LINGUISTICS 183

WEEK 2

Klingon by Marc Okrand

	Singular	Plural
animal limb	ɣɑm	ɣɑmquʔ
hand	ɣopʰ	ɣopʰquʔ
man	loq	loqpʰuʔ
back	qub	qubquʔ
mother	ʂoʂ	ʂoʂpʰuʔ
runner	qʰɛtʰwɪʔ	qʰɛtʰwɪʔpʰuʔ

NOMINAL MORPHOLOGY

NOUNS

CVC

CCVC

VCVC

sun

person

bone

man/woman
tree
blood

Morphology: Interrelationships between words that result in grammatical, rather than lexical, meaning.

cat ~ cats

goose ~ geese

Russian
/kniga~knig/

Spanish

[ˈa.βlɔ] “I speak”

[a.ˈβlɔ] “s/he spoke”

a man ~ the man

men ~ the men

French

un garçon ~ le garçon

des garçons ~ les garçons

The boy eats.
The boy is eating.
The boy hears.
??The boy is hearing.

Affix: A bit of phonological material that attaches to a word.

*lix “body”

*knixt + lix “in the body of a knight”

*knixtlix “like a knight”

knightly

Suffixes

cat~cats

dog~dogs

bush~bushes

Suffixes

German
Buch~Bücher
Reit~Reiter

Suffixes

Finnish

talo~talossa

Skotlanti~Skotlannissa

Helsinki~Helsingissä

Prefixes

udʒi~lədʒi

ðamala~jamala

ŋini~ɲini

Circumfixes

elongate

Circumfixes

Georgian
didi “large”
sidide “size”

Infixes

bilí

binilí

bumilí

Infixes

alís
inalís
umalís

Infixes

/in + bilí/

(1) inbilí (4)ibnilí

(2) ibilí (5) nibilí

(3) inibilí (6) binilí

Suprafixes

subject~subject

Suprafixes

Hausa

sáɽ.kíː nèː

jáː.ɽòː néː

Suprafixes

sing
sang
sung

Suprafixes

katabtu

katabat

kutub

kitaab

Suffixes: Common for inflection, derivation, or anything.

Prefixes: Less common for inflection, common for derivation.

Circumfixes: Rare, about 50/50 inflection vs. derivation.

Infixes: Vanishingly rare. Arise from prefixes, suffixes, or analogy. Inflection common; agrammatical usage common.

Suprafixes: Quite common—especially in conjunction with another affix. Inflection or derivation.

Reduplication: The repetition of part or all of a word.

Reduplication

Hawaiian

‘au = swim

‘au‘au = bathe

Reduplication

Turkish

kitap = book

kitapmitap = books and stuff

Reduplication

Japanese
toki = time
tokidoki = sometimes

Reduplication

"Do you like him, or do you *like* like him?"

