Mechanics Part 2: The Nuts and Bolts

Morphology, Grammar

SOURCES OF THE LEXICON

- ACADEMICIZE
- MINDCLIP
- PROTO-COOL
- TALLISM
- THINGIFICATION
- UNSOMETHING
- UPPERGRAD
- OPHELIAC
- POPAGANDA
- VUJA-DE
- RESTRUCTION
- ANTICIPOINTMENT
- CRAPTASTIC

- AFFIXATION: prefixes, suffixes, infixes

- WORD CLASS CONVERSION: noun→verb; adj→noun

- COMPOUNDS: one lexeme with two roots that function as a unit

- COINAGE/NEOLOGISM

- PORTMANTEAU/BLENDS

SEMANTIC CHANGE

- EXTENSION/GENERALIZATION: a lexeme's meaning expands to include new meanings or to apply more broadly or in new contexts
  - May involve a shift in SEMANTIC FIELD
- NARROWING/SPECIALIZATION: a lexeme's range of meaning diminishes
- PEJORATION: a lexeme takes on NEGATIVE meanings or connotations
- AMELIORATION: a lexeme takes on POSITIVE meanings or connotations

Modes of semantic change can provide clues to the social forces at work in a language community

EG. the story of GAY

MORPHOLOGY

- *Morphe* (Gr. Form) + *logos* (Gr. Word)
- Branch of grammar dealing with the STRUCTURE of words

MORPHEME: smallest element of GRAMMATICAL (what the word **does**) or SEMANTIC (what the word **means**) contrast

How many MORPHEMES in

UNHAPPINESS?   YES=affirmation
UN=negation
HAPPY=an emotion
NESS=a state or quality

BRANCHES OF MORPHOLOGY: DERIVATIONAL

HAPPY+Un=unhappy
UNHAPPY + ness
=unhappiness

Deals with how words are made using affixes that change the MEANING of the root word.

- DERIVATIONAL FIELD:

All the words that can be built with a single root

HAPPY
unhappy

CHANGE THE MEANING

Unhappiness
Happily
unhappily

WORD CLASS CONVERSION

BRANCHES OF MORPHOLOGY: INFLECTIONAL

Walk→walkED
Walker→walker'S

Affixes that don't change the SEMANTICS of the word, but rather its GRAMMATICAL quality

English has only 8 inflectional suffixes.

NOUN:
-s (plural) dogS
-'s (possessive) dog'S

VERB
-ed (past tense) walkED
-s (3rd person present) she walkS
-ing (present participle) we are walkING
-en (past participle) I was awokEN

ADJECTIVE
-er (comparative) nicER
-est (superlative) nicEST

SPOT THE INFLECTIONAL AND DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

THE GRACELESSNESS OF THE TALLEST DANCER WAS UNFORTUNATE.

SHE RUINED THE DANCE COMPANY'S CHANCE AT A MEDAL.

GRACELESSNESS: grace (n.)→graceless (D. adj.)→ gracelessness (D.n.)
UNFORTUNATE: fortune (n.)→fortunate (D adj.)→unfortunate (D. adj w/negation)
TALLEST: tall (adj)→tallest (I. comparator)
COMPANY'S: company (n.)→company's (I. case, possessive)

MASS vs COUNT NOUNS: LESS OR FEW?

I have less/fewer water than you do.
I heard from less/fewer people than I expected.
The hybrid car produces less/fewer emissions.

MASS NOUNS: Less	COUNT NOUNS: Few
Less money Less water Less attendance Less feedback Less warmth	Fewer coins Fewer cans of pop Fewer people Fewer opinions Fewer degrees
Mass: something you measure	**Count: something you count**

PARSING

- The systematic identification of parts of language in sentences usually designed for complexity and difficulty.
- 18th-19th-century application of LATIN conventions
- Little LOGICAL connection between parsing and usage→ROTE learning:

- EG. I gave the money to her.
  - **I**: pronoun, 1st person, singular, count, animate, personal, subjective case;
  - **Gave**: verb, 1st-person, singular, past tense;
  - **The**: definite article;
  - **Money**: noun, singular, mass, inanimate, nonpersonal, objective case;
  - **To**: preposition;
  - **Her**: pronoun, 3rd-person, singular, count, animate, personal, objective case.