

Inflection

Prof. Joseph Pentangelo

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Midterm Review

Midterm review

1

Find a category-changing affix that takes **verbs** as its input and delivers **nouns** as its output. (If it takes in nouns as well as some other category, that's fine, just make sure to note it.) Write down the affix, write down the process in bracket notation (like we did in class at several points), and write down **two examples** of the process. Make sure the examples are all verb-to-noun examples.

For example, if the affix were *-er*, you would write:

-er, $[[X]_V \text{ er}]_N$

lead → *leader*, *swim* → *swimmer*

Obviously, do not use *-er* in your answer to this question!

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2

Find a category-changing affix that takes **nouns** as its input and delivers **verbs** as its output. (If it takes in nouns as well as some other category, that's fine, just make sure to note it.) Write down the affix, write down the process in bracket notation, and write down **two** examples of the process. Make sure the examples are all noun-to-verb examples.

For example, if the affix were *-ize*, you would write:

-ize, $[[X]_Y \text{ize}]_V$ where $Y=N,A$

fossil → *fossilize*, *American* → *Americanize*

Of course, do not use *-ize* in your answer to this question!

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Now, try to use the **output** words you came up with in (1) as the **inputs** to the process in (2). Are the resulting words well-formed? Are they already-existing words? What seems to work about this process, and what doesn't? Write a paragraph analyzing your results.

For example, the resulting words from the above examples would be:

leader → *leaderize*, *swimmer* → *swimmerize*. (When you answer this question, you'll put a full paragraph here in response, but I'm just showing how to do the output-input process correctly, so I'm not writing more.)

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The following are simplified forms of several verbs from Kanien'kéha (Mohawk), an Iroquoian language. You have seen most of this information on Quiz #2.

Given the above, how would you write “You do not wash” in Kanien'kéha?

<i>katorats</i>	I hunt
<i>enkatorate</i>	I will hunt
<i>satorats</i>	you hunt
<i>ensatorate</i>	you will hunt
<i>ratorats</i>	he hunts
<i>enratorate</i>	he will hunt

-anohare- is the stem for the verb ‘wash.’

te- is a negative prefix. It comes before any other prefixes.

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What is the difference between a complex word and a simplex word?

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If an affix can only attach to words of a certain lexical category, then that affix has a(n):

- a) phonetic constraint
- b) semantic constraint
- c) output constraint
- d) input constraint

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7 At the two ends of the synthesis scale are isolating languages and polysynthetic languages. What's the difference between the two?

- a) In a polysynthetic language, morphemes usually express more properties than they would in an isolating language.
- b) Isolating languages feature a richer morphological system than polysynthetic languages.
- c) Polysynthetic languages generally have more morphemes per word than isolating languages.
- d) Polysynthetic languages contain no affixes while isolating languages are marked by a preponderance of them.

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$[[X]_V]_N$

The above template illustrates:

- a) Conversion (nominalization, specifically)
- b) Prefixation (verbalization, specifically)
- c) Syncretism
- d) Agglutination

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9 Which of the below examples correctly shows interlinear morphemic translation (a.k.a. glossing)?

A Io posso farlo.
/i.o pos.so far.lo/
“I can do it.”

B Oda-dan hız-lı çık-tı-m
room-ABL speed-COM leave -PFV-1SG
“I left the room quickly.”

C “The butterfly is beautiful.”
DET NOUN VERB ADJECTIVE
[the]_D [[butter]_N [fly]_N]_N [is]_V [[beauty]_N ful]_A

D Hwæt! We Gardena in geardagum
V N N P N
“Listen! We the Spear-Danes in days of yore.”

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Morphology can be considered the study of

- a) sentence structures.
- b) speech sounds.
- c) words and word parts.
- d) meaning and intention.

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Which of the following words has three morphological constituents?

- a) margarine
- b) sellers
- c) greenhouse
- d) barbershop

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A bound morpheme:

- a) can appear on its own or attached to another morpheme.
- b) must appear on its own.
- c) is the same thing as an affix.
- d) cannot appear on its own.

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New lexemes can be created by:

- a) inflection, among other processes.
- b) lexicographers, linguists, and nobody else.
- c) derivation and inflection only.
- d) derivation, among other processes.

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Which of the following does not illustrate concatenative morphology?

- a) bird + cage → birdcage
- b) dog → dogs
- c) anti- + establish + -ment → antiestablishment
- d) foot → feet

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Conversion is considered to be derivation because:

- a) all word-formation is derivational.
- b) it creates new lexemes on the basis of ones that already exist.
- c) it is a feature found extensively in agglutinative languages.
- d) it requires affixation.

