




# Morphological Structure of the English Word. Word-building.

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# Points to be discussed:

1. Lexicology as a branch of linguistics.
2. Morphological structure of the English word.
3. Word formation:
  - Affixation.
  - Conversion.
  - Compound words.
  - Shortening and minor types of word-building

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- Vocabulary – the system formed by the sum total of all the words that the language possesses.
  - Language – a semiological system as the main and basic means of human communication.
  - Word – the basic unit of the language, the unity of expression (sound form) and the content (meaning).

# Branches of Lexicology

lexicology

```
graph TD; A[lexicology] --- B[ ]; B --- C[methods]; B --- D[ ]; D --- E[general]; D --- F[special];
```

methods

general

special

# Branches of Lexicology

lexicology

scope of research

historical

descriptive

# The place of Lexicology within Linguistics

Lexicology

Phonetics:  
'present – to  
pre'sent  
Ship-sheep, ball-tall

Grammar:  
Brother-brothers,  
brethren

Stylistics:  
Tooth-toothy  
Fridge, doc, TV

# Practical value of Lexicology

- provides the correct use of synonyms
- gives basic knowledge of word-building patterns
- helps to avoid semantic calque from one's native language
- teaches to identify set-expressions, synonyms, phraseological units etc. and to translate them properly
- teaches to differentiate between polysemantic words and homonyms

# The size-of-unit problem

*The fox hid in the fox-hole.*

(Common Case  
Singular) -



Grammatical  
whole-formedness



# The identity-of-unit problem

## Variants of the word:

### ■ **phonetic**

automatic: a book – an apple

accentual: 'territory – terri'tory

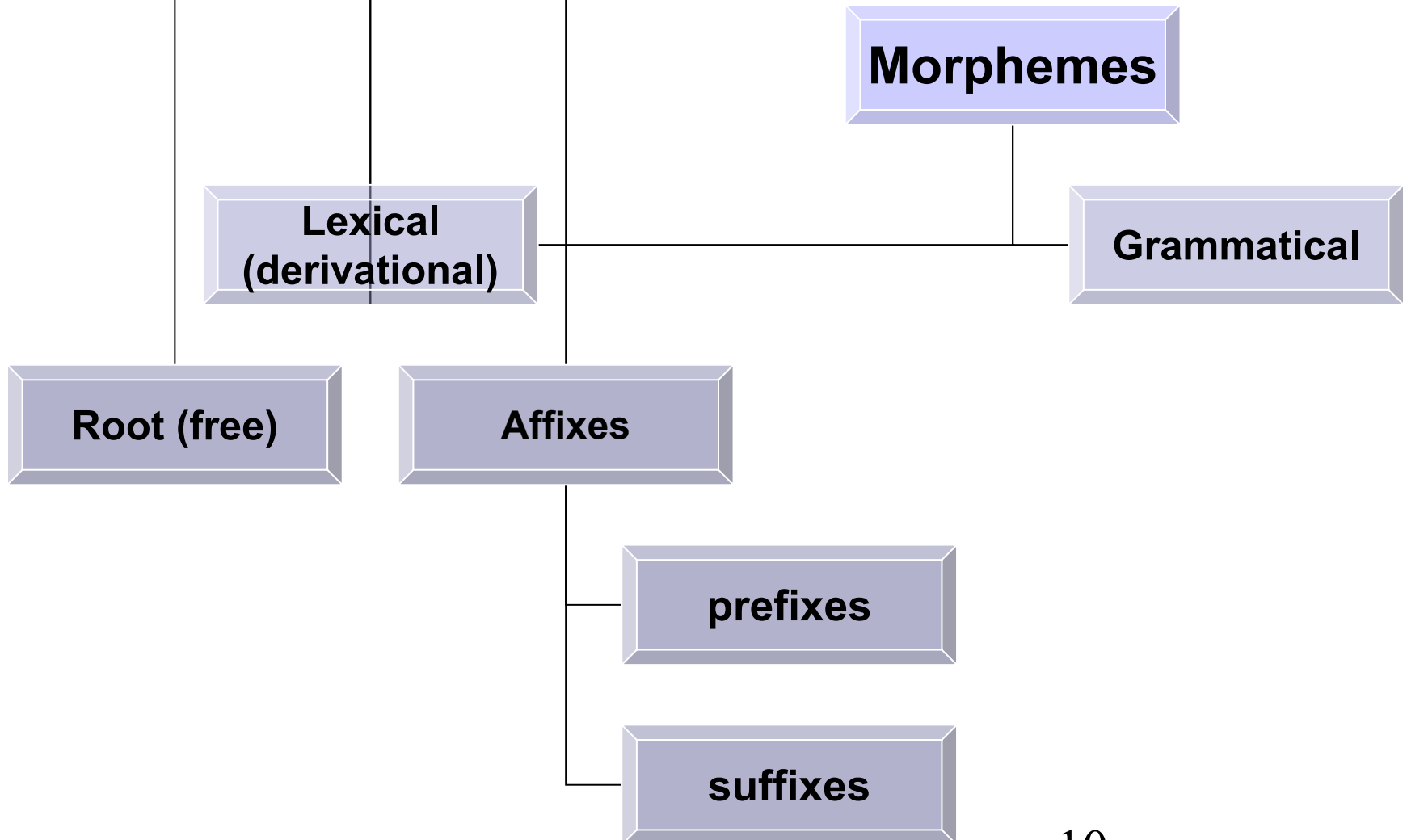
emic: direct [di'rekt, dai'rekt]

### ■ **morphological**: grammatical: *learn-learned, learnt*

lexical: *stylistic – stylistical*

### ■ **semantic**: *sweet tea – a sweet voice*

# Classification of morphemes





# The two aspects of lexical morphology

## Morphemic

Item and arrangement:

How many? What?

