Morphology as a Part of Grammar

Lecture 2

Traditional division of Grammar:

 Morphology –

the grammar of words

 Syntax -

the grammar of sentences

The grammatical structure of different languages depends on the type of a language

In highly inflectional languages (Russian)

1. the <u>syntactic role of the word</u> in the sentence is manifested by the <u>grammatical form of the word.</u>

2. morphology plays an important role in the expression of grammatical meanings of words.

3. the <u>word order</u> is comparatively <u>free</u>.

In isolating languages (Chinese)

1. the <u>syntactic role of a word</u> is manifested <u>by its position in the sentence.</u>

2. the <u>word order is fixed.</u>

The division of Grammar in modern linguistics

1. **morphology** – the part of grammar which deals with word-forms (morphemes and words);

2. **syntax** – the part of grammar, which deals with combinations of words into word-groups and sentences;

3. **text grammar** – the part of grammar, which deals with the text macrostructure.

The line between morphology and syntax is not hard and fast

The problem of tenses belongs to morphology or syntax?

- **The Form** belongs to **morphology** and belongs to morphology since tenses have different forms: *go –goes – went – shall / will.*

- The use of tenses seems to belong to **syntax.** In subordinate clauses the choice of tenses depends on **the type of the clause**:

1. *You **said** you **were** American* (object clause – sequence of tenses).

2. *The girl who **is smiling** at us **graduated** from this college a year ago* (attributive clause – free use of tenses).

The classification of words into parts of speech seems to belong to morphology...

- In English we cannot be able to determine what part of speech a word is if it is not regarded **within a word-group or a sentence:**

*Take a right **turn!*** (noun) – ***Turn** right* (verb).
*To be **chicken*** (adjective) – *to be a **chicken*** (noun) – *to **chicken*** (verb).

The 3rd part of grammar - text grammar/ discourse analysis.

1. **Text** - a unit larger than sentence.
2. **The research** - discovering and classifying types of text structures (composition forms, or macrostructure).
3. The analysis of the **text macrostructure**, a large-scale statement of the text's **content** (meaning).
4. Basic units of the text grammar: **superphrasal unities** (sentence-groups) and **texts**.

Discourse analysis – a method of analysis of connected speech for correlating 'culture' and language (Z. Harris)

- Basic units of discourse analysis – **texts in social contexts.**

- **Discourses** are **everything that is connected with texts**

  (participants, their age, occupation, gender, race, education; the purpose of the text; social, cultural, personal meanings; actions performed by the participants, etc.).

'Text' & 'Discourse' – aspects of the same phenomenon (communication)

Text – a basic means of communication.

- **Discourse** – the process of communication (text & social context) with emphasis on its functional (social) context.

Morphology as a part of grammar

To study morphology - to acquire practical knowledge of the actual functioning of morphological oppositions and how words are actually inflected in English.

Furthermore, how one is to learn to make full use of the existing morphological oppositions.

"**Morphology**" as a biological term implies a scientific study of animals and plants

In linguistics

- "**morphology**" - part of grammar that studies the forms of words

- "**accidence**" - part of grammar which treats the inflection of words, or the declension of nouns, adjectives etc, and the conjugation of verbs;

  it deals mainly with the inflectional or inflected word-forms.

Since words are made up of sounds - morphology is concerned with sequences of phonemes that have meaning.

- **Phonology** studies **speech sounds** as a means of differentiating the sound-cauls of words and morphemes which are semiologically relevant,

- **Morphonology** is aimed at analyzing the relations **between phonology and morphology,**

- The ways the phonological oppositions are used to render morphologically: *discipline - disciple, zip - sip, zeal – seal*, etc.

- *or* grammatically relevant differences (*come — came, meet met*, etc.).

The word *morphology*

- Greek *morphe* (=form) + *logos* (=word),

- Element morph-: *morpheme, allomorph*, or *biology, theology, archeology,*

- Element -**y** recurs in *history* (Latin *historia), unity* (Old French *unite), beauty* (Middle English *beaute* = pretty).

- The expression of plurality - the use of a special grammatical device — a morpheme in one of its realizations:

- [s] in *patients'*; [z] in *medical histories', [iz] in *unities of time, place and action', *[z] in *nouns, names* etc.

Morphology

1. that branch of linguistics which concerns itself with the structure of words as dependent on the meaning of constituent morphemes;

2. the system of morphological oppositions in a given language including their grammatical categories as unities of form and content, e.g.

   the word-forms *speaks* and *worked* consist of

   lexical morphemes (the lexical meaning) & **grammatical** morphemes (the grammatical meaning of mood, tense, number, person):

   speak + s, work + ed., etc.

