Study guide – Exam 1 – Morphology

Exam: Wednesday, February 28

The exam will have an in-class portion and a take-home portion; the take-home portion will be due in class (or by class time, if you aren’t in class) on Friday, March 2. You are welcome to use any resources you like on the take-home portion, though the normal rules of academic honesty apply.

You may bring a note sheet (two sides of a piece of paper) to the in-class portion of the exam; see the syllabus for details about what can be on your note sheet.

If you’re sick, or some horrible disaster befalls you such that you can’t take the exam at class time, please let me know ASAP, ideally before class time, and we can arrange for a makeup. If you miss the exam in class, you’ll need to provide documentation of the reason for your absence.

Be able to…

• …look at a set of words and find the morphemes that they’re built from.
  In doing this, make sure the set of morphemes you list correctly form all of the words in the data set.

• …write a good, precise rule describing how morphemes apply to words (i.e. how to make words of a particular morphological category).
  Your rules should be extremely precise and unambiguous, and should follow the rule format set out in the text and in class.
  It’s always a good idea to test your rule (pretending to be an independent, brain-dead devil’s advocate) against the data it’s intended to account for after writing it.

• …use your rules to predict what new words in a language should look like.
  In doing this, it’s important that you follow your rule strictly and do exactly what it says. A right answer that wasn’t made using your rule won’t get full credit; a wrong answer that does follow your rule will.

• …draw trees representing the morphological structure of words.
  We haven’t done many trees for languages other than English, but you should be able to do this if you have the right information (e.g. part of speech, order of morpheme addition).
• …identify English parts of speech using structural tests.
   
   Remember that you need to accurately identify parts of speech in order to draw good
morphology trees.

• …identify properties of morphemes (free/bound, root/affix, prefix/suffix/infix, reduplication,
alломorph).

**Important things to do while reviewing:**

• Go over the three morphology homework assignments. Look at the answer keys on the
website to clarify things you got wrong.

• Read over the morphology section of the course packet.

• Do all this a day or two ahead of time, so you have a chance to check with me or others if
things aren’t clear.

• And (while this might be repetitive advice, it’s important) ask me questions! Bring questions
to class, come to my office hours, and e-mail me. I’m always happy to help.