

Today's topics:

- **Morphology — Introduction and fundamental concepts**

Background:
(none)

0. Today's objectives

After today's class, you should be able to:

- Divide words into **morphemes** in a data set and justify your claims
- Distinguish between **writing** and **morphology**
- Identify some **differences** between Japanese and English concerning which **grammatical concepts** can or must be **expressed as morphemes**

1. Finding morphemes: Adjectives

Work groups

Data set - [Adjective morphology \(Group analysis\)](#)

- Goal: Divide the words into **morphemes** and provide a **gloss** (translation) for each morpheme
 - *If you know Japanese:* Help provide English **translations** for the (whole) *words*
 - *If you know linguistics:* Help explain what a **morpheme** is and how to find them
- Your approaches may differ depending on whether you've studied Japanese grammar or not!
- Consider the evidence and try to reach a group consensus

1. Finding morphemes: Adjectives

Debriefing

- How should we divide the adjective forms into morphemes?
- What are good glosses for the morphemes?
 - See also [full version of data set](#), with translations
 - Reference guide for adjective morphology: to be available later

2. Morphology: Basic concepts

Handout - “[Morphology: Introduction](#)”

- Fundamental concepts
 - How do we define **morpheme**?
 - **Morpheme segmentation**: What you just practiced with the adjectives data set

2. Morphology: Basic concepts

Handout - "[Morphology: Introduction](#)"

- Give a natural translation for these sentences:
 - (a) I ate sushi.
 - (b) We ate sushi.
 - (c) Ayako ate sushi.
 - (d) Masahiko ate sushi.
 - (e) The student ate sushi.
 - (f) The students ate sushi.
- What **meanings** are represented with **morphemes** ...
 - in Japanese but not in English?
 - in English but not in Japanese?

2. Morphology: Basic concepts

- What meanings are represented with morphemes?

- 'I ate sushi'

Watasi-wa susi-o tabeta.

coded neutral or female

Boku-wa susi-o tabeta.

coded male

Ø susi-o tabeta.

informal (casual, close friends)

Ø susi-o tabemasita.

formal (in professional or
polite contexts)

-wa

topic marker

-ga

subject marker (approx.)

-o

direct-object marker

2. Morphology: Basic concepts

- What meanings are represented with morphemes?

- 'I ate sushi'

Ø susi-o tabeta.

Ø susi-o tabemasita.

- 'We ate sushi'

Ø susi-o tabeta.

Ø susi-o tabemasita.

- 'She/he ate sushi'

Ø susi-o tabeta.

Ø susi-o tabemasita.

2. Morphology: Basic concepts

- What meanings are represented with morphemes?
 - 'The student ate sushi' *Gakusee-wa susi-o tabeta.*
Gakusee-wa susi-o tabemasita.
 - 'The students ate sushi' *Gakusee-wa susi-o tabeta.*
Gakusee-tati-wa susi-o tabeta.
Gakusee-wa susi-o tabemasita.
Gakusee-tati-wa susi-o
tabemasita.

2. Morphology: Basic concepts

- What meanings are represented with morphemes?

	English	Japanese
verb tense	✓	✓
verb person	✓	×
verb number	✓	×
noun plural	✓	minimally
noun case	minimally	✓
formality level	×	✓

3. Morphology vs. writing

Handout - "[Morphology: Introduction](#)"

- Are **kanji** characters **equivalent** to morphemes?
 - **How many** morphemes are in the Japanese words written...
湖
今日
 - Are 東 *higasi* 'east' and 東 *too* 'east' the **same** morpheme, by our definition?

4. To prepare for next time

Prep questions will cover:

- Handout - “[Morphology: Introduction](#)”
 - Ways of classifying morphemes
- Data set - [Verb morphology | part 1](#)
 - Morpheme segmentation practice, using verbs