Syllabus: Morphological Theory

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Office hours: MW 11-12 and by appt. Drop-ins for quick questions usually ok.

Prerequisites: Linguistics 200A and 200B. If you’re missing one or both of these, talk to me before taking the course.

Content: This course is a survey at the graduate level of morphology and morphological theory.

Requirements: a. Three problem sets, all in first half of quarter
b. Do the readings. For some, but not all, I will ask for a less-than-one-page summary.
c. Three items centered around your term paper:
   i. An appointment with me, in which you discuss your term paper topic.
   ii. A talk, with handout, given to an audience of at least one (me), due Friday of 10th week (6/3) and covering your term paper content.
   iii. The paper itself, on some topic in morphology of your own choosing, due Friday of finals week, (6/10).


Other readings: Current research articles. I will post them on the course website, http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/205/. Some of it will be private and sit behind a password; send me an email if you need it.

Course Outline

(Subject to revision and open to suggestion.)

1. Introductory
   • Inflection and derivation, modes of realization, language typology
2. **Theories of inflectional realization**
   - Two kinds of theory:
     - phonology-like, with inside-out assembly—Anderson and colleagues
     - syntax-like, with principles of morpheme order—distributed morphology
   - A “poster child” example from Nungubuyu (Heath, Noyer)
   - Hard cases in morpheme order: work of Larry Hyman, Kevin Ryan

3. **Bases**
   - What’s derived from what? (semantically, phonologically…)  
     - Some empirical examples not covered in Linguistics 201.
     - Bonami and Boyé’s large base-tracing trees

4. **Productivity**
   - … as a characteristic phenomenon in derivational morphology
   - How to predict productivity level—work of Baayen and colleagues

5. **Morphological learning**
   - Finding the morphemes with distributional learning (Baroni, Cartwright and Brent, Goldsmith, Pertsova, Kruskal, Mintz)
   - Regularity and irregularity

6. **Syntax and morphology**
   - Hi-powered morphological systems that expressed clausal content in words: polysynthesis
     - construction like \( verb + object \): Object incorporation
     - constructions like \( verb + verb \): Causatives
   - Again, very different theories modeled on syntax and on phonology.