

LINGUISTICS 105:

Morphology



October 10, 2012:
Inflection vs. Derivation, II

Quiz

In his 1988 paper, Perlmutter proposes a stem suppletion analysis for certain plurals in Yiddish so that he can understand the behavior of their diminutives. In your own words, describe **one** of the arguments he used to support this analysis. You do not need to give Yiddish data, but the pattern the data showed might be relevant.

Administrationals

- HW 2 is now up – English affixes of various kinds.
 - Due on Monday.
- Definitely should have read Perlmutter by now.
 - Readings due on Mondays.
 - Halle (1973) is next (for Mon. 10/15).

Recap

- Last lecture: 8/10 properties which distinguish inflectional from derivational morphology.
- These properties are tendencies at best; not all morphemes yield clear answers for all tests.
- However, at present we have no understanding of what any of this means for morphological theory.
- *Today:* How theories have attempted to account for derivation vs. inflection and some issues with the distinction itself.

Limited

- Inflectional morphology is **closed class**, whereas derivational morphology is **open class**.
- Recently added derivational morphemes in English include most of the Latinate affixes.
- It is almost nonsensical to talk about adding an inflectional morpheme.
- Consequently, for analytic and fusional languages, it is often the case that there are more derivational morphemes than inflectional morphemes.
- **Question:** why is this almost certainly false for agglutinating and polysynthetic languages?

(Re-)Iterativity

- ITERATIVITY =_{def} the ability of some linguistic object to be repeated over and over (and over ...).
- Derivational morphemes include some morphemes which can be iterated:

[re- [re- [re- [work]]] [un- [un- [lock]]]

- Inflectional morphology is generally not iterative.

*He [[[work] -s] -s] daily. *Dog-s-es!

- Exception: double plural marking. (Amharic)

