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'This coursebook is designed for students of Anglistics who take the course Morphology of the English Language during their undergraduate studies. The aim of the course is to give students a detailed overview to the parts of speech in the English language and the ways in which words are formed. The coursebook consists of five chapters. In each of them the theoretical outline of the topic is supported by numerous examples and exercises, as well as questions related to the presented subject matter and suggestions for additional practice and research.'

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UVOD U MORFOLOGIJU ENGLESKOG JEZIKA

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# INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH MORPHOLOGY

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**Alfa BK Univerzitet  
Fakultet za strane jezike**

Valentina Budinčić

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Valentina Budinčić  
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Uvod u morfologiju engleskog jezika

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## Introduction

This coursebook is designed for students of Anglistics who take the course *Morphology of the English Language* during their undergraduate studies. The aim of the course is to give students a detailed overview to the parts of speech in the English language and the ways in which words are formed. The coursebook consists of five chapters. In each of them the theoretical outline of the topic is supported by numerous examples and exercises, as well as questions related to the presented subject matter and suggestions for additional practice and research. The first chapter *The scope of morphology* defines morphology as a linguistic discipline and determines its scope. The second chapter *Parts of speech* deals with types of words: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, determiners, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections. In the third chapter *Basic morphological elements and word formation in English*, basic terms from the field of word formation are defined. Besides, compounds, derivation and other ways of word formation are described in detail. In the fourth chapter *Lexical varieties of English vocabulary*, the specifics of lexical forms in different varieties of the English language are pointed out. The fifth chapter *Contact language culture on morphological level* is focused on contrastive linguistics on the morphological level, which represents an important part of the contact language culture of future graduate philologists. A good mastery of word formation rules in English should not violate proper language use in Serbian, and the last chapter aims to point this out and prevent negative interference of English and Serbian at the lexical level. At the end, there are suggestions for project

tasks, texts for additional practice and a dictionary of basic morphological terms. Through the lessons in the coursebook *Introduction to English Morphology*, previously acquired knowledge in English linguistics is integrated and expanded, which creates a basis for its further development in other language areas within the study program of Anglistics.

Belgrade, July 2022

*Valentina Budinčić*

## Uvod

Ovaj udžbenik je namenjen studentima Anglistike koji predmet *Morfologija engleskog jezika* slušaju na osnovnim studijama. Cilj predmeta jeste detaljno upoznavanje studenata sa vrstama reči u engleskom jeziku i načinima njihove tvorbe. Udžbenik se sastoji od pet poglavlja. U svakom od njih teorijsko sagledavanje teme potkrepljeno je brojnim primerima i zadacima, nakon čega slede pitanja koja se odnose na izloženo gradivo, kao i predlozi za dodatno vežbanje i istraživanje.

U prvom poglavlju *The scope of morphology* definiše se morfologija kao lingvistička disciplina i određuje njen opseg. U drugom poglavlju *Parts of speech* obrađuju se vrste reči: imenice, glagoli, pridevi, prilozi, zamenice, determinatori, predlozi, veznici i uzvici. U trećem poglavlju *Basic morphological elements and word formation in English* definišu se osnovni pojmovi iz oblasti tvorbe reči i detaljno opisuju složenice, derivacija i ostali načini tvorbe reči. U četvrtom poglavlju *Lexical varieties of English vocabulary* ukazuje se na specifičnosti leksičkih oblika u različitim varijantama engleskog jezika. Peto poglavlje *Contact language culture on morphological level* posvećeno je kontrastivnoj lingvistici na morfološkom nivou, a koja predstavlja važan deo kontaktne jezičke kulture budućih diplomiranih filologa. Dobro ovladavanje tvorbenim pravilima u engleskom jeziku ne bi smelo da naruši pravilnu jezičku upotrebu u srpskom jeziku, te poslednje poglavlje ima za cilj da na to ukaže i preventivno deluje u pravcu sprečavanja negativne interferencije engleskog i srpskog jezika na leksičkom nivou. Na kraju knjige se nalaze predlozi za projektne zadatke, tekstovi za dodatno vežbanje i rečnik osnovnih morfoloških pojmova.

Kroz gradivo udžbenika *Uvod u morfologiju engleskog jezika* integriše se i proširuje prethodno stečeno znanje iz anglističke lingvistike i tako stvara osnova za njegovu dalju nadgradnju iz drugih jezičkih oblasti u okviru studijskog programa Anglistika.

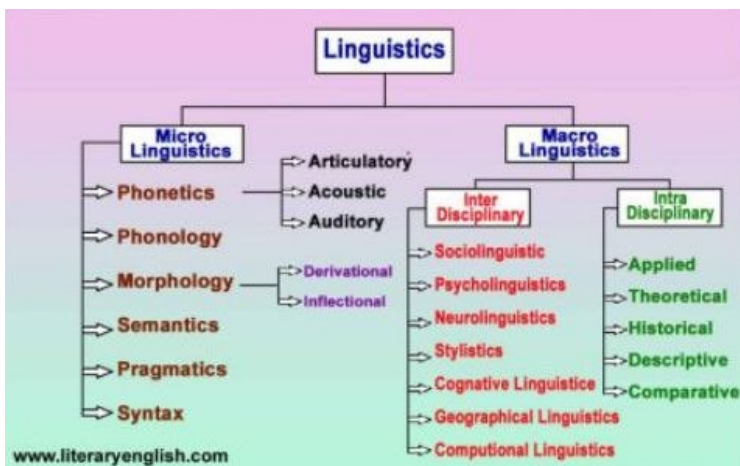
Beograd, jul 2022.

