Engl.236 — Introduction to Linguistics

Morphology

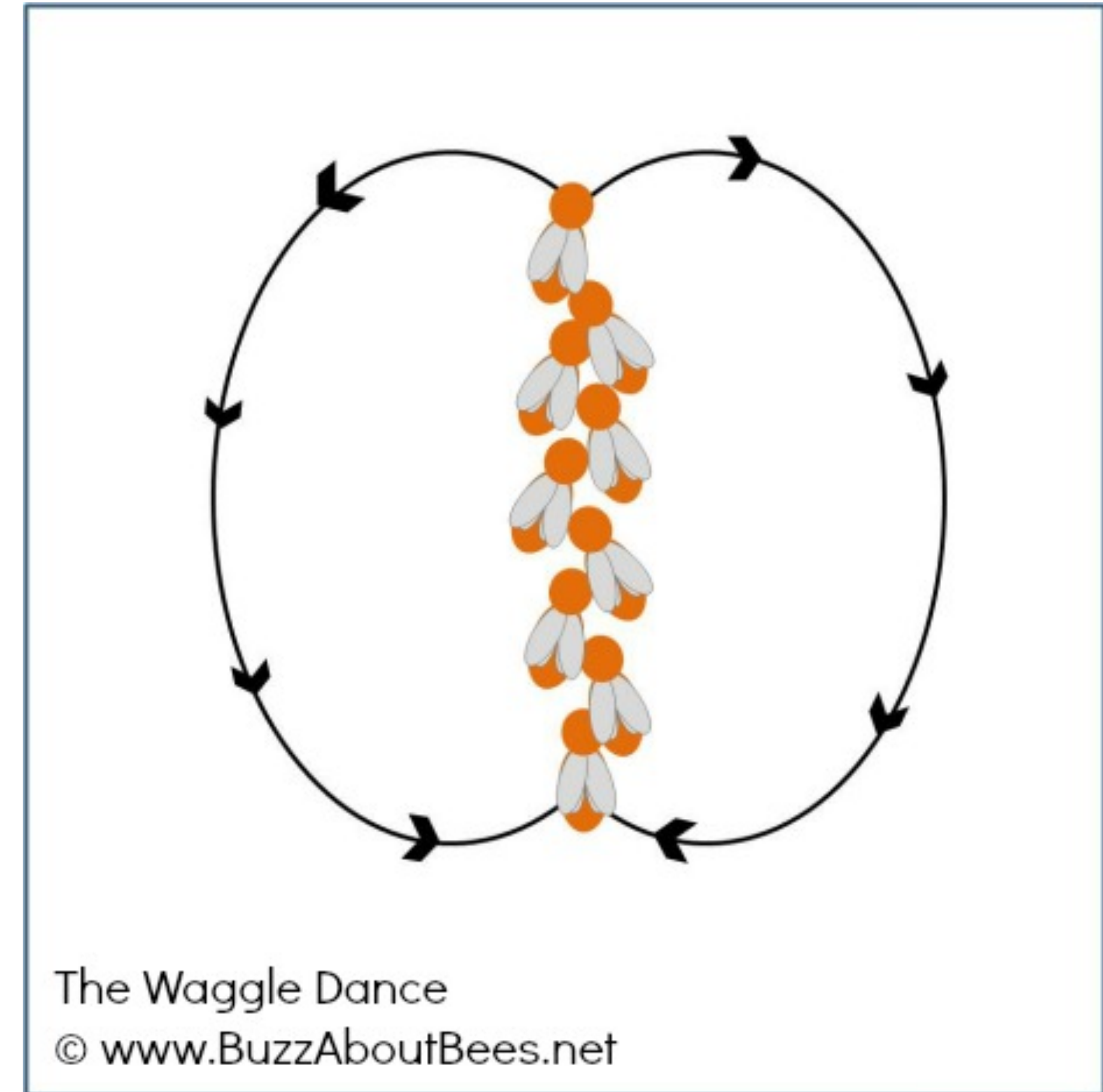**July 2024**

Language and animal communication

- Traditionally, there are several distinctive features that are thought to differentiate language from animal communication.

  - Those most widely cited are by Charles Hockett, proposed in a series of articles in the 1950s and 1960s.

Language and animal communication

- Discreteness:

  - Language is made up of smaller, meaningless parts that are combined into meaningful parts.

    - Pot -> <p> <o> <t>

    - Top -> <t> <o> <p>

Language and animal communication

- Discreteness:

  - Bee dance.

    - Figure eight

    - Wag their tail (speed)

    - Repetition of the movements

    - Limited discreetness

The Waggle Dance
© www.BuzzAboutBees.net

Language and animal communication

- Displacement:

  - Ability to talk about something not in the here-and-now.

