to a root morpheme, they reflect those root morphemes for number, person, tense, case, etc. It does not change the word class of the root morpheme. Most times, they perform grammatical functions. Grammatical functions could include:

Changing the tense of the verb, examples:

- Educate      educated      educating

- Sing            sings            singing

Inflectional morphemes could include: ‘-s’, ‘-es’, ‘-ed’, ‘-d’, ‘-t’, ‘-ing’, etc

Null morphemes, e.g., sheep etc

Replacive morpheme

- Man    men
- Break broke

Sometimes, inflectional morphemes are added to root morphemes to provide the comparative and superlative adjective (-er and -est).

### **Features of inflectional morphemes**

1. It cannot be recursive.
2. Once it has been added to a word, no other morpheme can be added to it, be it inflectional or derivational.
3. It mostly performs grammatical function.
4. They could come after derivational morphemes but a derivational morpheme cannot come after an inflectional morpheme.
5. Sometimes, it can be replacive. In other words, they change the letters of the root morpheme they are added to.
6. Some inflectional morphemes do not even change anything in the root morpheme.
7. They have certain sound characteristics added to them.

### **Inflectional morphemes**

The following should be noted about the inflectional morpheme.

- It does not change the part of the speech of the word.
- Sometimes and rarely more than one inflectional morpheme can be added to a word.
- It can also be combined in a word e.g. boy + -s (plural) + -‘s (possessive) =boys’
- The morpheme has some symbols with which it is represented in analysis. They are as follow:
  - Z1(s): used to indicate plural morpheme e.g. boys=boy + z1
  - Z2(‘s): used to indicate possessive morpheme e.g. boy’s=boy+z2

- Z3(s): used to indicate 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular verb morpheme e.g. eats=eat + z3
- D1(ed,d): used to indicate past tense morpheme e.g. saw=see+d1
- D2 used to indicate perfective aspect morpheme e.g. seen=see+d2
- -ing used to indicate continuous aspect e.g. going=go +ing
- -er used to indicate comparative degree of adjective e.g. better = good + er
- -est used to indicate superlative degree of adjective e.g. best = good + est

s/no	Word	Free morpheme	Derivational morpheme	Inflectional morpheme
1	Teachers	Teach	-er,	Z1
2	Nationalities	Nation	-al, -ity,	Z1
3	Universities	Universe	-ity,	Z1
4	Broken	Break	Replacive morpheme	D2
5	Deceives	Deceive	Nil	Z3
6	Structuralism	Structure	-al, -ism	Nil
7	Forgotten	Forget	Nil	D2
8	Encouragement	Courage	-en, -ment	Nil
9	Impossibility	Possible	-im, -ity	Nil
10	Illegitimate	Legitimate	-il	Nil
11	Institutions	Institute	-ion,	Z1
12	Irregularities	Regular	-ir, -ity,	Z1
13	Children's	Child	Nil	Z1,z2
14	Hibernating	Hibernate	Nil	-ing
15	Profoundest	Profound	Nil	-est
16	Least	Little	Nil	-est

## WORDS

Graphologically, a word is a unit of writing that is demarcated with spaces. In other words, 'word' are separated with spaces.

Semantically, a word is a unit that has independent meaning.



Phonologically, a word is a unit that has at least one syllable.

### **Types according to structure**

1. **Simple words:** They are words that have not gone through any morphological transformation or change. They do not contain affixes. Most often, they contain just a free morpheme and only one free morpheme. They have denotative meanings. Examples are: girl, pen, school, nation, language, visit, etc.
2. **Complex words:** Unlike simple words, they have gone through morphological transformation. Examples: slept, men, geese, mice, etc.
  - **Compound words:** combination of two or more free morphemes is compound words. Examples are: tooth-brush, strawberry, honeymoon, sweat heart, Vice - chancellor, headache, etc. Compound words can be hyphenated, spaced, or written together.

