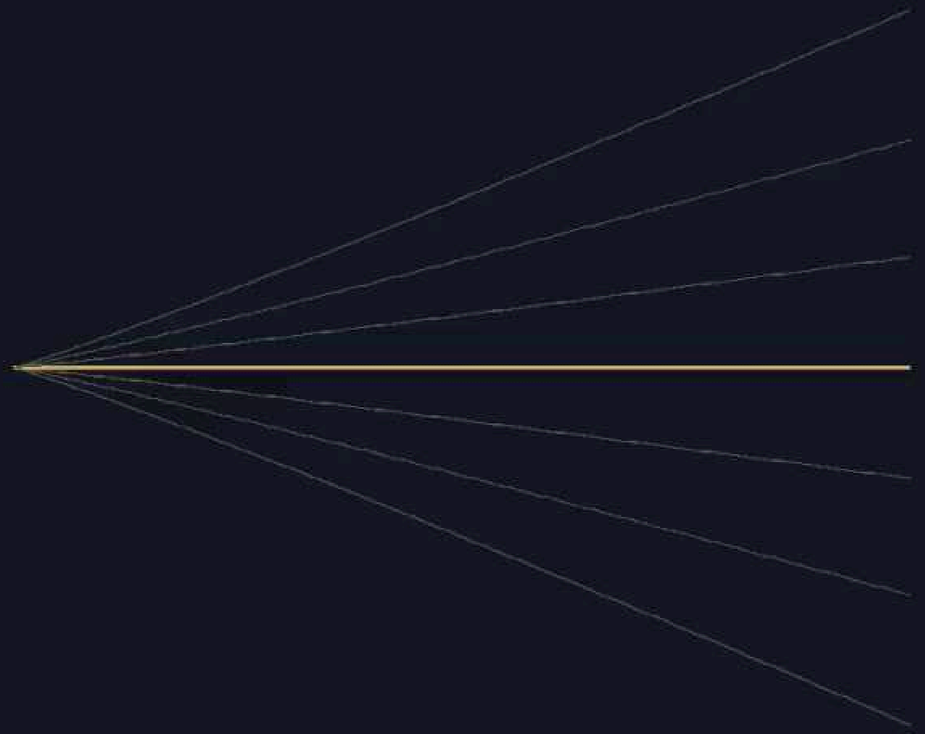
ANDERSON ACADEMY

LING 101 B · Introduction to Linguistics (Brief course)

