Andrew HIPPISEY & Gregory STUMP, *The Cambridge Handbook of Morphology*

Cambridge University Press, 2016, 866 pages

Oscar Garcia-Marchena

Electronic version

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/lexis/3560>

DOI: 10.4000/lexis.3560

ISSN: 1951-6215

Publisher

Université Jean Moulin - Lyon 3

Electronic reference

Oscar Garcia-Marchena, « Andrew HIPPISEY & Gregory STUMP, *The Cambridge Handbook of Morphology* », *Lexis* [Online], Book reviews, Online since 26 August 2019, connection on 24 September 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/lexis/3560> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/lexis.3560>

This text was automatically generated on 24 September 2020.

Lexis is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

Andrew HIPPISEY & Gregory STUMP, *The Cambridge Handbook of Morphology*

Cambridge University Press, 2016, 866 pages

Oscar Garcia-Marchena

REFERENCES

Andrew Hippisley, Gregory Stump

The Cambridge Handbook of Morphology. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2016.

ISBN: 978-1-10-703827-1, Price: 123 €, 866 pages

- 1 This comprehensive handbook on morphology is 866 pages long, including an introduction and 28 chapters divided into six parts. It is completed by three indexes, about languages, names and subjects respectively. The book constitutes a reference work on the current knowledge on this sub-discipline of linguistics, and includes a description of the diversity of morphologic phenomena in the world's languages, the methodologies employed to account for them, and the explanations provided. It also presents a landscape of current hypothesis on the interfaces between morphology and other sub-disciplines such as syntax or lexicology.
- 2 This book is addressed to readers already having a basic knowledge of linguistics, since some knowledge in basic language analysis terminology is assumed. Students in linguistics or other disciplines will find a useful tool to further their knowledge in morphology and its intersections with fields such as psychology or computer science.
- 3 Although each chapter constitutes an independent article with its own references, the articles are ordered in six thematic axes that articulate them. These six parts group the 28 articles according to the aspect of morphology that they cover: foundations, issues, principles, frameworks, interfaces with phonology and syntax, and, finally, domains for the evaluation of morphological theories.

- 4 Thanks to its 36 contributors, the work also offers a wide scope of issues and frameworks on morphology. In this way, the book presents a good balance between coherence and diversity: on the one hand, the division in six axes provides coherence to the work and prevents it from being a mere compilation of articles on the subject. On the other hand, this diversity of subjects is enriched with a diversity of points of view, since the contributors to the work belong to a number of different institutions from both Europe and America. This diversity is also made evident by the choice of linguistic data, which are taken from 223 different languages, covering many linguistic families that are spoken today or were spoken in the past. In this way, the abundance of data denotes an interest in accounting for an array of very different phenomena.
- 5 The introduction of the handbook is divided in three parts: firstly, a presentation of the terminology; secondly, an introduction to the major questions in morphology and thirdly, an account of the structure of the book. This is an essential part of the work, since it allows the reader to be acquainted with the basic concepts and issues in morphology, and provides a brief account of the content of each chapter. The second part of the introduction is a key section of the work, since it presents an overview of the main problems in the study of morphology. These problems are presented in the form of dichotomies (“Shall we consider words or morphemes as the fundamental units of morphology?”, for instance) that are organised in subjects such as morphological form, morphological expressiveness, morphological function, or typological and theoretical dichotomies. This section is particularly useful, because it constitutes an account of the different perspectives of analysis and the authors that adhere to them.
- 6 The first part of the book, “Foundations of morphological Theory”, contains chapters 2, 3 and 4 and presents the basic questions dealing with morphological function, form and expressiveness. Chapter 2, “Two morphologies or one? Inflection versus word formation” explores the differences between two kinds of rules for word formation: derivation, that allows to create new lexemes, and inflection, that doesn’t. The chapter exposes the few non-prototypical rules of word formation that defy this dichotomy, like transposition (a shift in morphological and syntactic category without addition of a semantic component) and evaluative morphology. It also proposes a formal representation that accounts for derivation and inflexion rules in a unified way, while keeping the distinction between new lexeme and same lexeme.
- 7 Chapter 3, “The Minimal Sign”, discusses whether we should consider the morpheme or the lexeme as the smallest unit that associates form and function. It exposes the problems of both approaches, and concludes that models considering the morpheme as the minimal sign cannot account for some word-formation rules like underdetermination. It also distinguishes two kinds of lexeme-based approaches: exponence-based and implicative approaches.
- 8 Chapter 4, “Productivity”, reviews the different qualitative and quantitative approaches on derivation and provides some examples from French that show that productivity is not binary, but scalar. The article also shows how corpus-based research resorting to quantitative methods and electronic productions (blogs, wikis, etc.) can account for complex cases of word-formation such as neologisms, which have not received full consideration in traditional dictionary-based methods.
- 9 The second part of the book, “Issues in Morphological Theory”, contains chapter 5 to 9 and deals with the structure and alternations of morphological markings, the similarity between the morphologic structure of the word and the syntax, and the nature of

different alternations. Chapter 5, “Alternations: Stems and Allomorphy” exposes two different kinds of allomorphy: suppletive and non-suppletive (but motivated exclusively by phonological processes or contexts), as well as three subtypes of suppletive allomorphy: morphosyntactic (indicating different morphological or syntactic information, like past tense), lexical, and phonological (determined by the phonological structure of the word). This chapter explores the analysis of these different kinds of allomorphy, as proposed by different frameworks: distributed morphology, optimality theory, and inferential – realisational approaches. It concludes that each model represents them in a different way, depending on the place assigned to morphology in the representation of grammar.

