

Definitions of MORPHOLOGY and SYNTAX

Words are important basic units of language that carry meaning.¹

Words are the fundamental building blocks of language.²

Words are the smallest free form in a language that can occur alone and in different positions in the sentence.³

Morphology is that component of the grammar which studies the structure of words to account for the knowledge that native speakers have about their own language.

English morphology is said to be word-based.

Morpheme is the smallest unit of language that carries meaning.

Allomorphs are the variant forms of a morpheme or morphemes that have two or more pronunciations.

Morphophonemics/Allomorphy is the study of the processes by which morphemes change their pronunciation in certain situations.

Free Morpheme when it can stand alone.

Bound Morpheme when it must be attached to another one.

The root is the core of the word that carries the major meaning component.

Affixes are NOT lexical and are ALWAYS bound morphemes. There are 3 types:

Prefix is attached to the front of the base.

Suffix is attached to the end of a base.

Infix which is less common, occurs within another morpheme.

Simple Word is a word consisting of one-morpheme.

Complex Word is a word consisting of two or more morphemes. A root morpheme and one or more affixes.

Compound Word is a word that is formed from two or more simple or complex words.

Derivation is an affixation process that forms a new word with a meaning and/or category distinct from that of its base.

Complex Derivations are words that require multiple levels of word structure.

Compounding is a process of word formation in English which consists in combining existing words to create complex words.

The Category of the Compound Word is determined by the rightmost word.

The Head (X) is the morpheme that determines the category of the entire word.¹

It is the obligatory nucleus around which a phrase is built.²

Endocentric Compounds is a compound that denotes a sub-type of the meaning/concept denoted by the HEAD.

Exocentric Compounds the meaning of the compound does not follow from the meaning of its compounds.

Inflection is a change or modification in the form of a word to mark grammatical categories such as tense or plurality.

A Stem is the base form to which an inflectional affix is added.

CASE is a change a word's form to mark change in its grammatical function (subject, direct object, indirect object, etc.)¹

It is a noun inflection by means of which grammatical relations (subject, object, Prepositional oblique, dative, etc.) are signaled.²

Agreement Occurs when a word is inflected to match certain grammatical properties of another word.

Internal Change is a process that substitutes a non-morphemic segment to mark a grammatical contrast.

Suppletion it occurs when a morpheme is replaced by another which is extremely different to mark a grammatical contrast.

Reduplication it involves the repetition of the base form or some part of it.

Tone placement **Tone** is used in some languages to mark grammatical contrast.

Conversion Often considered to be a type of derivation, it involves a change in meaning and category. It is also called **Zero Derivation**.

Clipping A process whereby a polysyllabic word is shortened by deleting one or more syllables.

Blends They are words that are formed by blending non-morphemic parts of two already existing words.

Backformation Creates a new word by removing part of an existing word.

Acronyms They are formed by keeping the initial letters of some or all the words in a phrase and pronouncing them as ONE word.

Word coinage Common for names of products.

Phonological Context it determines the choice between morphemes that have two or more pronunciations (allomorphs).

Universal Grammar is that all grammars are alike in basic ways.

Grammar is a theory of language which attempts to characterize the structure of language.¹

It is the characterization of the tacit TACIT/IMPLICIT/UNCONSCIOUS knowledge that native speakers have of their own language.²

Lexicon is a mental dictionary (information on words: pronunciation, form, and meaning).

Computational System is operations that combine and arrange words in particular ways. Two main modes of operation/structure building: MERGE and MOVE.

Merge is to combine words in a manner compatible with the X' schema.

Move is the operation of displacing elements around in a structure.

Syntactic Categories are words that are grouped into a small number of classes.

Phrases are words that are grouped into larger units.

Specifiers depend on the category of the Head.¹

They mark the boundary of a phrase; they occupy the leftmost position in a phrase.²

They make the meaning of the head more precise.³

Complement is a word, phrase or clause that is necessary to complete the meaning of the heads.¹

Complements are obligatory constituents that are selected by a given head.²

Sentences are the largest unit of syntactic analysis.

The Substitution Test is the replacement of the entire constituent by ONE word.

The Movement Test it can be shown to be a constituent by moving it all to a different position in the sentence.

The Coordination Test is a group of words forms a constituent if it can be joined to another group of words by a coordinating conjunction.

Subcategorization is when complement selection is syntactic. Also referred to as **C(onstituent)-selection**

Complement clauses are clauses which are larger units than phrases.

Complementisers (C) are the words (that/whether/if) and their role is to introduce (head) complement clauses.

Structural ambiguity is that the meanings of their component words can be combined in more than one way.

Thematic Role is used to describe the part played by a particular element in an event. They originate in word meaning.