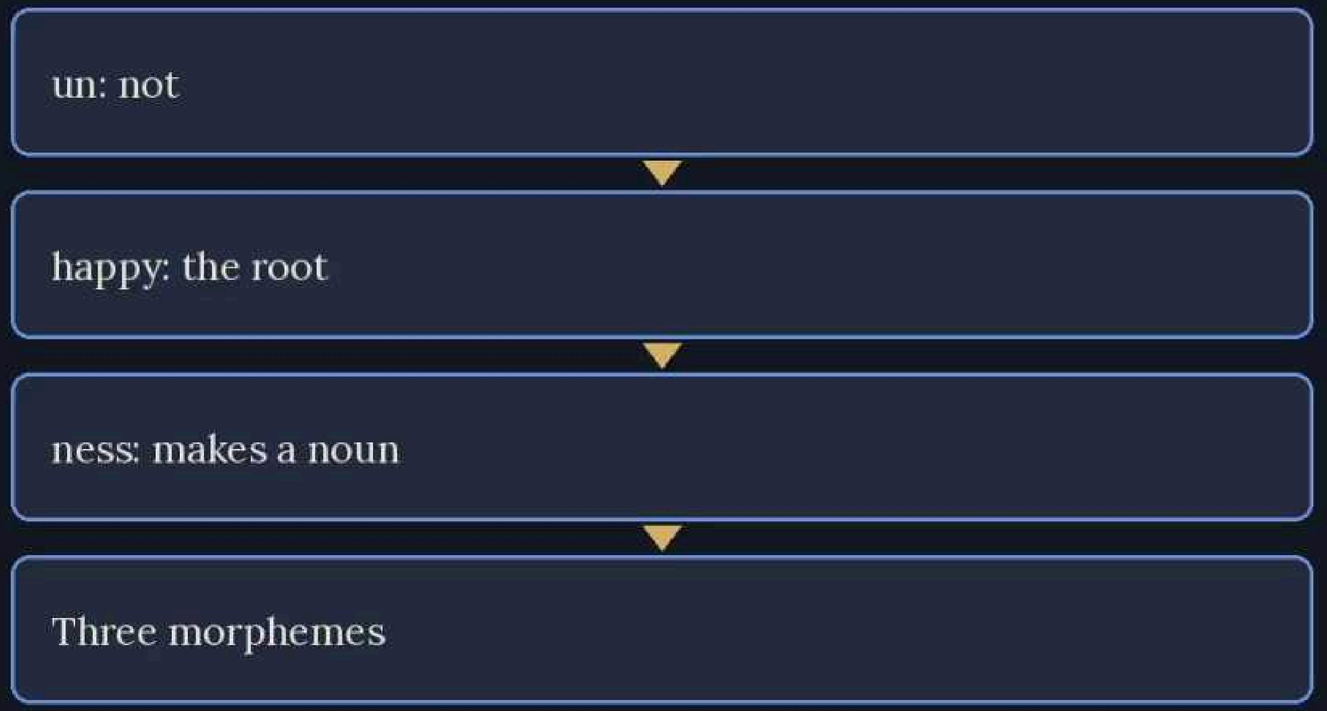
Lecture 3 · about 6 min

Words: Morphology



A library of university-level courses

Analysing unhappiness



¶ 3.1

The word unhappiness contains three morphemes: un, meaning not; happy; and ness, which makes a noun.

Kinds of morphemes

Free

- Free
- Stand alone
- happy, cat, run

Bound

- Bound
- Must attach
- un, ness, plural s

¶ 3.2

Affixes attach to roots: prefixes come before, like un and re, and suffixes come after, like ness and ing.

Other kinds of affixes

- Infixes: Tagalog sumulat
- Circumfixes: German gespielt
- Root and pattern: Arabic k-t-b
- kataba, he wrote, and kitab, book

¶ 3.3

Semitic languages such as Arabic weave vowels into consonant roots: the root k t b relates to writing,

Inflection and derivation

Inflection

- Inflection
- Grammatical information
- walk, walks, walked

Derivation

- Derivation
- New words
- teach becomes teacher

¶ 3.4

Derivation creates new words, often of a different class: the verb teach becomes the noun teacher,

English inflections

- Plural and possessive s
- Third person s
- Past ed and participle en
- ing, er, est

¶ 3.5

A Latin or Russian noun changes form for case, showing whether it is a subject, object, or possessor.

Questions or feedback: garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com · @garyanderson

Compounds

- blackboard, toothbrush, smartphone
- The head is usually on the right
- A doghouse is a house
- Meaning not always predictable

¶ 3.6

The meaning of a compound is not always predictable: a blackboard may be green,

Productive compounding

- German strings words together
- New compounds appear daily
- zoom fatigue
- doomscrolling

¶ 3.7

Speakers create new compounds every day, such as zoom fatigue or doomscrolling, and others understand them at once.

Other word formation

- Blending: brunch, smog
- Clipping: lab, flu
- Acronyms: NASA, laser
- Back-formation: edit from editor

¶ 3.8

Acronyms are formed from initials, as in NASA and laser.

More sources of words

- Conversion: to google, to text
- Coinage: brand names like zipper
- Borrowing from other languages
- Eponyms from people's names

¶ 3.9

Coinage creates words from scratch, often from brand names such as aspirin and zipper, which were once trademarks.

