

LNG1101

Introduction to Linguistics

Week 7 : Morphology
(Affixation)



English Department

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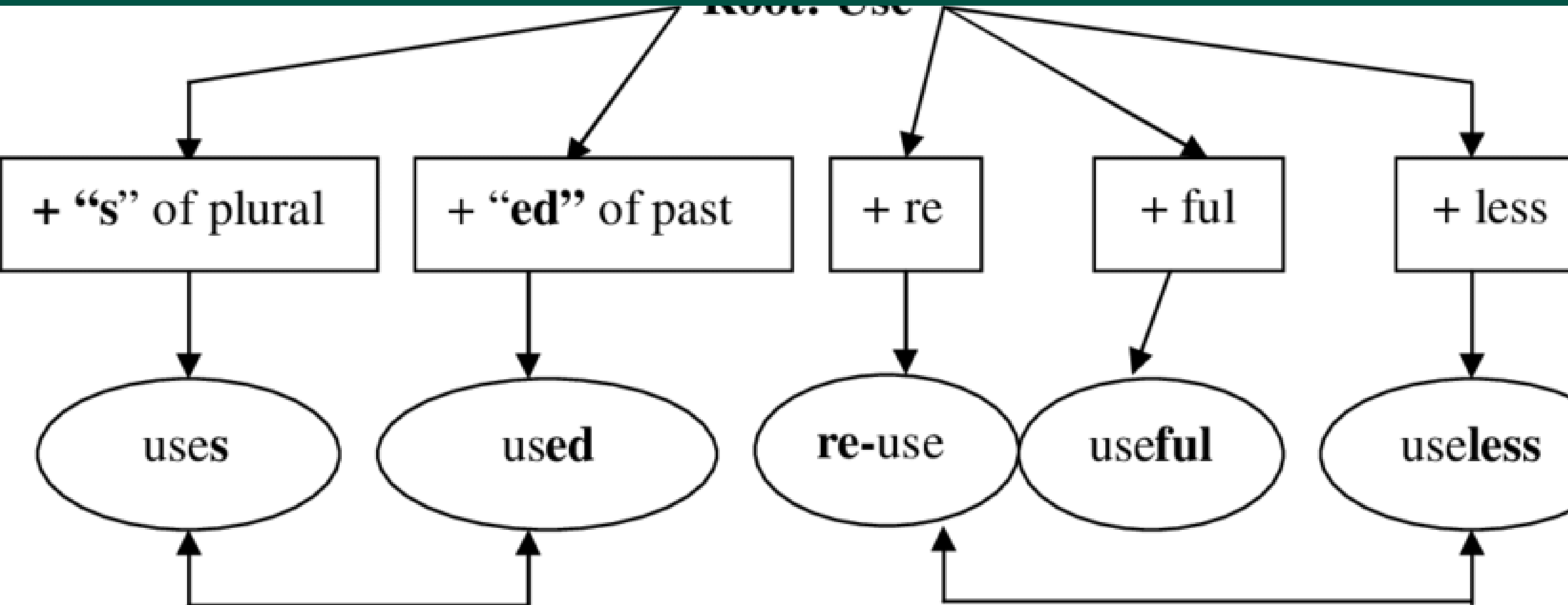
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*"The limits of my language mean the
limits of my world."*

LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN

Affixation



Roots & Affixes

Complex words typically consist of a **root** morpheme and one or more **affixes** .
The root constitutes the core of the word and carries the major component of its meaning. Roots typically belong to a **lexical category** , such as noun (N), verb (V), adjective (A), or preposition (P)

un**predict**able

un+predict+able

Affixes

Affixes are bound morphemes that need to combine with the other morpheme(s) to form a new word.