More examples of compound words are: strawberry, deputy vice-chancellor, commander-in-chief, puff-puff, pop-corn, auditor-general, bridegroom, ladies-in-waiting, men-in-suit, etc

### **Types according to function (word class)**

Nouns, Verb, Adverb, Pronoun, Adjective, Preposition, Exclamatory, Conjunction

### **The morphological processes of word formation**

1. **Affixation:** In affixation, morphemes are combined to derive new words. It is a process whereby prefixes and suffixes are attached to a base, or where infixes are inserted into a stem to derive another word. Kataba (1993:151) defines an affix as ‘a morpheme which only occurs when attached to some other morphemes such as a root, stem or base’.
2. example: un + important =unimportant, in + accessible=inaccessible

Affixation is of three types

- **Prefixation:** it is a bound morpheme added to the beginning of a base word to make a new word e.g.: dis + loyal = disloyal, un + interesting = uninteresting, ir + reversible = irreversible, im + possible = impossible.

Most often, when a prefix is added to a word or a base, the spelling and word class of the base word does not change.

- **Infixation:** it is the process whereby a letter is inserted in the middle of two base words to derive another word. bar + o + meter = barometer, speed + o + meter = speedometer, thermometer, thermodynamics, cupsful, spoonsful, etc.
- **Suffixation:** A process of adding a letter/a group of letters to the end of the word. nature + al = natural, teach + er = teacher, go + es = goes, etc

- **Derivational suffixes:** they derive new words when they are added to base words. They affect the meaning as well as the classes of such words.

**Noun derivational suffixes:** They are used to derive nouns from other words. describe + ion = description, invite + ee = invitee, jealous + y = jealousy etc

**Verb derivational suffixes:** these are suffixes used to derive verbs from other words. E.g. Mode + fy = modify, length + en = lengthen, motive + ate = motivate etc

**Adjective derivational suffixes:** these are suffixes used to derive adjectives from other words e.g achieve + able = achievable, worth + less = worthless, book + ish = bookish etc

**Adverb derivational suffixes:** these are suffixes used to derive adverbs from other words. foolish + ly = foolishly, clock + wise = clockwise etc

- **Inflectional suffixes:** these suffixes unlike the derivational suffixes do not derive new words. They only inflect the base words for tense, aspect, plurality, possession, superlatives, comparatives, etc. In other words, they indicate grammatical functions of words. Examples:

**Noun inflectional suffixes:** they are used to indicate plurals. We have it in several forms: -s(boy/boys), -es(mango/mangoes), -ies(lorry/lorries), -ves(knife/knives), -ice(louse/lice), -ia(medium/media, stadium/stadia), -i(radius/radii), -x(plateau/plateaux), -a(criterion/criteria, phenomenon/phenomena). They can also show possession.

**Verb inflectional suffixes:** third person singular suffixes e.g(walk/walks), the continuous aspect suffix 'ing' eg (sing/singing), the past tense suffix 'ed' eg (look/looked, eat/ate), the perfective aspect suffix e.g (see/seen, know/known)

**Adjective inflectional suffixes:** they are used to express the comparative and superlative degree of adjectives e.g big/bigger, good/best, large/largest

## Pronoun inflectional suffix

3. **Clipping:** It is the subtraction of one or more syllables from the word (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973:448) e.g. Television could be tele, information: info, influenza: flu, professor:prof., photograph:photo, telephone: phone, etc.
4. **Blending:** This is a process whereby two separate forms are combined to produce a single word. It is usually achieved by joining the beginning of a word to the end of another word e.g. Telecast = television + broadcast, motel =motorist + hotel, Eurovision =europlane + television, smog =smoke + fog, glob = gob + blob, fanzine = fan + magazine, punkumentary = punk + documentary
5. **Coinage:** it has to do with the act of inventing new words or phrases into the lexicon of language e.g. Chinco, Toronto, Yahoo, etc
6. **Acronymy:** it is a process when the initial letters of words making up the name of a body or organisation or institution are combined together to refer to such a body e.g. NUC, NYSC, WHO, NECO, WAEC, INEC etc
7. **Reduplication:** It is a process of doubling a word in an utterance. Sometimes it could be partial when only part of the word is repeated or complete if the whole word is repeated e.g. chin-chin, puff-puff, goody-goody, helter-skelter, walkie-talkie, criss-cross etc.
8. **Compounding:** the process of bringing together the base forms of two words to form a new word e.g. chalk-board, vice-chancellor, broadcast etc. It can be hyphenated.
9. **Conversion/functional shift:** it is a process whereby a word is converted from one class to the other without any morphological changes informing the formation of the new word. e.g. import(v) and import(n)
  - The facility is an **import** from Britain.
  - The brothers **import** goods from Britain.

## 10. borrowing