English borrowings

- Old Norse: sky, egg
- French: beef, court
- Japanese: tsunami
- Hindi: shampoo

¶ 3.10

By some counts most of the words in a large English dictionary are borrowed,

Morphological types

Isolating

- Isolating
- One morpheme per word
- Mandarin, Vietnamese

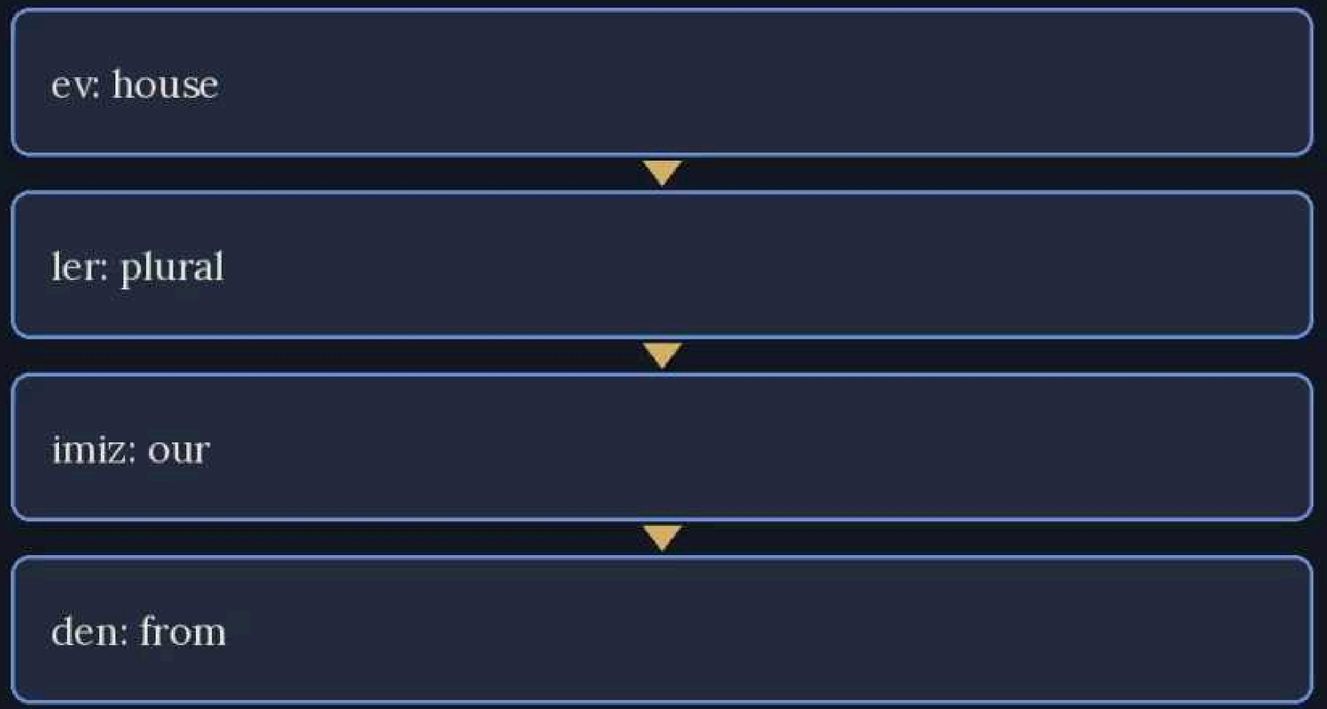
Agglutinating

- Agglutinating
- Strings of separate morphemes
- Turkish, Swahili

¶ 3.11

In agglutinating languages, such as Turkish, Swahili, and Japanese, words are built from strings of clearly separable morphemes,

Turkish evlerimizden



¶ 3.12

In fusional languages, such as Spanish, Latin, and Russian, a single ending combines several meanings:

Four types

- Isolating: Mandarin
- Agglutinating: Turkish
- Fusional: Spanish, Russian
- Polysynthetic: Inuktitut, Mohawk

¶ 3.13

These types are tendencies rather than strict boxes, and most languages mix strategies.

The mental lexicon

- Tens of thousands of words
- Stored with sound and meaning
- New words understood from parts
- unbreakable, ungoogleable

¶ 3.14

Speakers can also understand words they have never met by analysing their parts.

Summary of lecture three

- Morphemes and affixes
- Inflection and derivation
- Ways to make new words
- Four language types

¶ 3.15

Languages range from isolating to polysynthetic.

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