

**Aspects of a morpheme-based analysis:** (Baker&Bobaljik, Morphology, for class use)

- a. Complex words can be divided up into discrete morphemes.
- b. Each morpheme can be given a consistent lexical entry, including (at least) a phonological representation and a meaning (or set of syntactic features).
- c. The morphemes are combined in the form of a word structure tree, in which the attachment properties of the morphemes are satisfied, and which determines the features of the whole word by way of the Node Labelling Conventions.

**Rules:**

- Always think about your language data
- Order them
- Ensure that they are productive

**Productivity**

← Constraints on productivity:

- Blocking: *\*stealer* is blocked because of *thief*; *-ness* is more productive than *-ity* (no *spaciousity*, *furiosity*)
- Phonology: *black-en*, *quiet-en*, but not *green-en*, *dry-en* (the root must end with a stop/fricative/affricate)
- Morphological constraint: *-hood* is prohibited with ‘foreign’ roots (*man-hood* but no *colonel-hood*, *judge-hood*)
- Semantics: *blue-eyed*, *red-haired* but no *small-dog(g)ed*

**Exercise 1.**

Suppose you are a linguist from a different planet who want to analyze English. You have managed to collect the following list of words and their meanings. How would you analyze them?

Adjective	Meaning
ugly	‘very unattractive’
uglier	‘more ugly’
ugliest	‘most ugly’
pretty	‘nice looking’
prettier	‘more nice looking’
prettiest	‘most nice looking’
tall	‘large in height’
taller	‘more tall’
tallest	‘most tall’

## Typology

Linguistic typology is a branch of linguistics that attempts to categorize languages based on similarities in structure (phonological inventories, grammatical constructions, word order, etc.)

**WALS** – World Atlas of Language Structures (wals.info)

**Example:** Feature 24A: Locus of Marking in Possessive Noun Phrases

Values: head marking 78 / dependent marking 98 / double marking 22 / no marking 32 / other 6

Nichols and Bickel, chapter.

Double marking:

(5) Southern Sierra Miwok (Miwok-Costanoan; California; Broadbent 1964: 133)

*cuku-ŋ hu:ki-ʔ-hy:*

dog-GEN tail-3SG

‘dog’s tail’ (lit. ‘of-dog its-tail’)

## Linguistic typology:

1. morphological typology,
2. morphosyntactic typology,
3. word order typology.

## Morphological typology

← whether or not affixation is allowed and degrees of morphological complexity (How many morphemes are in one word?)

Friedrich Schlegel: inflecting vs isolation.

## Index of synthesis

! Remember that sometimes it is very difficult to determine whether an item is a word or a morpheme !

## Languages:

- isolating (‘purely analytic’): frequently have tonal systems, serial verbs, fixed word order, etc.
- \*analytic (some morphemes and compounding is allowed)
- synthetic: (lots of) bound morphemes
  - agglutinative: morphemes within words are easily parsed or “loosely” arranged; the morpheme boundaries are easy to identify. 1:many word to morpheme ratio; 1:1 morpheme to meaning;

Hill Mari (Uralic): Nönö mälänem ôškalvläštöm anžâktenöt *They showed me their cows.*

Turkish:

el ‘the hand’ elimde ‘in my hand’

elim ‘my hand’ ellerim ‘my hands’

eler ‘the hands’ ellerimde ‘in my hands’

- fusional: morphemes that combine multiple pieces of grammatical information;

Latin:

Marcus ferit Cornēliam *Marcus hits Cornelia.*

Cornēlia dedit Marcō dōnum/dōna *Cornelia has given Marcus a gift/gifts.*

- polysynthetic: frequent incorporation, no overt arguments, etc.

West Greenlandic examples

- tusaa-nngit-su-usaar-tuaannar-sinnaa-nngi-vip-putit
- ‘hear’-neg.-intrans.participle-‘pretend’-‘all the time’-‘can’-neg.-‘really’-2<sup>nd</sup>.sng.indicative
- ‘You simply cannot pretend not to be hearing all the time’

### Exercise 2.

What language type is it?

Ancient Greek

[lu-o:] ‘I release’

release-1<sup>st</sup> person singular present active indicative

[lu-e:] ‘You should release’

release-2<sup>nd</sup> person singular present middle subjunctive

[lu:-etai] ‘he is being released’

release-3<sup>rd</sup> person singular present passive indicative

### Exercise 3.

Below you can see some Turkish words and their translations.

yazmışım — Probably, I wrote

yazmışsin — Probably, you (singular) wrote

yazmış — Probably, he wrote

yazmışsınız — Probably, you (plural) wrote

yazar — (he) writes

yazarlar — (they) write

Translate to Turkish: *Probably, they wrote*