[[[k'al] -at] -otʃtʃ]	[[[kahin] -at] -otʃtʃ]
word -PL -PL	priest -PL -PL

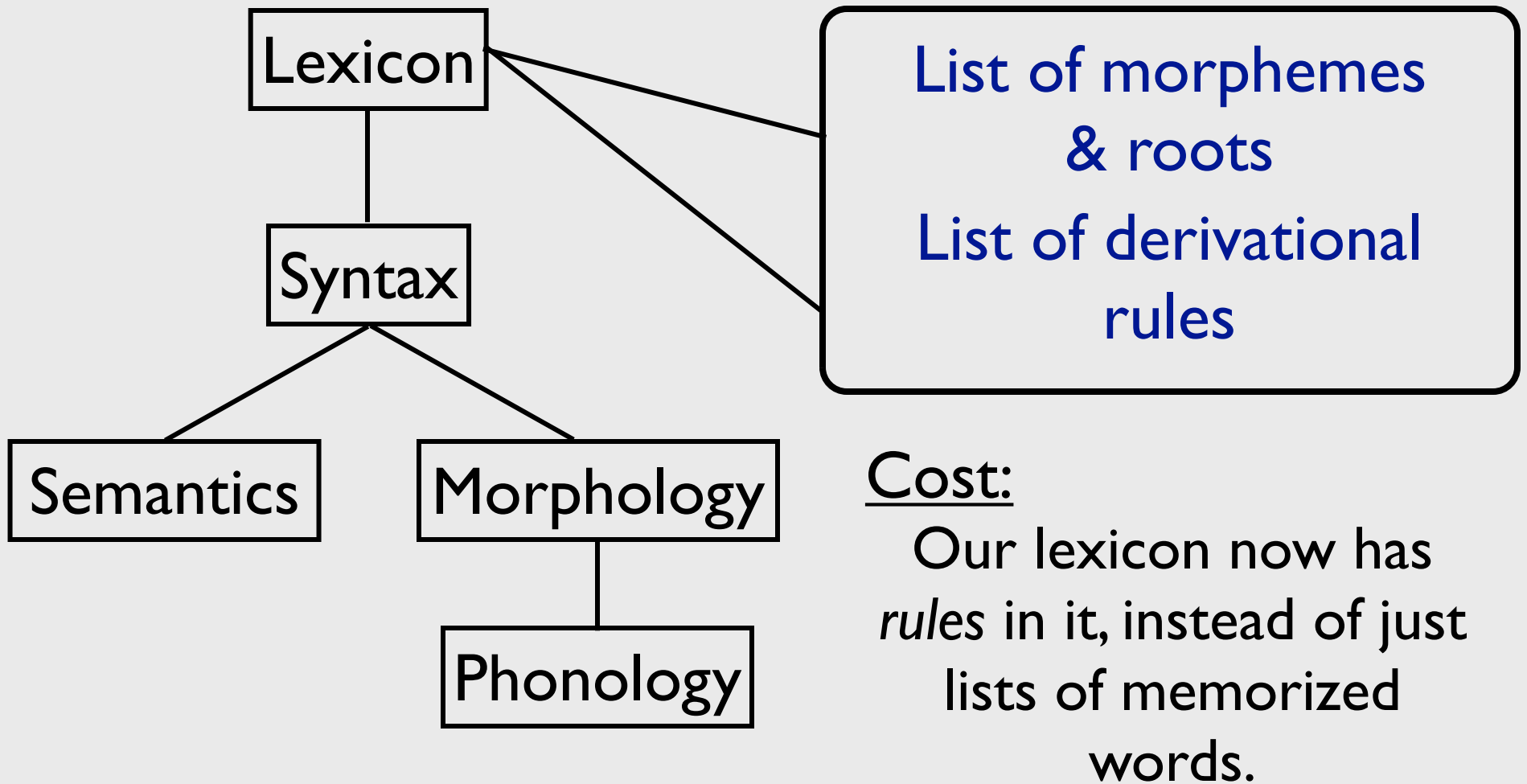
10 Tests for Infl.Vs. Deriv

1. **ORDERING**: Inflection outside of derivation.
2. **PARADIGMATIVITY**: Inflection forms paradigms, derivation does not.
3. **PRODUCTIVITY**: Inflection is highly productive.
4. **CATEGORY CHANGE**: Inflectional (typically) does not change category.
5. **LEXICALIZATION**: Meanings with derivation tend toward lexicalization.
6. **OPTIONALITY**: Inflectional morphemes are usually obligatory.
7. **LIMITED #**: There are very few inflectional morphemes relative to derivational morphemes.
8. **ABSTRACT MEANING**: The meaning of inflection is very abstract/grammatical.
9. **ALLOMORPHY**: Derivation tends to induce base allomorphy more than inflection.
10. **ITERATIVITY**: Derivation can sometimes be iterated; inflection never can.

Regularity and the Lexicon

- *Basic Observation:* Derivation tends toward less **predictability** than inflection.
 - Or: derivation is more **irregular** than inflection.
 - *Basic claim:* Derivation and inflection belong to **separate modules** of the grammar.
 - Lexicon is the obvious place to localize irregular information.
- Many different morphological theories make use of this distinction, or claim to capture it.
- In many solutions, there is an implicit or explicit claim that derivation is **ordered** before inflection.

Y-Model with Boxes

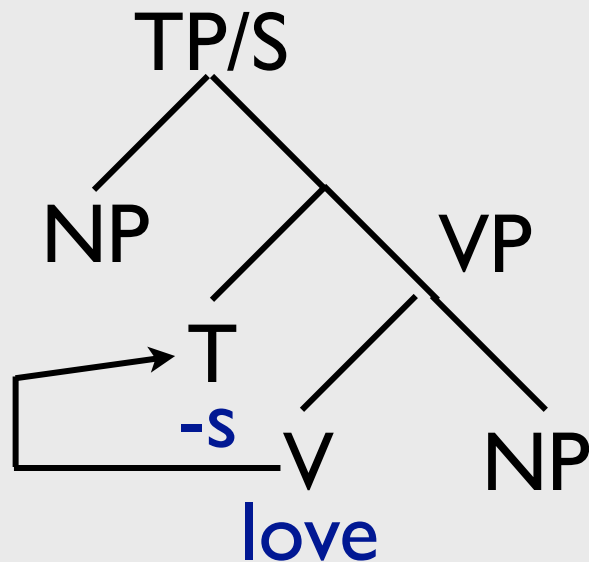


Question: Where is inflection to go in this model?

