

LINGUIST 168 Introduction to Linguistic Typology

LECTURE 12: MORPHOLOGICAL TYPOLOGY, CONT.

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Dimensions of morphological typology (plan for today)

Bound morphemes:

- What types of bound morphemes?

prefixing suffixing infixing suprafixing introfixing

- How much allomorphy (different forms of same morpheme)?

flexive



nonflexive

a lot of allomorphy

no allomorphy

Typology of prefixes versus suffixes (Dryer 2013)

Parameters considered:

i. case affixes on nouns (see Map 51A)

ii. pronominal subject affixes on verbs

iii. tense-aspect affixes on verbs (see Map 69A)

iv. plural affixes on nouns (see Map 33A)

v. pronominal possessive affixes on nouns (see Map 57A)

vi. definite or indefinite affixes on nouns (see Maps 37A and 38A)

vii. pronominal object affixes on verbs

viii. negative affixes on verbs (see Map 112A)

ix. interrogative affixes on verbs (see Map 116A)

x. adverbial subordinator affixes on verbs (see Map 94A)

**common inflectional
affixes**

agreement

wals.info/chapter/26

Stanford University

Suffixes are more common than prefixes

poll

Value	Representation
<input type="radio"/> Little or no inflectional morphology	141
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Predominantly suffixing	406
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate preference for suffixing	123
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approximately equal amounts of suffixing and prefixing	147
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate preference for prefixing	94
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Predominantly prefixing	58
Total:	969

<https://wals.info/chapter/26>

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English is predominantly suffixing

Tense-aspect on verbs: park-**ed**, park-**ing**

Agreement on verbs: s/he park-**s**; I park

Plural affixes on nouns: duck-**s**; cat-**s**

Negative affixes on verbs: did-**n't**; would-**n't**

Example of predominantly prefixing language

Ndebele (Bantu)

Agreement & tense-aspect on verbs

Abantwana	ba-	za-	hlabela
2children	2s-	FUT-	sing
‘The children will sing.’			

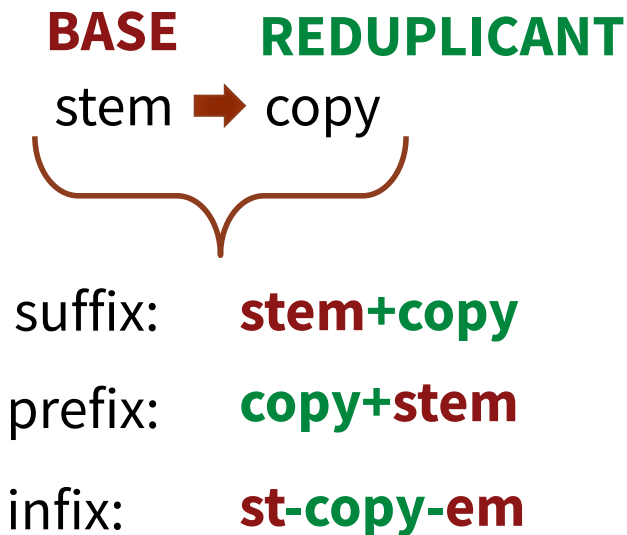
2,5,15 = word classes; FUT = future; NEG = negation; s = subject

Negation on verbs

Iqaqa	a-	li-	zizwa	ukunuka
5skunk	NEG-	5s-	smell	15stink
‘A skunk doesn’t smell its own stink’ (Idiom: ‘People don’t see their own faults.’)				

Subtype of affixation: Reduplication

- operation of full or partial **copying**
- most often analyzed as a **subtype of linear affixation**



Full reduplication

Malagasy (Austronesian)

be ‘big, numerous’

be-be

‘fairly big, numerous’

hafa ‘different
different’

hafa-hafa

‘somewhat

maimbo ‘stinky’

maimbo-maimbo ‘somewhat stinky’

Haspelmath, Martin and Andrea D. Sims (2010) Understanding morphology. 2nd edn. Hodder Education.

Partial reduplication

Ponapean (Austronesian): **prefixation**

duhp	‘dive’	du -duhp	‘be diving’
mihk	‘suck’	mi -mihk	‘be sucking’
wehk	‘confess’	we -wehk	‘be confessing’

Mangap-Mbula (Austronesian): **suffixation**

kuk	‘bark’	kuk- uk	‘be barking’
kel	‘dig’	kel- el	‘be digging’
kan	‘eat’	kan- an	‘be eating’

Activity: reduplication + infixation

Samoan (Austronesian) plural: prefixation/infixation

tóa	‘brave’	to -tóa	galúe	‘work’	ga:- lu -lúe
má:	‘ashamed’	ma -má:	maʔalíli	‘cold’	maʔa- li -líli
alófa	‘love’	a:- lo -lófa	toʔúlu	‘fall, drop’	to-ʔ u -ʔúlu

Answer the following questions:

1. What is being reduplicated?
2. How is the placement of the reduplicant determined?
3. Predict the reduplication forms for the following words:

Group 1

góto	‘sink’
a:vága	‘elope’
maualúga	‘high’

Group 2

atamáí	‘clever’
téʔa	‘bowl’
seʔeváe	‘wear shoes’

Group 3

matíva	‘poor’
taʔavále	‘roll’
ʔémo	‘blink’

Discussion questions about reduplication

- What is the point of automatic reduplication?

Tagalog (Austronesian (Meso-Philippine): Philippines)

(39) *wilih* ‘interested’ ~ *kawilihwilih* ‘interesting’
ka-wilih-wilih

panabik ‘excitement’ ~ *kapanapanabik* ‘exciting’
ka-pana-panabik

multiple exponence

- Why is reduplication so common?
- Does English have productive reduplication?

LIKE-like You must be mad mad.

fancy-schmancy hoity-toity

iconicity

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Flexivity

- how much **allomorphy** there is in a language
- **allomorphy:**

one grammatical
meaning



several different morphemes
depending on word it attaches to

- declension classes
- conjugation classes
- paradigms

Allomorphy in English: verbs

infinitive	simple past	past participle
sing	sang	sung
drink	drank	drunk
see	saw	seen
eat	ate	eaten
drive	drove	driven
show	showed	shown
bake	baked	baked
walk	walked	walked



ablaut (vowel change)

ablaut / -en

-ed / -en

-ed

Flexivity scale



English
German
Russian
Latin
Greek

Nonflexive: no allomorphy in West Circassian

Past tense: -в(e) always, with no exceptions!

k ^w a-вe	‘s/he went’
k ^w a-в-ep	‘s/he didn’t go’
wəstɛв ^w ə-в	‘I saw you’
səçətə-в	‘I sat there’
wjeja-вe-x	‘They waited for you’
zəḍzə-вe-r	‘the one who threw it’

*-вe vs. -в is a phonological effect! Final vowel dropped if word is > 2 syllables.

Flexivity scale



a lot of allomorphy

no allomorphy

English
German
Russian
Latin
Greek

West Circassian
Turkish

Activity

Come up with 2-3 examples of allomorphy in English or another language.

Quick end of class survey

<https://bit.ly/3u3XrPJ>