Morphology I: Types of Morphemese

Reading: FRH Ch. 2

PLIN0006: Introduction to Language

Fig. 1 Fusional vs Agglutinative Languages

Question:

How are words stored in the mind?

Defining Morphology

- **Morphology:**

    The study of morphemes, the processes they undergo,

    and the ways in which they combine to form words.

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Defining Morphemes

- **Morpheme:**

  The **smallest meaningful units of language**. Morphemes cannot be broken down into any further meaningful units.

- Example:

 + s =

Examples of English Morphemes

- **Morphemes:**

  - cat, open, about, round, the, every, Sue, London

  - -s, -ed, un-, re-, -ness, -an

- **Not morphemes:**

  - cats (= cat + -s), sadness (= sad + -ness),

    Venezuelan (= Venezuela + -an)

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Free and Bound Morphemes

- **Free Morphemes:**

  - Can stand by themselves.

  - Examples: cat, open, about, round, the, every, Sue

    e.g. I have a **cat**; or The jar is **open**

- **Bound Morphemes:**

  - Can only appear attached to other morphemes.

  - Examples: -s, -ed, un-, re-, -ness, -an

    e.g. *I have **s**; or *I can **re** it for you

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Roots and Affixes

- Multi-morphemic words (e.g. 'dancing') consist of:

  - a **root** ('dance'),

  - one or more **affixes** ('-ing').

- A combination of a root and one or more affixes,

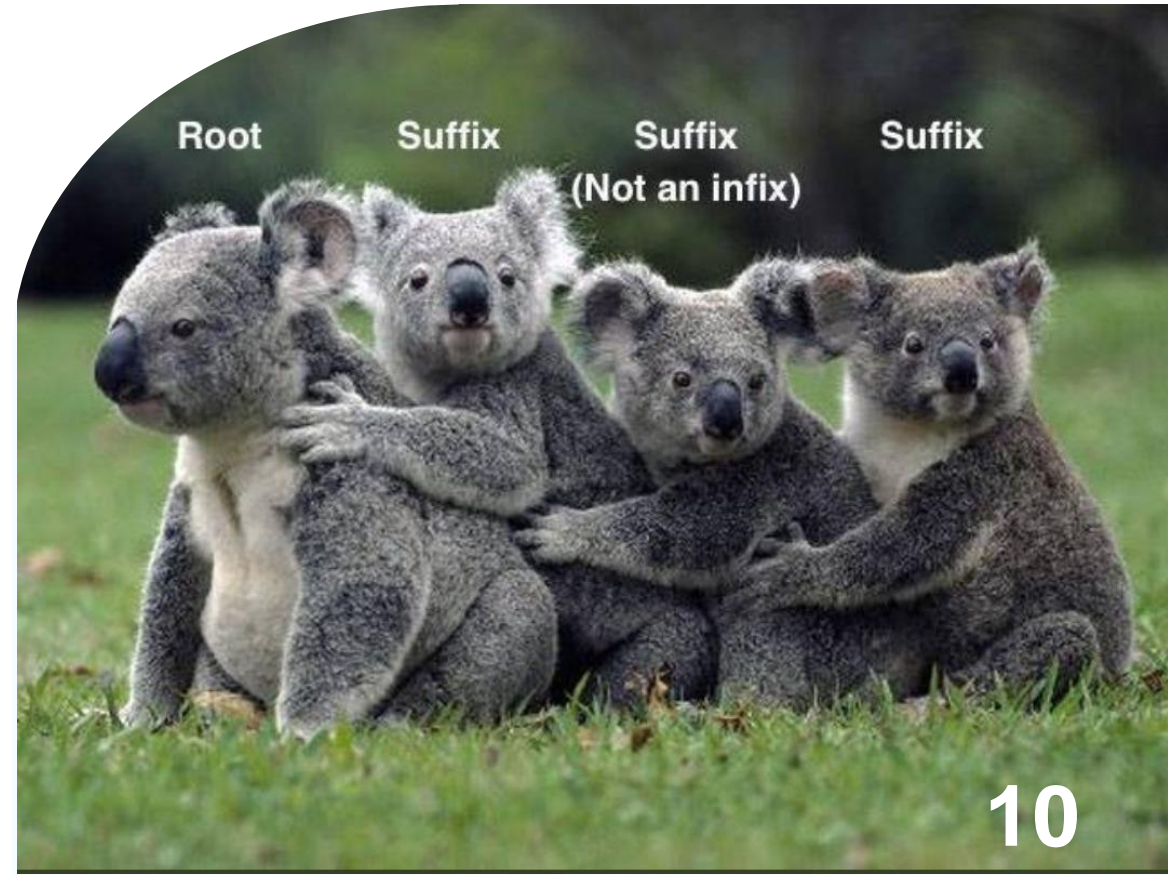 (e.g. 'unreal') is called a **stem**.

