



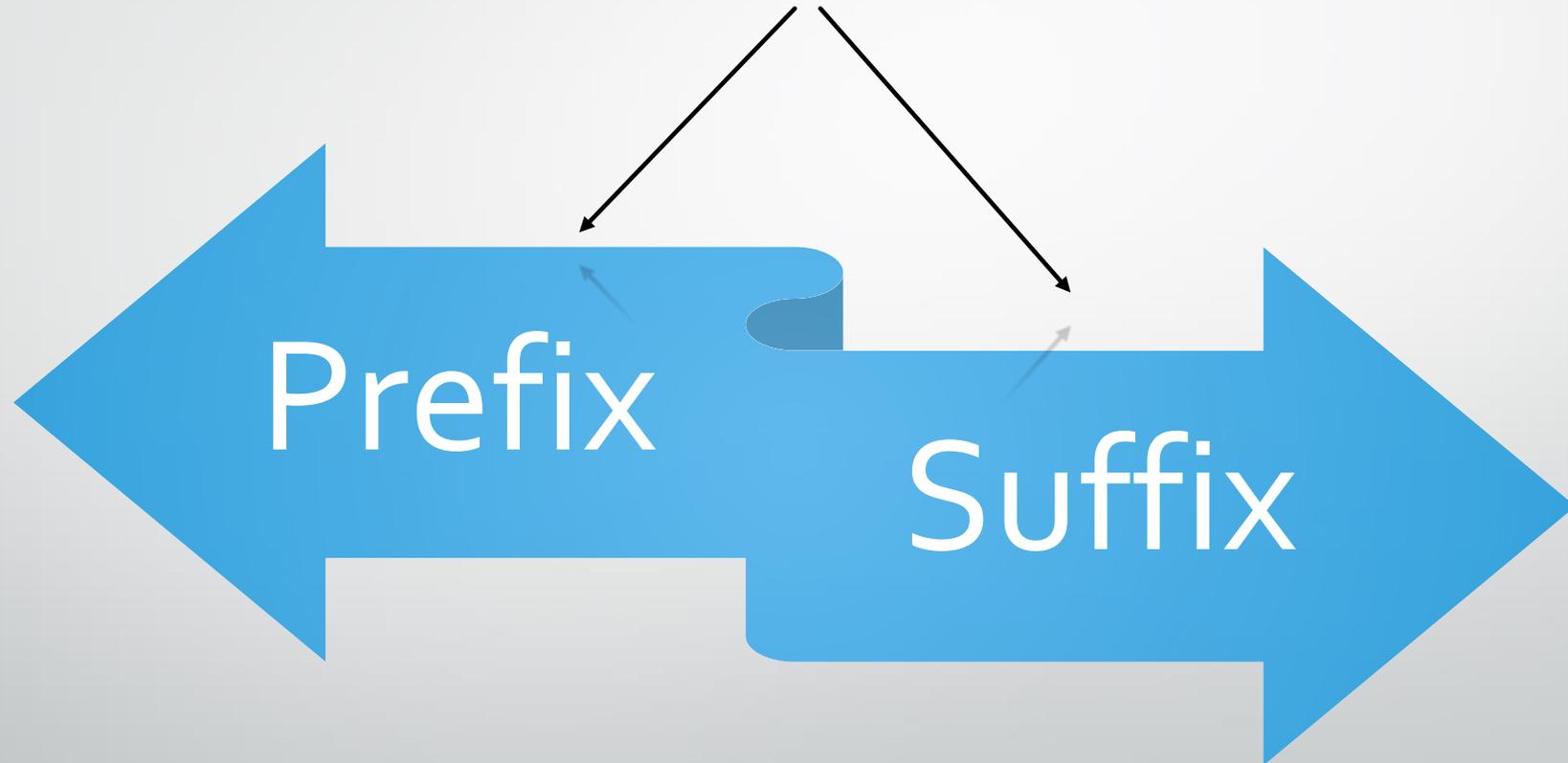
SPAU133

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*)