Inflection as Syntax

- It is possible to think of some inflection as syntactic. The idea here is that syntactic processes (Xns, head movement, *etc.*).
- Example: English S-V Agreement:

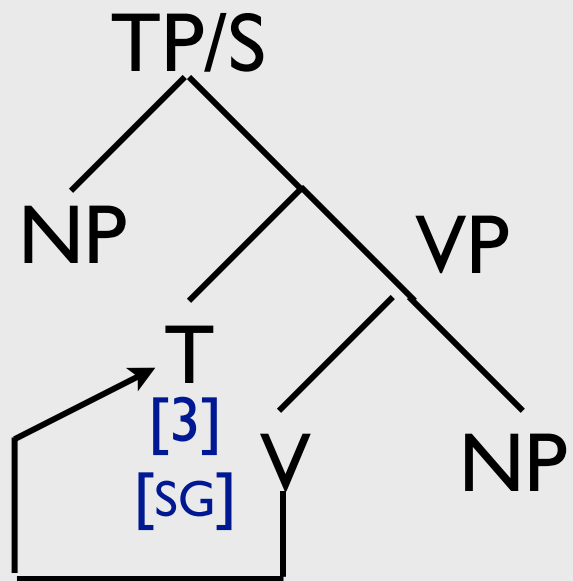
McNulty love-s the chase.



1. T has tense information in it, the verb “needs” tense.
2. Verb **moves** to T to absorb tense (or T lowers).
3. This attaches -s to the verb.

Inflection as Morphology

- Treating inflection as though it is determined in the morphology is possible, too.
- Same Example:
McNulty love-s the chase.



1. T has tense information in it, the verb “needs” tense.
2. Verb **moves** to T to absorb tense (or T lowers).
3. At morphology, this T is spelled out as /-s/.

The Lexicalist Hypothesis

- **Question:** How much morphology is in the lexicon?
- Three answers have been entertained:
 1. **STRONG LEXICALIST HYPOTHESIS:** all of it.
 2. **WEAK LEXICALIST HYPOTHESIS:** some of it; inflection, notably, is not lexical.
 3. **ANTILEXICALIST HYPOTHESIS:** none of it; syntax, morphology, and phonology carve up the applicable morphology and leave none for the lexicon.
- Much of this debate began with Chomsky (1970), which we will read later on.

Problems with Inflection vs. Derivation

Issues with the Tests

- We already know that not all tests give equally strong results or are equally applicable to all morphemes.
- However, beyond this there are issues with each of the tests which are both empirical and conceptual.
- These are useful to know for two reasons:
 1. Helps avoid pitfalls of misapplying the tests.
 2. Where the tests break down we make scientific progress.

Problems with Ordering

- This is one of the more robust generalizations, but there are counterexamples:

notari-**es** public-**ish**

attorney-**s** general-**like**

- Portuguese: “flower”

“dog”

(Rainer 1995)

“rope”

SG	SG.DIM	PL	PL.DIM
flor	florzinha	flores	florezinhas
cão	cãozinho	cães	cãezinhos
corda	cordazinha	cordas	cordazinhas

- However, a great majority of these kinds of counterexamples have one of two properties:
 - They use an affix of a class that is hard to specify wrt. to inflection vs. derivation anyway.
 - They often rely on a process (compounding) which is hard to place with respect to the lexicon.

Problems of Applicability

- A couple of the tests are of such limited scope that a great majority of the morphemes one studies would render them inapplicable:
 - Optionality
 - Limited # (esp. in synthetic languages)
 - Iterativity.

What is a Paradigm, Anyway?

- The paradigmaticity test is based on the idea that we cannot construct paradigms for derivational morphemes.

	N	V	A
N	[[N] -hood _N] [[N] -dom _N]	[[N] -∅ _V] [[N] -ate _V]	[[N] -y _A] [[N] -ish _A]
V	[[V] -ion _N] [[V] -ment _N]	[V un- [V]] [V mis- [V]]	[[V] -ive _A] [[V] -able _A]
A	[[A] -ity _N] [[A] -ness _N]	[[A] -ize _V] [[A] -en _V]	[A un- [A]] [A in- [A]]

Problems of Indeterminacy

- Finally and worst of all: sometimes the tests don't give a satisfactory answer for a given morpheme.
- English [[_A] -ly_{ADV}]:
 - Ordering: you cannot inflect adverbs ??
 - Paradigmaticity: no paradigms Derivation
 - Productivity: very productive ??
 - Category Change: changes category Inflection
 - Lexicalization: very compositional ??
 - Optionality: optionalish? ??
 - Limited #: it is closed class Inflection
 - Abstract meaning: “the quality denoted by the adjective also holds of the event denoted by the verb” Derivation
 - No allomorphy triggered ??
 - Cannot be iterated (*quicklyly) ??