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# Morpheme and allomorph pdf

In linguistics, a morph is a word segment that represents one morpheme (the smallest unit of language that has meaning) in sound or writing. For example, the word infamous is made up of three morphs—in-, fam(e), -eous—each of which represents one morpheme. Difference between morph and Allomorph A morph (from the Greek word morphê, which means "form" or "shape") represents the formation of a morpheme, or rather its phonetic realization; an allomorph presents the way that morpheme might sound when pronounced in a specific language or its phonological realization. A morph is a phonological string (of phonemes) that cannot be broken down into smaller constituents that have a lexicogrammatical function. An allomorph is a morph that has a unique set of grammatical or lexical features. All allomorphs with the same set of features form a morpheme Allomorph In linguistics, an allomorph is a variant form of a morpheme, that is, when a unit of meaning varies in sound without changing the meaning. The term allomorph explains the comprehension of phonological variations for specific morphemes. An allomorph is one of two or more complementary morphs which manifest a morpheme in its different phonological or morphological environments. The plural morpheme in English, usually written as '-s', has at least three allomorphs: [-s] as in [hQts] 'hats' Difference between morphs and allomorphs In morphology, morphemes are the smallest, indivisible units of a word that have lexical and grammatical meaning. Morphs and allomorphs are the phonological manifestations of a morpheme. A morph (from the Greek word morphê, which means "form" or "shape") represents the formation of a morpheme, or rather its phonetic realization; an allomorph presents the way that morpheme might sound when pronounced in a specific language or its phonological realization. In the book The Oxford English Grammar by Sidney Greenbaum, the differentiation between morphs and allomorphs is described as follows: Difference between morph and Allomorph When a morpheme is represented by a segment, that segment is a morph. If a morpheme can be represented by more than one morph, the morphs are allomorphs of the same morpheme: the prefixes in- (insane), il- (illegible), im- (impossible), ir- (irregular) are allomorphs of the same negative morpheme. For example, the English plural consists of three different morphs, which makes it an allomorph because there are several alternatives: /s/ – cats /z/ – gloves [az] – wishes As you can see, the "s" makes a different sound in each of the above examples. Morphs and allomorphs are both ways to describe the phonetic expressions (that is, the actual sounds produced) of the smallest meaningful parts of language in the study of morphology: morphemes. A word like "unhappy" has two meaningful pieces: "un" and "happy," which together convey the meaning "not happy." Each of the meaningful parts is a morpheme, the phonetic expression of which is called a morph. Morphs can be further classified into "lexical" or "grammatical": lexical morphs are the meaningful roots, like "happy" or "man," and these are often free-standing words. Grammatical morphs modify the root in a meaningful way, but may not stand as a free word; in English, suffixes like [-able] or prefixes like [un-] are grammatical morphs. Allomorphs are phonetic variants of a morph. A good example of allomorphy is the plural suffix in English, which can have the allomorphs [-s], [-z], or [-ez] depending on the phonetic environment. One way of looking at this is that any allomorph is simply what you call a morph that has another possible phonetic expression. Difference between morph and Allomorph Analyseebenen für Wörter Segmentationsebenen für Wörter Buchstaben : a-b-g-e-s-a-g-t Laute/Phone : a-p-g-a-z-a-k-t Silben : ab-ge-sagt Morphe : ab-ge-sag-t Der Begriff Morph Definition 3.1.1. Ein Morph ist die kleinste segmentierbare Einheit einer Wortform, welche semantische oder grammatische Information trägt. Ein Morph kann als eine Lautform (phonetisch) oder