

# Chapter VII: Identifying Morphemes-

## Introduction

- Two properties that are integral to the notion of *morpheme*.
  1. Each instance of a morpheme must convey the same meaning as that proposed for its lexical entry.
  2. A morpheme might vary its shape- as does the Latin negative prefix among *in*, *im*, *i*, *ir*, and *il*- but the variants are predicted by phonological rules.
- The various instances of a morpheme are its *allomorphs*.
- An allomorph is the use of a morpheme in context.
- Note: We can observe *allomorphs* but must deduce *morphemes*.

# Homonyms

- Those in the right columns formed by adding a prefix to those in the left columns.
- The prefix appears to be the Latin prefix *in-*.
- Is this justified.
- Two problems:
  1. These are not all adjectives.
  2. The prefix cannot be a negative prefix.
- Compare *impregnable* and *impregnate*.
- *impregnate* does not have the negative meaning.
- The prefix of *impregnate* can be glossed as ‘in’, referring to location. It is a locative prefix.

## Homonyms con't

genius	ingenious	pact	impact
flection	inflection	pregnant	impregnate
toxic	intoxicate	radiate	irradiate
luminous	illuminate	rupture	irruption
lustrous	illustrious		

## Homonyms con't

- Examples of the locative prefix:
  1. To be *intoxicated* is to have a toxin inside oneself;
  2. To *irradiate* something is to direct radiation into it;
  3. To be *ingenious* is to have genius inside;
  4. To *illuminate* something is shine light on it.
- Based on the first principle: each instance of a morpheme must carry the same meaning; these must be instances of a different morpheme.
- This morpheme is the locative (since they all have the same meaning 'in').
- This morpheme is susceptible to the same rules as the Latin negative morpheme.

# Synonyms

- English Locative
- Are the morphemes in: inborn, inbuilt etc. the same as the Latin *in-* locative prefix.
- What we have to note here is that this morpheme does not behave the same way.
- The rules do not predict these outcomes.
- Not Latin words but English words.
- Thus the locative morpheme here is an English morpheme.
- The Latin rules do not apply here.

# Locatives

born	inborn
built	inbuilt
come	income
deed	indeed

# Locatives

door	indoor	road	inroad
put	input	rush	inrush
let	inlet	set	inset
lay	inlay	sight	insight

## Greek Locatives

- Both Latin and English have a locative morpheme.
- Predict that Greek would to.
- The Greek locative is susceptible to a set of assimilation rules similar to those in Latin.
- In Greek, the *n* of the locative prefix assimilates completely to a following *l* and partially to a following *p* or *b*.



## Greek Locatives

encyclopedia	en + cyclo + paedia	<i>circle + teach</i>
enema	en + heina	<i>send</i>
endemic	en + demos	<i>people</i>
energy	en + erg	<i>work</i>
ellipsis	en + leip	<i>leave</i>
empyrean	en + pyre	<i>fire</i>
emblem	en + ball	<i>throw</i>
embolism	en + ball	<i>throw</i>

# Summary

- Two intersecting properties of a morpheme:
  1. meaning
  2. pronunciation
- Add these to its grammatical properties and we have what constitutes the morpheme's definition.
- Strings may sound alike but cannot be instances of the same morpheme if they do not carry the same meaning.
- Strings can carry the same meaning but cannot be instances of the same morpheme if they do not have the same phonological characteristics.

# Summary

	<b>English</b>	<b>Latin</b>	<b>Greek</b>
<b>Locative</b>	in	in <i>Assimilation</i>	en <i>Assimilation</i>
<b>Negative</b>	un	in <i>Assimilation</i> <i>Deletion</i>	an <i>Deletion</i>