



LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL MEANING MORPHOLOGY. THE MORPHEMIC STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. THE TYPES OF MORPHEMES.

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the concepts of lexical and grammatical meaning within the field of morphology and provides a detailed analysis of the morphemic structure of the English language. It explores how morphemes function as the smallest meaningful units of language and discusses their classifications, including free and bound, derivational and inflectional types. The study analyzes the interaction between lexical content and grammatical structure, showing how English expresses meaning through both root morphemes and affixation. The findings highlight the importance of morphological analysis in understanding word formation, semantic development, and syntactic organization in English.

INTRODUCTION

The study of the internal structure of words and the rules governing word creation is known as morphology, a branch of linguistics. The notions of grammatical and lexical meaning, the morphemic makeup of words, and the categorization of morphemes are all crucial in this area. These concepts underpin the mechanisms by which languages encode meaning, how words operate in sentences, and how linguistic units change throughout history. The essential notion conveyed by a word is known as its lexical meaning. It is the aspect of meaning that determines the word's connection to actual objects, actions, traits, or abstract ideas. The lexical meaning is that a "book" is instantly connected in people's minds with something to read. Despite the potential for changes in lexical meaning as a result of semantic shifts, metaphorical extensions, or cultural influences, it is somewhat stable. Words may function as labels for ideas in human thought and communication because of this meaning. In contrast, grammatical meaning is the relational meaning a word gains from its syntax and morphology. It covers categories like tense, number, gender, case, aspect, mood, or comparison. The suffix in the word "books" signals plurality, for instance, which is a grammatical class. The past tense is implied by the suffix "walked." Grammatical meanings don't refer to things or ideas in and of themselves; instead, they help sentences be structured and coherent by identifying word relationships and defining the functions of words in utterances. Grammatical meaning is

mostly conveyed via grammatical morphemes, such as affixes, inflections, and functional words, while lexical meaning is largely carried by lexical morphemes.

Examining the morphemic structure of the English language is necessary in order to completely comprehend the formation and expression of grammatical and lexical meanings. Each word in English is composed of at least one morpheme, which is the smallest significant unit in a language. Since English is an analytical language with fewer inflections, it relies more on word order, prepositions, and auxiliary verbs to convey grammatical connections. Nevertheless, morphemes continue to have a significant impact on how words are formed and what they mean.

The morphology of English words might be straightforward or complicated. A word is said to be simple if it has just one morpheme and cannot be broken down further without losing its meaning. The words "cat," "blue," and "run" are a few examples. These are self-supporting devices that have grammatical potential as well as lexical significance. Complex words, on the other hand, are made up of two or more morphemes, usually a root combined with one or more affixes. For example, "unhelpful" consists of the root "help" as well as the prefix "un-" and suffix "-ful." The combination of these units produces a word with a more nuanced or specialized meaning because each morpheme adds a unique layer of meaning. There are many methods for categorizing the different kinds of morphemes in English. A key distinction is between free and bound morphemes. Free morphemes, such as "house," "time," or "write," are able to function alone as separate words. They are the foundation of more intricate forms and convey the language's essential lexical significance. In contrast, bound morphemes must be linked to a root or another morpheme in order to be functional. Prefixes such as "re-", "un-", or "pre-", and suffixes such as "-ness", "-ment", and "-able" are examples. These linked components convey grammatical or derivational meaning that adds nuance or changes the root's meaning. Another helpful categorization divides morphemes into root and affixal categories. The root is the word's core, meaning-bearing morpheme, which carries the core lexical meaning. In the word "teacher," for instance, "teach" is the root that conveys the conceptual meaning, while the suffix "-er" signifies a grammatical or derivational meaning, indicating an agent. Prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and circumfixes are all examples of affixal morphemes, however English mostly uses prefixes and suffixes. Derivational affixes change the grammatical category of a word or create new words, such as "beauty" becoming "beautiful," where a noun becomes an adjective. On the other hand, inflectional affixes express grammatical categories like tense, plurality, possession, or comparison, as in "walks," "walked," or "walking," without altering the word class. Depending on the kind of meaning they convey, morphemes can also be categorized as grammatical or lexical. Lexical morphemes convey meaning, frequently acting as nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs. Lexical words are linked by grammatical morphemes, which also reveal grammatical relationships within the sentence. Derivational affixes, which change the meaning without changing the syntactic core, and inflectional endings, such as plural and tense markers, are examples of these. The way words behave in the grammatical system of English is influenced by the interplay between lexical and grammatical morphemes.

