

Homework 2

Due on 15 October 2012

Some English Affixes

Part I

Analyze each of the English affixes which are illustrated below. For each affix, you should minimally discuss the following:

1. Its phonological shape. If the affix has several pronunciations, say what determines the choice between these pronunciations and say what kind of allomorphic process that choice is.
2. The kinds of stems it attaches to, based on syntactic category.
3. The kinds of stems it produces, based on syntactic category.
4. Its effect on the meaning of the stem to which it is attached. Categorize it as allowing lexicalization or uniformly compositional.
5. Its productivity.

Your discussion should be as precise as possible. Distinguish carefully between the regularities and any irregularities you may come across. Support your discussion with examples based upon the data given below *as well as any other relevant data you wish to consider*.

(1) **-ness:**

- a. smallness
- b. redness
- c. graciousness
- d. goodness
- e. deafness
- f. happiness
- g. pleasantness
- h. fairness
- i. naturalness

- j. *climbness
- k. *beness
- l. *sleepness
- m. *buildness
- n. *drawness
- o. *pushness
- p. *teacherness
- q. *womanness
- r. *tableness

(2) **-able:**

- a. readable
- b. understandable
- c. foldable
- d. rushable
- e. reliable

- f. *smallable
- g. *pleasantable
- h. *kneelable
- i. *cryable
- j. *manable

(3) **un₁-**

- a. undo
- b. unfold
- c. unfreeze
- d. untie

(4) **un₂-**

- a. unhappy
- b. unpleasant
- c. unhealthy
- d. unfair
- e. unnatural
- f. unpopular

- g. *uncry
- h. *unbe
- i. *unwoman
- j. *unteacher
- k. *unkneel

(5) **-ity**

- a. agentivity
- b. domesticity
- c. essentiality
- d. passivity
- e. rusticity

- f. *sleepity
- g. *strik(e)ity
- h. *elephantity
- i. *studentity
- j. *fairity

Part II

Discuss the derivation of the following words. How does the derivation proceed, and why? Argue for your analyses.

- (6)a. unfairness
- b. unreliable
- c. unpleasantness
- d. uncrushable
- e. ungrammaticality

Part III

There is a relationship between the forms in (1) and the example in (5j) which is paralleled by the ungrammaticality of the following forms:

- (7)a. *knuckleheadedity
- b. *magicality
- c. *obviousity
- d. *peacefulnessity
- e. *righteousity

As clearly as you can, discuss the relationship between the forms in (1), (7), and *any additional data you can think of that might be relevant*. Minimally, answer the following questions:

1. Are *-ity* and *-ness* derivational or inflectional morphemes? How do you know?
2. What does this relationship tell you about the productivity of *-ness*? Does that spell trouble for any of our tests in class for whether a morpheme is derivation or inflection?
3. Do you expect to find words that end in *-itiness* or *-ityness* in English? What about *-nessity*?

Part IV

The main verbs (italicized) in the following examples occur in a form called the **Passive Participle**:

- (8)a. The watch was *stolen*.
b. Sally may be *frightened* by strange noises.
c. The place was *inhabited* by giraffes.
d. The last seat has been *taken*.
e. Some invitations were *sent* to friends.
f. The door was being *opened* by the children.
g. Some friends were *sent* invitations.
h. Tabs were *kept* on Sylvia.
i. Joel was *believed* to be watching television.

Describe briefly and accurately the affix(es) used to form passive participles from the corresponding unaffixed verb stems. Identify the phonological shape of the affixes, and any phonological changes they induce. Comment on their productivity. If we assume that there is just one past participle morpheme in English, what conditions the choice of allomorphs? You may want to bring in data of your own to help with this.

Part V

Assume there is a morphological rule of passive participle formation which takes a transitive verb stem as its input. What is the syntactic category of the output of this rule? Your answer should take into account or mention the relevance of the following:

1. The distributional properties of verbs and adjectives as they relate to the participle.
 2. The prefix */un-/*.
 3. The subcategorization of verbs like *seem/sound*, given in (9).
- (9)a. Felix seems happy/sad/unwilling/popular/*went/*sitting/*sleep(s).
b. The plan sounds crazy/curious/doable/*work(s)/*succeeded/*going well.

Formulate a hypothesis and test it thoroughly against the examples above, and other examples of passive participles, *before* beginning to write down your solution.