Definitions and synonyms

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The definitions presented here are working definitions of a few of the terms used in the advance linguistics course of the Summer Institute of Linguistics at Grand Forks, North Dakota, 1958 session. Additional comments are added to some of the items to point out implications. The words that are called Synonyms are roughly similar terms used by linguists in various parts of the world. Their being listied here implies no claim of strict equivalence. It well be noted that some of the synonyms have a larger area of meaning than the term defined (compare <u>constituent</u> and <u>Word Root</u>), and others have a smaller area of meaning (compare <u>particle</u> and <u>Morpheme</u>). The synonyms are intended merely as useful approximations for the purpose of relating the terms here defined to the other technical vocabulary of the field of descriptive linguistics and of aiding students who are becoming acquainted with the literature in the field.

Most of the statements represent the views of R. S. Pittman and his interpretation of the work of other scholars. The list is edited by Richard Phillips.

<u>Word Root</u>: Any sequence of phonemes of a given language belonging to a class of unlimited membership, and which is not anyalyzable into a combination containing a shorter sequence belonging to a class of unlimited membership, is a Word Root.

Synonyms: central morpheme, constant, terminal, constituent, immediate constituent.

<u>Syntax</u>: The Syntax of a language is the set of a structural signals which relates its word roots and/or their expansions to one another in sequences.

<u>Morphology</u>: The Morphology of a language is the set of structural

signals which relates its word roots and/or their expansions to one

another in substitution classes.

Synonyms showing the contrast between syntax and morphology:

<u>Syntax</u>		<u>Morphology</u>	
Construction relations		Class relations	
Syntactic	"	Paradigmatic	"
Syntagmatic	"	Associative	"
Structure	"	System	"
Horizontal	"	Vertical	"
Sequence	"	Substitution	"
Successiveness	"	Replacement	"
Both-and	"	Either-or	"
On-the-line	"	List	"
Chain	"	Selection	"
String	"		

<u>Construction Marker</u>: A linguistic feature--morph, position,

prosodic feature-- which is required by a construction of two

word roots but is not possible in a different construction of the

same two word roots in a Construction Marker.

In <u>I</u> <u>see</u> <u>him</u>, -<u>m</u> plus position following the verb is a construc-

tion showing the relation between verb and object.

Synonyms: ligature, relation, function, connection, connect-

ive, valence.

<u>Class Marker</u>: A linguistic feature--morph, position, prosodic feat-

ure--which occurs only with a member of one class of word roots, and

which may potentially occur with that member in more than one con-

struction, is a Class Marker.

In <u>the</u> <u>boys</u> and <u>goodness</u>, <u>the</u>, <u>-s</u> and <u>-ness</u> are noun class markers.

Synonyms (or examples): noun marker, nominalizer, noun prefix, verbalizer, adjective suffix.

<u>Morpheme</u>: In order to identify a linguistic datum as a Morpheme, it must be possible to change the meaning of an utterance in which it occurs by substituting for it another morpheme or its own absence without changing the grammatical structure of the utterance. (A long enough frame must be used with the substitution items so that one may be sure whether or not the change is structural).

Hjelmslev uses the term Morpheme to refer to affixes and particles; he does not apply it to word roots. Fries makes a somewhat similar distinction between function words (i.e. particles) and content words.

Morphemes have lexical meaning; construction markers and class markers do not. A morpheme may lose its morphemic status in certain constructions and serve only as a construction marker: <u>do</u> in <u>I</u> <u>do</u> <u>not</u> <u>know</u>; <u>to</u> in <u>I</u> <u>want</u> <u>to</u> <u>go</u>.

Synonyms: marginal morpheme, lateral morpheme, functive, affix, particle.

<u>Portmanteau</u> <u>Form</u>: A Portmanteau Form is a composite of elements consisting of one or more morphemes and/or structural singnals combined in one morph in such a way that they cannot be phonologically identified.

Most marginal morphemes occur as components of portnamteau forms. A morpheme that is required by a construction of two word roots but is not possible in a different construction of the same

two word roots is a portmanteau morpheme-and-construction-marker.
A morpheme which occurs only with a member of one class of word
roots and which may potentially occur with that member in more
than one construction is a portmanteau morpheme-and-class-marker.
Any class marker of a subordinate class is by definition also a
construction marker.

In walked, the portmanteau form -ed includes a preterit mor-
pheme and a verb class marker; in them, -m is a noun class marker,
and -m plus position after the verb is a verb-object construction
marker. Some of the English pronouns are among the few portmanteau
forms that include a word root as one of the components. The per-
son component of a pronoun is a word root because it is commut-
able with nouns and therefore belongs to a class of unlimited mem-
bership. In them, the- includes a third person word rood and a
plural morpheme.

The handling of the description of portmanteau forms in-
volving structural signals in the morphology results in the possi-
bility of simpler syntax description.

Synonym: package morph.

Lexical Meaning: Lexical Meaning is a meaning which may be defined
by a nonlinguistic referent.

Constutuent: One part of a grammatical complex which occurs with
a second part (and, rarely, another), the combination comprising
some larger construction, is a Constituent. The construction so
formed may usually in turn act as a single constituent of a yet
larger construction.

Synonyms: immediate constituent, ultimate constituent.

Repeated Constituent: A single constituent comprised of two or
more noncontiguous parts within an utterance is a Repeated Con-
stituent. On one level a repeated constituent shows concord.

In los señores hablan, los señores . . . -n is a repeated
constituent.

Synonyms: discontinuous morpheme, concord marker, grammat-
ical agreement marker.

Constitute: A composite form built from a pair of constituents
and which in turn acts as a constituent of a larger construction
is a Constitute.

Synonyms: construction, syntagma, syntagm.