

Data presentation: Content

In the introductory section of the course, we have discussed how to classify a language with respect to cross-linguistic morphological typology; the status of *word*, and how phonological and grammatical words can be identified; and the (potential) differences between inflectional and derivational morphology. (For even more factors that can be considered when analyzing the morphological structure of a language, see section 10 in the Aikhenvald (2007) reading.)

Your data presentation will start from these fundamental concepts of morphological analysis. It will also include a discussion of theoretical issues in morphology; the later in the semester your data presentation is scheduled, the more sophisticated your theoretical discussion can be.

Morphological type and basic morphological categories

- Is the language best characterized as analytic, agglutinative, inflecting/synthetic, or polysynthetic? Or templatic (root-and-pattern)?
 - If the grammar author explicitly classifies the language, give the citation.
 - In any case, make your own judgment and provide evidence for your claim.
- Does the language have any of the following types of morpheme? If so, give examples. (Note that the grammar author may or may not discuss each of these categories explicitly; you may need to examine the examples yourself and draw conclusions.)
 - Free morphemes? If so, what syntactic category (word class) do they belong to?
 - Affixes? If so, are there prefixes/suffixes/infixes/other?
- Does the grammar author claim that the language has incorporation? If so, does the author present specific evidence that the forms in question involve incorporation as distinct from compounding or syntactic phrasal status?

Inflectional morphology

- Does the language have inflectional morphology? If so, choose an example to describe:
 - Provide evidence that your example qualifies as inflectional.
 - What root/stem category undergoes this type of inflection?
 - What morphosyntactic features are involved?
 - Give some examples of relevant inflectional morphemes or inflected forms for the example category you have chosen to discuss.
 - Does this type of inflection participate in any agreement relationships?

Derivational morphology and compounding

- Does the language have
 - derivational morphology?
 - compounding?

For each, choose an example to describe and provide evidence that your example qualifies as derivation or compounding respectively.

Suggestions for possible theoretical questions or discussion

The following suggestions are especially relevant for the first few data presentations. If you are presenting later in the semester, you are welcome to introduce and discuss additional theoretical questions.

- Does the grammar author pay attention to the distinction between phonological word and grammatical word? If so, what kinds of mismatches are there? If not, can you see places in your author's discussion where making that distinction would have helped clarify the analysis of the language?
- Do any of the criteria for distinguishing between inflectional morphology, derivational morphology, and/or clitics presented in our readings seem supported by your language?
 - For example, is there any difference between inflectional and derivational morphemes in their relative morphological productivity or semantic regularity?
- Does the grammar author make classification decisions concerning inflectional/derivational morphemes or clitics that you disagree with based on class readings?