Source: Sudmuk C., Ph. D. Morphological Process in Word Formation

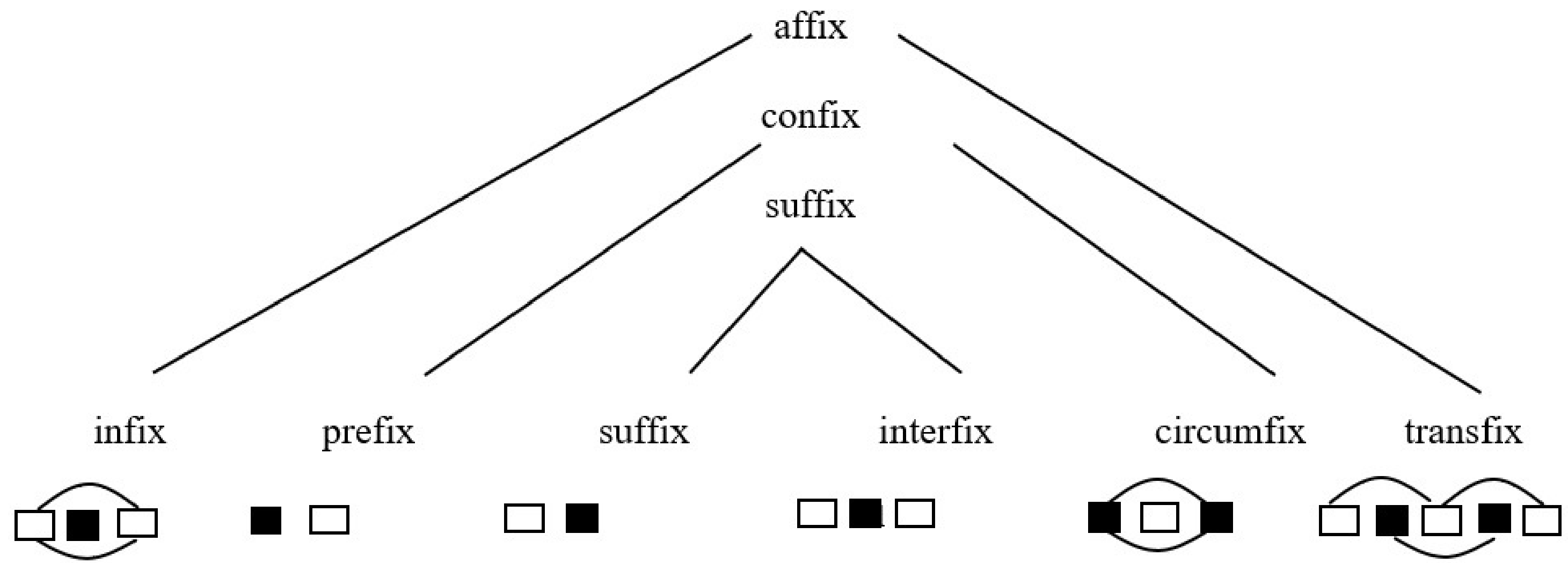
Types of Affixes

- **Suffixes**: Suffixes are morphemes that follow the base, e.g. corrupt-tion, agree-ment, commun-ism, forgive-ness. It is the most common type of affixes and commonly category changing.
- **Prefixes**: Prefixes attach in front of the base: un-happy, im-prison, en-large.
- **Infixes**: Infixes are morphemes that go "in the middle" of the base: – **นในคำว่าเกิด เป็น “กำเนิด** English generally does not have infixes, but the exception in English might be -bloody- : al-bloody-mighty, Uni-bloody-versity.

Types of Affixes

- **Interfixes**: Interfixes are morphemes that precede one root but follow another:
German Liebe-s-brief “love letter”
- **Circumfixes**: Circumfixes are discontinuous morphemes composed of two parts which embrace the base element: e.g. English: bold-em-bold-en, live – en-live-n.
- **Transfixes**: Transfixes are discontinuous affixes cuts across the morpheme, like two interlocking combs:
Semitic (templatic) languages: inflection and derivation is done by vowels: k-t-b ‘write’-
- kátab ‘write’, kitáab ‘book’-- kútub ‘books’, etc.