eine Schriftform (graphematisch) aufgefasst werden. Segmentieren und Klassifizieren Mit der Methode der Minimalpaaranalyse identifiziert man die Laute (Phone), welche als Klasse (Phonem) die kleinsten bedeutungsunterscheidenden abstrakten Einheiten darstellen. Diese Verfahren kann auf man auf die Ebene der kleinsten bedeutungstragenden Einheiten übertragen. Anzahl Morphe in einer Sprache Eine Sprache umfasst typischerweise einige 10'000 Morphe. Die Anzahl Wörter ist eine Grössenordnung höher. Definition 3.1.2 (auch Morphemvariante). Allomorphe sind Morphe, welche sich zwar lautlich oder graphematisch leicht unterscheiden, aber trotzdem die gleiche semantische oder grammatische Funktion wahrnehmen können. Beispiel 3.1.3 (Semantische Allomorphie). Die Morphe "buch" und "büch" bedeuten beide Buch. Beispiel 3.1.4 (Grammatische Allomorphie). Die Morphe "en", "n" oder "e" tragen Pluralinformation im Deutschen. Definition 3.1.5 (klassisch strukturalistische Definition). Ein Morphem ist die kleinste bedeutungstragende Einheit des Sprachsystems. Morph vs. Allomorph vs. Morphem nach [STOCKER et al. 2004] Abstraktionsgrad von Morphem Ein Morphem ist eine Menge von Morphen , welche Allomorphe voneinander sind, d.h. die gleiche semantische oder grammatische Funktion ausüben. Morphem Ursprung nach [GLüCK 2000] "L. Bloomfield bestimmte das Morphem als »minimale Form«, eine Phonemfolge, die nicht in kleinere Einheiten zerlegbar ist und die eine feste Bedeutung besitzt" (Language 1933, 158-161) Entstehung des Begriffs Morphem "Von J. Baudouin de Courtenay um 1880 geprägter Oberbegriff für Beschreibungsbegriffe der herkömmlichen »Formenlehre« wie Vorsilbe, Nachsilbe, Endung oder Stamm (von Wörtern)." [GLüCK 2000] Abbildung 3.1: Leonard Bloomfield (1887–1949) Trennung und Vermischung von Form und Funktion Die Wörter auf "-em" (Phonem, Morphem, Lexem) beziehen sich auf die (theorieabhängig postulierten) Funktionen im Sprachsystem. Das Wort "Morph" (von griechisch μορφη "Form") oder Phon bezieht sich auf die Ausdrucks- oder Formseite der Sprachen. Oft verwendet man (verkürzend) den Begriff Morphem auch für die Ausdrucksseite, d.h. für die Morphe. Oft verwendet man die graphematische Form von Morphen als Symbol für Morpheme: Das Morphem "buch" hat die zwei Allomorphe "Buch" und "Büch". Eine sauberere Notationsmöglichkeit wendet [KUNZE 2007] an: Morphe werden in spitzen Klammern notiert, Morpheme in geschweften. Das Morphem {buch} hat die Allomorphe und . Morph(em)-Zoo im Überblick (nach [BUSSMANN 2002]) Bedeutungseigenschaft Lexikalische M. (Lexeme) bezeichnen Aussersprachliches: {brot}. Untersuchungsgebiet der Semantik und Lexikologie. Grammatische M. (Flexionsmorph(em)e) drücken innersprachliche Beziehungen aus: {und},{PLURAL}. Untersuchungsgebiet der Morphologie und Syntax. Distributionseigenschaft (Vorkommen, Selbständigkeit) Gebundene M. sind Stamm-, Flexions- oder Derivations-Morph(eme), welche nur mit weiteren M. eine Wortform bilden: {zer-} Unikale M. kommen als gebundene M. nur in einer Kombination vor: {him} Freie M. bilden für sich Wortformen. Einheit von Form und Funktion Diskontinuierliche M. bestehen aus mehreren "getrennten Morphen": Das Morphem {PARTIZIP} in der Wortform "getrennt" besteht aus ""+"". Portmanteau-M. vereinigen die Bedeutung/Funktion mehrerer Morph(em)e in sich: "schrieb" ({PAST},{schreiben}, ...) Frage Wo würde man statt von Morphemen besser von Morphen sprechen, wenn die Unterscheidung von Form und Funktion ernst genommen wird? Lexikalisierung und Demotivierung Definition 3.1.6 (Lexikalisierung). Mit Lexikalisierung drückt man aus, ob ein Wort (oder eine grössere syntaktische Einheit) als ein Zeichen im (mentalen) Lexikon gespeichert ist. Definition 3.1.7 (Demotivierung, Idiomatisierung). Die Demotivierung bezeichnet ein Phänomen des Sprachwandels, dass mehrgliedrig analysierbare Ausdrücke zu einer lexikalischen Einheit werden, deren Gesamtbedeutung nicht mehr aus den Bestandteilen erkennbar (motiviert) ist. Beispiel 3.1.8 (Demotivierung). Kunst aus "können" und t-Suffix: Was bedeutet das t-Morph? "erklecklich" aus ?: Eine Analyse als scheint formal