

Department of English Language and Literature MA program: Linguistics

Course Title and Number: Morphology (2201755)

Time: Mon. 5.00-8.00 pm.

Instructor: Professor Murtadha Bakir

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Course Description

This course focuses on the basic concepts of morphology, and gives an overview of the major areas in this field: (i) morphological structure, (ii) morphological categories, (iii) morphological rules, and (iv) prosodic morphology. The discussion will also cover the relation of morphology to phonology on the one hand and its relation to syntax on the other.

Grade Distribution

Presentations and class participation 15%
Short research paper: 15%
Midterm Test: 30%
Final Exam: 40%

Reading Resources

- ** Katamba, Francis. *Morphology*. London: Palgrave. 1993. [K]
- ** Bauer, Laurie. *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*. Edinburgh: EUP. 1988. [B]
- ** Aronoff, M and K. Fudeman. *What is Morphology*. Oxford: Blackwell. 2005. [A&K]
- * Stewart, T. and N. Vaillette (eds.). *Language Files: (8th ed)*. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press. 2001.
- * O'Grady, W. and John Archibald. *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis (5th ed)*. Toronto: Pearson Longman. 2004.
- * Fromkin, V., et al. *An Introduction to Language*. Boston: Thompson. 2005.

The last three references are general linguistics introductions that deal with basic morphological notions. They are good to skim through before you come to your second week meeting. Other introductory books will do.

Course objectives

In this course students will

1. learn the basic concepts and issues of morphology and morphological analysis, such as word, morpheme, morph, allomorph, root, stem, and base.
2. learn the methods and tools of morphological analysis via the distinctions made in the types and function of morphemes, their realizations and changes.
3. learn the relation between morphology and phonology through the various morphophonological processes
4. learn about the relation between morphology and syntax through the discussion of the different functional morphemes that play a crucial role in syntactic structure and processes.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. respond to questions concerning the basic concepts, notions and terms of morphology, identify the various morphological units and the differences between them.
2. recognize the different models of morphological analysis and the arguments for each.
3. morphologically analyze data from different languages and recognize the necessary morphological processes by applying morphological rules.
4. discuss the phonological changes resulting from the application of morphological rules, their nature and limitations
5. discuss the interface relation between morphology and syntax and the role of functional morphemes marking various grammatical categories in the development of the syntactic structure of the sentence and the various processes that characterize the syntax of natural languages
6. be able to write a short paper that shows her/his understanding of the discussed issues and ability to utilize them in morphologically analyzing data from their native language.

Content distribution

Week 1: Introduction: Preliminaries, and orientation

Sept 16.

Week 2: General considerations: What is morphology; Goals of morphological

Sept 23 research; Relation of morphology to phonology and syntax

(Introductions; **K**, ch.1; **B**, ch.1; **A&K**, ch.1)

Week 3: Defining the word; Lexeme and word form; What is inside the word?

Sept 30 Word analysis; Morphs, morphemes and allomorphs; Allomorphic conditioning

(**K**, ch.2; **B**, ch.2; **A&K**, ch.1.5)

Week 4: Types of Morphemes: roots, affixes, stems, bases; word formation processes:

Oct 7 affixation, compounding, base modification, conversion, suppletion; typology

(**K**, ch.3; **B**, ch.3, 11; **A&K**, ch.4, 6)

Week 5: Productivity: limitation of the lexicon; extent of productivity; productivity

Oct 14 constraints; semi-productivity

(**K**, ch.4; **B**; ch.5; **A&K**, ch.8)

Week 6: Lexical morphology: the model; lexical strata; derivation and inflection in

Oct 21 lexical morphology; lexical rules

(**K**, ch.5; **B**; ch.9.4; **A&K**, ch.3.3)

Week 7: Eid al-Adha

Oct 28

Week 8: Midterm test

Nov 4

Week 9: Stratum ordering: the Strict Cycle Condition

Nov 11 (**K**, ch.6)

Week 10: Lexical morphology: insights, claims and criticism, determination of lexical

Nov 18 strata; number of strata; restriction of phonological rules to strata

(**K**, ch.7; **B**; ch.9.6-8)

Week 11: Prosodic morphology: autosegmental phonology; mapping principles; tiers;

Nov 25 Arabic measures; morpheme tier hypothesis; nonconcatenative morphology

(**K**, ch.8; **B**; ch.9.4; **A&K**, ch.3.2)

Week 12: Template and prosodic morphology; reduplication; CV-templates; underspecification;

Dec 2 types of reduplication (**K**, ch.9)

Week 13: Inflectional morphology: difference between inflection and derivation; Inflectional

Dec 9 categories; clitics

(**K**, ch.10; **B**; ch.6 -7; **A&K**, ch.6)

Week 14: Morphology and grammatical functions:

Dec 16 (**K**, ch.11; **B**; ch.6; **A&K**, ch.7) **Deadline for paper submission**

Week 15: Idioms and compounds: phonological factors in compounding; character of

Dec 23 word formation rules; compounding and derivation

Week 16 : Summing up; remaining issues; unanswered questions;

Dec 30

Week 17: Final Exam

Jan 3

Learning Activities and Tasks

Learning activities combine lectures and student presentations of selected topics of the syllabus. The main activity is informal discussion of the relevant issues raised by students and instructor