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# I THE SCOPE OF MORPHOLOGY

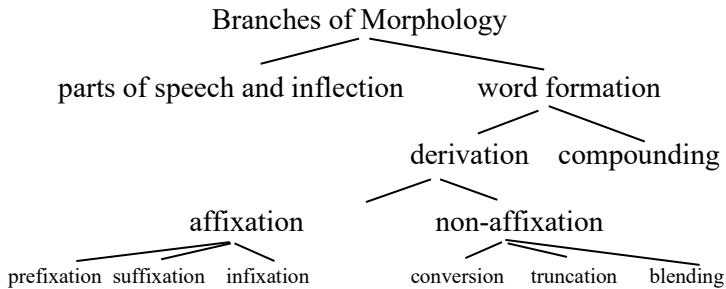
*The aim of this chapter is to outline the scope of morphology as a linguistic discipline, as well as to define and classify words as parts of speech.*

Morphology in the context of linguistic disciplines



Source: <https://literaryenglish.com/branches-of-linguistics-micro-vs-macro-linguistics/>

**Morphology** is the study of language which deals with **words, word formation and word classification**. The term morphology comes from Greek word ‘morphe’ meaning *form* and ‘logia’ meaning *learning, reasoning*.



(Plag 2002: 22)

Term **word** is used intuitively in everyday language for a basic element of language. There are numerous linguistic attempts at defining the concept of word, which are not uniform and remain controversial. Here are some principles upon which words can be defined (Plag 2002: 4-12):

- (a) phonetic-phonological level: ‘words are the smallest segments of sound that can be theoretically isolated by word accent and boundary markers like pauses, clicks, and the like’;
- (b) orthographic-graphemic level: ‘a word is any sequence of letters bounded on either side by blank spaces in writing or print’;
- (c) morphological level: ‘words are characterized as the basic elements of grammatical paradigms like inflection and are distinguished from the morphologically characterized word forms’, e.g. *write* vs. *writes*, *wrote*, *written*; they are structurally stable and cannot be divided, and can be described as well by specific rules of word formation;
- (d) lexical-semantic level: words are the smallest, relatively independent carriers of meaning that are codified in the lexicon;
- (e) syntactical level: ‘words are the smallest permutable and substitutable units of a sentence’.

However, neither of these concepts can be completely accepted, as many exceptions on all levels are found in language. For example, when it comes to orthographic criterion exceptions to the rule are words such as ‘high-rise apartment building’, as there are some blank spaces inside the word. In terms of phonological criterion exceptions are function words such as articles and auxiliaries, clitics (‘ll, ‘ve) which hang on other words and words *travel agency*, *weather forecast*, as phonologically defined words are not always identical with orthographically defined words etc. Word integrity, which is the main characteristic of morphological criterion is violated in words such as *sons-in-law*, and *apso-bloody-lutely* and alike. Regarding semantic criterion, there are many concepts which cannot be expressed with one word. An illustration is the concept *the smell of fresh rain in a forest in the fall* or *the woman next door*. Finally, the syntactic criterion is violated by the fact that not all words in a sentence occur in a determined position. For example, in yes/no questions auxiliary verb does not occur in its usual position.

### **The main difference between word and lexeme**

Term lexeme refers to abstract units in the dictionary, while words are realisations of lexemes in utterances in particular situations. (Bauer 2002: 12)

### **WORD CLASSIFICATION**

All words in language can be classified into two groups: lexical words and grammatical words. **Lexical words** are nouns, adjectives, adverbs and (full) verbs. They are also known as full or content words. Their number is potentially unlimited. **Grammatical words** are pronouns, prepositions, articles and auxiliary verbs (primary and modal), conjunctions and interjections. They are also known as functional words. Their number is finite.

Parts of speech

Open sets (lexical words)	Closed sets (grammatical/functional words)
1 Nouns	5 Pronouns
2 Full verbs	6 Prepositions
3 Adjectives	7 Primary verbs
4 Adverbs	8 Modal verbs
	9 Determiners
	10 Conjunctions
	11 Interjunctions

*EX 1'*

Illustrate each part of speech with five examples.

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Questions for discussion:

1. Define branches of Morphology and provide examples.
2. Explain the difference between lexical and functional words.
3. Explain the difference between full verbs, primary verbs and auxiliary verbs.
4. Define *word* from various language perspectives.

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<sup>1</sup> The compilation of exercises in this coursebook is based mostly on the following sources: Stageberg (1981), Murphy (1994), McCarthy & O'Dell (1999), Loyd & Day (2011), Brook-Hart & Haines (2012), Hewings (2009), Kvačanović (2000), Corder (1988).

