LINGUISTICS 105:

Morphology

October 8, 2012:
Inflection vs. Derivation, I

Administratives

- HW 1 is due right now.

- HW 2 will be posted later today; on English.

- You should have read Perlmutter (1988) by now.

- Hopefully you have a language in mind for your final project by now; if not come see one of us.

- ARD Talk in MRG Tuesday @ 9am in the LCR.

- Anyone want to switch into the 8:30 section? See me after lecture.

Preliminaries are Over!

- At this point, the vocabulary blitz is over and the actual linguistics can begin.

- From here on out, we will be looking at patterns that have heavily influenced the shape of morphological theory.

- This means that we'll be evaluating a lot of linguistic argumentation very quickly, so it is important to come see us if you get behind.

- *Today's topic:* inflection vs. derivation.

Inflection vs. Derivation

The Raising vs. Control of Morphological Theory

Inflection vs. Derivation, Preliminaries

- It is possible to make one other cut in the space of morphemes, this one based on properties they share with one another.
    1. INFLECTIONAL MORPHEMES signal (required) grammatical information.
    2. DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES radically alter the content of a root/stem.
- **But:** membership in these categories is *proven* based upon the diagnostic properties coming next, not based on conformity with an intuitive definition.
    - *In fact,* where the tests mismatch intuition is where these labels break down as theoretical constructions (topic of Wednesday's lecture).

10 Tests for Infl. Vs. Deriv

1. ORDERING: Inflection outside of derivation.
2. PARADIGMATICITY: 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.

Ordering

- Inflectional morphology tends to appear outside (wrt. the base) of derivational morphology.

I* – D* –√ROOT – D* – I*   curious-itie-s   *curious-es-ity

  - If you see a morpheme inside a known derivational morpheme, then you can argue it is derivation.

    sheep-ish-ness   *sheep-ness-ish

  - If you see a morpheme outside a known inflectional morpheme, then you can argue it is inflection. tˤaalɪb-aat-in   *tˤaalɪb-in-aat

    student-PL-GEN.INDEF   student-GEN.INDEF-PL

- **Q:** Why was Perlmutter worried about Yiddish?

Paradigms

- PARADIGM =_{def} An organization of morphemes into cells of a table made by the features the morpheme expresses.

- A very ancient example (Latin):

√AMA, "TO LOVE"	SG	PL
1	amō "I love"	amamus "we love"
2	amas "you love"	amatis "y'all love"
3	amat "he/she/it love"	amant "they love"

Paradigmaticity

- Inflectional morphology can often be organized into paradigms, whereas the notion "paradigm" is almost nonsensical for derivational morphemes.

  - Paradigms can be trivial:

SG	PL
/-ø/	/-z/

	SG	PL
1	/-ø/	/-ø/
2	/-ø/	/-ø/
3	/-z/	/-ø/

  - How could we write a paradigm for these morphemes?

    [[A]-ity N]   [[N]-ish A]

- However, many facts about paradigms can obscure this test, such as SYNCRETISM (when more than one cell has the same value), so be careful here.

Productivity

- PRODUCTIVITY =_{def} Measure of the ability of an affix to attach to many eligible bases without restriction.
  - *Or*: Affixal sluttiness.
- Inflection tends to be highly productive. If one sees restrictions, it is likely a derivational morpheme.

  curios-ity   *feeble-ity   *bashful-ity   *finite-ity

- **However**: other factors impact productivity, too, like the existence of alternative words with the same meaning.
- **Also**: there are highly productive derivational morphemes.   /-nɛss/

Category Change

- Morphosyntactic CATEGORY ≈ "part of speech".
  - Actually a property of a word deduced from its distribution; all words that behave the same have the same category.
- Inflectional morphology *typically* does not change the category of its base: $[[\text{embezzle } _V] \text{ -s } _V]$

  $[[\text{platypus } _N] \text{ -es/-i/-odes } _N]$ $[[\text{smart } _A] \text{ -er } _A]$

- Whereas *some* derivation can:

  $[[\text{teach } _V] \text{ -er } _N]$ $[[\text{sharp } _A] \text{ -en } _V]$ $[[\text{govern } _V] \text{ -ment } _N]$

- **NB:** derivational morphology *need not* change category: $[_V \text{ un } [_V \text{ hook }] [_A \text{ in } [_A \text{ expensive }]$

Lexicalization & Compositionality

- **Question:** When a morpheme attaches to a base, how is the meaning of the derived form related to the meaning of its parts?
  - COMPOSITIONAL $=_{def}$ the meaning of the derived form is the regular meaning expected by the combination of its parts.

$$[_A \text{ un } [_A \text{ happy }]] \qquad [_V \text{ re } [_V \text{ run }]]$$

  - LEXICAL(IZED) $=_{def}$ the meaning of the derived form is not the regular meaning expected by the combination of its parts.

$$[[\text{ priorit(y) }_N] \text{ -ize }_V] \qquad [[\text{ vandal }_N] \text{ -ize }_V]$$

Lexicalization (Test)

- Attachment of inflectional morphology does not result in lexicalized meaning:

  [[dog] -s]   [[run] -ing]

- Whereas *some* derivational morphemes induce lexicalized meaning:

  [[investigate] -ion]   [[prohibit] -ion]

- **But**: there are some derivational morphemes that have perfectly compositional semantics:

[dis- [associate]] [dis- [connect]] [dis- [embark]]

Optionality

- The grammar more or less enforces the presence of inflectional morphology:

  The boy run*(s).   The dog(*s) barks.

- Whereas the only requirement enforcing the use of a derivational morpheme is a desire to have the additional/changed meaning:

  You must (re)read the assignment.

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?

Abstract Meaning

- While there can be some contentious cases, it is usually possible to give a meaning to a derivational morpheme:

  - un- = "opposite, negation"

  - re- = "to do again"

- With inflectional morphology, the meaning one gives is necessarily abstract.

  - [N[-s]] = PLURAL number

  - [V[-s]] = "this verb has a 3.SG subject"

Allomorphy

- It is pretty uncommon to find an inflectional morpheme inducing **stem allomorphy**:

    [bɑrk-s]   [mɪljʊn-z]   [wɑɪt-er]

- Exception: SUPPLETION $=_{def}$ when two derivationally related forms don't have the same root.

    go~went   is~were   good~better   es~fue   bueno~mejor

- Exception: this test often fails for high frequency words with irregular plurals/verb forms:

    child~children   sit~sat   tooth~teeth

- On the other hand, derivational morphology does often induce stem allomorphy:

    [[serene $_A$] -ity $_N$]   [[record $_V$] -ø $_N$]

(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]   [[[kahɨn] -at] -otʃtʃ]
    word -PL -PL   priest -PL   -PL

10 Tests for Infl. Vs. Deriv

1. ORDERING: Inflection outside of derivation.
2. PARADIGMATICITY: 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.