- 10 Chapter 6, entitled “Morphological semantics”, explores the differences between lexical and morphological semantics and points out a special property of lexemes: the asymmetry of morphological and semantic structures.
- 11 Chapter 7, “Affix ordering: Motivation and Interpretation”, presents data of polysynthetic words from various Native American languages, where affixation ordering plays a major role, and offers an insight on the subject. It distinguishes two kinds of approaches to affix ordering: those which make a parallel with the syntactic ordering of lexical elements, and those which doesn’t. It presents a number of interesting conclusions, like the following ones: firstly, affixes, unlike constituents, can be interpreted in chunks. Secondly, it concludes that in order to fully understand affix ordering, a synchronic analysis must be combined with a diachronic one.
- 12 Beautifully written with a number of literary metaphors, chapter 8, “A Fox Knows Many Things but a Hedgehog One Big Thing”, expounds some differences between deductive (hedgehog’s) and inductive (fox’s) approaches to morphology and their outcomes. This theoretical analysis concludes that both models offer different insights on morphology and are therefore complementary.
- 13 Chapter 9, “the Status of Paradigms”, describes paradigms as tools to account for asymmetries between form and function in morphology, and presents three types: content paradigm, form paradigm and morphomic paradigm. It also explores the role of paradigms in different morphology frameworks.
- 14 The third part, “Morphological principles”, is structured by a dichotomy of two complementary principles: the principle of morphology-free syntax (that stipulates that syntax does not rule word internal structure) and the principle of syntax-free morphology (establishing that morphological rules do not affect the syntax of words). Chapters 10 to 12 argue for or against the principles of the so-called lexicalist hypothesis.
- 15 Providing data on Romance and Slavic languages, chapter 10 presents the advantages and disadvantages of the weak and strong versions of these principles, and explores their borders with phenomena such as clitics and compounding. The chapter advocates the existence of these principles and explains these peripheral phenomena as an interaction and overlapping of syntax and morphology as two different components of grammar.
- 16 Chapter 11, “Defaults and Overrides in Morphological Description”, discusses the concept of default and its importance in morphological expressiveness. It expounds the history of the concept, its different conceptions, and its relation with concepts such as inflectional class, canonicity, dirty vs. clean features, and exceptional vs. normal cases.

- 17 Chapter 12, “Implicative Relations in Word-based Morphological Systems” presents an original framework for the study of morphology: the author resorts to a method of analysis employed for biological systems: computational complexity theory. The use of this method is justified by the idea that morphology, like biological systems, is a complex adaptive system. In this case, the complexity arises from the interaction of two domains: internal word structure and its place in the systemic organisation of paradigms. The author makes use of a conditional entropy formalism to account for this interaction.
- 18 The fourth part of the book briefly presents the major morphological frameworks, such as construction morphology, distributed morphology, natural morphology, paradigm function morphology and network morphology. Chapter 13, “Classical Morphemics: Assumptions, Extensions and Alternatives” expounds a number of problems that emerge from the analysis of morphemes as units analogous to phonemes, and from the status of morphemes as signs. It examines a number of phenomena that challenge the validity of the concept of morpheme, like contiguity, zero morphs, extended exponence, cumulative exponence, subtraction and internal modification.
- 19 Chapter 14, “Natural Morphology”, describes this morphological framework, its units, its structuring concepts and its parameters: iconicity, indexicality, binarity, morphosemantic transparency, morphotactic transparency and the figure vs. ground distinction. It also shows how the framework can deal with issues such as productivity, rule competition, complexity and paradigms, and the interfaces with other language components, such as syntax, phonology or discourse.
- 20 Chapter 15, “Distributed Morphology”, expounds on this framework, which rejects lexicalism (presented in chapter 10) for a generative engine that accounts both for phrase and word structure. The chapter shows how distributed morphology deals with issues such as syncretism, affix ordering and suppletive allomorphy. Besides, asymmetries between form and meaning are explained by syntactic operations such as head movement, merger, fusion, fission and impoverishment.
- 21 Chapter 16, “Construction Morphology”, presents this framework that follows the philosophy of construction grammar. In this lexicalist model, words are grouped by types according to their morphological behaviour, and each type is associated to a template describing the construction and its different kinds of information. Words are conceived as the combination of stem and indexes, which are unified by a word-formation process. In this way, the framework distinguishes inflection (a stem-to-word operation) from derivation, a different (secondary) operation that associates words to words.
- 22 Chapter 17, “Paradigm Function Morphology”, describes this framework that conceives word-formation as a mapping from both a content paradigm and a form paradigm that follows some realisation constraints. It also explains how it accounts for form-meaning asymmetries phenomena like syncretism, deponency and defectiveness.
- 23 Chapter 18, “Network Morphology”, sketches this formal and computer-implementable framework where different kinds of morphological information are disposed in nodes that are interlinked forming a network. Morphological information is accumulated by using a number of concepts such as default inheritance and default inherence, and can account for challenging cases like inflectional classes, suppletive stem allomorphy, syncretism and dependency.