    - Ability to talk about the future.

    - Ability to talk about the past.

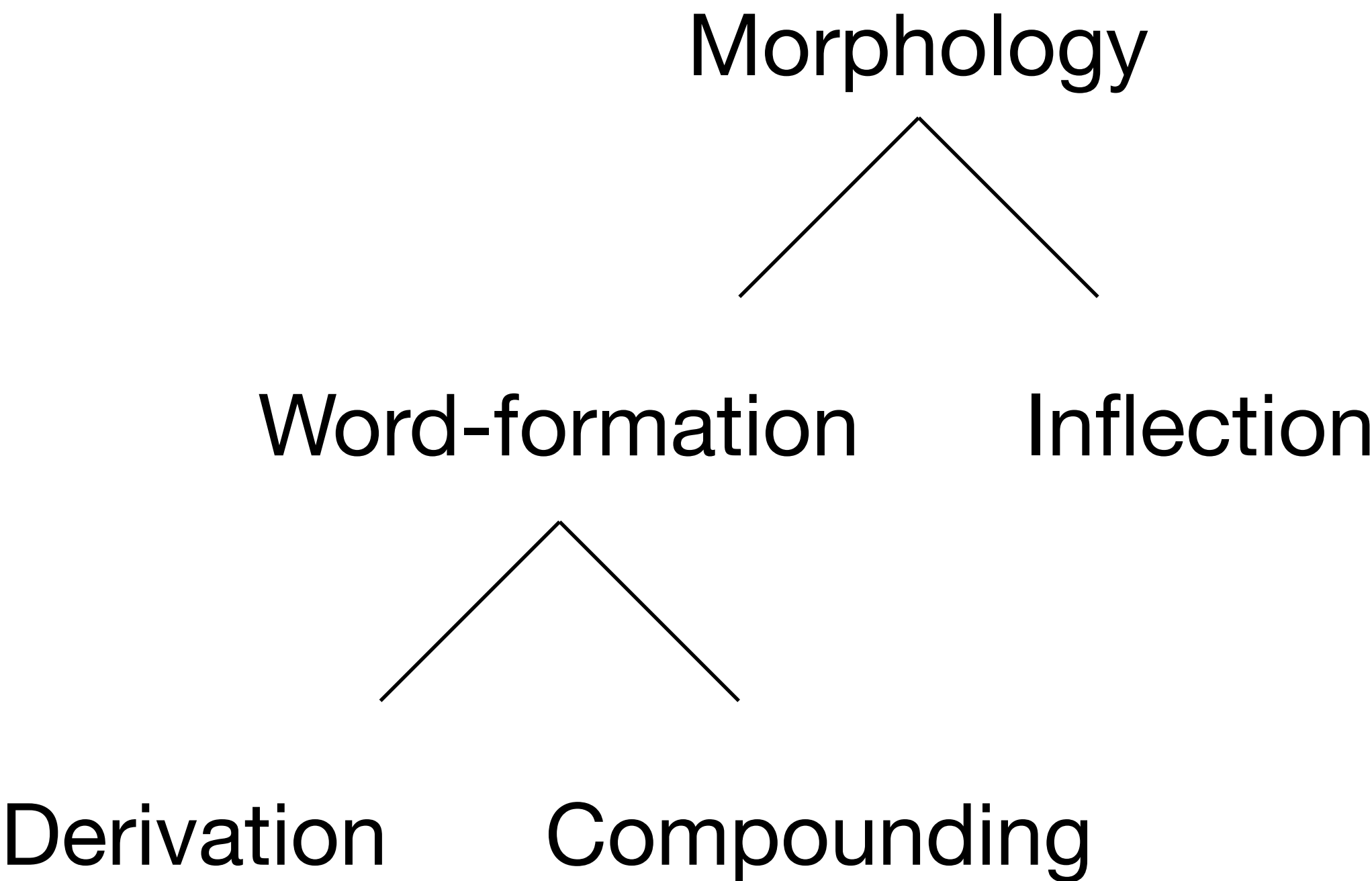   - Ability to talk about the imaginary.

Language and animal communication

- More design features:

  - Vocal-auditory channel

  - Cultural tranmission

  - Reflexivity

  - Productivity

Morphology

- Our main topic for this chapter is morphology.

  - The study of the grammatical structure of words and their categories.

    - By categories, we mean here word classes: noun, verb, adverb, etc.

  - Morphology is taken to include both the study of inflection and word-formation.

Morphology

Morphology

Word-formation   Inflection

Derivation   Compounding

Morphology

- So what about this "grammatical structure" of words?

