

Morphology

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Morphology(definitions)

Morphology:is the study of forms.

Morphology:is The branch of linguistics (and one of the major components of grammar) that studies word structures, especially in terms of morphemes. Adjective: *morphological*.

Morphology:is the study and description of word formation (as inflection, derivation, and compounding) in language

Morphology:is the study of word formation, of the structure of words.

Examples:

- care-**less**

- **un**-happy

- teach-**er**

Morpheme :

- Morpheme is a minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function.
- It is a meaningful linguistic unit consisting of a word, such as *man*, or a word element, such as -*ed* in *walked*, that cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts.
- It is a smallest morphological unit that cannot be divided into smaller parts.

***In English, words like talks,talker,talked,talking must consist of one element *talk* and a number of other elements such as -s,-er,-ed and -ing.**

Examples

re- open -ed $\longrightarrow$ 3morphemes

(minimal unit of meaning(again)- minimal unit of meaning-
minimal unit of grammatical function(indicate past tense))

tour- ist -s

(minimal unit of meaning tour-minimal unit of
meaning(ist),marking "person who does sth."-minimal unit
of grammatical function(-s)(indicate plural)).

Types of Morpheme

- Free Morpheme
- Bound Morpheme

* • **Free morphemes** are morphemes that can stand by themselves as a single word I.e. are those which can stand alone as words of a language

* • **Free morphemes** are those that can stand alone as words. They may be **lexical** morphemes ({serve}, {press}), or **grammatical(functional)** morphemes ({at}, {and}).

* • in English, free morphemes can be identified as the set of separate word forms such as **basic nouns, adjectives, verbs, etc.**

e.g. care, teach, help, above....

* • **bound morphemes** :are those morphemes that cannot stand normally alone and are typically attached to another form.

e.g.

a bound morpheme is a morpheme that only appears as part of a larger word.

• The morphemes that occur only in combination are called bound morphemes (e.g., *-ed*, *-s*, *-ing*).

e.g. un-, -er, -less, -ed, -ing and ect.

Unhappy, teacher, careless, talked, teaching

***all prefixes and suffixes are bound morphemes.**

***when free morphemes are used with bound morphemes attached, the basic word forms are known as **stem**.**

e.g.

care	-less	-ness
stem	suffix	suffix
(free)	(bound)	(bound)

Un-	dress	-ed
Prefix	stem	suffix
(bound)	(free)	(bound)

***There are a number of English words in which the element treated as stem is not a free morpheme.**

e.g. in words like

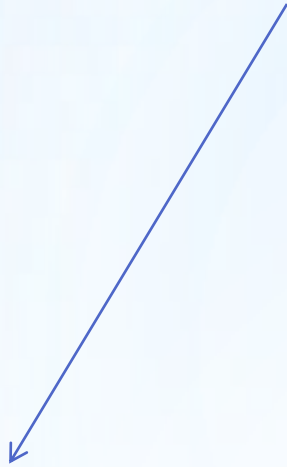
reduce, repeat and receive,

-we can identify the bound morpheme .

re at the beginning,

-but the elements *-duce, -peat* and *-ceive* are not separate word forms and that is why they cannot be free morphemes, **these types of forms are called "*bound stems*"** to distinguish between them and "*free stems*".

Types of free morphemes



Lexical morpheme



functional morpheme

- (A) Lexical morphemes

(is that set of ordinary nouns, adjective and verbs that carry the).

- A word that conveys information in a text or speech act is known as a *lexical word*.

Q. why are they treated as an "open" class of words?

A-They are treated as an "open" class of words because we can add new lexical morphemes to the language rather easily. i.e. we can create new words which are lexical.

- **(B)functional**

-(grammatical)morphemes are morphemes that consist of the functional words in the language such as conjunctions, prepositions, articles and pronouns.

e.g. and, in, the, that, it, she ...etc.

-why are they called "closed" class of words?

A. They are called "close" class of words because we almost never add new functional morphemes to the language.

Types of bound morphemes



Derivational morpheme

inflectional morphemes

(A) Derivational morphemes

Are those bound morphemes that we use in making new words or making words of a different grammatical category from the stem.

e.g.

good(adj.) + -ness (derivational morpheme)
= goodness (noun)

care(noun) + -ful (derivational morpheme) = careful(adj.)

A list of derivational morphemes concludes;

suffixes: -ish, -less, -ly ...etc.

prefixes: re-, pre-, un-, ex-, mis-, co- ...etc.

(B)Inflectional morphemes

Are those morphemes that are used to indicate aspects of the grammatical function of a word.

clean+(-ed)=cleaned tenses

***inflectional morphemes are also called(inflections).**

* English language has eight inflectional morphemes.