Inflection

- What makes inflection different from derivation?
- Inflection does not create new lexemes, but word forms.
- What's the difference between a lexeme and a word form?
- A lexeme is a separate entry in your lexicon. A word form is just the form a given lexeme takes in a certain grammatical context.

- Dog and cat are two different lexemes.
- Dog, dogs, dog's are three different word forms of the same lexeme, dog.

Inflection

- What are **morphosyntactic categories**?
- e.g. number, case, person, tense
- What are **morphosyntactic features**?
- A particular value for one of those categories, e.g. singular or plural, nominative or accusative, first or second person, present or past.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
NOMINATIVE	kot	kot-y
GENITIVE	kot-a	kot-ów
DATIVE	kot-u	kot-om
ACCUSATIVE	kot-a	kot-y
INSTRUMENTAL	kot-em	kot-ami
LOCATIVE	koci-e	kot-ach
VOCATIVE	koci-e	kot-y

Polish *kot* 'cat'

Inflection

- What are some morphosyntactic categories that are found on nouns?
- Number, case, definiteness, gender
- What are some morphosyntactic features for those categories?
- Number: singular plural dual
- Case: nominative accusative dative genitive
- Definiteness: definite indefinite
- Gender: male female neuter
- What are some ways that these features are expressed in other languages?

Consider the following sentences from British English and American English respectively:

The police are investigating the case

The police is investigating the case

What conclusion can you draw for the difference in specification of *police* between the lexicons of British and of American English?

Inflection

convenience. Each inflectional suffix in this paradigm expresses features (is an **exponent**) for two categories, NUMBER and CASE. There are no distinct morphemes for these two categories, and the inflectional endings are portmanteau morphemes. This is a case of **cumulative exponence**: each ending in the paradigm of KOT is the expression of more than one inflectional category (the formal correlate of a morphological category is called its **exponence**). There is also the opposite phenomenon that one inflectional category may receive more than one morphological expression. This is illustrated by the Latin word form *laudāvisti* in Table 5.1: the inflectional category PERFECT is expressed by both the morpheme *-vi-* after the stem *laudā* and the selection of a 2SG ending *-isti* that is unique to the PERFECT, and hence also expresses this category. This is called **extended exponence**.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
NOMINATIVE	kot	kot-y
GENITIVE	kot-a	kot-ów
DATIVE	kot-u	kot-om
ACCUSATIVE	kot-a	kot-y
INSTRUMENTAL	kot-em	kot-ami
LOCATIVE	koci-e	kot-ach
VOCATIVE	koci-e	kot-y

Polish *kot* ‘cat’

Identify instances of cumulative and extended exponence in the following forms of the Hebridian Gaelic word *clach* "stone" (Coates 2000: 623):

	SG	PL
NOM	clach [khɫax]	clachan [klaxan]
GEN	cloiche [khloçe]	clachan [klaxan]
DAT	cloich [khloç]	clachan [klaxan]

Practice!

- Group 1: Italian
- Group 2: English
- Group 3: Spanish
- Group 4: German

What morphosyntactic categories do these languages mark for their nouns?

What are the morphosyntactic features they mark for their nouns?

How do they mark these categories? Do they use cumulative exponence?

English inflection

- -s (plural)
- -s (3rd person present tense)
- -'s (possessive or genitive marker)
- -ed (past tense)
- -ing (present progressive)
- -er (comparative)
- -est (superlative)
- -en (past participle)

What lexical classes do these affixes work on?

What're some examples of these affixes in use?

Melčuk (2000: 515) gives the following examples of Russian male–female noun pairs that he qualifies as suppletion: *byk* “bull”–*korova* “cow”, *petuch* “rooster”–*kurica* “hen”. Do you think it makes sense to use the notion “suppletion” in the domain of word-formation?

French has two genders, masculine and feminine. The following French noun phrases illustrate gender agreement between the head noun and the following attributive adjective:

un père excellent
a.MASC.SG father.MASC.SG excellent.MASC.SG
"an excellent father"

une mère excellent-e
a.FEM.SG mother.FEM.SG excellent-FEM.SG
"an excellent mother"

une mère et une sœur excellent-e-s
a.FEM.SG mother.FEM.SG and a.FEM.SG sister.FEM.SG excellent-FEM-PL
"an excellent mother and sister"

un père et une mère excellent-s
a father.MASC.SG and a mother.FEM.SG excellent-MASC.PL
"an excellent father and mother"

Formulate the rule of 'gender resolution' that is needed to compute the gender feature of the attributive adjective when the head of the phrase is formed by two conjoined nouns.

For next time:

- Read the remainder of this chapter.
- Complete Quiz #3