

Introducing Morphology

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LING 350: The Structure of Words

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What we'll cover tonight...

Cameras on, please!

1. Introductions
2. What is morphology?
3. Syllabus review
4. Using the class site

Introductions



- My name is Joseph Pentangelo. I also go by Joe.
- I have a PhD in linguistics.
- I am a linguist and folklorist.
- I went to Macaulay Honors College at CSI as an undergrad, class of 2012.
- I live on Staten Island with my wife and our cats, Babycat and Zodie. (And, right now, a stray we're taking care of, Gingerbread.)

Introduce yourselves: name, major, interests.

What is morphology?

- This class is called “The Structure of Words.”
- Morphology can be considered the study of words and word-parts.
- But what *is* a word?
- How many words are there in the following sentences?

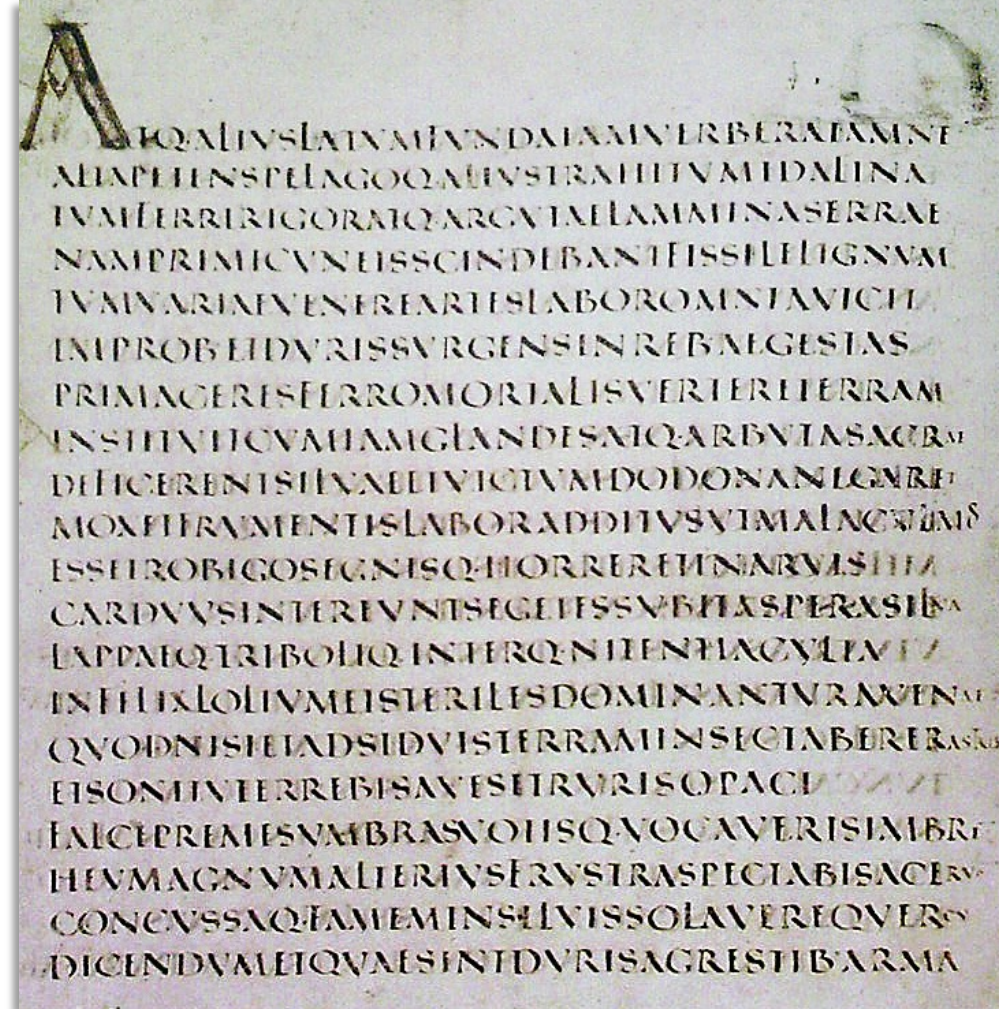
I'm going to study.

I'm gonna study.

I am going to study.

What is morphology?

- How do we know where one word ends and another begins?
- Is *goodbye* one word or two?
- How about *filing cabinet*?
- What makes one word different from another word?





jumping and leaping?



bury and berry?