Summary of affixation



Processes of Affixation

Affixation is the morphological process whereby an affix (prefix, infix, and suffix) is attached to a **root or stem**. It is the most frequent method of forming morphologically complex words, typically a combination of a stem or root with a **bound morpheme**. There are two processes:

1. Inflection
2. Derivation

Inflection



Inflectional processes do not alter the properties with which an item is listed in the lexicon, but rather result in the different grammatical forms that this item adopts in different syntactic contexts.

-ed

-ing

-um

-i

Properties of Inflection

It does not change the grammatical category of the base, its meaning, or the number or class of constituents selected by it.

Example: English

girl (noun)	girls (noun)
pen (noun)	pens (noun)

It does not produce new words, but gives us the forms that a single word can adopt in the different syntactic contexts where it appears.

Example: English

girl (singular noun)	girls (plural noun)
pen (singular noun)	pens (plural noun)

The most common grammatical categories marked by inflection are below:

1. **Tense**: Verbs are inflected based on when an action or stated occurred, such as **-ed** in English, **walked, played**.

2. **Mood**: Verbs are inflected based on the probability that the proposition is true.

For example: **English**

Get out! (the imperative mood)

I insisted that he get out. (the subjunctive mood)

The subjunctive mood in English is a 'zero morpheme'.

3.**Person**: Verbs are inflected based on the subject, such as **-s** for the third person in English,
He sleeps.

4.**Number**: Words are inflected based on the number, such as **-s, -es** for plural nouns in English, **boys, boxes.**

5. **Gender:** Words are inflected based on noun class, such as **-e** for French adjectives. For example, in French,
un homme chantant (a singing man)
une femme chantante (a singing woman)
6. **Aspect:** Words are inflected based on whether it is finished, such as **-ing** and **-ed/-en** in English, **is singing, have finished, has spoken.**

7. **Comparison**: In English:

Adjectives are positive (no inflection in English): **cool**

comparative (-er in English): **cooler**

superlative (-est in English): **coolest**

8. **Case**: Nouns are marked according to their roles in a sentence. For example, in Latin

nauta ('sailor') is in the nominative case (subject position)

nautam is in the accusative case (marks direct objects).

Inflection and Morpheme Order

The inflectional segments appear in the outer layer of a word since the information will be accessible to syntax. So, it is generally external to derivational morpheme.

English:

speak-er speak-er-s

proper-ty proper-ti-es

Derivation

Dat was altijd verstandig op Mure. Iedereen was vrolijk. Fintan zat op Coltons schoot en keek af en toe even naar hem op alsof hij nog niet helemaal kon geloven dat het waar was. 'Heb je een ring?' vroeg Flora. Fintan knikte en liet haar zijn hand zien. Flora hapte even naar adem. Hij was prachtig; twee getande zilveren ringen die naadloos in elkaar pasten. 'Als de tandwielen van een bo-terkarn,' zei Fintan. Flora schudde haar hoofd bewonderend. Het was een uniek ontwerp en paste helemaal bij het verloofde paar, vond ze. 'Hij is prachtig!'

'Wat zei Joël?' vroeg Colton lui, die maar met een half oor luisterde naar het geklets van de MacKenzies. Als ze allemaal bij elkaar waren, werd hun accent zwaarder en kon hij het slecht volgen, maar dat vond hij wel prettig. Hij leunde achterover en liet hun gepraat als het gekwetter van een groep vogels over zich heen komen en nam af en toe een slokje whisky – lekkerder dan champagne – met de man van wie hij hield op zijn schoot en een flakkerend vuur in de haard, terwijl het buiten nog licht was hoewel het al na negen uur 's avonds was. Wat kon een man zich nog meer wensen? 'Eh, ik heb hem...' 'Zijn jullie twee...'

van haar familie, haar wereld, zou hij blij zijn, geïnteresseerd, het fantastisch vinden. En als hij het te druk had, als hij het wegruilde... nou, dan wist ze het. Het was alsof zich een koude hand om haar hart sloot. Maar na haar rampzalige weekendje New York... Er waren tenslotte grenzen. Dat moest. Echt. Ze hoefde geen perfect ontworpen verlovingsring die een fortuin kostte. Ze hoefde geen enorme trouwring en geen bijzondere liefdesverklaring. Het enige wat ze wilde was weten waar ze stond. Ze moest weten of ze iets voor hem betekende. Ze stond op en excuseerde zich. Natuurlijk wist ze heel goed dat de jongens, zodra ze haar hielen had gelicht, over haar zouden beginnen te roddelen. Maar daar wilde ze nu niet aan denken.

