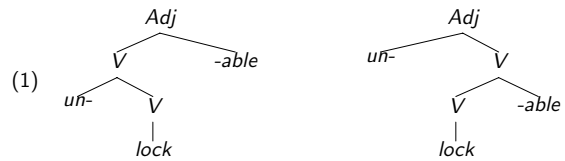


## More on Morphology

Some words are ambiguous, e.g., *unlockable*



## How can words be formed?

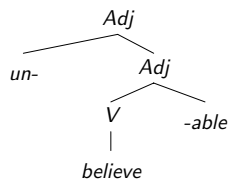
There are a variety of processes which are used to form (new) words:

- Affixation
- Compounding
- Reduplication
- Morpheme internal changes
- Suppletion
- Some less frequent processes:
  - Acronyms
  - Blending
  - Clipping

## The Structure of Words

The structure of words can be captured in a similar way as the structure of sentences.

- (2) *unbelievable* = *un* + (*believ* + *able*),  
not \*(*un* + *believe*) + *able*.



## Affixation

**Affixation** – words are formed by adding affixes.

- V + *-able* → Adj: *predict-able*
- V + *-er* → N: *sing-er*
- *un* + V → A: *un-productive*
- V + *-en* → V: *deep-en, thick-en*

## Compounding

**Compounding** – words are formed by combining two or more words.

- Adj + Adj → Adj: *bitter-sweet*
- N + N → N: *rain-bow*
- V + N → V: *pick-pocket*
- P + V → V: *over-do*

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## Morpheme internal changes

**Morpheme internal changes** – the word changes internally

- *sing – sang – sung*
- *man – men*
- *goose – geese*

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## Reduplication

**Reduplication** – part of the word or the entire word is doubled:

- English: *humpty-dumpty*
- Creole: *blak* (black), *blakblak* (very black)

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## Suppletion

**Suppletion** – 'irregular' relation between the words. Hopefully quite rare.

- *am – is*
- *go – went*
- *good – better*
- *bad – worse*

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## Acronyms

**Acronyms** – like abbreviations, but acts as a normal word

- *laser* – light amplification by simulated emission of radiation
- *radar* – radio detecting and ranging

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## Clipping

**Clipping** – longer words are shortened

- *doctor, professional, laboratory, advertisement, dormitory, examination*
- *bicycle* (bike)
- *refrigerator*

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## Blending

**Blending** – parts of two different words are combined

- *breakfast + lunch* → *brunch*
- *smoke + fog* → *smog*
- *motor + hotel* → *motel*

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## Morphological Types Of Languages

Two basic morphological types of language structure:

- **Analytic** languages – have only free morphemes, sentences are sequences of single-morpheme words. (e.g., Mandarin Chinese, cf. LF p.164)
- **Synthetic** – both free and bound morphemes. Affixes are added to roots. There are several subtypes of synthetic languages.

Most languages lie somewhere in between those two extremes, e.g., English has

- analytic properties (future morpheme *will*, perfective morpheme *have*, etc. are separate words), and
- synthetic properties (plural (-s), past tense (-ed), etc. are bound morphemes).

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## Types of Synthetic languages

- **Agglutinating** – each morpheme has a single function, it is easy to separate them.  
e.g., Hungarian, LF – p. 130
- **Fusional** – like agglutinating, but affixes tend to “fuse together”, one affix has more than one function. e.g., Spanish – LF p. 131
- **Polysynthetic**: extremely complex, many roots and affixes combine together, often one word corresponds to a whole sentence in other languages, e.g.:
  - *angyaghllangyugtuq* – ‘he wants to acquire a big boat’ (Eskimo)
  - *palyamunringkutjamunurtu* – ‘s/he definitely did not become bad’ (W Aus.)
  - Sora – LF, p. 132