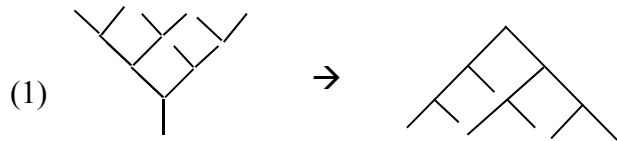


Introduction to English Linguistics

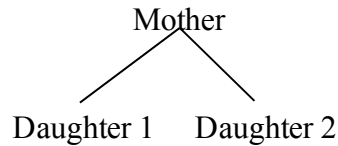
Morphology 2

Hierarchical Structure

- ‘tree diagram’ – like an upside-down tree
- ‘mother’ node at the top, ‘daughters’ below
- binary branching – only one or two branches from a higher node in most cases

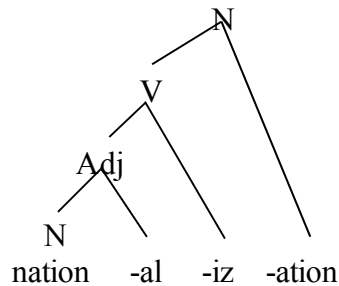


(2)



- Analysis of the word *nationalization*:

(3) a.



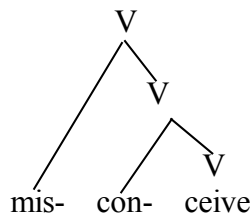
b.

Morphological Rules

- nation : N(oun)
- al : N → Adj(ective)
- iz(e) : Adj → V(erb)
- ation: V → N

- every word may be analyzed in this way
- suffixes branch to the right and may change the word class of the word to which they attach
- prefixes branch to the left:

(4) a.



b.

- ceive : V (bound)
- con- : Prefix-_v → V
- mis- : Prefix-_v → V

- prefixes seldom affect the word class of the base to which they attach

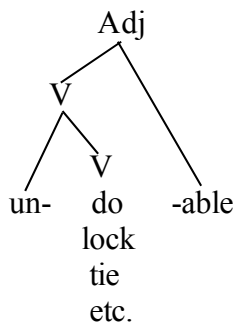
Structural Ambiguity

- sometimes the internal structure of a word is ambiguous
- undoable, unlockable, untieable, etc.

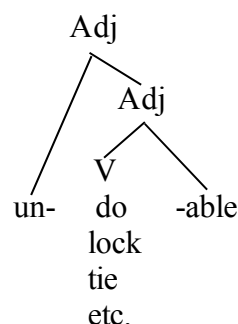
(5) undoable = { “able to be undone”
“not able to do”
unlockable = { “able to unlock”
“not able to lock”

- these words have two possible tree structures:

(6) a.



b.



- this depends on the fact that there are two *un-* prefixes:
 un-₁ : ‘not’ Adj egs: unhappy, unfriendly, unwise, etc.
 un-₂ : reverse the action of the V egs: unfasten, unglue, untie, etc.

Productivity

- productivity varies greatly depending on the elements involved
- some affixes are very productive while others are not productive at all
 Productive: English plural suffix –s, third person singular present tense –s, adverb suffix –ly, prefixes un- and non-
 Not productive: -ric in *bishopric*; -rd in *third*; were- in *werewolf*, *wergild*, etc.
 Somewhat productive: -en in *widen*, *lengthen*, *strengthen*, *darken*, etc.
- productivity must be viewed as *gradient*, that is, as variable depending on the morpheme

Compounding

- very productive in English
 2 members: greenhouse, blackboard, etc.
 3 members: airline attendant, newspaper reporter, etc.
 4 members: highschool sweetheart, airport security officer, etc.
- may involve nouns, verbs, or adjectives in different combinations

(7)

	Adjective	Noun	Verb
Adjective	bluegreen	greenhouse	whitewash
Noun	headstrong	mailman	spoonfeed
Verb	dropdead	pickpocket	sleepwalk

Inflectional Morphemes

- act like function words to indicate grammatical categories
- English has only a few such morphemes, but other languages may have many
- in some cases English uses a mixed system, with inflectional suffix in one case and syntactic construction in another, e.g. a [bigger] dog BUT a [more intelligent] dog

Morphology and Syntax

- in some cases the morpheme performing the task is like a suffix but must operate in the syntax
- this is the case with the English possessive <'s>