Buiten was het kouder dan het leek. De zon maakte een hoge boog van de hemel, het licht bleekgeel, bijna ontdaan van alle kleur; de zee, ongewoon kalm als een vijver zover het oog reikte, een gladde spiegel. Het was een betoverende avond. Hier vanaf The Rock, met zijn groene, kortgeschoren gazons en de – ook al was het totaal niet donker – brandende fakkels langs de rode loper die helemaal naar beneden liep, naar de aanlegsteiger waar straks de gasten per boot zouden arriveren, had ze een sprookjesachtig uitzicht. De geur van de laatste wilde voorjaarshyacinten, keurig in rijen geplant door het leger tuinmannen dat hier werkte, hing zwaar in de lucht en de laatste narcissen begonnen te verleppepen. Flora keek om zich heen, nam de schoonheid van de avond in zich op, doodsbang dat alles straks, als ze Joël aan de lijn had, zou zijn en ze zich doodongelukkig zou voelen. 'Zijn prachtige, gesloten gezicht voor haar leidden, vermoedde

-tion

-ious

-ive

-ess

A derivation process alters one or several of the properties associated with an item listed in the lexicon, making it necessary in many cases for the new form to also be listed. It is said that derivation is a process that creates new words.

Properties of Derivation

- The grammatical category of the input form is changed. The assumption is that units are listed in the lexicon with their grammatical categories, so when a morphological process changes this information, it produces a new word.

Example: English

Move (verb)	moveable (adjective)	movement (noun)
Like (verb)	likely (adverb)	likeness (noun)

- The conceptual semantics associates with the input form, for example the word “move” has a **different meaning** from the word “moveable”.

“move” means go or pass to another place.

“moveable” means capable of being moved.

- The number of the argument and the selectional restriction of the base change as the form changed, for example a **verb** “move” needs **two arguments**, one as a **subject** and another one as an **object** while an **adjective** “moveable” needs only **one argument** as a **subject**.

Jane moves the table.

This table is moveable.

Category Changes

1. Nominalizations are those derivational processes which produce nouns from **verbs** or **adjectives**.

Example: English

Verb

depart
explain

Noun

department
explanation

Adjective

happy
deep

Noun

happiness
depth

2. Verbalizations are those derivational processes which turns **nouns** or **adjectives** to **verbs**.

Change of State

Adjective	Verb
wide	widen
plural	pluralize

Change of Place

Noun	Verb
prison	imprison
a saddle	to saddle
a skin	to skin

Semantic Change

Since Derivational process changes the grammatical category of the base, their semantics changes too.

believe + -able = believable

Negative Meaning

Denoting the opposite property by prefixation is frequently possible:

English:

fair

unfair

perfect

imperfect

codify

decodify

Attitudinal Meaning

Some prefixes change the base's meaning in a radical way.

“pro-” denotes a favorable attitude towards that concept.

“anti-” denotes a negative attitude towards that concept.

English:

American	pro-American	anti-American
Abortion	pro-abortion	anti-abortion

Quantities and Degree

Some morphemes add a quantity meaning to the base.

English:

color	multicolor
annual	biannual
circle	semicircle
second	millisecond

Some morphemes express the degree to which a property appears, or the intensity with which a process is done.

English:

rich	richer
cool	supercool
estimate	underestimate

Repetition

Some morphemes denote that the base is performed once again.

English:

write rewrite

construct reconstruct

store restore

Contemporary Linguistic Analysis

< AN INTRODUCTION >

eightth edition

William O'Grady John Archibald



Reading List

(Page 103-118)



Any Questions?

Thank you

We can discuss in class or
contact me via **email**

See you next week!

