1. Introduction

Morphology is the branch of linguistics that studies morphemes (the smallest units of linguistic form and meaning) and how they constitute words. Despite the fact that words are generally accepted as being the smallest units of syntax, it is clear that in most (if not all) languages, words can be related to other words by rules. These rules produce some clear kind of specific patterns in regarding the way words are formed from smaller units and how they interact in speech. In this way, morphology is the branch of linguistics that studies patterns of word-formation, and attempts to construct a language’s grammar based on the knowledge of its speakers.

1.1 Morphemes

A morpheme is the smallest unit of language that has linguistic form and semantics meaning.

In oral language, morphemes comprise phonemes (the smallest unit of sound/speech), whereas make up morphemes in written language, graphemes (the smallest written unit representing sound/speech) compose morphemes.

1.2 Lexemes

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A lexeme is an abstract unit of lexical (a word meaning) to which inflections (e.g., suffixes) can be added to reflect gender-, tense-, number-, or person-relevant grammatical information. For example, give, gives, giving, given, and gave form a single lexeme (that is, one meaning entity). A concept of a word unit with no inflections is known as a lexeme; moreover, a word unit having minimal or no inflection is called a lemma.

1.3 Compound

Using the Wikipedia definition, in linguistics, a compound is a lexeme (a word) that consists of more than one other lexeme. There are three types of compounds—\( A A \): 1) endocentric compounds, where \( AB \) is an instance of B (e.g., teaspoon); 2) exocentric compounds, where AB is neither an A nor a B but a C associated with AB (e.g., birdbrain); and 3) copulative or combination compounds, whereby AB is a combination of A and B (e.g., producer-director).