

Homework Assignment I

Due: Wednesday, February 7, 2007 (beginning of class)

1. *Turkish*

1. el '(the) hand'
2. ellerim 'my hands'
3. elimde 'in my hand'
4. elim 'my hand'
5. eller '(the) hands'

a. Divide the words above into morphemes and figure out the meaning of each morpheme.

1. el
2. ellerim
3. elimde
4. elim
5. eller

b. What is the Turkish word corresponding to the English phrase 'in my hands'?

c. deniz is the Turkish word for 'ocean', imiz the morphem meaning 'our'. What is the Turkish word corresponding to the English phrase 'in our oceans'?

2. *English*

In each group of words below, two words have a different morphological structure than the rest; one has a different affix, and one has no affix at all. Identify the word with the different affix, and the word with no affix. Remember that we identify an affix by its *meaning* and its *sound* (differences in spelling may not always reflect differences in pronunciation).

no suffix/prefix different suffix/prefix

1. rider, colder, silver, actor

2. bills, melodies, Bess's, access

3. running, inkling, handling, fling

4. boys, lens, windows, calculates

5. untie, uncle, unhappy, unleash

3. Reading

Steven Pinker discusses, in his lecture “Words and Rules”, that morphologically complex words irregularities from the root of the word. The past tense form of *overeat* is *overate*, for instance, and not *overeated*, just like the past tense form or the root *eat* is *ate*, not *eated*. Sometimes, however, this does not happen – as an example, Pinker cites the plural of *walkman* as *walkmans*, not *walkmen*, as you would expect from *man / men*. How does he explain this?