Reduplication

hanky-panky

loosey-goosey

topsy-turvy

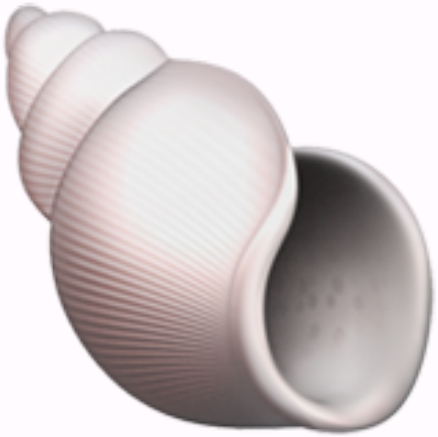
harakiri > /hɛɹikɛɹi/

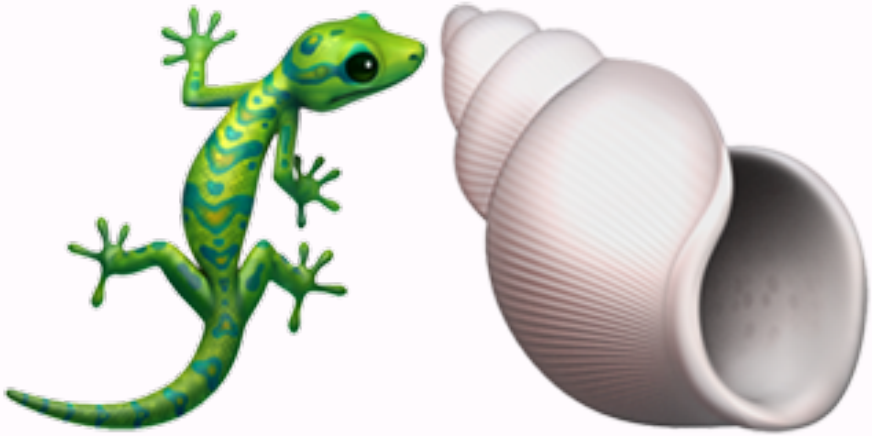
Reduplication
Attic Greek
lu- > lɛlu-
pɛmp- > pɛpɛmp-
kriː- > kɛkri-

Every language uses reduplication. Many use it grammatically. Can arise ex nihilo.

Often associated with: diminutives, augmentatives, pluralization, collectives, duratives, definiteness, perfect.

EVOLVING AFFIXES





N-MOD
MOD-N

*lix “body”

*knixt + lix “in the body of a knight”

*knixtlix “like a knight”

knightly

knight’s body
MOD-N

Middleton
Pittsburgh
Anaheim
Peterson

Generally the head becomes the affix.

Middleton > Middle town

Generally affixes reduce phonologically further than the rest of the language.

NUMBER

Nominal Number: How many of a thing there is.

Count vs. Mass

Count number: Individuable units referred to separately by the grammar.

Mass number: Inindividuable masses referred to as a clump.

tree vs. grass

I've a tree on my estate.
That's the tree there.
Do you have any trees?
These are the trees I mean.
All three trees.

*I’ve a grass on my estate.

@That’s the grass there.

?Do you have any grasses?

?These are the grasses I mean.

?*All three grasses.

my hair ~ ?my hairs
mein Haar ~ meine Haare

Singular
Dual
Trial
Plural

Singular: Ubiquitous
Dual: Not Uncommon
Trial: Vanishingly Rare
Plural: Crazy Common

Tetral: Turned out that guy was wrong.

Paucal
Collective

Paucal: Uncommon Collective: Somewhat Common

Singulative
Common

Singulative: Uncommon
Common: Uncommon

Singulative

adar “birds” ~ aderyn “bird”

coed “forest” ~ coeden “tree”

plant “children” ~ plentyn “child”

