

Morphology Assignment

Morphological Analysis

Morphemes are the smallest unit of meaning. For example, the word “cats” is one word, but it has two morphemes: cat (which refers to our furry friends), and -s (which means plural).

When we’re going morphological analysis, we’re trying to use our knowledge of what a whole word means to figure out what the morphemes are. Even if I didn’t know English very well, with a few examples I could figure out that -s can mean plural, because I could see multiple examples where adding an -s makes a singular noun plural:

cat (one cat)	cats (two or more cats)
snack (one snack)	snacks (two or more snacks)
cup (one cup)	cups (two or more cups)

The meaning always changes the same way when we add an -s to the end. So -s must mean plural!

In this assignment, using only the data you’re given, figure out what the morphemes of a real language (Italian) and a constructed language (Klingon).

Exercise 1: Italian

Data:

parlo	I speak	porto	I carry
parli	you speak	compri	you buy
parla	he speaks	usa	he uses
parliamo	we speak	ascoltiamo	we listen
parlate	you (plural) speak	mandate	you (plural) send
parlano	they speak	trovano	they find

Based on this data, what is the morpheme for:

speak	_____
I	_____
you	_____
he	_____
we	_____
you (plural)	_____
they	_____
carry	_____

Based on this data, how do you say “they buy” in Italian: _____

Exercise 2: Klingon

Data:

[vajqoq]	so-called warrior	[puqvam]	this child
[rojvo]	from peace	[yuqxvamvo]	from this planet
[shojdaq]	in the food	[pavam]	this room
[rojqoq]	so-called peace	[vajvammo]	because of this warrior
[pavo]	from the room	[shojqoqvammo]	because of this so-called food
[yuqxdaq]	on the planet	[puqmo]	because of the child

Based on this data, what is the morpheme for:

so-called	_____
warrior	_____
this	_____
child	_____
from	_____
peace	_____
room	_____
planet	_____
because of	_____
food	_____

Answer: “in” and “on” are different words in English. Are they in Klingon? Justify your answer.

Based on this data, how do you say “because of this so-called planet” in Klingon: