

Introduction: Concepts and questions in morphology

I. Review: Morphology basics (from LING 101)

(1) Be sure you are generally familiar with the following **basic morphological terms**. (Refer to your LING 101 textbook if needed.) But also, watch out for how authors define them.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • morpheme | • circumfix |
| • bound | • open class |
| • free | • closed class |
| • root | • lexical morpheme |
| • base | • functional/grammatical morpheme |
| • stem (careful with this one) | • derivation |
| • affix | • inflection |
| • prefix | • compound |
| • suffix | • lexicon |
| • infix | • word (this is harder than you might think) |

(2) What is the role of **orthography** in morphological analysis?

(a) Is spoken language or written language more fundamental?

(b) What levels of language representation do different orthographic systems represent?

(c) What effect might literacy have on the mental grammar of a native speaker?

- Useful strategy: Orthography can sometimes provide **supporting evidence** for a linguistic analysis, but be careful not to rely too heavily on orthographic information when it **conflicts** with other linguistic evidence

II. How does morphology fit into a general model of mental grammar?

We will explore several different answers to this question during the course. Some examples:

(3) Kenstowicz & Kisseberth (1979): An early generative view

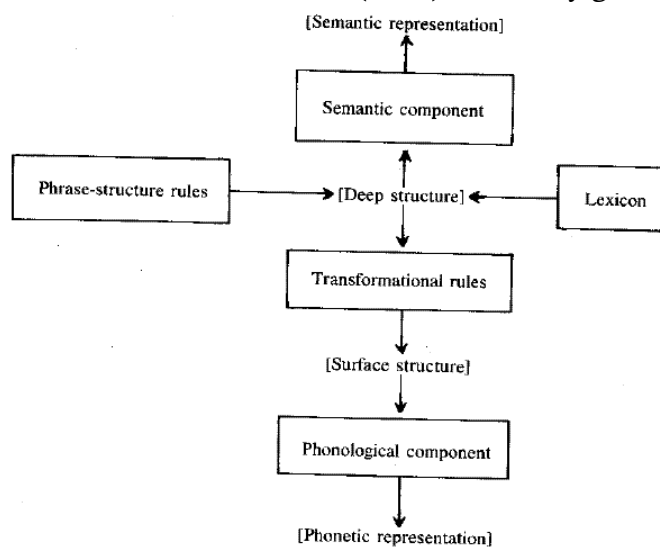
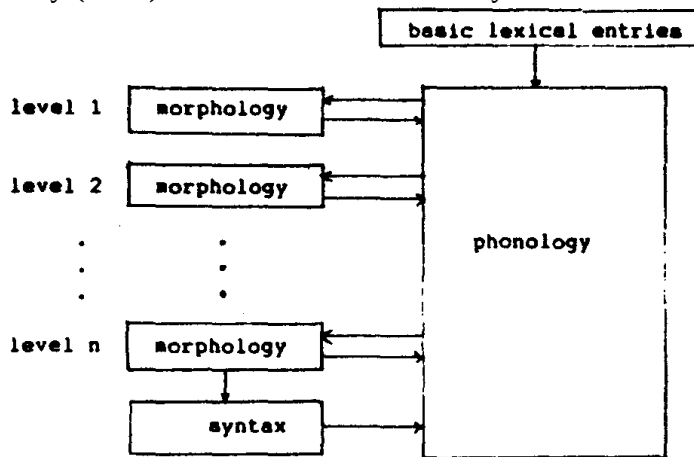


FIGURE 1.1. *Generative model of grammar.*

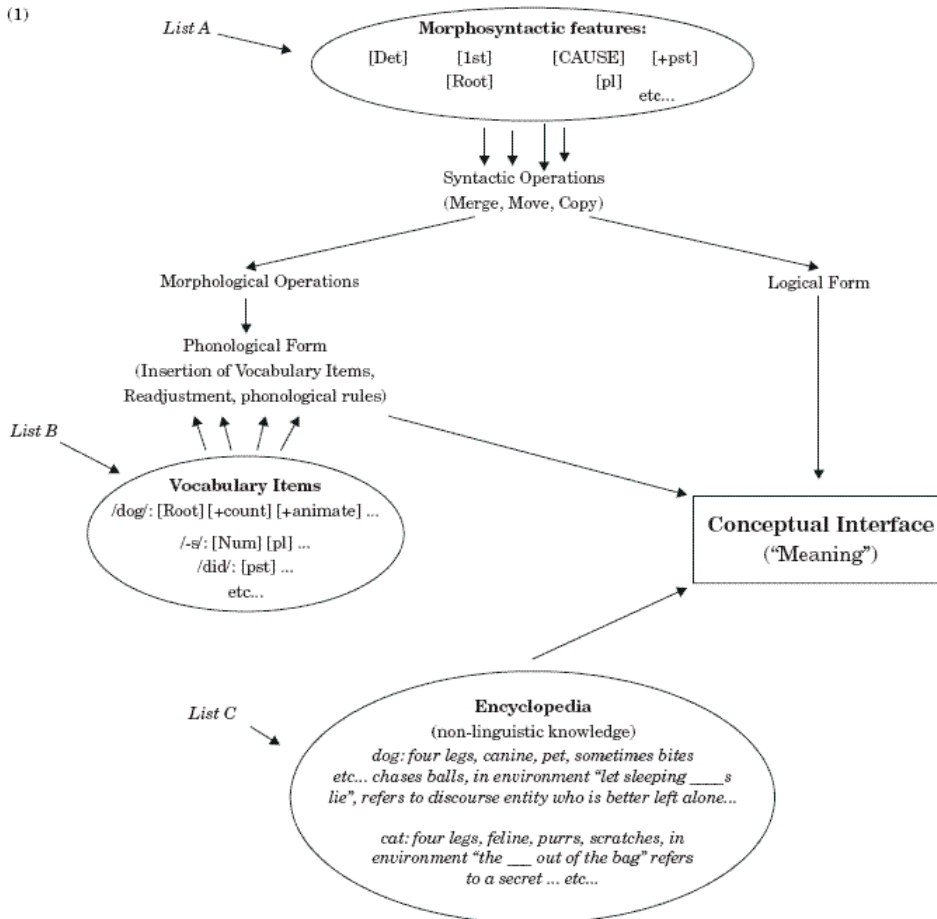
(4) Kiparsky (1984): One version of a theory of Lexical Phonology

(1)



(5) Harley & Noyer (1999): Distributed Morphology

(1)



References

Harley, Heidi, and Rolf Noyer. 1999. State-of-the-Article: Distributed Morphology. *GLOT International* 4 (4): 3-9.

Kenstowicz, Michael, and Charles Kisseberth. 1979. *Generative Phonology: Description and Theory*. New York: Academic Press.

Kiparsky, Paul. 1984. On the lexical phonology of Icelandic. In Claes-Christian Elert, Irène Johansson, and Eva Strangert (eds.), *Nordic Prosody III*. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 135-164.