

Adjective morphology

Consider the following conjugational forms of adjectives. What morphemes can we identify?

Hint: Don't try to find exact translations for each of the English *words* that appear in the translation equivalents. Instead, think about how the *meaning* changes from column to column, and try to locate the pieces of Japanese word structure that correspond to those meanings.

takai	takakatta	takaku	takakute	takakunai	takakunakatta	takakunaku	takakunakute
'is high'	'was high'	'highly'	'being high...'	'is not high'	'was not high'	'not high-ly'	'not being high...'
omoi	omokatta	omoku	omokute	omokunai	omokunakatta	omokunaku	omokunakute
'is heavy'	'was heavy'	'heavily'	'being heavy...'	'is not heavy'	'was not heavy'	'not heavi-ly'	'not being heavy...'
karui	karukatta	karuku	karukute	karukunai	karukunakatta	karukunaku	karukunakute
'is light (weight)'	'was light'	'lightly'	'being light...'	'is not light'	'was not light'	'not light-ly'	'not being light...'
sabisii	sabisikatta	sabisiku	sabisikute	sabisikunai	sabisikunakatta	sabisikunaku	sabisikunakute
'is sad'	'was sad'	'sadly'	'being sad...'	'is not sad'	'was not sad'	'not sad-ly'	'not being sad...'

- Note that the Japanese forms on this handout are presented in *transliteration* (not phonetic transcription). This will often be the case when we examine data for the purposes of morphological or syntactic analysis.