Morphology & Morphonology

- **In common**: a certain unit acquires a meaning and becomes semiologically relevant only in opposition with other units within the same system.

- With phonology, morphonology and morphology: phonemes and grammatical morphemes have no individual extralinguistic referents, they become units of language only when mutually opposed:

  [t] and [d] in *tusk & dusk,*

  [-t] and [-d] in *asked & cried.*

A morpheme –
the central notion of morphology

Morphemes - prefabs for building words and grammatical forms of words but unlike words they are not autonomous.

I.A. Beaudoin de Courtenay:

the morpheme – **the smallest meaningful part of the word.**

Leonard Bloomfield:

the morpheme – **the minimum linguistic form**.

Joseph Vendryes:

semantemes vs. morphemes are included all the functional means of the language: word-and form-building morphemes, function words, prosodic means.

A word VS a morpheme

Meaning of words

- conceptual, they are related to concepts.

- **The word** *friend* evokes in our minds the concept of a friend (which may be different in different cultures).

Meaning of morphemes

- very specific
- more abstract and wider.

Root morphemes

have associative meaning: e.g. morpheme – *friend* evokes associations with many concepts: *a friend, friendship, to befriend, friendly*

Discontinuous morpheme

- consists of an auxiliary element and a suffixational morpheme and which is used to build analytical forms of a word, e.g. *be - ing (is doing)*, *have - ed (have disappeared).*

To conclude:

- **A morpheme** - the smallest meaningful *unit* of the language (not a *part* of the word), which as it appears may be larger than a word in the case of analytical forms of words.

Classifications of morphemes

Morphemes can be classified according to several <u>principles</u>:

1. position in the word;
2. function;
3. material form;
4. distribution

1. According to their __position__ in the word morphemes are subdivided into:

central,
root morphemes:

success – ful

un – *usual*

re – *build* – ing

peripheral,
affixational morphemes:

success – *ful*

un – usual

re – build - *ing*

2. According to their <u>function</u> morphemes fall into two classes:

Notional morphemes

serve as carriers of the material part of the lexical meaning of a word:

*post-**impress**-ion-ist-s*

Functional morphemes

change either the lexical meaning of a word (derivational, or word-building morphemes) or the grammatical meaning (form-building, or inflectional morphemes):

post**-impress-**ion-ist-s

Notional vs. Functional morphemes

They can change their status in the course of time.

Notional => Functional

- The word-building suffixes *-dom* and *-hood* developed from root morphemes.

- The function of the morpheme *-man* in *a seaman* and *a policeman* = derivational morpheme - *or/er* in *sailor* and *officer*.

- The unit *-man* functions like a suffix in *a female policeman.*

Functional => Notional

- The derivational suffix *–teen* in: *a teenager, teen problems, teen tunes, teen fashion,* etc.

Occasionally suffixes are used as notional words for expressive purposes:

- E.g. *"You shouldn't be against York, you should be against the French. Their colonialism ". "Isms andocracies. Give me facts"* *(G. Greene).*

3. **According to the <u>material form of expressing meaning</u> morphemes can be**:

POSITIVE

- having a formal marker,

  e.g. *cloud - cloud<u>s</u>*

ZERO

- a meaningful absence of a morpheme, an absence of a formal marker which becomes obvious only in an opposition:

- E.g. *part(0) – part(s)*

4. **According to distribution, or linear characteristics, morphemes are divided into:**

Continuous

- is not interrupted by other elements, e.g.

  map-s,

  narrow-er,

  un-clear…

Discontinuous

- consists of two parts: an auxiliary element and a suffix with a root morpheme in-between,
- e.g. *has* translat-*ed*,

  will be do-*ing*.

Word vs **Morph** vs **Morpheme**

words	morphs	morphemes
watched	whatch + ed	watch + PAST
pens	pen + s	pen + PLURAL
unhelpful	un + help + ful	NEGATIVE + help + ADJECTIVE

Words vs morphs vs morphemes vs allomorphs

Words	morphs	morpheme	Allomorphs (phonetically conditioned variants)
Hands	Hand + s	Hand + Plural	[z]
Cats	Cat + s	Cat + Plural	[s]
Matches	Match + es	Match + Plural	[iz]

Words vs morphs vs morphemes vs allomorphs

Words	morphs	morpheme	Allomorphs (morphologically conditioned variants)
Hands	Hand + s	Hand + Plural	[z]
Oxen	Ox + en	Ox + Plural	[эn]
Man	Men	Man + plural	Vowel change [x] – [e]
Children	Child + ren	Child + Plural	[ren]

Morphologically conditioned allomorphs

morphs	morpheme	allomorphs
Play + ed	Play + PAST	-ed
Wrote	Write + PAST	Vowel change [ai] – [ou]
Put + 0	Put + PAST	Ǿ

The morpheme is an abstraction and presents a sum of its variants *allomorphs*

-z *(boys),*
-s *(cats),*
-iz *(classes),*
-en *(oxen),*
-ren *(children),*
0 *(bison),*
- ae *(antennae),*
-a *(sanatoria),*
--it *(radii),*
--i stimuli, etc.