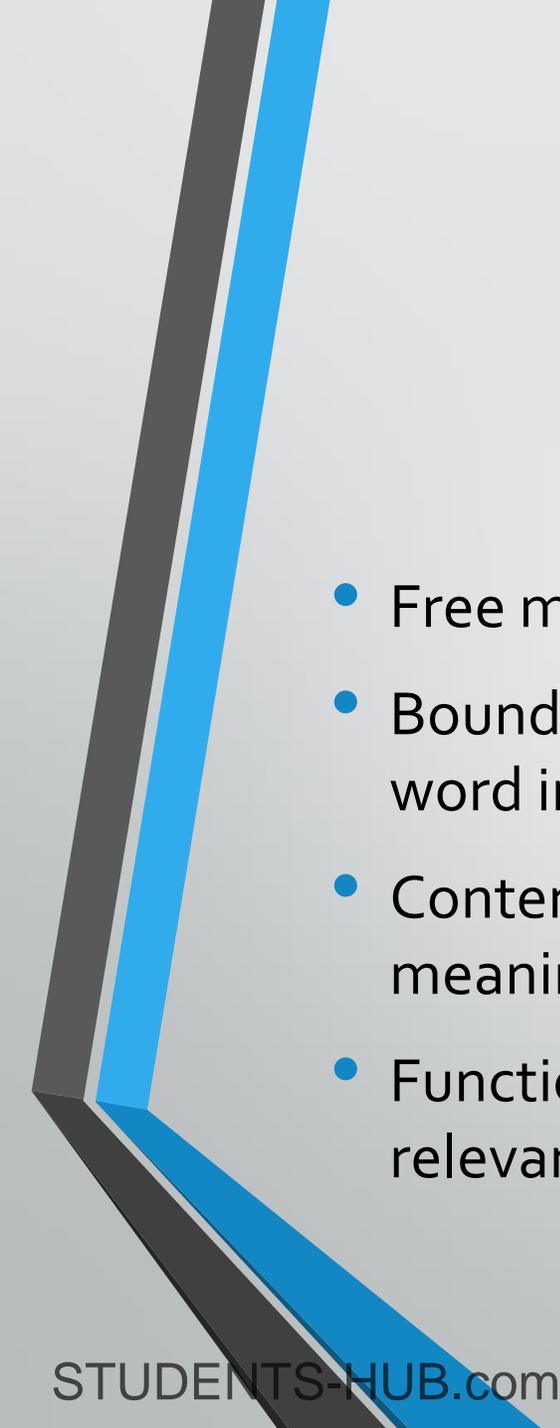
Affixes



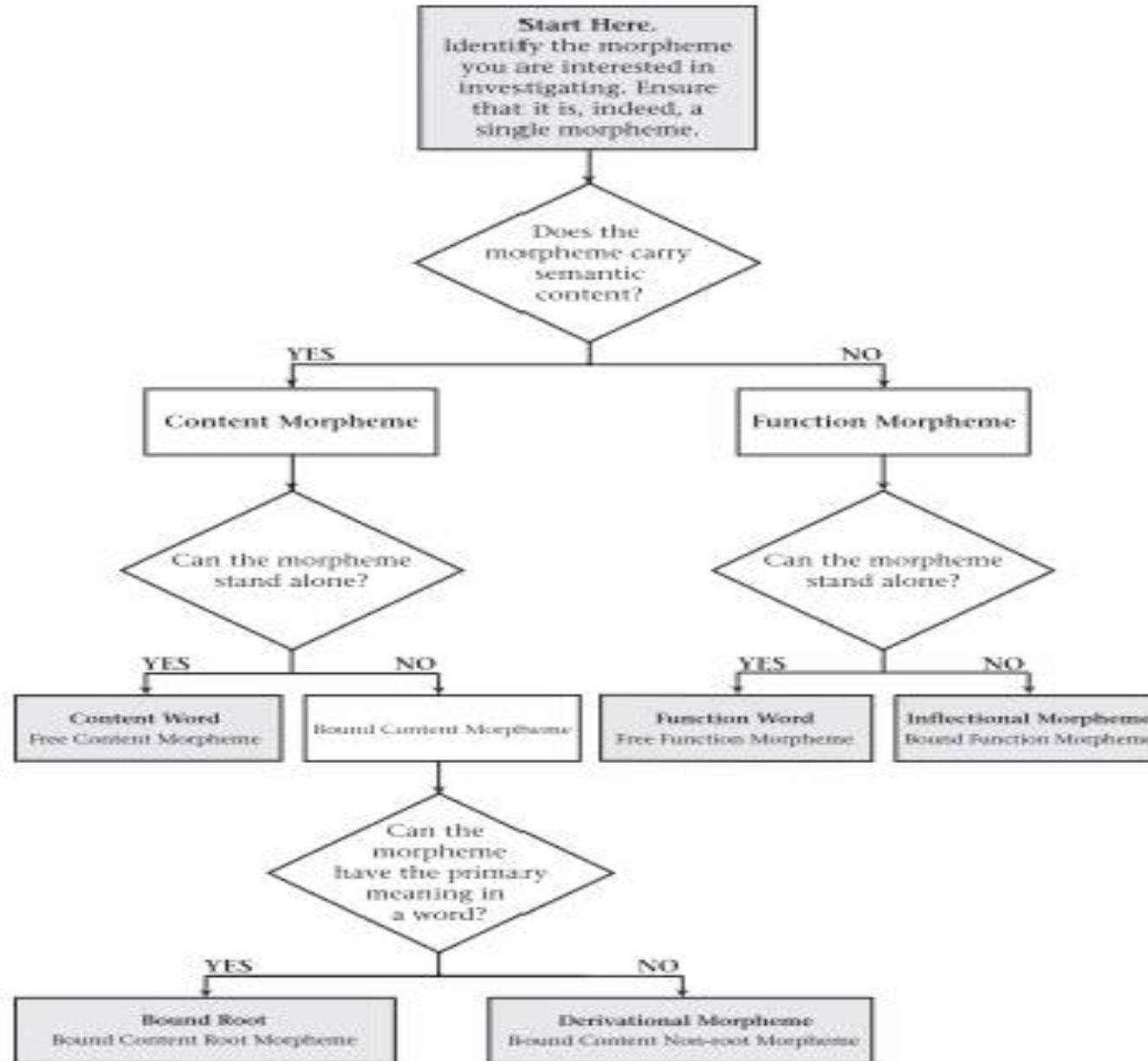
Classifying Elements in Morphology

(4) Possible kinds of morphemes

	Content Morphemes	Function Morphemes
Free Morphemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Content words:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nouns• Verbs• Adjectives• Adverbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Function words:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determiners• Prepositions• Pronouns• Conjunctions
Bound Morphemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bound roots• Derivational affixes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inflectional affixes

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- 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

Muttersprache

Schreibtisch

stehenbleiben

Wunderkind

Parkzeitüberschreitung

Meaning

'native language'

'desk'

'stand (still)'

'child prodigy'

'exceeding of the amount of
time one is allowed to park'

*Meanings of Individual
Morphemes*

< mother language

< write table

< stand remain

< miracle child

< 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*

rumah

'house'

ibu

'mother'

lalat

'fly'

Plural

rumahrumah

'houses'

ibuibu

'mothers'