sinnvoll (Warum?) – bedeutungsmässig ergibt sich daraus nichts. (De)Motivierung bei geographischen Bezeichnungen Beispiel 3.1.9 (Etymologische Kolumne "Besserwisser" vom Tages-Anzeiger vom 26.3.2007 Seite 66). Was macht den Hügel froh? Die Rebenstrasse in Leimbach heisst so, weil dort einst Reben wuchsen. Der Tannenweg in Altstetten führt durch den Tannenwald. Und Im Schilf in Fluntern stand vor langer Zeit ein grosses Schilfgebüsch. Falsch. Zürichs Strassennamen sind manchmal doppelbödig. Dieses Schilf meint eigentlich Schülff, und das war der Übername des Landbesitzers im 14. Jahrhundert, Johann Bilgeri. Im Hummel in Wollishofen will nicht an die vielen Hummeln erinnern, die es dort einmal gab, sondern an den früheren Flurnamen: Humbel, abgeleitet aus Hohenbüel. Büel bedeutet Hügel, Anhöhe, weshalb die Frohbühlstrasse in Seebach auf einen frohgemuten Hügel hinweist und die Frage auf wirft: Was stimmt einen Hügel froh? Was schwermütig? Jetzt sind wir aber tief im Schilf gelandet, denn die Frohbühlstrasse geht zurück auf den Flurnamen Frohloch, der wiederum fragen lässt, was ein Loch froh macht? Schon wieder falsch, weil Frohloch von Foloch kommt und Fuchsloch bedeutet. Und was ist mit den Altstettern, die an die Herrligstrasse gezogen sind, damit es ihnen herrlich geht? Die Wahrheit ist bitter: Herrlig meint den alten Heerweg. Revised as of 23 March 2019 Morphemes are another of those background bits of linguistic information you MIGHT want to know about. It is easiest possible word that is still understood as a whole word: dance, possible, fancy, man, dog, truck, meat, pail, etc. Naturally, linguists have drilled down even further and divided this lone single unit into different categories: free morphemes, bound morphemes, and unique morphemes, which themselves are divided into subcategories. A morpheme and a free morpheme are the same thing. A bound morpheme simply means it's not a standalone word. A unique morpheme is similar to the bound form, but it imparts a very specific meaning to its root word. And let's not forget the allomorphs. There is no easy (or sensible) definition for an allomorph, as it is so many different things. I'm surprised that linguists haven't come up with more, and in some cases, better terms and more categories. The easiest explanation for the allomorph is anything that changes a morpheme. A Lexeme is not the same thing, even though it seems to be. Linguistics is... ...the systematic study of the nature, structure, and variation of language (of which grammar is a part), which describes how people use language. For the writer, how words are used (or spelled!) determines a character's social and educational level and the time period for the story. As I discover more examples, also-known-ases, and additions, I'll update this post. If you have a suggestion, I would appreciate you contacting me. If you found this post on "Morphemes & Allomorphs" interesting, consider tweeting it to your friends. Subscribe to KD Did It, if you'd like to track this post for future updates. Morphemes and Allomorphs Definition: The smallest unit of a word that is still a word. Definition: A variant form of a morpheme that can refer to affixes, word endings, or adjacent word choices, and can change the sound of the word although the changes do not change the meaning of the word. It can include creating a plural, tenses, choice of article, and more. A.k.a., morphemic variant, morphemic POST CONTENTS Deconstruction of a Morpheme Three Types of Allomorphs Allomorph Three Types of Allomorphs: Deconstruction of a Morpheme It's easiest to explain what a morpheme is by breaking words down. Structure of a Morpheme Affix Definition: A morpheme that comes at the beginning (prefix) or end (suffix) of a base morpheme. Return to top or post contents Most are one morpheme, one syllable: Base Definition: A morpheme that gives a word its meaning. Return to top or post contents Dog is a base morpheme and gives the word dogs its meaning: a particular type of animal. Examples of the Structure dog one morpheme, one syllable dogs two morphemes, one syllable – dog + s (The s is