

Types of Morphemes

Stems/Bases

The main part of a multimorphemic word is called the **stem** or **base**.

A stem might be a word (word-form) but isn't always. A stem that is not a word is a **bound stem**.

A stem which cannot be broken down further into morphemes is called a **root**.

Affixes

Suffix

English: -ed

talk / talked

Hebrew: past tense agreement

dibarti (דיברתי) 'I talked', dibarta, dibart (דיברת) 'you talked', dibra (דיברה) 'she talked', dibarnu (דיברנו) 'we talked, etc.

Prefix

English: un-

happy / unhappy

Hebrew: future tense agreement

adaber (אדבר) 'I will speak' / tedaber (תדבר) 'you will speak' / yedaber (ידבר) 'he will speak' / nedaber (נדבר) 'we will speak'

Infix

Arabic: -t- in Conjugation 8

ištayal(a) (اشتغل) 'work' from √šyʕl

Tagalog: -um- in certain verb forms

bumili 'buy' from verb stem bili

Circumfix

Spoken Arabic: ma-š 'not'

ʕindi 'I have' / maʕindiš 'I don't have'

German: ge-en (passive/past participle)

geben 'give' / gegeben 'given' (Note: The -en at the end of *geben* (the infinitive suffix) is unrelated to the -en of the participle)

Transfix

Hebrew: Binyan Kal past tense -a-a- / present -o-e- / passive participle -a-u-

katav 'wrote' / kotev 'writes' / katuv 'written'

Tagalog is an Austronesian language, Malayo-Polynesian branch, Philippine sub-branch. Under the name Filipino it is the national language of the Philippines, with nearly 25,000,000 speakers.