Types of morphs and morphemes

Structurally:	
Free morphs	Bound morphs
Use	Re-
Help	-ful
Success	Un- … -ful, -ly

Types of morphs and morphemes

Aspectually:	
Lexical morphs have lexical meaning and can be used in formation of new words	**Grammatical morphs** have grammatical meaning and simply represent grammatical categories
Dog	Number (-s)
-er – painter	Tense (-ed)
ist - communist	Person (-s), etc.

Lexical morphs

Roots – central to the forming of new words	Affixes		
	prefixes	suffixes	Infixes (grammatical morphs)
Help in *unhelpful*	un-	-ful	
Build in *rebuild*	re-		
Hand in *handy*		-y	
Stand - stood			-a- / -oo-

Place & scope of morphology

1	locates	locative	located
2	location	locative	dislocate
3	earache	workload	timebomb

Group 1 (locates, locating, located):

1. Suffixes realize morphemes such as present, present participle, past.

2. They do not change the nature of **locate** as a verb.

3.   Morphemes such as present, present participle, past express grammatical meaning and are called **inflectional morphemes**.

Inflection (inflectional morpheme):

1.   is a major category of morphology;
2.   has no lexical meaning or function;
3.   has a purely structural meaning;
4.   has difference in grammatical meaning between these words.

The place and meaning of inflection within grammar is indisputable.

Group 2 (location, locative, dislocate):

1. add bound morphs to **locate;**
2. change its word class;
3. enable us to derive new words (noun, adjective, verb with opposite lexical meaning).

Derivation - the process of adding bound morphs to form new words of the same or different word classes

Group 3 (earache, workload, timebomb):

- are made by combining two free morphs - **composition – combining.**

- The words of Groups 1 and 2 enable to form new words – **word-formation (derivation & compounding**)

What is the status of word-formation?

Linguists		Scope
N. Chomsky	Word-formation	syntax
	Derivation & compounding	Lexicon
Jackendoff, Anderson	Derivation, compounding, inflections	Grammar | morphology
A.I. Smirnitskiy, B.A. Ilyish	Word-change & inflection	Morphology
The word and the morpheme are central and fundamental units in morphology.		

Inflection as a subject of morphology

- **Inflections** are added when derivational and compositional processes are complete.
- **Inflections** (tense, number, person, etc.) are attached to ready-made stems, which may already have derivational affixes (*repaint – repaints – repainted*).
- Inflectional categories (tense, voice, number) – morphosyntactic categories.
- Inflectional morphemes are productive (play-s, sing-s, know-s, etc.).

Types of inflections / word-change

Syntactic

- – occurring within the body of the word (*cats, cried, works,* etc.).

- - morphemic and vowel-change types.

Analytical

- – using auxiliary words (*has posted, is treaded, more difficult*, etc.).

Morphemic types

Noun morphemes:

- Suffix –s/es forms the plural of nouns (*cats, beds, lamps, pens,* etc,).
- Suffixes –en / -ren (*oxen, children*).
- Suffix –'s forms the genetic case of nouns (*mother's, Ann's*, etc.).

Verb morphemes:

- Suffix –s /es for the 3rd person singular PI (*works, wins, watches*).
- Suffix –ed for the PT of regular verbs (*worked, wanted,* etc.).
- Past Participle morphemes –suffix -d/ed (*lived*) & -n/en (*known*).
- Present participle/gerund morpheme -suffix (-ing) *ringing*.
- Adjective and adverb morphemes – suffixes –er / -est (*smarter – smartest*)

Vowel change / sound alternation type

- Mouse – mice,
- Write – wrote – written
- Take – took – taken, etc.

Analytical types

☐ The analytical morphological form is a combination of an auxiliary word with a basic word (*have lived, is reading, was sent, will come*, etc. To analytical form belong:

1. **Perfect, Perfect Continuous, Continuous Tenses, Passive Voice, Questions, Negation**, etc.

   *Analytical and synthetic forms may be used together (*has worked, was translated*, etc.).

2. **Future Tenses** with *shall / will.*

3. **Degrees of Comparison** of adjectives and adverbs with auxiliary words *more & most.*

Suppletive formations -

- Building a form of the word from an altogether different stems:

  - *I – me,*
  - *Be – am – are – is – was – were.*
  - *Go – went,*
  - *Good – better,*
  - *Bad – worse*, etc.