## Derivational

Item and process:

How?



# Structural types of words

- Simple (root)
- Derived stems (derivatives)
- Compound stems
- Compound derivatives



# *‘One-way’ and ‘two-way’ segmentability of the word*

## ***beautiful***

beauty

beauteous

to beautify

beautician, etc.

careful

wonderful

hopeful

plentiful, etc.



# Lexical-morphological categories

The lexical-morphological categories are those categories of the most general character which are realized in the semantic opposition according to a certain distinctive feature of two or more words on condition that the same opposition finds systematic expression.

# Lexical-morphological categories

- lexical morphological category of quality:  
*black – blackness, dark – darkness, quiet – quietness, happy – happiness*
- lexical morphological category of action-agent: *to do – doer, to read – reader, to manage – manager, to go – goer, to combine –combiner, to intrude – intruder*
- lexical morphological category of caritivity :  
*friend – friendless, faith – faithless, rest – restless, tree – treeless, expression – expressionless*



(to) drive + er = driver (n)

- Structural pattern:

Verb stem + "er" suffix (noun forming) = noun

- Semantic pattern:

Action + "agent of action" = profession



# Word-building patterns

## **Morphological:**


- Affixation
- Composition
- Shortening
- Sound-interchange
- Reduplication
- Back-formation

## **Morphologo-syntactic:**

- Conversion

# Affixation – forming a word by combining a stem and derivational affixes

	Productive	Non-productive	Dead
<b>Prefixes</b>	<b>Germanic:</b> Un-, after-, mis-, over-, under- <b>Romanic:</b> Re-, in-, dis, post	<b>Germanic:</b> Fore-, with <b>Romanic:</b> Ab-, de <b>Greek:</b> poly	<b>Germanic:</b> an-, a- <b>Romanic:</b> op-, intro-
<b>Noun-forming suffixes</b>	<b>Germanic:</b> -er, -ing, -ness, -y <b>Romanic:</b> -ess <b>Greek:</b> -ism	<b>Germanic:</b> -th, -hood, -ship, -ier <b>Romanic:</b> -age, -ar, -ure	
<b>Adjective-forming suffixes</b>	<b>Germanic:</b> -y, -ish, -ful, -less, -ed, -ing <b>Romanic:</b> -able, -al	<b>Germanic:</b> fold, -some, -ly <b>Romanic:</b> -ous, -ary, -ese	
<b>Verb-forming suffixes</b>	<b>Romanic:</b> -ate <b>Greek:</b> -ise, -ize	<b>Germanic:</b> -en <b>Romanic:</b> -fy	
<b>Adverb-forming suffixes</b>	<b>Germanic:</b> -ly	<b>Germanic:</b> -long, -wise, -ward(s)	



**Conversion-** a special type of derivation in which the word-forming means is the paradigm of the word

Semantic changes which accompany conversion:

- N – a tool, V – an action performed by it;
- N - an animal, V – typical behavior;
- N – a profession, V – typical activity;
- N – a container, V – the process of occupying this container;
- N – period of time, V – presence somewhere within this period;
- N – a meal, V – the process of taking it.



**Composition** – forming a word by combining two or more stems

### Structural classification of compounds

- **Neutral:** *bedroom, snowfall*
- **Morphological:** *speedometer, Afro-Asian, statesman*
- **Syntactical (lexicalized phrases):** *son-in-law, pepper-and-salt, with a devil-may-care expression on his face, his next what's-her-name, A.Christie's famous whodunit*
- **Derivational:** *blue-eyed, writing table*
- **Contracted:** *math-mistress, V-day, H-bag*

# Semantic classification of compounds

## Compounds

### Non-idiomatic:

*dancing hall,  
air mail*

### Partially idiomatic:

*blackboard,  
good-for-nothing*

### Totally idiomatic:

*tallboy,  
bluestocking*

## **Criteria for differentiating a compound from a word-combination**

- Semantic: a compound denotes one notion
- Phonetic: a compound has unifying stress
- Morphological: a compound is characterized by a single grammatical framing
- Syntactic: a compound can't be enlarged



**Shortening** - the process of substituting a part for a whole

- **Clipping** – cutting off of a part of a word to one or two syllables
- **Abbreviation** – forming a word out of the initial elements of a word-combination
- **Blending** – combining parts (but not morphemes) of two words to form one word



## **Minor types of word-building**

- Sound and stress interchange
- Sound imitation
- Reduplication
- Back-formation