

# INTERDISCIPLINARY MASTER PROGRAM ON COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS AT CENTRAL ASIAN UNIVERSITIES



## English Linguistics

English Morphology  
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# Inflection and derivation

IV

# Outline

- Derivational Morphology
  - Affixes (prefixes, infixes, suffixes)
  - Vowel change
- What is a grammatical category?
- Inflectional Morphology
  - Affixes (prefixes, infixes, suffixes)
  - Vowel change

# 1. English inflectional morphology

- Studies the processes that distinguish the forms of words **within** certain word-classes (POS = parts of speech)
- Compared to other languages, English inflectional system is very limited

English	Spanish
I sing	Yo canto
You sing	Tú cantas
He/she sings	El/ella canta
We sing	Nosotros cantamos
You sing	Vosotros cantáis
They sing	Ellos cantan

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## Processes:

- Affixation (addition of affixes)
- Vowel change

Walk – walked –walked

Sing – sang – sung

- Paradigms (set of linguistic items that form mutually exclusive choices in particular syntactic roles)

a book / the book / \*a the book

Affixes: morphemes classified according to their position relative to the stem/root

- Prefixes

unfriendly

- Suffixes

friendship

- Infixes?

Not in English



- Think of your own language.
- Do you use infixes to change the meaning of a word or a sentence?

# 2. English derivational morphology

- Word-formation
- Process to create a new word with a new meaning
- Use of affixes to change the word-class

White –whiteness

Child – childhood

- **Inflectional devices create new forms within one word paradigm**
- **Derivational devices create new forms in a different word class**

# 3. Complex words

- Obtained from derivation

Wireless

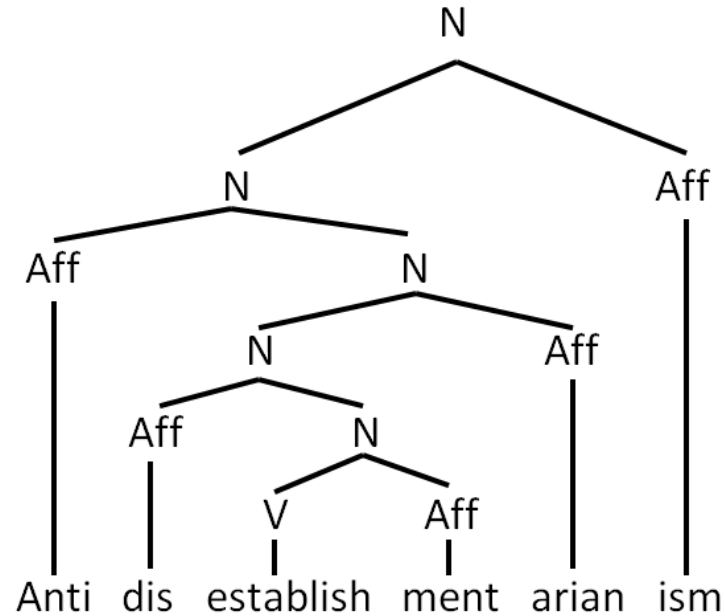


- Obtained from compounding

Lawn mower



## Complex morphology Tree



# 4. Morphology and other levels of analysis

Food for thought...

- Relationship between morphology and syntax
- Relationship between morphology and semantics