Linguistics module

Topic 7 Morphology

Topic Overview: This topic introduces Morphology as the study of words and their parts. Morphemes, like prefixes, suffixes and base words, are defined as the smallest meaningful units of meaning.

Key Skills	Working in teams Language awareness Pattern recognition Analytical skills	
Expected time	Two hours (not including extra resources)	
Self-assessment (check with students at the end of the topic)	I understand how morphology works and the difference between inflectional and derivational morphology. I can break a word down into its individual morphemes. I understand how a child acquires grammatical morphemes.	✓ / X

Task 7.1 Description: Students learn to break a word down into its individual morphemes

Learning Intentions	The students know how to break a word down into its base words and any prefixes or suffixes
Resources	PPT introduction to morphology 7.1 Identifying Morphemes Worksheet and Solution
Task Outline	The teacher uses the presentation to introduce morphology. The morphology worksheet tasks students to break a number of words down to identify the individual morphemes, stating whether they are root (R), inflectional (I) or derivational (D). Give the root in its most usual form (the form it occurs in when uninflected, or the form you would look up in a dictionary). Finally, for each morpheme other than the root, give an approximate meaning or description of its function.

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Task 7.2 Description: Students will be able to identify which grammatical morphemes a child has acquired at what stage of language development

Learning Intentions	Students will be able to identify which grammatical morphemes a child has acquired at certain stages. They will be able to distinguish between lexical and functional categories.
Resources	Worksheet 7.2 Worksheet on Stages of Children's Language Production and Solution (Acquisition of grammatical morphemes based on Brown 1973)
Task Outline	Give the students worksheet 7.2 which outlines the acquisition of grammatical morphemes based on Brown (1973). Using the table, students should determine which grammatical morphemes the child has acquired in each of the example utterances and age. Students will then do the exercise in reverse: they will strip adult sentences of functional/grammatical elements.

Task 7.3 Description: Students will attempt a Maltese puzzle which brings together what they learnt in morphology and phonology (morphophonemics)

Learning Intentions	Students will apply what they have learnt about morphology (and Topic 3 Phonology) to solve this morphophonemics puzzle. Students will learn how to go about solving a morphophonemics puzzle.
Resources	AILO Maltese Puzzle (and Solution) All puzzles mentioned in this module are at: https://ailo.adaptcentre.ie/tymodpuzzles/
Task Outline	Students are given this adapted new All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO) Maltese Puzzle to work on in pairs. Students are tasked with working out the correct form of the definite article for a number of nouns.

Extra Resources	We encourage every school and student to take part in the 2022/23 All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO). The preliminary round is held in your own school at the end of January with the National Final in Dublin City University in March 2023. Register at https://ailo.adaptcentre.ie/enter/ and try other puzzles at https://ailo.adaptcentre.ie/puzzles/.

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