Lexical morphology handout 14

- Inflection in lexical morphology

It is vital to distinguish between the root changing and the irregular forms.

Some stratum 1 affixes are not root changing but they are irregular in the sense they apply quite sporadically

They need ad hoc restrictions to follow: ex plural marker –en

It is unpredictable, why this is so!

Most stratum 1 affixes are erratic morphemes which is largely unpredictable

They are mostly borrowed affixes & largely restricted to loanwords.

Frozen historical relics

Ablaut and umlaut

Ablaut is a process that refers to a vowel change which ultimately leads to a change in the grammatical function. ai to au

ride rode

present to past

this alternation is a minor sub regularity. Because not all the verbs undergo the same changes.

Irregular affixes must apply at stratum 1 and then stratum 2 is blocked otherwise we might have got roded or writed

similarly regular inflection must apply at stratum 2 because otherwise we won't be able to explain the derivation of the regular markers

Ablaut is a moribund phenomenon today . moribund – not being effectively passed on to the next generation.

The class of English verbs that show this are called strong verbs

     rise   rose   risen

     freeze froze frozen

Umlaut is the fronting of the vowel if the next syllable contains a front vowel

foot feet

umlaut became an apparatus for making plurals

it is a fossilized process.

however suffix –en is also a stratum affix but there is no historical relics like umlaut or ablaut. it was applied arbitrarily ox oxe, brother – brethren

child- children

Borrowed inflection marker

addendum   addenda

stratum   strata

datum   data

interesting possibility is a reanalysis speakers of English speakers consider data as a singular noun

Lexical rules

- the class of bases affected
- the affix that is attached
- where exactly it is attached

- the class which the resulting word belongs to
- the stratum to which the affix belongs to

Morphological rules that attach to the base look like the following
At stratum n
insert A in the environment [y⎯⎯⎯⎯Z]ₓ
output w
Some nouns are pluralized at strata 1
data
insert ə in environment of a [d əIt] noun +plural
output deIt ə
insert / ən / in the environment of en
output ɒks ən
once stratum 1 applied stratum 2 blocked .

Lexical rules are cyclic, phonological rules are coupled with morphological rules ,
First the morphological rules apply to bring together the pieces of morphemes to build the word then the word is cycled through , take pets and beds
The phonological rule decides that bed s must be bedz and pets as pets

post lexical rules can apply across boundaries
last trip can become las tri :p

post lexical rules are not cyclic
There is no linkage between phonological rules and syntactic rules
Lexical rules must be structure preserving

output of each layer must be a word
They should follow canonical phonological patterns ɗ asp is not a word of English because implosives are not a part of English phonemic inventory
tsem is also not a word of eng because ts cluster is not allowed in eng

Post lexical rules are automatic
The gloattlization rule in English t has an allophone ʔ
in word final position
k æt k æ ʔ
Before a consonant
[ke ʔl kettle noun
between vowels
mi ʔt ə meter noun
they apply across the board whenever the sound has these specific environment , this is a typical post lexical rule and applicable as long as they meet phonetic conditions