

**Course Code: BLS-C200**

**Course Title: Morphology I**

**Core/Elective: Core**

**Credits: 3**

**Prerequisite: None**

### **Course Description**

This course will introduce the students to some of the major structural and functional categories of morphemes and words. They will use these categories to analyze complex words as well as to assess cross-linguistic variation and claims for theoretical constructs. The course will address questions such as:

- What are 'words' and what is their status in linguistics?
- How do word structure and sentence structure relate to one another?
- What is the relationship between the structure of words and their pronunciation?

The idea is to hook the unwary into an unending fascination with structure.

### **Course Outcomes**

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- understand basic concepts of morphology;
- identify the major operations/processes in natural language morphology; and
- analyze morphological patterns from a wide variety of unrelated languages

### **Course Contents**

**Module 1** introduces you to the sub-field of linguistics called morphology and examines the definitions of morpheme.

**Module 2** looks at the characteristics, types, morphemes, and its relationship with other grammatical units including word, lexis, vocabulary, and lexeme.

**Module 3** examines the affixations and the concept of inflectional and derivational morphology.

**Module 4** examines morphological structure and various morphological processes used cross-linguistically.

#### **Module 1: Introducing Morphology**

Unit 1: Morphology, the study of form

Unit 2: Rules and patterns

Unit 3: Morpheme identification in languages

Unit 4: Words and morphemes – free; bound; bound root

#### **Module 2: Introduction to Morphemes**

- Unit 5: item-and arrangement vs item-and process
- Unit 6: Word formation processes
- Unit 7: Compounding and types of compounds
- Unit 8: Reduplication

Module 3: Inflections and Derivations

- Unit 9: Affixation: infix, prefix, suffix, circumflex, transfix, and intermix
- Unit 10: Inflectional morphology: tense, aspect, number, gender, person
- Unit 11: Derivational morphology: denominal, deverbal, and deadjectival morpheme
- Unit 12: Productivity constraints

Module 4: Morphological Structure and Processes

- Unit 13: Affixes and level ordering
- Unit 14: Morphological trees
- Unit 16: Basic allomorphy
- Unit 15 Typology: agglutinative, fusional, analytic, isolating, polysynthetic

**Essential Readings**

Aronoff, Mark, and Kirsten Fudeman. 2011. *What Is Morphology?* 2nd edition. West Sussex: Wiley- Blackwell.

Bauer, Laurie. 2003. *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Haspelmath, Martin, and Andrea Sims. 2010. *Understanding Morphology*. 2nd Edition. London: Hodder Education.

**Evaluation Scheme**

The following table lays out how the actual course marking is broken down.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Marks</b>
Assignments 1-3 (the best two of all the assignments submitted)	Two assignments, marked out of 20%, totalling 40%
Final examination	60% of overall course marks
Total	100% of course marks