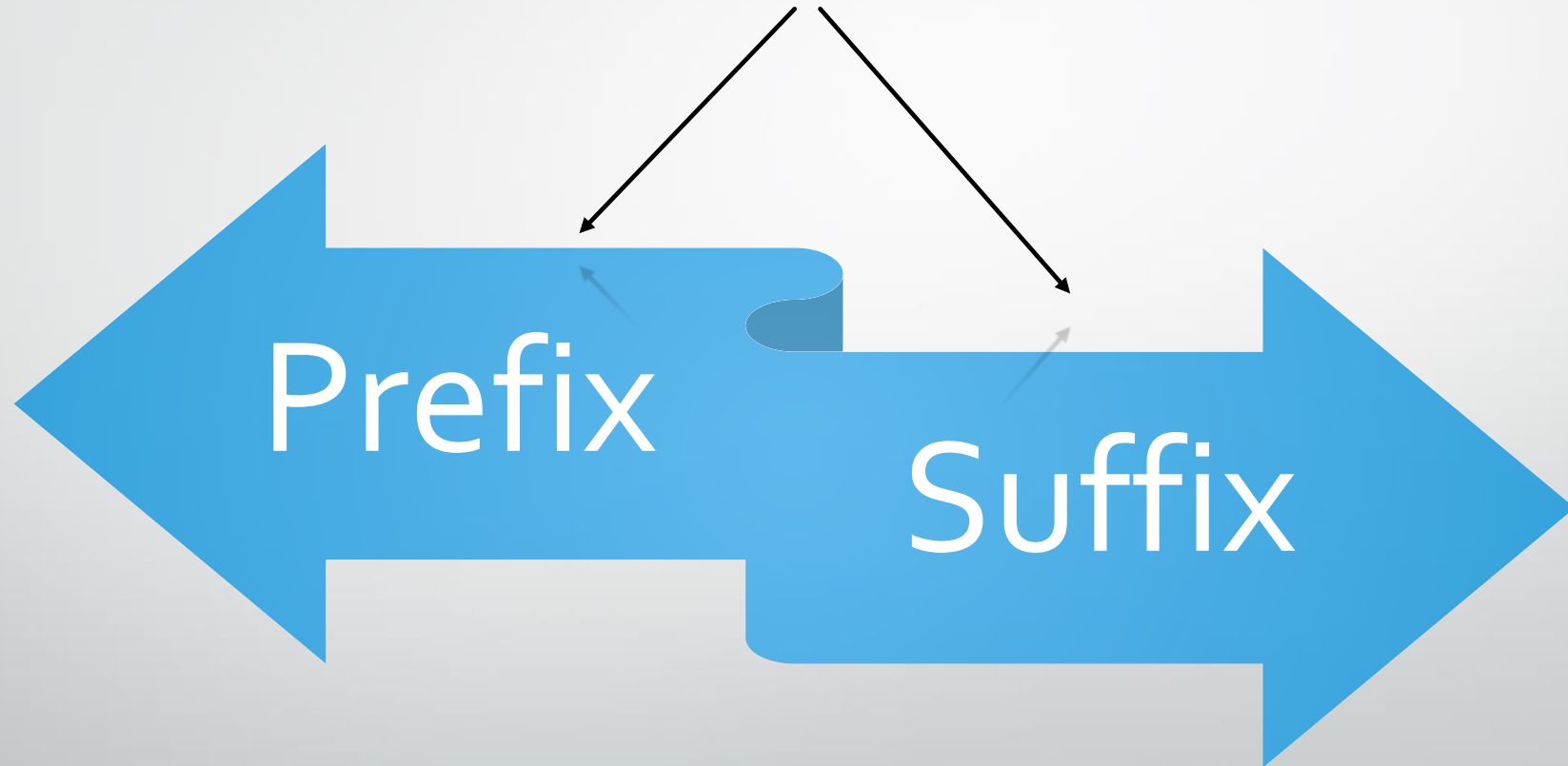# SPAU133

Lecture 16/ Morphology

# What is a morpheme?

- A morpheme is the smallest linguistic unit with a meaning (eg. The morpheme *cat*) or grammatical function (eg. The morpheme *-ed*)
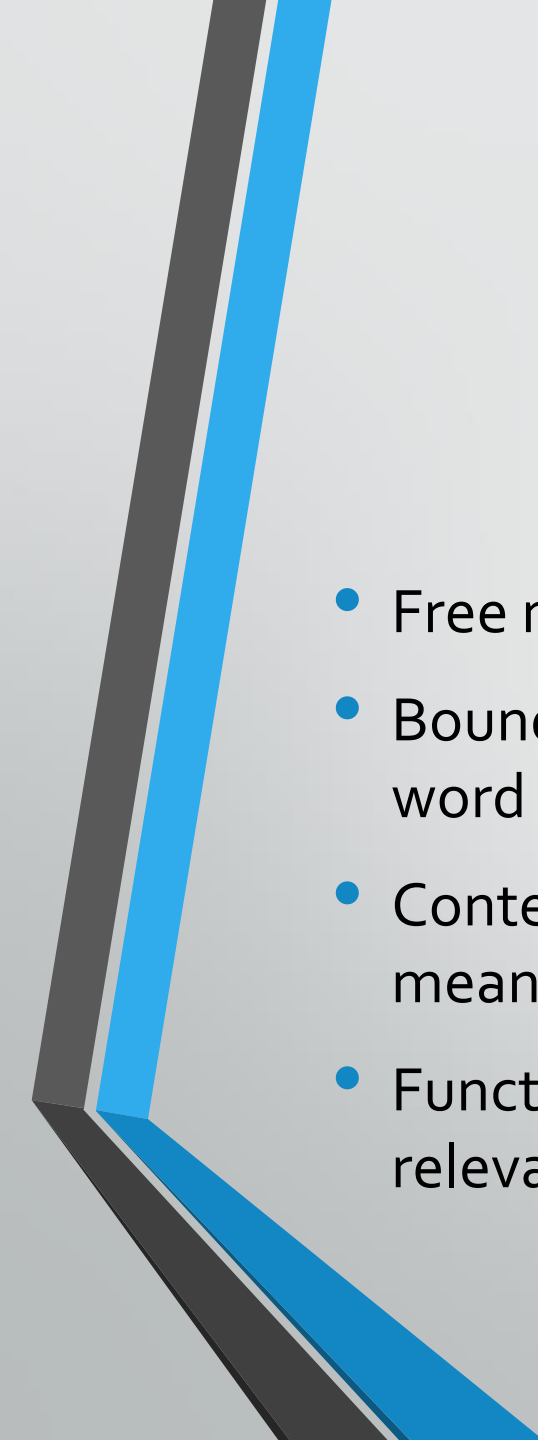
# Classifying Elements in Morphology

(4) Possible kinds of morphemes

|  | **Content Morphemes** | **Function Morphemes** |
|---|---|---|
| **Free Morphemes** | • Content words:<br>  • Nouns<br>  • Verbs<br>  • Adjectives<br>  • Adverbs | • Function words:<br>  • Determiners<br>  • Prepositions<br>  • Pronouns<br>  • Conjunctions |
| **Bound Morphemes** | • Bound roots<br>• Derivational affixes | • Inflectional affixes |

- Free morphemes: morphemes that can be used all by themselves.

- Bound morphemes: morphemes that have to be attached to a stem of some word in order to be used.

- Content morphemes: morphemes that are said to have more concrete meaning than function morphemes.

- Function morphemes: morphemes that contain primarily grammatically relevant information.

(5) A flowchart for identifying the status of morphemes

# Morphological Processes
# 1. Compounding

- It is the process of forming new words not through affixes but from two or more independent words. These words can be free morphemes, words derived by affixation, or words formed from compounding themselves.

(6) Examples of English compounds

| Compounding of Free Morphemes | Compounding of Affixed Words | Compounding of Compounded Words |
| --- | --- | --- |
| girlfriend | air-conditioner | lifeguard chair |
| blackbird | ironing board | aircraft carrier |
| textbook | watch-maker | life-insurance salesman |

German is one of the many other languages that use compounding to form new words. Some examples of the numerous compounds in German are listed in (10).