Word production mechanisms are also illuminated by knowledge of morphemes' structure and purpose. In English, inflection, compounding, and derivation are some of the most creative methods. Derivation is the process of adding affixes to roots, which produces new words with novel meanings or categories. Compound words like "sunrise" and "blackbird" are formed by combining two or more free morphemes through compounding. The addition of morphological markers that convey grammatical distinctions without changing the core meaning of the term is known as inflection. As a result, morphology functions as a link between phonology, syntax, and semantics. The morphemic structure of words allows for the interplay between their grammatical and lexical meanings, enabling them to both convey ideas and perform in sentences. The diverse types of morphemes,

whether they are free or bound, lexical or grammatical, root or affixal, all add to the systematic and complex architecture of English vocabulary. Linguists learn more about how meaning is created, how linguistic units evolve over time, and how speakers employ morphological tools to create an endless array of expressions by examining the morphemic makeup of words.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Within the field of morphology, the study of lexical and grammatical meaning has been thoroughly investigated in linguistic research, establishing it as a key theme in structural linguistics, generative grammar, and contemporary cognitive methodologies. Early foundational work by linguists like Ferdinand de Saussure highlighted the duality of linguistic signs, differentiating between the relational grammatical functions of words and their conceptual content. The categorization of morphemes and the methodical examination of word structure were greatly aided by subsequent structuralist researchers like Bloomfield and Hockett. Their study established the foundation for recognizing free and bound morphemes, derivational and inflectional suffixes, as well as root structures that define the morphemic makeup of the English language. These ideas have served as the basis for more modern linguistic theories that explore the interaction between meaning and form. In the field of generative linguistics, scholars like Chomsky, Halle, and Aronoff studied morphology as a component of the mental grammar, emphasizing the cognitive mechanisms that produce complex words from morphemes. According to their research, the mind lexicon uses structured morphological rules to encode both lexical and grammatical meaning. By elucidating the role of conceptual meaning, metaphorical extension, and categorization in the formation of lexical morphemes, cognitive linguists broadened the scope of analysis even more. By comparing English with more synthetic or agglutinative languages, research in typology and comparative linguistics has also improved our understanding of morphological systems, showing how English morphology, while relatively simple, performs critical functional functions.

English is identified in the literature on its morphemic structure as a language with mostly analytic tendencies, where word order, prepositions, and auxiliary verbs are commonly used to convey grammatical meaning. However, researchers emphasize that English maintains a useful system of derivational morphology, which enables speakers to produce new lexical items by compounding and affixation. The function of inflectional morphemes has also been studied extensively, with several publications pointing out that, despite their paucity, they continue to be important indicators of tense, number, plurality, and comparison. Plag, Katamba, Matthews, and Bauer have conducted thorough studies of English morphemes, covering their semantic functions, distributional characteristics, and structural behavior. These writers concur that English lexical structure and grammatical expression are based on morphemes, which allow for logical word creation and effective communication. The analysis of morphological patterns using corpus-based investigations has grown to be a key approach in modern linguistic studies. Linguists can study how morphemes behave in actual communication situations, how common certain affixes are, and how morphological processes change over time by analyzing vast datasets of real texts. These results have enhanced our knowledge of lexical productivity, semantic changes, and the distribution of grammatical signals in various English genres.

The current study employs a methodology that combines descriptive, comparative, and analytical techniques. The basic concepts of lexical and grammatical meaning are presented using the descriptive method, which also details the structural elements of English morphology. This entails analyzing the morphemic structure of current English examples without introducing or imposing outside theoretical conclusions. The comparative method facilitates the analysis of similarities and differences between different kinds of morphemes,

such as free vs. bound, lexical vs. grammatical, and derivational vs. inflectional. The research emphasizes how each category contributes to the overall structure of the English lexicon by contrasting their semantic and structural functions.

The analytical method is essential for comprehending linguistic data. It entails analyzing chosen English words into their constituent morphemes, analyzing their lexical and grammatical meanings, and outlining how these meanings combine to produce coherent word structures. To show the full range of morphological patterns in English, both simple and complicated words are given attention. Derivational processes are given particular attention since they demonstrate how new vocabulary is developed. In addition, inflectional patterns are analyzed to illustrate how English expresses grammatical categories. Examples are drawn from common dictionaries, academic linguistic materials, and corpora of contemporary English to guarantee accuracy. The method combines theoretical understanding from top linguists with a practical examination of actual language data. This combination guarantees that the study stays both scientifically sound and linguistically relevant, giving a clear understanding of how lexical and grammatical meanings operate within the morphemic structure of English.

The selected approach makes it possible to thoroughly examine the various morpheme kinds and their functions in creating meaning. It emphasizes the interaction between lexical content and grammatical structure, reiterating the value of morphology as a key element of linguistic analysis. Using comparative assessment, descriptive explanation, and analytical interpretation, this study presents a comprehensive and unbiased analysis of the process by which English words are created, the way they communicate meaning, and the role of morphemes as the language's smallest meaningful units.

RESULTS

The analysis done in this research reveals a number of important insights regarding the categorization of morphemes, lexical and grammatical meaning, and the morphemic makeup of the English language. The findings support the idea that grammatical and lexical meanings are two separate but connected elements of word semantics. The lexical meaning of a word is demonstrated to be its conceptual meaning, which is the most important connection between linguistic symbols and real-world events. The communicative worth of lexical morphemes is based on this meaning, which is quite consistent. On the other hand, grammatical meaning functions as a relational category, conveying the grammatical roles and syntactic functions of words in sentences. The research demonstrates how morphology and syntax work together to communicate linguistic connections by showing that grammatical meaning only becomes clear when a word is placed inside its structural context.