Roots and Stems

- **Root:** system

- **Stem:** system + atic

- **Stem**: un + system + atic

- **Stem**: un + system + atic + al

- **Stem**: un + system + atic + al + ly

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Affix-types: Prefixes

- **a-**   a-moral, a-symptomatic

- **de-**   de-forestation, de-grease

- **con-**   con-gregation, con-join

- **uni-**   uni-form, uni-versal

- **un-**   un-happy, un-do

- **pre-**   pre-meditate, pre-view

- **anti-**   anti-matter, anti-freeze

- …

Affix-types: Suffixes

- **-ess**   princ-ess, lion-ess

- **-ism**   protestant-ism, anachron-ism

- **-less**   home-less, job-less, hope-less

- **-er**   work-er, seek-er

- **-ish**   yellow-ish, 5 o'clock-ish

- **-s**   book-s, librari-es

- **-s**   run-s, go-es

- **-'s**   John-'s, Mary-'s

- …

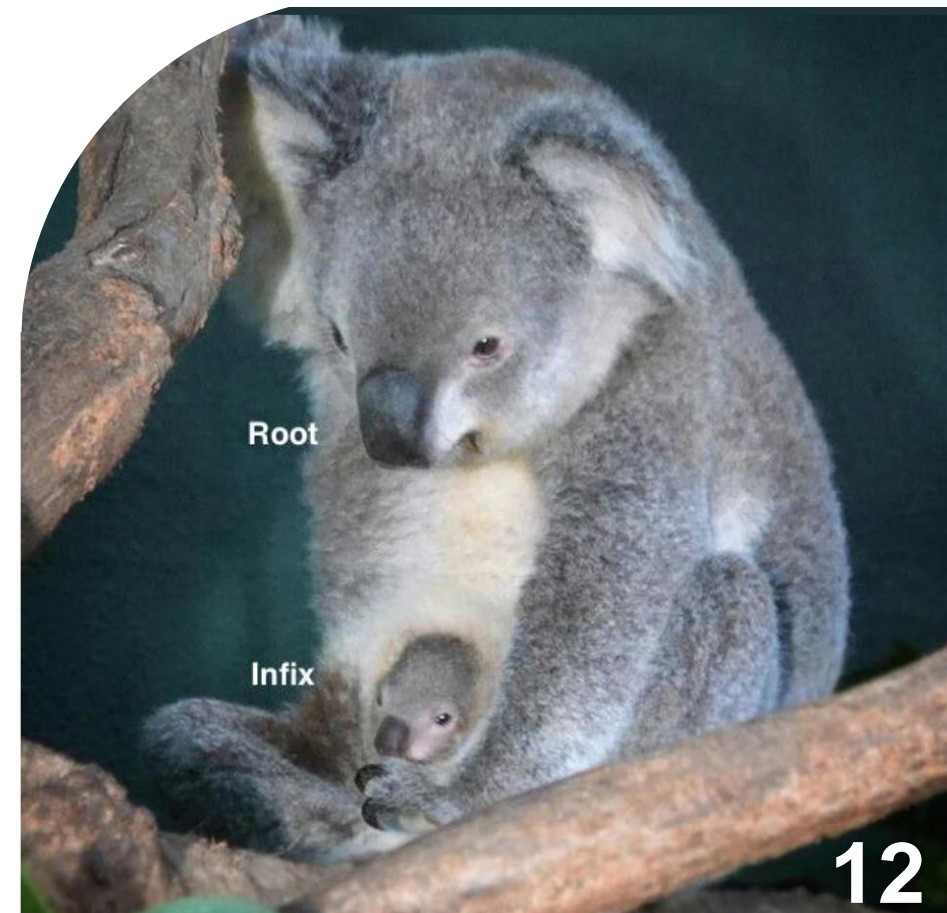Root   Suffix   Suffix (Not an infix)   Suffix

Affix-types: Infixes

- Expletive infixation:

  - abso-**blooming**-lutely

  - fan-**fricking**-tastic

- Some other infixes:

  - h-**iz**-ouse, dr-**iz**-eam, G-**iz**-oogle

  - edu-**ma**-cation, Saxa-**ma**-phone

Saxa-ma-phone

Infixes in Bontoc (Philippines)

Bontoc	Meaning
fikas	`strong'
f-**um**-ikas	'to be strong'
kilad	'red'
k-**um**-ilad	'to be red'
fusul	'enemy'
f-**um**-usual	'to be an enemy'

Root

Infix

Circumfixes in Chickasaw (Oklahoma)

Chickasaw	Meaning
chokma	'he is good'
ik-chokm-**o**	'he isn't good'
lakna	'it is yellow'
ik-lakn-**o**	'it isn't yellow'
palli	'it is hot'
ik-apall-**o**	'it isn't hot'
tiwwi	'he opens (it)'
ik-tiww-**o**	'he doesn't open'

root
circumfix

Inflectional Morphology

- **Inflectional Morphology:**

    Morphology that expones a grammatical function.

- Examples:

    - -s   'You bake' vs. 'He bakes'

    - -ed   'They bake every day' vs. 'They baked every day'

    - -s   'the book' vs. 'the books'

Inflectional morphology **never** changes the grammatical category of a word!

Derivational Morphology

- **Derivational Morphology:**

  Morphology that adds/modifies semantic content.

- **Examples:**

  - -able = 'able to be X-ed' (lockable, usable)

  - un- = Negation (unhappy, uncertain)

  - un- = Reversive (unzip, unbind)

- Derivational morphology **may** change the grammatical category of a word:

  - system (N) → systematic (Adj) → unsystematic (Adj) → unsystematically (Adv)

Summary

- Morphemes are the **minimal meaningful units** of language

- Morphemes can be **free** or **bound**

- Affixes can be divided into **prefixes**, **suffixes**, **infixes**, and **circumfixes**

- Inflectional morphology expones **grammatical function** of a word

- Derivational morphology modifies the **semantics** of a word

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