No Number

No Number: Not Uncommon

EVOLVING NUMBER

Plural

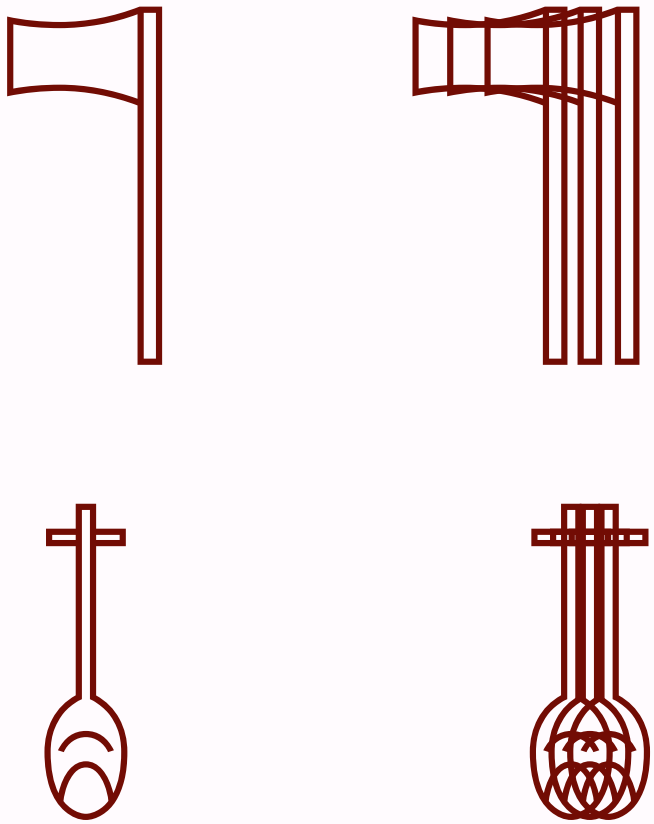
Three

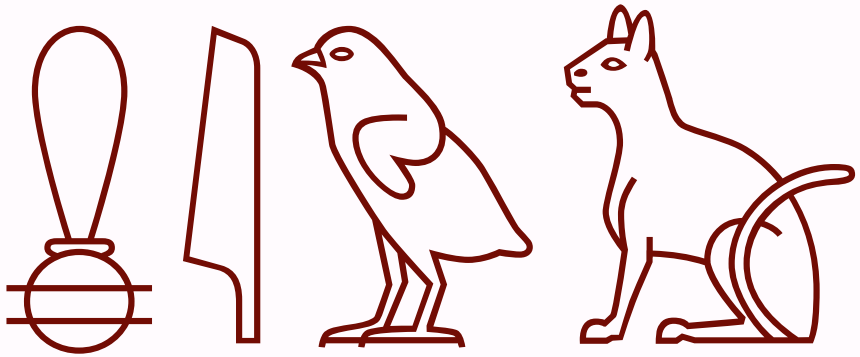
Many/Much

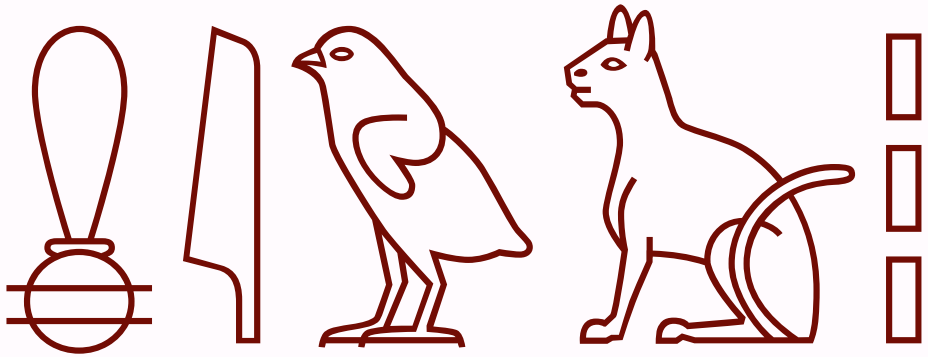
Pile/Heap

Bunch

Reduplication







Singulative

One
Diminutive (Child, Small, Small Object, etc.)

Paucal

Hand, Palm, Handful
Arm
Gather

Collective

Gather
Group
Classifier

Dual/Trial

Two
Three

Articles

Affixes that didn’t make it.

Articles

le ~ les

la ~ las

Articles

*ille ~ *illos

*illa ~ *illas

Articles

Indefinite
one
person/individual

Articles
Definite
this/that
here/there
she, he, it

MODIFIERS

Noun-Like Modifiers
Verb-Like Modifiers

the red cat
the big cat
the soft cat

The Reds
The Blues

Red is a good color.
Blue is a good color.

?Give me the big.

Give me the big one.

After rotating, the Spurs send their two bigs at Curry, and he just blows right by them.

red ≈ redness

big ≠ bigness

red ~ redder ~ reddest

big ~ bigger ~ biggest

incredible ~ *incredibler ~ *incrediblest

“We all know we are the 4th winningest franchise in NBA history.”

*?#@The Suns are a (more?) winninger franchise than the Jazz.

pak

kum

kum pak

a man a big one

a big one man

Head-Mod
Mod-Head

Head-Mod Suffixes

Mod-Head Prefixes

Demonstratives: Specify location, definiteness, or nearness of a noun.

Demonstratives

Usually primitives.

Demonstratives

Usually “close to me” and “not close to me”, or “close to me”, “close to you”, or “close to neither”.

Demonstratives

Proximal/Medial/Distal
Visible/Invisible
Base/Side/Summit

Demonstratives

Noun-Like Demonstratives Take Case Can Stand Alone

Demonstratives

Particle-Like Demonstratives Don’t Take Case Can’t Stand Alone

Tonight

(1) Create Nouns
(2) Find a Noun Case Grammar