  - Observe the following examples:

    - Happiness

    - Restructure

    - Denaturalization

      - In each of these examples, we can "deconstruct" the forms into smaller elements.

Morphology

- So what about this "grammatical structure" of words?

  - Observe the following examples:

    - Happiness = Happy + -ness -> Noun

    - Restructure = Re- + structure -> Do again

    - Denaturalization = De- natural -ize - ation

      - In each of these examples, we can "deconstruct" the forms into smaller elements.

Morphology

- So what about this "grammatical structure" of words?

  - Observe the following examples:

    - Happiness = Happy + -ness

    - Restructure = Re- + structure

    - Denaturalization = De- natural -ize - ation

      - Moreover, in many cases, we can also understand that a specific element creates a new word or adds a certain meaning.

      - So the ending -ness creates nouns: happiness, loneliness; usefulness

Morphology

- So what about this "grammatical structure" of words?

  - Observe the following examples:

    - Happiness = Happy + -ness (Two morphemes)

    - Restructure = Re- + structure (Two morphemes)

    - Denaturalization = De- natural -ize - ation (Four morpheme)

      - These elements are called morphemes.

        - Morphemes can be defined as the smallest meaningful units of a word.

        - Meaningful here means both grammatical and lexical meaning.

        - Grammatical: He walks; they walk; he is walking

        - Lexical: prophecy; prophesize.

          - Happiness; unhappiness

Morphology

- So what about this "grammatical structure" of words?

  - Observe the following examples:

    - Happiness = "Happy" + "-ness"

    - She was happy.

    - *She was -ness

    - Restructure = Re- + structure

    - Denaturalization = De- natural -ize - ation

      - We can start categorizing morphemes by whether they can "stand on their own" or not.

      - Happy is a morpheme; it can't be deconstructed into smaller constituents.

      - -ness is a morpheme; it can't be deconstructed into smaller constituents.

Morphology

- So what about this "grammatical structure" of words?

  - Observe the following examples:

    - Happiness = Happy + -ness

    - Restructure = Re- + structure

    - Denaturalization = De- natural -ize - ation

      - We can start categorizing morphemes by whether they can "stand on their own" or not.

      - Happy is a free morpheme; it can stand on its own.

      - -ness is a bound morpheme; it needs to be attached to a base/root/stem.

Morphology

- So what about this "grammatical structure" of words?

  - Examples of free morphemes:

    - Free; want; just; happy; the; an; do

  - Examples of bound morphemes:

    - Un-; -ness; inter-; -ation; -ee

    - **Un**happy; happi**ness**; **inter**view; coloniz**ation**; employ**ee**

Morphology

- So what about this "grammatical structure" of words?

  - Bound morphemes are found attached to other morphemes.

    - These bound morphemes are called affixes.

    - A prefix is a bound morpheme attached to the beginning of the other morpheme.

      - Unhappy = Un- + happy

    - A suffix is a bound morpheme attached to the end of the other morpheme.

      - Happiness = Happy + -ness

    - You can't add too affixes together without a root/base

      - *Un-ness

      - *ize-ation

Morphology

- The central element of a derivation is the root/base

  - This is the element to which affixes attach.

  - Simply put, a root is a base that cannot be deconstructed any further.

  - E.g: Colonialize

    - Colonial + -ize, where colonial is a base because it can be further deconstructed into colony + -al

      - In colonial, colony is a root, because it cannot be further analyzed.

        - [Colony (root) + al (suffix)] -> Base + -ize = Colonialize

Morphology

- Root: Colony (free morpheme)

  - Colony (root) + -al (suffix) -> Colonial (adj)

    - Colonial (base) + -ize -> Colonialize (verb)

- E.g: Colonialize

  - Colonial + -ize, where colonial is a base because it can be further deconstructed into colony + -al

    - In colonial, colony is a root, because it cannot be further analyzed.

      - [Colony (root) + al (suffix)] -> Base + -ize = Colonialize

Morphology

- Bound root:

  - circulate = circul + -ate (verb)

  - circulation = circul + -ation (noun)

  - circulatory = circul+ tory (adjective)

  - circular = circul + ar (adjective)

  - Differentiation = Differentiate + -ation (noun)

Morphology

- Bound root:

  - Perceive: -ceive

  - Receive: -ceive

  - Deceive: -ceive

  - Conceive: -ceive

Morphology

- Derivation (affixation)

  - Colony

    - -ize : colonize (verb)

    - -al : colonial (adjective)

    - -ation: colonization (noun)

  - Try

    - Re- : retry

    - Un- : unhappy; unproductive.

  - Unproductive

  - Un-

  - Produce

  - -tive

  - Productive: (Frech: productif)

  - Un- + productive = Unproductive