Morphology presentation Your name: Claire Moore-Cantwell: Comanche
Due Thursday, October 13th

Please print out 15 copies for the class of these two pages. You'll have 3 minutes to present the information here in class. If you do hand-write your answers to the questions, make sure to write very clearly, so that everyone can read it even after it has been photocopied.

Overview: Tell us a little bit about the morphology of your language in general. How much does your language rely on morphology to encode meaning? (Is your language more like Eskimo-Aleut and Neo-Aramaic, or it is more like Mandarin or Vietnamese? Or somewhere in between?) The author of your grammar should comment on this to some extent, but be sure to examine actual sentences in the grammar, and their translations. You may want to draw your own conclusions. Give at least three example sentences to illustrate how your language uses morphology. Try to come up with at least one example of how your language uses morphology that is quite different from English.

Comanche relies somewhat heavily on morphology to encode meaning, although not as heavily as Eskimo-Aleut languages, or Neo-Aramaic languages. For example, in (1) is a sentence consisting of four words, each of which is morphologically simple.

	i	*tsaʔ*	*nɯ*	*kahni*
(1)	THIS	DECLARATIVE	1ST P. SING. GENITIVE	HOUSE

"This is my home."

However, the situation in (1) is not the normal case in Comanche. Many Comanche words consist of many morphemes, as illustrated by the first two words in (2).

	wahah-tu̥-kwɯ	*wasaːsi-tena-nɯ-kwu̥ɯ*	*nɯ-waka*	*bitɯ-ʔi̥*
(2)	*two*-NOM-DUAL	*Osage-man*-NOM-DUAL	ACCUSATIVE-*toward*	*arrive*-REALIZED

"Two Osage men arrived near me."

In (2), the number (wahah-tu̥-kwɯ) is marked for nominative case, and dual number, both of which are also marked on the noun which the number is modifying - wasaːsi-tena-nɯ-kwu̥ɯ. That word also contains two root morphemes, 'Osage' and 'man'.

The most complex meaning in a single word that I could find was the second word in (3), which contains two roots, a causative, a nominative case morpheme, and a locative.

	pʌ	*tɯʔrikuːʔ-kwasɯ-kɯ-pu̥ɯ-ka*	*pitɯ-nu̥*
(3)	COG	*Prarie dog-cook*-CAUS-NOM-*at*	*arrive*PST

"(He) arrived at his cooked prarie dog."

Derivational Morphology:

Find two derivational affixes in your language. Remember that **derivational** morphology either significantly changes the meaning of the word (e.g. *re-make*), or changes the syntactic category (e.g. *make-able*).

(a) For each affix you found, show at least 3 words using it, and translate them. Next, state what the phonological form of the affix is, and where it goes in the word. Is it a prefix? Suffix? Infix? Or does it change the word in some other way, such as changing the tone of the word, the stress pattern, or the internal vowels/consonants? Bonus points if you find something really bizarre.

-pɯ		-wapi̥	
tekwa-pɯ	'word', 'something spoken'	tɯnoː-wapi̥	'pack animal'
ahwe-pɯ	'tuber', 'something dug up'	hɯa-wapi̥	'fisherman'
naboː-pɯ	'picture', 'something drawn'	tɯni̥suabetai-wapi̥	'teacher'
kwɯhɯ-pɯ	'captive'		

Both morphemes are suffixes, attaching to the end of the word. Their phonological forms are given in the table above.

(b) For each affix, describe what it contributes to the meaning of the whole word.

-pɯis a suffix that converts a verb into a noun which signifies a completed state associated with the meaning of the verb. For example, the word for 'picture' contains the verb 'to draw' and the suffix -pɯ, and means the result of a completed act of drawing.

-wapi̥ is a suffix that converts a verb into a noun signifying a person or creature who typically performs the action of the verb. 'Fisherman' is fairly transparent, consisting of the verb 'to fish' and -wapi̥, and meaning 'somebody who fishes'. The word for 'pack-animal' signifies an animal that carries things, indicating that -wapi̥ does not always create a noun that refers to a human.

(c) What syntactic category or categories does each affix select for? Does either affix change the word's syntactic category? If so, what does it change it to?

-pɯselects for verbs, and converts them to nouns.

-wapi̥ also selects for verbs, and converts them to nouns.

Inflectional Morphology:

Find two inflectional affixes in your language. Remember that **inflectional** morphology does not change the syntactic category of the word, or significantly change its meaning. Instead, inflectional morphology reflects properties of the sentence, and the word's role in the sentence. Tense, plurality, gender, case, and agreement are all examples of inflectional morphology, but you might find others.

(a) For each affix you found, show at least 3 words using it, and translate them. Give entire sentences for these words, to properly illustrate their role in the sentence. As before, state what the phonological form of the affix is, and where it goes in the word.

-nɯhu̥ɯ		-ku̥ɯ	
kahni-nɯhu̥ɯ	'two houses'	kwasɯ–ku̥ɯ-bɯnɨ̥	'cause to be cooked'
hibi-pɯ-nɯhu̥ɯ	'two drunks'	koht:-ku̥ɯ-nu̥	'build a fire for someone'
hɯarɯʔ-nɯhu̥ɯ	'two traps'	tɯku̥ɯ-hima-ku̥ɯ-ʔɨ̥h-a	'take food for someone' (food-take-CAUS-UNR-A)

(b) For each affix you found, describe in your own words what it contributes to the meaning of the sentence.

-nɯhu̥ɯ is a dual suffix, which indicates a count of exactly two of something. It is like a plural, except that it is restricted to only two.

-ku̥ɯ is a causative, or benefactive suffix, and it attaches to verbs to indicate that the action is being caused by the subject, or being caused on behalf of someone else by the subject. The case of 'cook' is interesting: in Comanche, 'cook' (kwasɯ) is intransitive and takes a food item as its subject. In can normally only be used like in 'The food cooked.' in English. To get the meaning of someone cooking something else in Comanche, -ku̥ɯ is added.

(c) What syntactic category or categories does each affix select for?

-nɯhu̥ɯ selects for nouns.

-ku̥ɯ selects for verbs.