- 24 The fifth part of the book deals with the interface of morphology and phonology or syntax, as can be seen in chapter 19, “The Role of Morphology in Generative Phonology, Autosegmental Phonology, and Prosodic Morphology”. This article poses two questions: firstly, can morphological analysis be item-based? Secondly, how sensitive are phonological and morphological information to each other? The chapter answers these questions by analysing words’ segmental phonology as a set of autosegmental units that interact among them. In this way, morphemes are presented as the template that gives form to phonology.
- 25 Chapter 20, “The Role of Morphology in Optimality Theory”, presents a model of analysis for the interface of morphology with phonology. It explains phonologically-conditioned alternations as the result of a competition of different phonological constraints. Besides, it addresses challenging issues such as extended exponence and syncretism.
- 26 Chapter 21, “The Role of Morphology in Transformational Grammar” focuses on Chomsky’s conception of morphology in his generative program between the 1950s and the 1970s. It stresses that Chomsky’s works present a complex description of morphology that was later simplified, by reducing allomorphy as part of the phonology, and morphotactics as part of the syntax.
- 27 Chapter 22, “Morphology in Constraint-based Lexical Approaches to Grammar”, follows the lexicalist line of chapter 10 and proposes a framework where the interaction of constraints is not determined by conditional entropy (chapter 12) or ranking (see optimality theory, Chapter 12), but by the concept of unification. It presents the treatment of morphology and its integration with other parts of grammar in the formal LFG and HPSG models, which makes use of two key concepts: inheritance hierarchies and multiple inheritance.
- 28 Chapter 23, “Dependency Grammar”, explores the extent to which this model can account for morphology phenomena, and concludes that some of them require a constituency-based analysis.
- 29 The last part of the book deals with two issues: firstly, the methods of evaluation for morphologic analysis, and secondly, the domains where evaluation can be made: linguistic typology, language change and language acquisition. Following this line, chapter 24, “Frequency and Corpora”, explores the way corpora are used to measure morphological distribution and frequency, and how the results can be impacted by annotated information such as the speaker’s genre. Besides, it answers some questions about morphological productivity, processing and change.
- 30 Chapter 25, “Morphology in Typology”, addresses some morphological topics that are frequent in typological research: word classes, alignment, hierarchical systems, the relationship between derivational and inflectional morphology and the distribution of three categories of pronouns: free, bound and weak.
- 31 Chapter 26, “Morphological Change”, deals with language change in morphology, in form as well as in meaning. It distinguishes two conditions of change: firstly, those causes which are internal to the system, such as analogy, which attempts to restore a symmetric correspondence between form and meaning. Secondly, system-external causes, which depend on language change.
- 32 Chapter 27, “Morphology and Language Acquisition”, presents some factors that affect the acquisition of morphology: firstly, distributional properties (and particularly, the

limited morphological information present in child speech), and secondly, developmental patterns such as error production, which is explained as an overuse of productive rules.

- 33 Chapter 28, “Experimental Studies of Morphology and Morphological Processing”, presents some experimental methods, measures and results to answer some questions about morphological storage, processing and representation. It expounds some behavioural methods like eye-tracking, which have been used to test the distinction between productivity and default, and between inflection and derivation.
- 34 The last chapter, “Computational Morphology”, explores how computational research can be used to account for morphology: it can be used either theoretically, to implement morphological models, or in a more practical way, like processing morphological data with computational methods. It expounds on the theoretical assumptions of some computational models, and presents some language data that constitute major challenges for computational morphology, like the absence of word boundaries in Chinese, the non-catenative Semitic morphology and the complex Bantu morphological system.

AUTHOR

OSCAR GARCIA-MARCHENA

Oscar Garcia-Marchena, EILA, University Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3

Dr. Oscar Garcia Marchena teaches Spanish linguistics at the University Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3. He teaches Spanish syntax, morphology, phonetics and phonology to undergraduates. His research revolves around the syntax of verbless clauses in corpora of contemporary Spanish. He holds an MA from University Paris 3 in Linguistics, an MA from the University of Seville in Spanish and English, and a PhD in Linguistics from University Paris Diderot. He is a member of the AESLA and AELINCO linguistic associations.