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) <i>Verb Stem</i>		<i>Future Tense</i>	
bili	'buy'	bibili	'will buy'
kain	'eat'	kakain	'will eat'
pasok	'enter'	papasok	'will enter'

(16) <i>Occupation</i>	<i>Morphemes</i>	<i>Verb</i>		
[mamimili]	'buyer'	< /maŋ+bi+bili/	[bili]	'buy'
[manunulat]	'writer'	< /maŋ+su+sulat/	[sulat]	'write'
[maŋʔiʔisda]	'fisherman'	< /maŋ+ʔi+ʔisda/	[ʔisda]	'fish'

3. Alternation

man	men	[æ]	~ [ɛ] ([æ] alternates with [ɛ] in these forms)
woman	women	[ʊ]	~ [ɪ]
goose	geese	[u]	~ [i]
foot	feet	[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*

strife (n) [stɹaɪf]

teeth (n) [tiθ]

breath (n) [brɛθ]

use (n) [juːs]

Verbs

strive (v) [stɹaɪv]

teethe (v) [tið]

breathe (v) [brið]

use (v) [juːz]

Hebrew example:

(21) *Verbs*

[limed]	'he taught'
[sijem]	'he finished'
[tijel]	'he traveled'
[bikey]	'he visited'
[dibey]	'he spoke'

Nouns

[limud]	'lesson'
[sijum]	'end'
[tijul]	'trip'
[bikuy]	'visit (noun)'
[dibuy]	'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***

[ɪz] is

[gəʊ] go

Past

[wɒz] was

[wɛnt] went

(23) ***Adj***

[gʊd] good

[bæd] bad

Comparative

[bɛɹ.ɪ] better

[wɜːs] worse

Superlative

[bɛst] best

[wɜːst] worst

(24) *Singular*
[marʔat] 'woman'

Plural
[nisa:ʔ] 'women'

(25) *Singular*
[dira:sat] '(a) study'
[harakat] 'movement'

Plural
[dira:sat] 'studies'
[haraka:t] 'movements'