Prescriptivism can cost you $$$

- On game shows:
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCuUaUHjcXo

Morphological cartoon of the day

Today's agenda

- More on word-formation processes.
- Overview of morphological typology.
- Presentation and discussion of Myth 10.

Back-formation

- Back-formation of words results when a word is formed from another word by taking off what looks like a typical affix in the language.
- This was the case with the verb *edit*, which entered English as a back-formation from *editor*.
- Same applies to the pairs *television-televise*, *self-destruction-self-destruct*, *donation-donate*. 
Acronyms

• Acronyms are words created from the initial letters of several words. Typical examples are NATO, FBI, CIA, UN, UNICEF, FAQ, WYSIWYG, radar, laser.
• Sometimes acronyms are actually created first to match a word that already exists in the language, e.g., MADD (Mothers against Drunk Drivers).

Clipping

• Another process of word-formation is clipping, which is the shortening of a longer word. Clipping in English gave rise to words such as fax from facsimile, gym from gymnasium, and lab from laboratory.

Blending

• Blending is another way of combining two words to form a new word. The difference between blending and compounding, however, is that in blending only parts of the words, not the whole words, are combined. Here’s a couple of examples:
  smoke + fog → smog
  motor + hotel → motel
  information + commercial → infomercial

Eponyms

• Eponyms are words derived from proper names, e.g., “sandwich” from the Earl of Sandwich; “lynch” after William Lynch.

What process(es) is involved?

• Terra firma
• Webcam
• Facebook
• CEO
• Enabler
• Execs
• Blog (noun) and blog (verb)
Morphological typology

How do languages differ in their word structure?

Synthesis: How many morphemes does your language have per word?

Yay:
  a. mi ran tua ȵwa lew
      not see CLASS snake CMPLT
      “He did not see the snake.”

Oneida:
  b. yo-nuhs-a-tho:lé:
      3.NEUT.PAT-room-epenthetic-be.cold.STAT
      “The room is cold.”

Morphological typology: Index of synthesis

• On the so-called index of synthesis for morphological typology (Comrie 1989), understood as a continuum, Yay is considered an isolating language, whereas Oneida would be closer to the synthetic end of the scale, with English closer to the Yay-end than to the Oneida-end:

  Isolating < x ------------------- x --> Synthetic
  Yay     English     Oneida

Morphological typology: Index of synthesis

• Some languages take synthesis to the extreme, marking all grammatical relationships on the verb with extensive affixation, thereby creating long and complex words that would correspond to whole sentences in languages like English, as in Tiwa (example from Whaley 1997:131):

  men-mukhin-tuwi-ban
dual-hat-buy-PAST
  “You two bought a hat.”

Morphological typology: Index of synthesis

• Or Eskimo:

  iglu-kpi-yuma-laak-tu-ŋa
  house-build-intend-anxious-reflexive-I
  “I’m anxious to build a house.”

• Or Mohawk (from Baker 2001:88):

  Katerihwaiénstha’
  “I am a student. [Literally: I habitually cause myself to have ideas.]”
Morphological typology: Index of synthesis

• Or Mohawk again, though rather more ridiculously:
  Washakotya’tawitsheraherkvhta’se’
  “He made the thing that one puts on one’s body (i.e., the dress) ugly for her.”

• We call languages like Tiwa, Eskimo, and Mohawk, polysynthetic languages.

Morphological typology: Index of fusion

One-to-one or one-to-many?

• Synthetic languages, in turn, differ in whether morphemes are easily segmentable or not. Consider this paradigm from Michoacan Nahuatl, for example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>my house</th>
<th>your dog</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>no-kali-mes</td>
<td>“my houses”</td>
<td>mo-pelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mo-kali</td>
<td>“your house”</td>
<td>mo-pelo-mes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i-kali</td>
<td>“his house”</td>
<td>i-pelo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Morphological typology: Index of fusion

• But now compare with Ancient Greek:
  lu-ō “1sg.Pres.Active.Indicative (I am releasing)”
  lu-ōmai “1sg.Pres.Active.Subjunctive (I should release)”
  lu-omai “1sg.Pres.Passive.Indicative (I am being released)”
  lu-oimi “1sg.Pres.Active.Optative (I might release)”
  lu-etai “3sg.Pres.Active.Indicative (He is being released)”

Morphological typology: Index of fusion

• On the so-called index of fusion for morphological typology, also conceived of as a continuum, Michoacan Nahuatl is considered an agglutinative language, whereas Ancient Greek would be closer to the fusional end of the scale:

Agglutinative ← x → Fusional

Nahuatl Greek

Zulu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>umfazi</th>
<th>umtshali</th>
<th>umthuli</th>
<th>umthandi</th>
<th>umbezi</th>
<th>umximi</th>
<th>umfundi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“married woman”</td>
<td>“boy”</td>
<td>“parent”</td>
<td>“teacher”</td>
<td>“farmer”</td>
<td>“player”</td>
<td>“reader”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Turkish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>deniz</th>
<th>denizine</th>
<th>denizik</th>
<th>evde</th>
<th>evden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“an ocean”</td>
<td>“to an ocean”</td>
<td>“to a house”</td>
<td>“in a house”</td>
<td>“in my ocean”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Swedish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Swedish Word</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>en lampa</td>
<td>&quot;a lamp&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en stol</td>
<td>&quot;a chair&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en matta</td>
<td>&quot;a carpet&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lampor</td>
<td>&quot;lamps&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stolar</td>
<td>&quot;chairs&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mattror</td>
<td>&quot;carpets&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lamppan</td>
<td>&quot;the lamp&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stolom</td>
<td>&quot;the chair&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mattron</td>
<td>&quot;the carpet&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lamporna</td>
<td>&quot;the lamps&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stororna</td>
<td>&quot;the chairs&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matton</td>
<td>&quot;the carpets&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en bil</td>
<td>&quot;a car&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en sofa</td>
<td>&quot;a sofa&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en tratt</td>
<td>&quot;a funnel&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bilar</td>
<td>&quot;cars&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soffor</td>
<td>&quot;sofas&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trattar</td>
<td>&quot;funnels&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bilarna</td>
<td>&quot;the cars&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sofforna</td>
<td>&quot;the sofas&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trattarna</td>
<td>&quot;the funnels&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Presentation and Discussion

- Myth 10: Some languages have no grammar.

### Next class agenda

- Syntax: Continue to read Chapter 3 until p. 108.