



The Grammar of Words: An Introduction to Linguistic Morphology (Oxford Textbooks in Linguistics)

By Geert Booij

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This text provides an up-to-date introduction to the morphological analysis of words. Morphology deals with the internal structure of words and how this structure affects their phonological, syntactic and semantic properties. This book covers both inflection (the different forms of a word), and word formation, the ways in which new words can be added to the vocabulary of a language.

The enormous variety of morphological operations that we find in natural languages is quite intriguing. The first part of the book gives a cross-linguistic survey of these operations: affixation, compounding, reduplication, and several kinds of phonological operation. The specific properties of word formation and inflection are dealt with in subsequent chapters.

The second part of the book focuses on the ways in which the morphological structure of words determines their phonological, syntactic, and semantic properties. These different 'interfaces' are dealt with systematically, again with illustrations from a number of languages.

In the last part of the book the reader is introduced to present-day research on the acquisition of morphological knowledge, and on the way in which complex words are processed. This will give insight as to how lexical knowledge is structured and how it is stored in memory.

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Review

"The book is well-organized and -written, coherent and clear. The author covers a great range of morphological concepts, patterns and issues which are briefly but nonetheless, concisely explained and well-exemplified... Cross-references are also well managed. The conclusive notes of each chapter provide a useful and clear summary of the most fundamental points which have been raised. The most important aspect of this book's value and strength is the fact that it presents a nicely outlined way of 'how to do morphological analysis theoretically.'"-- The Linguist List

About the Author

Geert Booij is Professor of General Linguistics at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. He is also Chairman of the Dutch Research Council for the Humanities and a Consulting Editor for several journals. His books include *The Phonology of Dutch*, *Morphology: An International Handbook of Inflection and Word Formation*, and *The Morphology of Dutch*.

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