

Degree iii, (English Honours)

Paper – VIII

Section – 3

Subject- **Linguistics**

Morphology—Definition, Different types of Morpheme, allomorphs.

Morphology

Morphology is the science and study of the smallest grammatical units of language, and of their formation into words, including inflection, derivation and composition. According to Dorfman, **morphology** is the study of the ways and methods of grouping sounds into sound-complexes or words, of definite, distinct, conventional meaning. Bloomfield calls it the study of the constructions in which sound forms appear among the constituents. Broadly speaking, morphology is the study of the patterns of word-forms. It studies how the words are formed, where they originate from, what their grammatical forms are, what the functions of prefixes and suffixes in the formation of words are, on what basis the parts of speech of a particular language are formed, how the systems of gender, number plural, etc. function, and how and why the word-forms change.

Morphology is a level of structure between the phonological and the syntactic. It is complementary to syntax. **Morphology** is the grammar of

words; **syntax** the grammar of sentences. One account for the internal structure, or forms of words (typically as sequences of morphemes), the other describes how these words are put together in sentences. The way morphemes combine to form words is known as the morphology of a language. Morphology therefore, refers to the form of words themselves in a language system whereas syntax refers to the form of the arrangement of words in phrases and sentences.

Morphology is not only the synchronic study of word-forms but is also the study of history and development of word-forms. So, it is both a synchronic (**in given time**) and a diachronic (**across time**) study of the word-forms. When it is only synchronic, it is called morphemics.

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