

LINGUIST 168 Introduction to Linguistic Typology

LECTURE 11: MORPHOLOGICAL TYPOLOGY

Ksenia Ershova

May 3, 2021

Plan for today

- phonological typology: stress
- **morphological typology**
 - › discussion questions
 - › object of study
 - › dimensions of cross-linguistic variation

Dimensions of morphological typology

Bound morphemes:

- What types of bound morphemes?



- How much allomorphy (different forms of same morpheme)?



Dimensions of morphological typology

Free versus bound morphemes:

- Does a language tend to use free or bound morphemes?



- How many morphemes tend to appear together in a word?



Dimensions of morphological typology

How much information can be included in a morpheme?



Dimensions of morphological typology

Bound morphemes:

- What types of bound morphemes?

prefixing suffixing infixing suprafixing introfixing

- How much allomorphy (different forms of same morpheme)?

flexive



nonflexive

a lot of allomorphy

no allomorphy

Linear bound morphemes

- **prefixes** precede the root

pre-fixes

suf- fixes

- **suffixes** follow the root

suffix-es

suffix-at-ion

Linear bound morphemes

- **infixes** are inserted into the root

English “expletive infixation”

*abso-**friggin**-lutely*

*fan-**bloody**-tastic*

Katu (Mon-Khmer)*

gap ‘to cut’

*g-**an**-ap* ‘scissors’

panh ‘to shoot’

*p-**an**-anh* ‘crossbow’

piih ‘to sweep’

*p-**an**-iih* ‘broom’

*Moravcsik 2013. Introducing language typology. CUP.

Linear bound morphemes

- **circumfixes** combination of prefix + suffix

Russian

ʒdatʲ ‘to wait’

do-ʒdatʲ-sʲa ‘to wait for something with success’

up.to-wait.INF-REFL

***do-ʒdatʲ**

*ʒdatʲ-**sʲa**

“Discontinuous” morphemes imply prefixes/suffixes

- There are no languages that employ only infixes or only circumfixes.

If a language has infixes and/or circumfixes, it also has prefixes and/or suffixes.¹

- infixes are often analyzed as a subtype of prefix/suffix²
- circumfixes are usually a combination of independently used prefix + suffix

Russian

do-3datⁱ-s^{ja} ‘to wait for something with success’

do-nⁱestⁱ ‘to successfully carry to destination’

mitⁱ-s^{ja} ‘to wash oneself’

¹Greenberg, J. H. (Ed.). (1966). *Universals of language* (2nd ed.). M.I.T. Press.

²Yu, Alan C.L. (2007) A natural history of infixation. OUP.

Infixes as prefixes or affixes

- Typologically, infixes are likely to be edge-oriented

Distribution of edge-oriented and prominence-driven infixes

	Fixed	RED	Total	
Edge-oriented	94	43	137	89%
Prominence-driven	6	11	17	
Total			154	

Example: phonologically conditioned infixation

Tagalog (Austronesian > Philippine):

um (voice marker)

+ V-initial stem



prefix

íbig

um-íbig

‘wish’

akyat

um-akyat

‘turn sour’

asim

um-asim

‘go home’

Motivations?

+ C-initial stem



infix

bilí

b-um-ilí

‘buy’

paroón

p-um-aroón

‘go’

kuha

k-um-uha

‘get’

Activity

Toba Batak is a related language to Tagalog and has a similar **um** affix.

1. Define the conditions when **um** is a prefix and when it is an infix.
2. Identify the rules for how **um** looks on the surface.
3. What could be the motivations for the observed patterns?

SET 1

deŋgán	d- um -éŋgan	‘good’
tíbbo	t- um -íbbo	‘tall’
d̄z̄óu	d̄z̄- um -óu	‘call’
s̄ols̄əl	s- um -óls̄əl	‘regret’
r̄óá	r- um -óá	‘ugly’
gokan	g- um -okán	‘full’
lás	l- um -ás	‘hot’

SET 2

padditá	up -paddíta	‘preach’
bege	ub -bége	‘hear’
maɔl	um -máɔl	‘difficult’
neəŋ	un -néəŋ	‘light’
nali	uŋ -ŋáli	‘cold/colder’
ulí	umm -úli	‘beautiful’
arga	umm -árga	‘expensive’
elat	umm -elat	‘envious’