

TYPES OF MORPHEMES IN RUSSIAN AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION

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Annotation: A morpheme is the smallest meaningful part of a word. This article explores the various types of morphemes in the Russian language, focusing on their classification and functional roles in word formation. The study categorizes morphemes into free and bound morphemes, inflectional and derivational morphemes, and examines their significance in linguistic structures. The findings aim to enhance the understanding of morphological processes in Russian and contribute to the broader field of linguistics.

Keywords: Morpheme, Russian language, free morphemes, bound morphemes, inflectional morphemes, derivational morphemes, morphology.

Morphology, the study of the structure and formation of words, plays a crucial role in understanding the intricacies of any language. In Russian, a language known for its rich inflectional system and complex word formation processes, morphemes serve as fundamental building blocks. This article aims to classify the types of morphemes found in Russian and analyze their functions within the language. By examining both free and bound morphemes, as well as inflectional and derivational types, we can gain insights into how these elements contribute to meaning and grammatical structure.

The smallest formal part of a word that has meaning is called a morph. Therefore, further division of the morph into parts will lead to the allocation of insignificant elements of phonemes.

For example, let's take the word пере-чит-ыва-ть and divide it into parts in the manner described above. It is easy to see that each part of the word is associated with a certain meaning: **ЧИТ-** denotes a certain action (ср.: читать, читальня, читатель, etc.), **пере-** denotes the repetition of an action ("again", ср.: переписать, переделать, перешить, перестроить, etc.); **-ыва** - has the meaning of an imperfective aspect, emphasizes the repetition of an action (ср.: разбрасывать, переделывать, etc.); **-ть** is an indicator of the infinitive form.

Further fragmentation of morphs will not lead to the allocation of significant parts of the word.

Words (more precisely, word forms) consist of morphs, i.e. each word consists of at least one morph (вчера, там, где, etc.). Two- and three-morph words are typical for the Russian

language (вод-а, дом-ой, ум-н-ый, раз-би-ть, стѐн-к-а, etc.). The longest words in the Russian language can include seven or eight morphs (по-на-вы-пис-ыва-л-и).

A morpheme is a unit, whereas morphs are generalized, specific representatives of a morpheme, found when dividing a word.

In word formation and inflection, along with the specific concept of "morph", a generalized concept of morpheme and types of morphemes of affix and root; suffix, prefix, inflection (see below) is also necessary.

I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay wrote about the term "morpheme": "To consider such a term superfluous is the same as to consider the unifying term "дерево" superfluous and to be content with specific names: "дуб", "береза", "ель", "ива", etc." Since a morpheme is a generalized unit, and a morph is a unit given to us by direct observation, several morphs are combined into one morpheme.

A morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit in a language that carries meaning. It can be a standalone word (free morpheme) or a component of a word (bound morpheme). Understanding the distinction between these two types is essential for analyzing Russian morphology.

Free Morphemes

Free morphemes are independent units that can stand alone as words. In Russian, examples include:

- Nouns: дом (house), книга (book)
- Verbs: читать (to read), писать (to write)
- Adjectives: хороший (good), большой (big)

These morphemes can be combined with other morphemes to form more complex words but do not require additional elements to convey meaning.

Bound Morphemes

Bound morphemes cannot stand alone and must be attached to free morphemes. They are further classified into two categories:

1. Inflectional Morphemes

Inflectional morphemes modify a word to express grammatical features such as tense, case, number, or gender without changing its core meaning. In Russian, inflectional morphemes are prevalent due to the language's rich inflectional system. Examples include:

- Noun inflections: стол (table) → стола (of the table)
- Verb conjugations: писать (to write) → пишу (I write)

2. Derivational Morphemes

Word-forming morphemes in Russian can be located: 1) before the root; then they are called prefixes; 2) after the root; then they are called suffixes (from the Latin suffixus - "substituted"). Derivational morphemes create new words by adding prefixes or suffixes to existing free morphemes. This process often alters the meaning or grammatical category of the base word. For instance:

• **Prefixation:** не- + счастливый (happy) → несчастливый (unhappy); при-летать, рас-красавица, сверх-человек, ультра-радикал, архи-плут, пре-милый, противотуберкулезный, сверх-звуковой

The term prefix has two meanings, broad and narrow: a) an affixal morpheme located before the root, to the left of the root (opposed to postfixes); b) one type of derivational morpheme (= prefix) is opposed to another type of derivational morpheme (suffixes).

• **Suffixation:** учитель (teacher) + -ница → учительница (female teacher); артист-к(а), газет-чик, журнал-ист, коров-ник, цемент-н(ый)

Suffixes are usually placed before inflections: у газет-чик-а, с журналист-ом, цемент-н-ого. In Russian there is only one suffix -ся, which is located after inflections: всмотрим-ся, зачитаем-ся, на-бегаешь-ся.

The entire set of morphemes of the Russian language can be divided into several classes on various grounds. The classification of morphemes takes into account the following features: the role of morphemes in a word, the meaning of morphemes, their place in the word, the origin of morphemes. Root morphemes (roots) and affixal morphemes (affixes from the Latin affixit "attached") are distinguished.

The basis for such division is the role of these morphemes in the word: root morphemes are an obligatory part of the word, there are no words without a root. Affixal morphemes are an optional part of the word. There are words without affixal morphemes, for example: где, вчера, там. Корни это такие морфемы, которые могут использоваться в речи самостоятельно или в сопровождении одного из видов аффиксов - флексий (об отграничении флексий от других видов аффиксов см. ниже).

There is an opinion that the main difference between roots and affixes is the degree of abstractness of meaning: the former have a concrete meaning, the latter an abstract one. It is difficult to agree with this. Cf. at least the meaning of root morphemes in the words eto, otnosheniya, do and the meaning of affixal morphemes in the words клубника, черн-ика (сорт ягод), кон-ина, свин-ина.

Some scientists distinguish another type of derivational morphemes in the Russian language - **confixes** (from the Latin confixum "taken together"), which consist of two parts (prefix and postfix) and act in a complex manner in the word-formation act, as something unified. For example: шуметь расшуметься (there are no verbs "рас-шуметь" or "шуметься"), кричать раскричаться, говорить сговориться, звонить созвониться, etc. In these words, two elements рас and ся, с/со- and ся act together as a single morpheme. The words

подстаканник, подо-конник, бездорожье, безденежье (glass cup holder), etc. are formed with the help of confixes.

Morphemes in Russian serve various functional roles:

- Building Vocabulary. Derivational morphemes expand the lexicon by forming new words.
- Indicating Grammatical Relationships. Inflectional morphemes denote relationships between words in sentences, crucial for understanding syntactic structures.
- Conveying Meaning Nuances. The combination of different morphemes allows for nuanced expressions of meaning.

To conclude, the classification of morphemes in the Russian language into free and bound, as well as inflectional and derivational types, reveals the complexity and richness of its morphological system. Understanding these categories enhances our comprehension of how words are formed and modified in Russian, shedding light on broader linguistic principles. As Russian continues to evolve, ongoing research into its morphology will be essential for linguists and language learners alike.

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