

## MORPHOLOGY IN LINGUISTICS

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**Abstract.** Morphology, an integral branch of linguistics, reveals the fascinating complexity of words. As we delve deeper into the world of morphemes, the basic building blocks of language, we discover the magnificent structures that shape our vocabulary. The purpose of this article is to examine morphology and the relationship between morphemes and word formation. Morphology studies the formation and diversity of words. It examines how morphemes can be combined to form new words or new word formations.

**Key words:** morphology, morphemes, words formation, suffix, prefix, language, unit.

## МОРФОЛОГИЯ В ЛИНГВИСТИКЕ

**Аннотация.** Морфология, неотъемлемая отрасль лингвистики, раскрывает удивительную сложность слов. По мере того, как мы углубляемся в мир морфем, основных строительных блоков языка, мы обнаруживаем великолепные структуры, которые формируют наш словарный запас. Цель этой статьи - изучить морфологию и взаимосвязь между морфемами и словообразованием. Морфология изучает образование и разнообразие слов. В ней рассматривается, как морфемы могут комбинироваться для образования новых слов или словообразовательных новообразований.

**Ключевые слова:** морфология, морфемы, словообразование, суффикс, префикс, язык, единица.

## INTRODUCTION

Morphology is the branch of science that studies how words are formed and the internal structure of words. By analyzing morphemes, the smallest meaningful units of language, we can learn how different parts of a word interact to create meaning. Morphology is based on the morpheme, the smallest meaningful unit of the language. A morpheme can stand alone as a word or combine with other morphemes to form a more complex word. These building blocks of words can be divided into two broad categories: free morphemes and bound morphemes. The main parts of morphemes are free morphemes, which can stand alone as words, and bound morphemes, which must be combined with other morphemes to convey meaning.

## IMPORTANCE OF MORPHOLOGY

Within the study of morphology, a morpheme is further distinguished from a lexeme, the latter being the minimal word unit that has content meaning in itself. To put it simply, lexemes are the basis of dictionary entries. A morpheme is, more broadly speaking, a language unit, which can be a word unit, and therefore a lexeme. It can also be an affix or a word part that has no content meaning in itself but has functional meaning.

For instance, the words "plays", "played" and "playing" belong to the lexeme "play". "Plays" can be reduced to the morphemes "play" and "-s"; "played" to the morphemes "play" and "-ed"; and "playing" to the morphemes "play" and "-ing". The formation of words like "plays", "played" and "playing" from the lexeme "play", through a process known as inflection, is the focus of morphology. Finally, it is worth noting that certain lexemes can be further reduced to their constitutive morphemes.

### **MORPHEMES AND TYPES OF MORPHEMES**

In order to understand morphology, it is important to have a clear understanding of morphemes. Morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit of language. There are two types of morphemes: free and bound morphemes.

#### **Free morphemes**

Free morphemes bring an air of independence to their linguistic existence. They can stand alone as individual words, carrying meaning all by themselves. Words such as "cat," "book," or "is" are examples of free morphemes. Each of these morphemes holds a distinct meaning and can function independently within a sentence.

#### **Bound Morphemes:**

Bound morphemes, on the other hand, are more like social butterflies, relying on other morphemes to express their meanings fully. They are affixed to free morphemes and cannot function independently. Common examples include prefixes such as "un-" or "re-" and suffixes like "-er" or "-ed." Together, they infuse words with nuanced meaning, transforming them into a lively dance of lexical creativity. These morphemes cannot function as standalone words but instead need to be attached to other morphemes. They can add meaning to a root word, playing a crucial role in word formation

#### **Types of Bound Morphemes:**

**Derivational Morphemes:** These bound morphemes alter the meaning or part of speech of a root word. For example, the addition of "-er" to "teach" transforms it into "teacher," indicating a person who teaches. Derivational morphemes enable us to expand our vocabulary and convey nuanced meanings.

**Inflectional Morphemes:** These bound morphemes convey grammatical information, such as tense, number, or possession, without altering the essential meaning or part of speech of a word. For instance, the "-ing" in "running" indicates the present participle form of the verb "run." Inflectional morphemes help us express relationships between words and syntactical structures. In English there are only eight total inflectional affixes.

##### **1. Prefixes:**

Prefixes are like a sprinkle of magic dust that adds a unique touch to words. These little word markers are attached before the root word, altering or enriching their meaning. For instance, the prefix "un-" conveys negation or reversal, transforming "happy" into "unhappy" and "do" into "undo." For example: de-compose, dis-qualify, foreword, inter-national, mis-align, non-smoker, prerequisite, re-watch, sub-marine, super-impose, unnatural, en-able.

##### **2. Suffixes:**

Suffixes are obligatorily bound morphs attached after (to the right of) a root. For example, the suffix "-er" in "teacher" indicates the role, while the suffix "-ed" in "walked" implies past tense.

Suffixes include noun suffixes, verb suffixes, adjective suffixes, and adverb suffixes. Here are some examples:

- "-ly" is an adverb suffix meaning "to be characterized by", as in "quickly" and "coldly"
- "-ness" is a noun suffix meaning "a state of being", as in "sadness" and "coldness"
- "-fy" is a verb suffix meaning "to make", as in "horrify" and "glorify"

### **CONCLUSION**

Language includes everything from grammar to sentence structure, and the parts of language we use to express meaning are mostly words. Morphology is a branch of linguistics and one of the main components of grammar, which studies the structure of words, especially morphemes, which are the smallest units of language. In morphology, we study the structure of words, that is, we learn the parts of words, how to create words from a word unit through additions, inflection and derivational morphology, how words are formed and how their parts give them meaning.

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