The examination of the morphemic structure of English reveals that, despite its analytical inclination, it retains a very structured morphological system. The findings suggest that the structure of English words is based on a mix of roots and affixes, each of which provides particular strata of meaning and grammar. Complex terms illustrate how bound morphemes complement or change the meaning of the root, whereas simple terms are composed of single free morphemes that have complete lexical meaning. The significance of morphemes as the smallest units of meaning and their contribution to vocabulary development and linguistic versatility is highlighted by this structural composition.

The research also demonstrates obvious differences between the kinds of morphemes used in English. The functional behavior of English words in real linguistic situations supports the division of morphemes into free and bound classes. Bound morphemes like prefixes and suffixes must be linked to roots, while free morphemes create autonomous lexical units. The analysis supports the importance of derivational morphemes, which change lexical categories or modify meaning, and which help produce new vocabulary items like adjectives from nouns or verbs from adjectives. Although they are less numerous, inflectional morphemes are crucial

for signaling grammatical classes like plurality, tense, aspect, and comparison. Their restricted yet incredibly useful nature mirrors the analytic nature of English grammar and shows how English depends on morphology to provide syntactic clarity.

The effectiveness of English word formation processes is also demonstrated through the study of linguistic data. Derivation is demonstrated to be one of the most dynamic mechanisms, enabling speakers to produce new meaningful units via the use of affixes. Combining free morphemes into new lexical items with unified meanings, compounding appears as yet another productive approach. These results support current linguistic theories that see English vocabulary as an open, growing system where morphological processes continue to play a crucial role. The interaction between grammatical and lexical morphemes is shown to be essential to the structure of English words. According to the findings, grammatical morphemes provide structural information that aids understanding, while lexical morphemes bear the bulk of the semantic weight. Maintaining clarity and coherence in communication requires a balance between substance and form. In addition, the analysis shows that morphemes function in a hierarchical system, with roots serving as the semantic foundation and affixes adding or defining meaning.

The relevance of morphological analysis in modern linguistics is another important finding from the study. Using descriptive and comparative methods, morphemes are seen to provide useful information about how English conveys meaning at various levels. They highlight the systemic aspect of word development, illustrate the predictability of grammatical classes, and identify the mechanisms that drive language change. The study demonstrates that English morphology is still a vibrant and effective system that can accommodate structural regularity and linguistic inventiveness by looking at the patterns of morphemic distribution. In general, the findings of this research emphasize how crucial morphology is to comprehending the link between form and meaning in English. They show that morphemes are the basic components of vocabulary, having a significant influence on both lexical meaning and grammatical connections. These results support the idea that a thorough knowledge of English linguistic organization requires the investigation of morphemic structure.

Conclusion

The complex and methodical way that English words are created and express their meaning is shown through the study of lexical and grammatical meaning, the morphemic structure of the language, and the categorization of morphemes. The study shows that grammatical and lexical meanings, while serving separate purposes, contribute to the semantic and structural underpinnings of language communication. The conceptual core of a word is defined by its lexical meaning, which links it to things, behaviors, characteristics, or abstract ideas. Grammatical meaning, on the other hand, molds the relational elements of language by categorizing things like tense, number, aspect, and comparison. This interaction guarantees that words have meaning not only by themselves but also that they operate logically inside bigger syntactic structures.

The study of the morphemic makeup of English supports the conclusion that, despite its comparatively analytic nature, English has a well-structured morphological system. According to words, they are made up of significant components, or morphemes, that play distinct functions in creating lexical content and grammatical structure. Bound morphemes, which include inflectional and derivational affixes, change or perfect meaning and aid in the language's grammatical structure, while free morphemes function as autonomous carriers of meaning. The difference between roots and affixes further illustrates the methodical way in which English develops a vast vocabulary via morphological processes.

By categorizing morphemes into different classes, we can gain a better understanding of how they work in the language. Derivational morphemes are crucial for vocabulary growth since they allow for the creation of new words and the conversion of grammatical categories.

Despite their small number, inflectional morphemes are essential for conveying grammatical categories and maintaining structural consistency throughout sentences. The research also demonstrates that compounding and derivation continue to be very productive processes, highlighting the changing and dynamic character of English morphology.

In summary, the study shows that morphology has a significant impact on the lexical and grammatical aspects of English. The smallest yet most important units of linguistic meaning are morphemes, which facilitate exact semantic expression and effective grammatical structure. The structure of English is better understood when one comprehends the nature, function, and interaction of morphemes, which in turn improves the analysis of how meaning is encoded in language. The central role of morphology in linguistic theory is reinforced by this thorough investigation, which also illustrates its significance for language teaching, analysis, and description.

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