
Morphology I -- Solution

1. Morphological components

Segment the following words into root and derivational affix(es). Identify the grammatical category of the root, the affix(es) and the derived word. Are any of the affixes inflectional? Is any of the affix/root an allomorph of its base form?

Example: orderliness [[[order]_N li]_A ness]_N

1. absorbent      [[[absorb]_V ent]_A
2. defamation     [[[defam]_V ation]_N
3. freedom        [[[free]_A dom]_N
4. purify         [[[pur]_A ify]_V
5. arrival        [[[arriv]_V al]_A
6. employee       [[[empty]_V ee]_N
7. generative     [[[generat]_V ive]_A
8. motorizes      [[[motor]_N ize]_V s]_V
9. childish       [[[child]_N ish]_A
10. employment    [[[employ]_V ment]_N
11. Roman         [[[Rom]_N an]_A/N
12. Vietnamese    [[[Vietnam]_N ese]_A/N
13. capitalizers  [[[capital]_A ize]_V er]_N s]_N
14. lengthen      [[[leng]_A th]_N en]_V
15. employers     [[[employ]_V er]_N s]_N
16. fastest       [[[fast]_A est]_A
17. digestion     [[[digest]_V ion]_N
18. encircle      [en [circle]_N]_V
19. Protestant    [[[Protest]_V ant]_N
20. unaware       [un [aware]_A]_A

Inflectional affixes:
motorize--s
capitalizer--s
employer--s

Allomorphy:
purify – pur/pure
arrive – arriv/arrive
generative – generat/generate
lengthen -- long/leng
2. Michoacan Aztec morphology

Examine the following words from Michoacan Aztec, a language of Mexico, and answer the questions that follow.

1. nokali  
   my house
2. nokalimes  
   my houses
3. mokali  
   your house
4. ikali  
   his house
5. nopelo  
   my dog
6. mopelo  
   your dog
7. mopolomes  
   your dogs
8. ikwahmili  
   his cornfield
9. nokwahmili  
   my cornfield
10. mokwahmili  
    your cornfield

Give the Michoacan morphemes for the following:
- house  kali
- dog  pelo
- cornfield  kwahmili
- plural marker -mes
- my  no-
- his  i-
- your  mo-

What is the English translation for the Michoacan word ipelo?  
his dog

How would you say his cornfield in Michoacan?  
ikwahmilimes

3. Sierra Popoluca morphology

Sierra Popoluca is a Mixe-Zoquen language spoken in Veracruz State, Mexico. [e:] stands for a long [e] sound. The symbol [ñ] represents a sound like n, formed further back in the mouth (just like Spanish ñ).

There is one slight twist in this problem. Hint: What’s special about the morpheme that marks the plural of sheep in English? The past tense of hit and put?

1. miñpa  
   he comes
2. miñum  
   he came
3. miñyahpa  
   they come
4. miñyahum  
   they came
5. miñumtyim  
   he also came
6. miñyahumtyim  
   they also came
7. se:tpa  
   he returns
8. se:tyahpa  
   they return
9. se:tyahum  
   they returned
10. se:tpanam  
    he still returns
11. se:tpatyim  
    he also returns
12. se:tyahpanam  
    they still return
Give the Sierra Popoluca morphemes for the following:

- come  
  \(-\text{mi}\text{n}-\)
- still  
  \(-\text{nam}\)
- return  
  \(-\text{se}:t-\)
- they  
  \(-\text{yah}-\)
- past tense  
  \(-\text{um}\)
- also  
  \(-\text{tyim}\)
- he  
  \(\text{null morpheme}\)
- present tense  
  \(-\text{pa}\)

What is the Sierra Popoluca equivalent of the following?

- they still come  
  \(\text{mi}\text{n}\text{yahpanam}\)
- he returned  
  \(\text{se}:\text{tum}\)

Give the English equivalent for the following:

- se:tyahuntyim  
  \(\text{they also returned}\)
- mi\text{n}umnam  
  \(\text{he still came}\)