also a plural marker on the noun.) technique one morpheme, two syllables Even though the word has two syllables, it is a single morpheme because it cannot be broken down into smaller meaningful parts. unladylike Return to top or post contents three morphemes – un- + lady + -like,four syllables – un- + la + dy + -like None of these morphemes can be broken up any more without losing all sense of meaning: lady cannot be broken up into la and dy, even though they are separate syllables. Note that each syllable has no meaning on its own. Types of Morphemes Free Morpheme Definition: A morpheme that can stand alone and cannot be divided into smaller word units. A good test McIntyre suggests is if the word can stand alone as the answer to a question, it's a free morpheme. A.k.a., unbound morpheme, free form, free-standing morpheme, free root, Return to top or post contents Breakdown of a Morpheme Free Morpheme Free + Bound Morpheme(allomorph) antblackcarfishhappyhuntthinkwar dis-pleas-ureelectr-icnerv-oustree-swalk-edwho-se Content Word Definition: A word that conveys information in a text or speech that conveys an idea to someone else. Typical content words include nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. A.k.a., lexical word, open Return to top or post contents bookgeraniumhappy largequickpurple runthrowvictory Function Word Definition: Performs some kind of grammatical role and carries little meaning of their own. They are only understood when combined with other words in a sentence. A.k.a., grammatical word, closed Return to top or post contents aandbutin -lyofpre-some thatthethereto Bound Morpheme Definition: A morpheme that appears only as part of a larger word or that occurs in only one phrase. For a bound morpheme to make sense, you have to add another morpheme. Prefixes and suffixes are bound root morphemes. A.k.a., bound form, bound root morphemes, bound root, Return to top or post contents Bound Morpheme Morpheme Bound Morpheme Morpheme -ed sailed -ing singing -est lightest -ly motherly -er girder -s houses funct defunctfunction Derivational Morpheme Definition: Modifies a word by forming a new word out of old words. Prefixes simply make a new noun out of a noun while suffixes are generally added to a verb or adjective to form a noun. Return to top or post contents Derivational Prefix Definition: When a prefix is added to a noun, it supposedly forms a new noun with a different meaning. Prefix Morpheme Becomes ex- term (noun) exterminate (verb) im- peach (noun, verb) impeach (verb) out- patient (noun) outpatient (noun) re- trial (noun, verb) retrial (noun) sub- group (noun, verb) subgroup (noun) un- nerve (noun) unnerve (verb) Derivational Suffix Definition: Suffixes are generally added to a verb or adjective to form a noun with a different meaning and changing the part of speech as well. Suffix Morpheme Becomes -able solve (verb) solvable (adjective) -er arch (adjective, noun, verb) archer (noun) -ish style (noun) stylish (adjective) -ous courage (noun) courageous (adjective) -y fizz (noun, verb) fizzy (adjective) Inflectional Morpheme Definition: Modifies a word to fit its role in a sentence — conjugation and declension — without changing its underlying meaning. This can be done through tense, number, possession, or comparison Be aware that some suffixes can perform in either derivational or inflectional. Return to top or post contents Inflectional Morpheme(Prefix or Suffix) Morpheme Becomes Part of Grammar -s flower flowers plural -es teach teaches 3rd person present 's Ann Ann's possessive, singular s' girls girls' possessive, plural -ed book booked past tense -en dead deaden new word -er teach teacher noun, person -est black blackest comparison -ing bait baiting gerund, present participle Unique Morpheme Definition: Resembles bound morphemes because they cannot stand alone and mean something, but they still contribute meaning to a word. Another name for the unique morpheme is cranberry morph because the cran provides a "unique" explanation for the unique morpheme. While not a free morpheme, cran is considered a root because of its similarity