LNGT 0250
Morphology and Syntax

Lecture #7
March 8th, 2016

Announcements

• You will get homework 1 back before Thursday’s class.
• Any quick questions on homework 2?
• Three linguistics-related events next week:
  1. Prof. Larry Venuti (Temple University) will give a
talk on “Translation Theory and Practice: Instrumental vs. Hermeneutic Models” on
Tuesday March 15 @ 7:30-9pm. Location:
Hillcrest 103.

Announcements

2. Menominee elder Napos (David Turney Sr)
will give a talk on Menominee as a session of
LNGT/SOAN 0109 class on Wednesday March
16 at 12:15-1:30.
Location: Coltrane Lounge.
Note: This will be in place of our Thursday’s
March 17 class session next week.

Announcements

3. Scheherazade’s Sisters: A Conversation
with Julia Alvarez and Edwidge Danticat.
March 16, 2016 @ 7pm.
Location: Dana Auditorium.

Being schwastasic!

This is Schwa.
Schwa is not stressed.
Schwa is cool.
Be like Schwa.

Hazardous morphemes!

DO NOT TOUCH MORPHEME WITH BARE HANDS.
RISK OF INFLECTION.
What’s a pronoun?

Today’s agenda

- Discussion of ‘singular they’.
- Morphological structure and trees

Singular they

- Discussion of ‘singular they’.

Morphological structure

- Morphologically, words can be either simple or complex.
- Complex words are formed via the combination of multiple morphemes, either through inflection or derivation (or one of the other processes that we will be talking about later).
- Creating morphological structure follows certain rules, however. Each word has a derivational history that we can reconstruct.

Morphological structure

- So, let’s divide these words into morphemes first.
  - farmers
  - uninteresting
  - quantificational
- But there’s more to morphological structure than just identifying and counting the number of morphemes in a word.

Morphological structure

- Certain affixes combine with certain categories but not with others. See handout.
- The output of one affix-base combination can then serve as input for another, and so on and so forth. Morphological structure is recursive.
  - act + -ive \(\rightarrow\) active
  - active + -ate \(\rightarrow\) activate
  - de + activate \(\rightarrow\) deactivate
  - deactivate + -(at)ion \(\rightarrow\) deactivation
- Post-colonialism?
Morphological structure

• Speakers of a language know the internal structure of complex words and they know which derivational morphemes combine with which categories, and our morphological analysis has to account for this knowledge.
• For this, we represent morphological structure graphically in the form of tree diagrams.

First, abbreviations and conventions

• N = noun
• A = adjective
• V = verb
• P = preposition
• Adv = adverb
• Af = affix
• Suffixes and prefixes are differentiated by the position of ‘-‘: -ness vs. re-.

Representing morphological structure

Morphological trees: farmers

Morphological trees: uninteresting

Morphological trees: quantificational
Morphological trees: undesirability

Let's draw some trees

- In small groups, draw trees for the following words on the board. Make sure to refer to the handout of derivational affixes.
  - deactivation
  - tranquilizers
  - undoable

The puzzle of the ‘undoable’

Morphological trees

- Why are trees a better formal representation of word structure than simple linear segmentation?
- First, trees also help us resolve interesting puzzles such as that of the ‘undoable.’
- Second, trees reflect native speakers’ knowledge of constrains on derivational affixes (see handout). The hierarchical nature of trees allows us to capture this knowledge.

Which is the correct tree for ‘unhappiness’?

Which is the correct tree for ‘unhappiness’?

(a) N Af N
   un- A Af
   happy -ness
(b) N Af
   un- A
   happy -ness

(a) N Af
   un- A Af
   happy -ness
(b) N Af
   un- A
   happy
A tool for drawing trees

- [http://ironcreek.net/phpsyntaxtree/](http://ironcreek.net/phpsyntaxtree/)
- You need to learn the bracketing notation to be able to use this tool. Here are a couple of examples:
  - `[N [N [V teach] [Af -er]] [Af -s] ]`
  - `[N [A [Af -un] [A [V desire] [Af -able]]] [Af -ity]]`

Another way to draw trees

- Or you can use the font ArborWin (for PC) or Arboreal (for Mac).
- Arboreal is installed on the 8 computers outside Wilson lab at the Davis Library. ArborWin is installed on the 8 computers in MBH116.
- Please do not use any of the drawing tools in Microsoft Word to draw the trees. These will not be accepted.

Next class agenda

- A few more word-formation processes.
- Creativity and productivity. Read Chapter 4.