

Discussion questions: Aronoff & Fudeman (2011), Ch 1

Aronoff, Mark, & Kirsten Fudeman. 2011. Chapter 1, Thinking about morphology and morphological analysis. *What is Morphology?*, 2 ed, 1–22. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

This reading is designed as a first introduction to morphology, so it is very accessible. As you read this, think about what you have learned about morphology in previous linguistics courses, and see if you can spot any points of difference.

- (1) [not for RR] What definition do A&F give for the term *morphology*? Their definition has two parts; how (if at all) are these parts related?
- (2) On p 2, A&F say, “Another way in which morphemes have been defined is as a pairing between sound and meaning. We have purposely chosen not to use this definition.”
 - (a) What arguments do A&F give for rejecting this definition? Report and explain at least two different examples of linguistic data they give to illustrate their arguments.
 - (b) Do you think their arguments against this common definition of *morpheme* are legitimate? Give justification for your answer.
 - (c) What definition do A&F suggest for *morpheme*? How is this different from the definition they have rejected? Do you see any problems or concerns with their preferred definition?
- (3) [not for RR] What do A&F mean when they emphasize, “It is important to take seriously the idea that the grammatical function of a morpheme, which may include its meaning, must be constant”?
- (4) The next two questions are on distinct topics, but if used for your RR they should both be answered and submitted together.
 - (a) What would you say is the main point of section 1.3.2? Why do you think A&F consider this to be an important point?
 - (b) Do A&F consider morphology to be an independent component within the mental grammar? Is their position shared by all linguists? What are the arguments on both sides? Do you find A&F’s argumentation here convincing?
- (5) [not for RR] List the “analytic principles” that A&F give in 1.5.2. Note that these, like the ones we discussed last class, are based on earlier work by Eugene Nida. However, there are two principles listed here that we did not discuss last time; what are they?
- (6) [not for RR] Go through the morphological analyses in sec 1.5.3. Make sure you understand why A&F make the decisions that they do — prepare to bring up any questions that you may have in class discussion.