to the roots in black-berry, blue-berry, snow-berry, or wax-berry. Cran differentiates the (cran)berry from any others. a.k.a., cranberry morph, cranberry word, blocked morpheme, bound root, leftover morpheme Return to top or post contents Unique Resulting Unique Resulting -ter laughter -ept inept mul- mulberry -kempt unkempt luke- lukewarm -ane inane -ert inert -teen umpteen -gruntled disgruntled affable Deconstruction of an Allomorph It's easiest to explain an allomorph by dissecting it. Structure of an Allomorph Morpheme With Allomorph Morpheme With Allomorph ceive con-ceivede-ceive-receive-ceive-erre-ceiv-able em em-bitterem-bodyem-boldenem-panelem-powerem-prison cept con-ceptcon-cept-ioncon-cept-ualde-cept-ivere-cept-ion en en-chainen-dangeren-largeen-listen-slaveen-snareen-tangle duke duke-domduch-essduch-y Types of Allomorphs Phonologically Conditioned Allomorphy Definition: Sound-based allomorphs which includes indefinite articles and additive allomorphs. Return to top or post contents Basic Word Ending Sounds Morpheme Allomorph Sounds Like... Morpheme Allomorph Sounds Like... awesome -zm fishedtalked -t boxes -zz grabbed -d busses -iz hats -s cats -s wanted od dogsjudges -z Rule: Whether a or an is the allomorph chosen depends on how an adjacent morpheme is pronounced. Indefinite Article Allomorphs a doga flowera window an eagleean inchan Oscar Additive Allomorph Rule: Adding an affix changes the tense or creates a positive or negative impression, and the word sound may change. Return to top or post contents Regular Past Tense Morphemes Negative Prefixes Sounds like id after d or t: defeated heated threaded waded Sounds like t after all other voiceless sounds: Sounds like d after all other voiced sounds: fizzed howled measured wedged Sounds like il before l: Sounds like im before bilabial sounds: Sounds like in elsewhere: ineligible inexpensive independent Sounds like un elsewhere: Morphologically Conditioned Allomorphy Rule: Structure-based allomorphs. This is typical of English in that there is no one-size-fits-all rule. Return to top or post contents assume assumption assumptive assumable consume consumption consumptive consumable presume presumption presumptive resumable subsume subsumption subsumptive subsumable -ally an-throp-olog-ic-allylin-guist-ic-allylit-er-allylit-er-allyphys-ic-ally -ly ac-cid-ent-ly Lexically Conditioned Allomorphy Definition: Forms a plural for nouns using a simple plural of -s or -es, the replacive, or zero allomorphs. It's also about the formation of different verb tenses — suppletion allomorphs. Caution: The choice of allomorph is unpredictable and must be memorized on a word-by-word basis. Return to top or post contents Simple Plural uses -s or -es girl girls box boxes school schools minus minuses flower flowers fox foxes plane planes wrench wrenches Replacive Allomorph Definition: Replaces letters within the word to create plurals using -en, irregular plurals, or past tense forms. Return to top or post contents -en Plurals brother brethren child children man men woman women ox oxen Noun-Verb Replacives Definition: A rare type of replacive morpheme which distinguishes nouns from verbs. Noun Verb Noun Verb advice advise sheath sheathe bath bathe shelf shelve grief grieve strife strive half halve teeth teethe safe save thief thieve serf serve wreath wreathe Irregular Plurals foot feet goose geese mouse mice tooth teeth alumnusalumna alumniialumnae criterion criteria stratum strata Irregular Past Tenses swim swam swum drink drank drunk sing sang sung bring brought take took taken break broke broken Zero Allomorph Definition: There is no change from singular to plural. Return to top or post contents Suppletion Definition: Allomorphs of a morpheme are phonologically unrelated and changes the shape of the word. Return to top or post contents be am are is was been go goes went gone good better best one first bad worse worst Return to top Satisfy your curiosity about other Linguistics posts by exploring its homepage or more generally explore the index of self-editing posts. 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