LNG1101
Introduction to Linguistics

Week 7 : Morphology
(Affixation)

English Department

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University

Lectured by

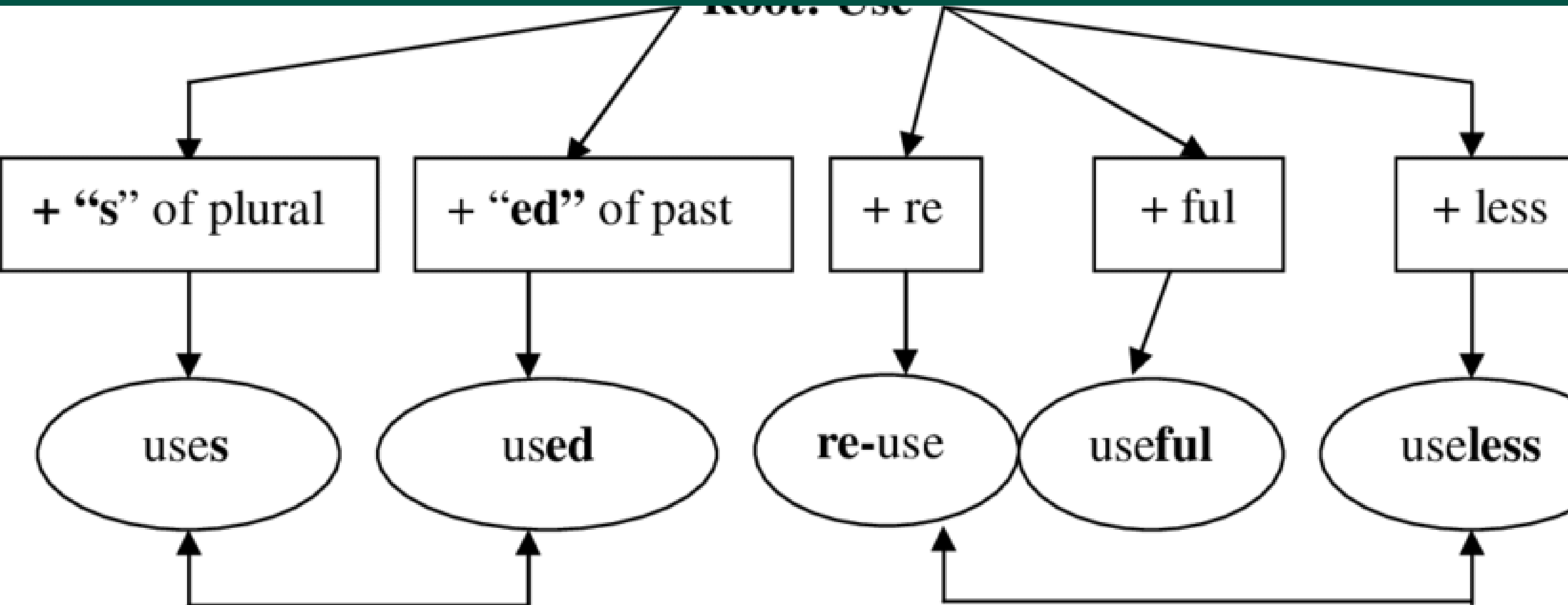Aj. Patcharaphan Susamawathanakun

(Aj. Glouay)

patcharaphan.su@ssru.ac.th

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

LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN

Affixation

Root: use

+ "s" of plural	+ "ed" of past	+ re	+ ful	+ less

uses   used   re-use   useful   useless

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)

unpredictable
un+predict+able

Affixes

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

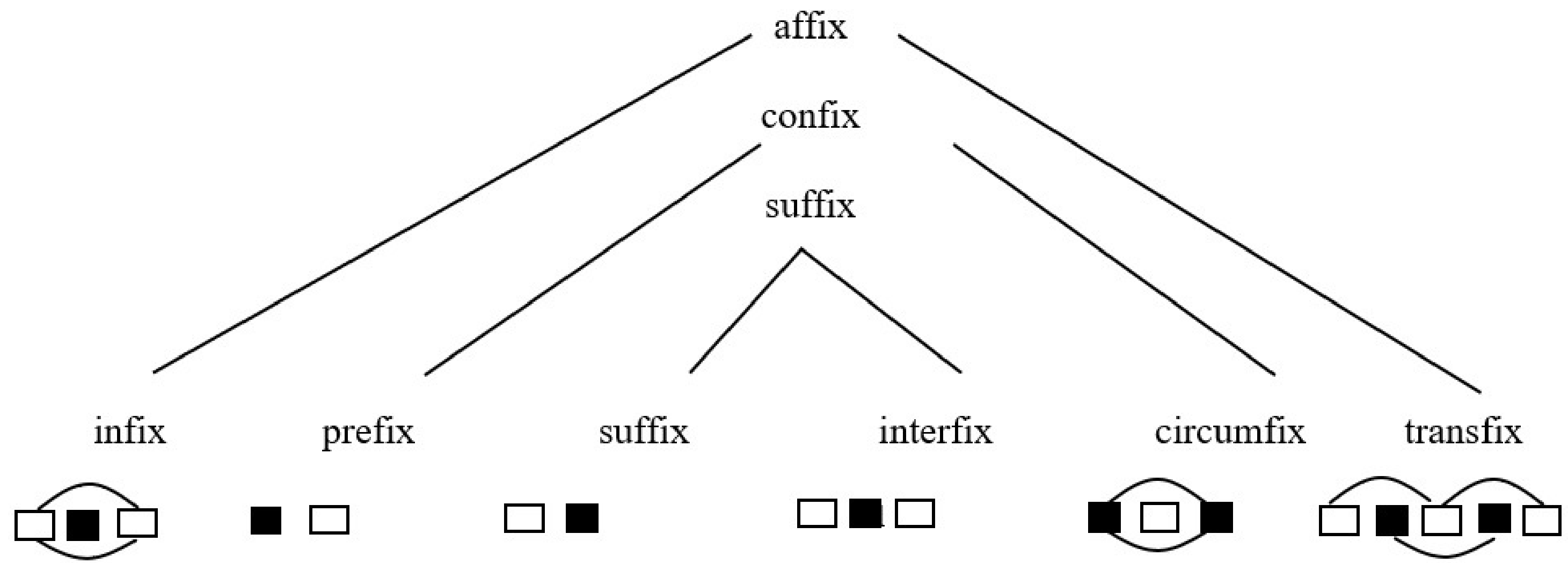Source: Sudmuk C., Ph. D.Morphological Process in Word Formation
.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

-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)

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

.

- 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	Noun
depart	department
explain	explanation

Adjective	Noun
happy	happiness
deep	depth

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

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

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

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

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

Repetition

Some morphemes denote that the base is performed once again.

English:

write	rewrite
construct	reconstruct
store	restore

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

.

Reading List

(Page 103-118)

Any Questions?

Thank you
We can discuss in class or contact me via email

See you next week!