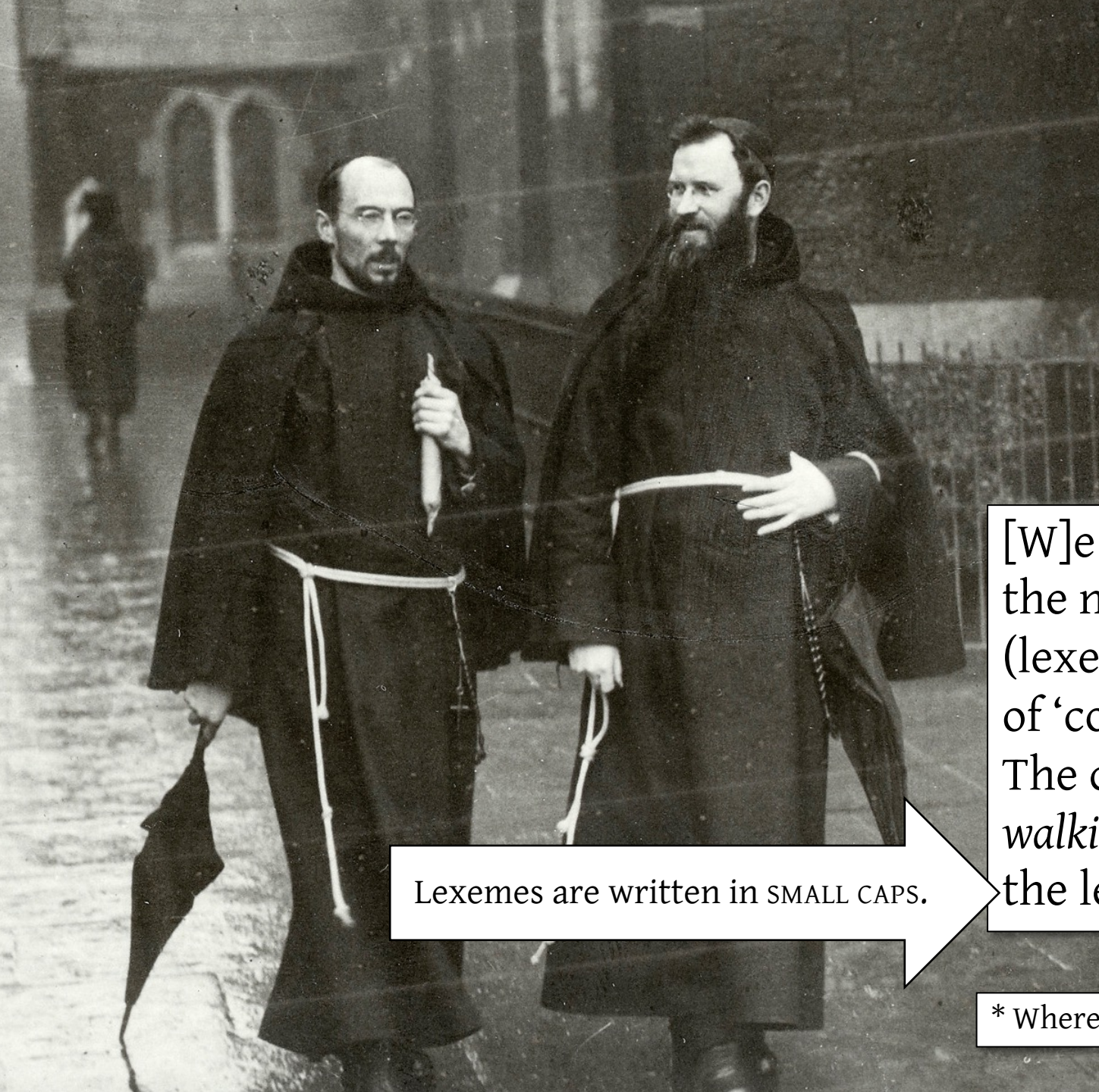




orange (the fruit) and orange (the color)?

What is morphology?

- *jumping* and *leaping* have very similar meanings, but are pronounced and spelled differently.
- *bury* and *berry* are pronounced the same, but have very different meanings and spellings. Plus, *bury* is a verb while *berry* is a noun.
- *orange* and *orange* are spelled and pronounced the same, and have related (but still quite different) meanings, but one is a noun while the other is an adjective.



walk, walks, walked, walking

- Are these four different words? Why or why not?

[W]e have to make a distinction between the notion 'word' in an abstract sense (lexeme) and the notion 'word' in the sense of 'concrete word as used in a sentence.' The concrete words *walk*, *walks*, *walked*, and *walking* can be qualified as word forms of the lexeme WALK. (p.3)

Lexemes are written in SMALL CAPS.

* Where I don't cite a source, quotations come from the textbook.

What is morphology?

- It's interesting that WALK isn't the only lexeme with the same pattern of word forms. Most verbs pattern in just the same way. (*Jump, jumps, jumped, jumping, or talk, talks, talked, talking, for example.*)
- The rules undergirding this kind of pattern have to do with inflection, one of the major topics we cover in morphology.
- In English, inflection is marked by adding inflectional morphemes onto a stem. The stem for most verbs in English is also the lexical word (you add *-ing* to JUMP to get the present progressive form of the verb, *jumping*), but this differs from language to language.

What is morphology?

- So inflection accounts for the difference between *jump* and *jumping*.
- But what about JUMP and LEAP? JUMP and JUMPER? BURY and BERRY? BURY and BURIAL? ORANGE and ORANGE?
- We are also interested in word formation, which has to do with how new lexemes are formed. Popular methods include derivation, compounding, and conversion.

Morphology, the study of the internal structure of words, deals with the forms of lexemes (inflection), and with the ways in which lexemes are formed (word-formation). (p. 24)

Discussion Question

If you were writing a dictionary, would you make entries for the following items? Why or why not?

dog

fish

quick

dogs

fish's

quickly

file

fisherman

suppose

filed

fish food

supposed

filing cabinet

fished

supposedly

nail file

fish tank

Discussion Question (q.5, p.25)

Here is a set of pairs of singular and plural nouns in Oromo, a language spoken in Ethiopia and Kenya.

raadda	raaddoollee	young cow(s)
uwaa	uwoollee	woman/women
eela	eeloota	well(s)
kobee	kobeellee	shoe(s)
kobee	koboota	shoe(s)
harree	harreellee	donkey(s)
sangaa	sangoollee	ox/oxen

Which plural endings are found in these data, and what are the stem forms of these nouns?

This semester

- These are the sorts of questions and topics we'll be exploring in this class
- To give you a better idea of what's to come, we'll now cover the syllabus, then the class website.
- But first, here's what's due next week...

For next week...

- Read part of chapter 1 in the textbook, pp.3–13, which you can find on the site.
- The password to access the Readings page is “linguist” (without the quotation marks).