-
1. -'s (possessive) with nouns } *Jane's brother
2. _s (plural) } *pens
3. -ing (present participle) } **with verbs** *teaching
4. -s (3rd person singular) } *she likes
5. -ed (past tense) } *played
6. -en (past participle) } *forgotten
7. -est (superlative) } **with adjectives** *happiest
8. -er (comparative) } *happier

Morphological description

-what's the difference between inflectional morpheme and derivational morpheme?

-inflectional morpheme ,never change the grammatical category of a word.

-Old (adj.) → Older (adj.)

while derivational morpheme can change the grammatical category of a word .

-teach (v.) → teacher (n.)

Morphological description

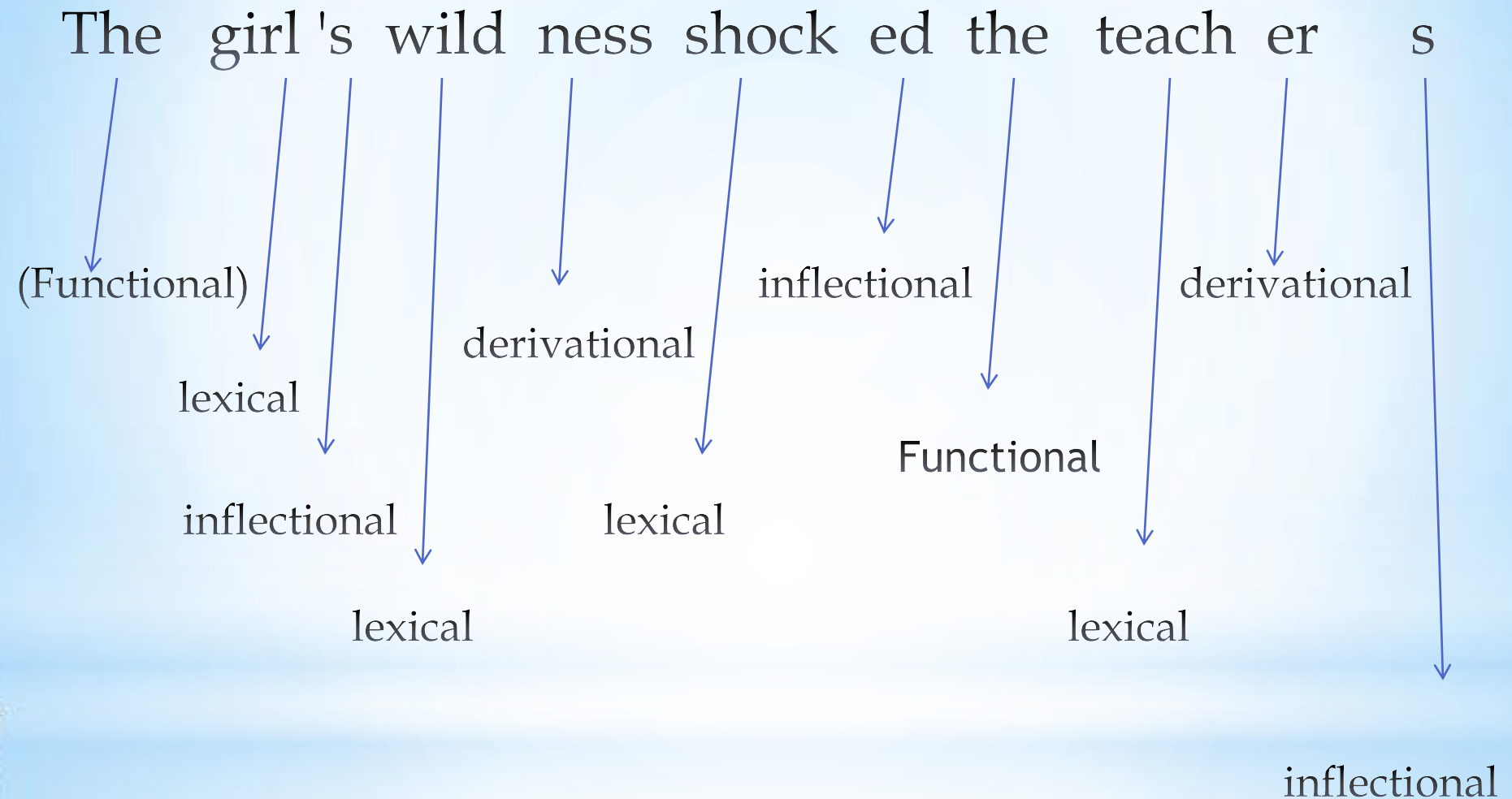
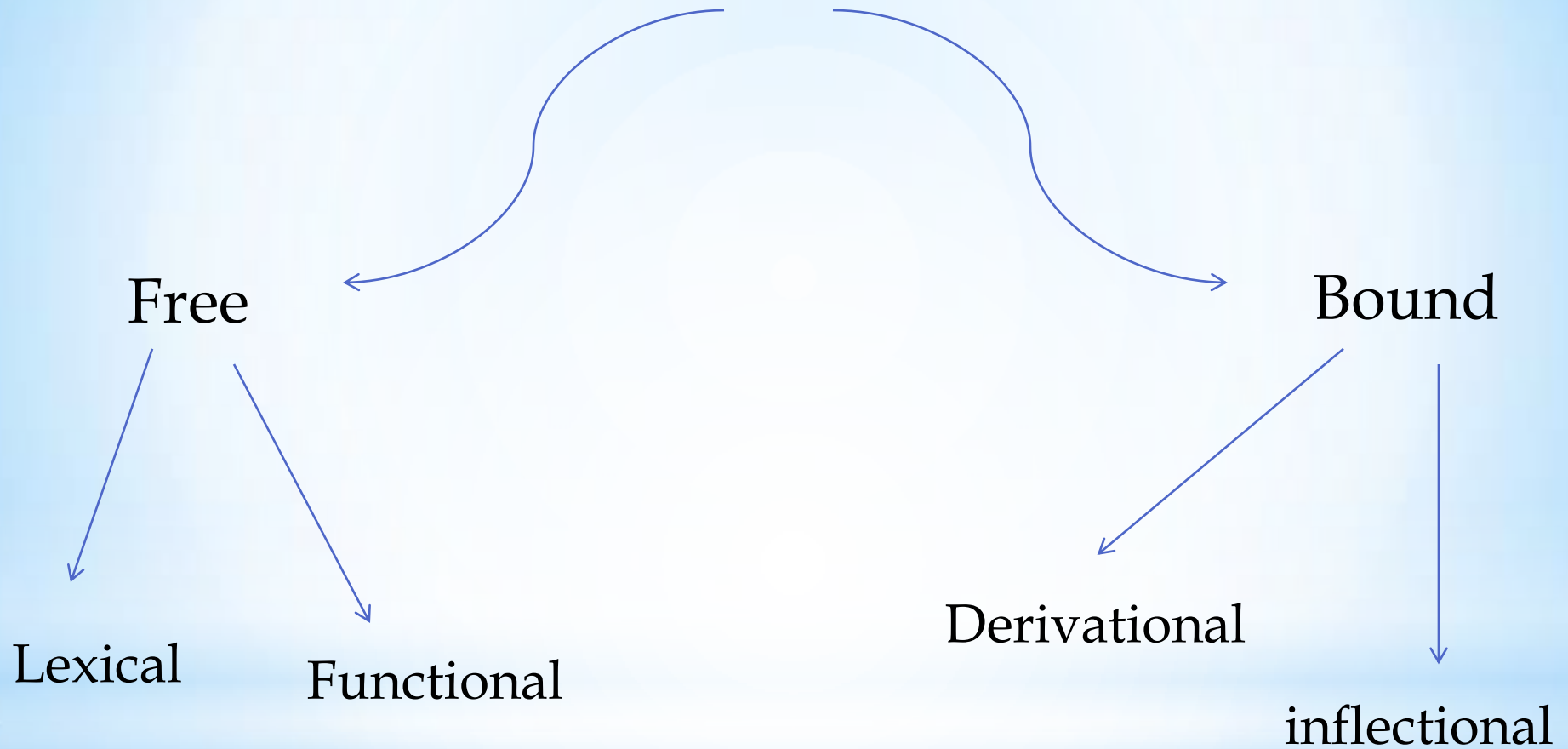


Diagram of Morphemes



Problem in morphological description

So far we have only considered examples of English words in which the different morphemes are easily identifiable . thus what is the inflectional morpheme which makes *sheep* the plural of *sheep* , or *men* the plural of *man* ?

A related question concern the inflection which makes *went* the past of *go* .

And yet another question concern the derivation of an adjective like *legal* . If *al* is the derivational suffix , as it is in forms like *institutional* , then what is the stem ?

No it is not *leg*

Allomorph

An allomorph is a linguistics term for a variant form of a morpheme. The concept occurs when a unit of meaning can vary in sound (phonologically) without changing meaning. It is used in linguistics to explain the comprehension of variations in sound for a specific morpheme.

* Allomorphy in English

English has several morphemes that vary in sound but not in meaning.

Examples (include the past tense and the plural morphemes).

Example In the English language the past tense morpheme is **-ed**. It occurs in several allomorphs depending on its phonological environment, assimilating voicing of the previous segment or inserting a schwa when following an alveolar stop:

as /**əd**/ in 'hunted' or 'banded',

as /**d**/ in 'buzzed',

as /**t**/ in 'fished'