Introduction to Morphology
Course number: 133.1.0450
Lectures: David Erschler, erschler@bgu.ac.il

Morphology is the branch of linguistics that deals with the internal structure of the words and how they are formed. The questions we will address include: What is a word? Does an orthographic word, something we put spaces around when we write, correspond to anything in our mental grammar? What are internal parts of the words and processes that create and combine them? The course will seek to answer these and other questions by examining morphological phenomena from across the world’s languages.

Key words: Morphology; Morphological categories; Derivation; Inflection; Word Formation

1. Topics to be covered in the course

1. Basic concepts of morphology
2. What is a word? Wordhood tests.
5. Morphology and phonology
6. Derivation.
8. Types of verbal and nominal morphological categories: Tense, aspect, mood; Person, Number; Gender/noun class systems; Case.

2. Course Policies

2.1 Attendance

- Attendance is obligatory.

2.2 Academic Honesty

When doing home assignments, you are allowed to work together with your classmates. However, the work you submit should be written up by you on your own. For the university guidelines on academic honesty, please consult Section 4 of the following document: https://in.bgu.ac.il/acadsec/doclib2/plagiarism_eng.pdf

3. Approximate schedule


Week 4. Morphological processes. Allomorphy and allomorphs (continued)

Week 5. Meanings expressed by morphology: Number and Person; Clusivity; Gender/Noun Class.


Week 7. Inflection: Tense; Aspect; Mood


Week 11. Compounding. Homework 4 due.

Week 12. Valence and valence-changing operations.

Week 13. Word and wordhood criteria. Homework 5 due.

Week 14. Reserve & Wrap-up.

Obligatory readings
Supplementary readings