Morphology presentation

Your name: _____

Due Thursday, October 18th

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.

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.

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

(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?

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.

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

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