(10)

| Compound | Meaning | Meanings of Individual Morphemes |
|---|---|---|
| Muttersprache | 'native language' | < mother language |
| Schreibtisch | 'desk' | < write table |
| stehenbleiben | 'stand (still)' | < stand remain |
| Wunderkind | 'child prodigy' | < miracle child |
| Parkzeitüberschreitung | 'exceeding of the amount of time one is allowed to park' | < park time exceedance |

# 2. Reduplication

- It is a process of forming new words by doubling either an entire free morpheme (total reduplication) or part of it (partial reduplication)

Indonesian uses total reduplication as an inflectional process to form the plurals of nouns:

(14) **Singular**

| | | **Plural** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| rumah | 'house' | rumahrumah | 'houses' |
| ibu | 'mother' | ibuibu | 'mothers' |
| lalat | 'fly' | lalatlalat | 'flies' |

Tagalog uses partial reduplication for both inflection and derivation. For example, partial reduplication is used inflectionally to indicate the future tense of verbs:

(15)  **Verb Stem**                          **Future Tense**
      bili          'buy'                    bibili        'will buy'
      kain          'eat'                    kakain        'will eat'
      pasok         'enter'                  papasok       'will enter'

(16) **Occupation**    **Morphemes**    *Verb*

[mamimili]    'buyer'    < /maŋ+bi+bili/    [bili]    'buy'

[manunulat]    'writer'    < /maŋ+su+sulat/    [sulat]    'write'

[maŋʔiʔisda]    'fisherman'    < /maŋ+ʔi+ʔisda/    [ʔisda]    'fish'

# 3.Alternation

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| m<u>a</u>n | m<u>e</u>n | [æ] | ~ [ɛ] ([æ] alternates with [ɛ] in these forms) |
| w<u>o</u>man | w<u>o</u>men | [ʊ] | ~ [ɪ] |
| g<u>oo</u>se | g<u>ee</u>se | [u] | ~ [i] |
| f<u>oo</u>t | f<u>ee</u>t | [ʊ] | ~ [i] |

(18) The usual pattern of past and past participle formation is to add an affix, but some verbs show an internal alternation:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ring | rang | rung | [ɪ]~[æ]~[ʌ] |
| drink | drank | drunk | |
| swim | swam | swum | |
| feed | fed | fed | [i]~[ɛ]~[ɛ] |
| hold | held | held | [oʊ]~[ɛ]~[ɛ] |

(20)  **Nouns**                          **Verbs**

strife (n)    [stɹaɪf]        strive (v)    [stɹaɪv]
teeth (n)     [tiθ]           teethe (v)    [tið]
breath (n)    [bɾɛθ]          breathe (v)   [bɾið]
use (n)       [jus]           use (v)       [juz]

# Hebrew example:

(21) **Verbs**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| [limed] | 'he taught' | |
| [sijem] | 'he finished' | |
| [tijel] | 'he traveled' | |
| [bikeɣ] | 'he visited' | |
| [dibeɣ] | 'he spoke' | |

**Nouns**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| [limud] | 'lesson' | |
| [sijum] | 'end' | |
| [tijul] | 'trip' | |
| [bikuɣ] | 'visit (noun)' | |
| [dibuɣ] | 'speech' | |

# Suppletion

Languages that employ morphological processes to form words will usually have a regular, productive way of doing so according to one or more of the processes discussed above. They might also have some smaller classes of words that are irregular because they mark the same morphological distinction by another of these processes. Sometimes, however, a root will have one or more inflected forms phonetically unrelated to the shape of the root. This completely irregular situation is called **suppletion.**

(22) **Present** | | **Past** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| [ɪz] | is | [wʌz] | was |
| [goʊ] | go | [wɛnt] | went |

(23) **Adj** | | **Comparative** | | **Superlative** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [gʊd] | good | [bɛɹ] | better | [bɛst] | best |
| [bæd] | bad | [wɹs] | worse | [wɹst] | worst |

(24) **Singular**                            **Plural**

[marʔat]        'woman'                 [nisa:ʔ]       'women'

(25) **Singular**                            **Plural**

[dira:sat]       '(a) study'             [dira:sa:t]     'studies'

[harakat]       'movement'         [haraka:t]     'movements'