

Morphology

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Morphology

- It is a branch of Linguistics that falls between Phonetics, Phonology and Grammar
- It studies origin and structure of words
- The study area is limited to study of some basic concepts like: **morpheme, morph, allomorph and word formation processes like- Affixation, compounding, conversion and some other minor word formation processes**

Morpheme

- A simple way to understand morpheme is to state that " morpheme may be a word or part of word"
- Technically speaking, Morpheme is a minimal, distinctive, syntactical or grammatical unit.
- Eg. **Spot** is a morpheme and it has an independent existence as a word
- **Unconditional** has 03 morphemes out of which only **condition** can be called a word because it can occur independently and has constant conventional meaning but morphemes **un-** and **-al** can not occur alone bit still they are part of the word.

Lets have a look at Morpheme

- As already stated it may be a word itself having constant meaning and grammatical shape but...
- Some morphemes may or may not have meaning
- May or may not have grammatical shape

Classification of Morphemes

Morpheme

[Free]

- ↓
- Itself is a word
- has constant meaning
- has grammatical shape/class
- can occur alone

[Bound]

- is a part of a word.
- may/may not have meaning
- may/may not have grammatical shape
- can not occur alone

Prefix

- added before
- ↓
- has meaning
- 'generally' does not affect the word class
- only one is permissible

Infix

- added in between
- peculiar → plural
man → men
goose → geese

Suffix

- added after
- may/may not perform grammatical function
- may/may not have meaning,

Inflectional

- limited in number
- do not change the grammatical group
- not separately entered into a dictionary
- always the last to be added to the stem
- only one is permissible in a word.

Derivational

- derive a new word.
- finds separate entry in a dictionary.
- many are possible in a word.
- may/may not affect the word class.

Class Changing

- ↓
- when added changes the word class of the stem
- plays a grammatical role

Class maintaining

- when added does not change the word class
- does not play grammatical role.

- 1. **Free Morpheme**: it is itself a word and as such it can occur independently. It has some conventional meaning and some grammatical shape/category. It combines with other words in certain relationship to form the next higher level of structure.
- 2. **Bound Morpheme**: It is a part of a word and as such can not occur independently. It needs to be attached to a free morpheme so that the structure of the free form is expanded.
- 3. **Stem**: It is such a shape of a word to which suffixes or prefixes are added.
- 4. **Root**: It is the last analysable segment (unit) which is not further analysed. If analysed, we will be landing in the area of Phonology.

- **Bound Morphemes:** are of 03 types
- 1. **Prefix:** It is such a shape of a word that is added before stem. Most of the prefixes do not change the word class (**BUT en-, em- change the word class in able(adj)- enable (v)/ power (N)- empower (v)**). They are class maintaining but have constant meaning.
- 2. **Suffix:** it is such a shape of a word that is added at the end of the stem. There can be more than 01 suffix after the stem. Suffixes are classified into 02 classes.
- A) **Derivational:** when added to a stem a new word is derived and we can find it as a new entry into a dictionary with a distinct meaning of it's own. Derivational suffixes are again grouped into 02 i.e.

- 1) **Class Maintaining**: after addition of this the word class of the stem does not change but a new word is derived (child (N) + hood = (Childhood- N))
- 2) **Class Changing**: after addition of this the word class of the stem changes as well as new word is derived
- (Child (N) + ish = childish (adj))
- A peculiar thing to observe here is that the word classes involved in this are only Noun, Verb, Adjective and Adverb. Here again a conventional procedure comes into work like we can form adjective only from Noun; Adverbs only from Adjectives etc.
- Eg. Beauty (N) + ful = beautiful (adj) + ly = beautifully (adv)

Inflectional Suffixes (Prefixes and Suffixes)	Derivational Affixes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) These perform a grammatical function, i.e. they represent grammatical categories. ii) Words with these suffixes are not listed separately in the dictionary. iii) Word class of the stem remains unchanged. iv) Normally, a word takes one inflectional suffix. v) The inflectional suffix always comes last in the structure of the word. No derivational suffix is added thereafter. 	<p>These perform a lexical function in the sense that they create 'new' words out of existing words.</p> <p>Words with these affixes are regarded as independent words with separate entries in the dictionary.</p> <p>Word class of the stem may change.</p> <p>A word may have more than one derivational affix.</p> <p>Derivational suffixes may be piled, one upon the other, or may be followed by an inflectional suffix.</p>

List of Inflectional Suffixes

Inflectional Suffixes

A list of inflectional suffixes is given in the table below:

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives/ Adverbs
1. Plural -s (e.g. boys)	1. Present tense singular -s (e.g. writes)	1. Comparative -er (e.g. higher)
2. Possessive- 's/-s' (e.g. boy's, boys')	2. Past tense -ed (e.g. worked)	2. Superlative -est (e.g. greatest)
	3. -ing participle (e.g. writing)	
	4. -en participle (e.g. written)	

Some other concepts to be noted

- 1. **Allomorph**: like the relation between Phoneme and allophone, the same is the case with Morpheme and Allomorph. We can call them the positional variants i.e different realisations of the same morpheme phonetically.
- Eg. The plural morpheme marked with –s/ -es is realised differently, depending on the phonological conditioning of the stem.
- It is pronounced / s/ after voiceless consonants- cats, cups, kicks etc
- It is pronounced / z/ after vowels and voiced consonants- bags, robs, keys etc
- It is pronounced / IZ/ after /tS, dʒ,s.z/ - batches, judges, buses etc.

- **Morph:** Any phonetic shape or representation of a morpheme is called morph. A peculiar thing is that each morph has a morpheme but each morpheme may not have a morph.
- Eg. **CATS** consists of 02 morphemes and 02 morphs
Morphemes { cat } + { plural } **Morphs** / kæt / + / s /
MEN also consists of 02 morphemes but just 01 morph
Morphemes { man } + { Ø } **Morph** / mæn / + / /

The symbol Ø represents zero morpheme

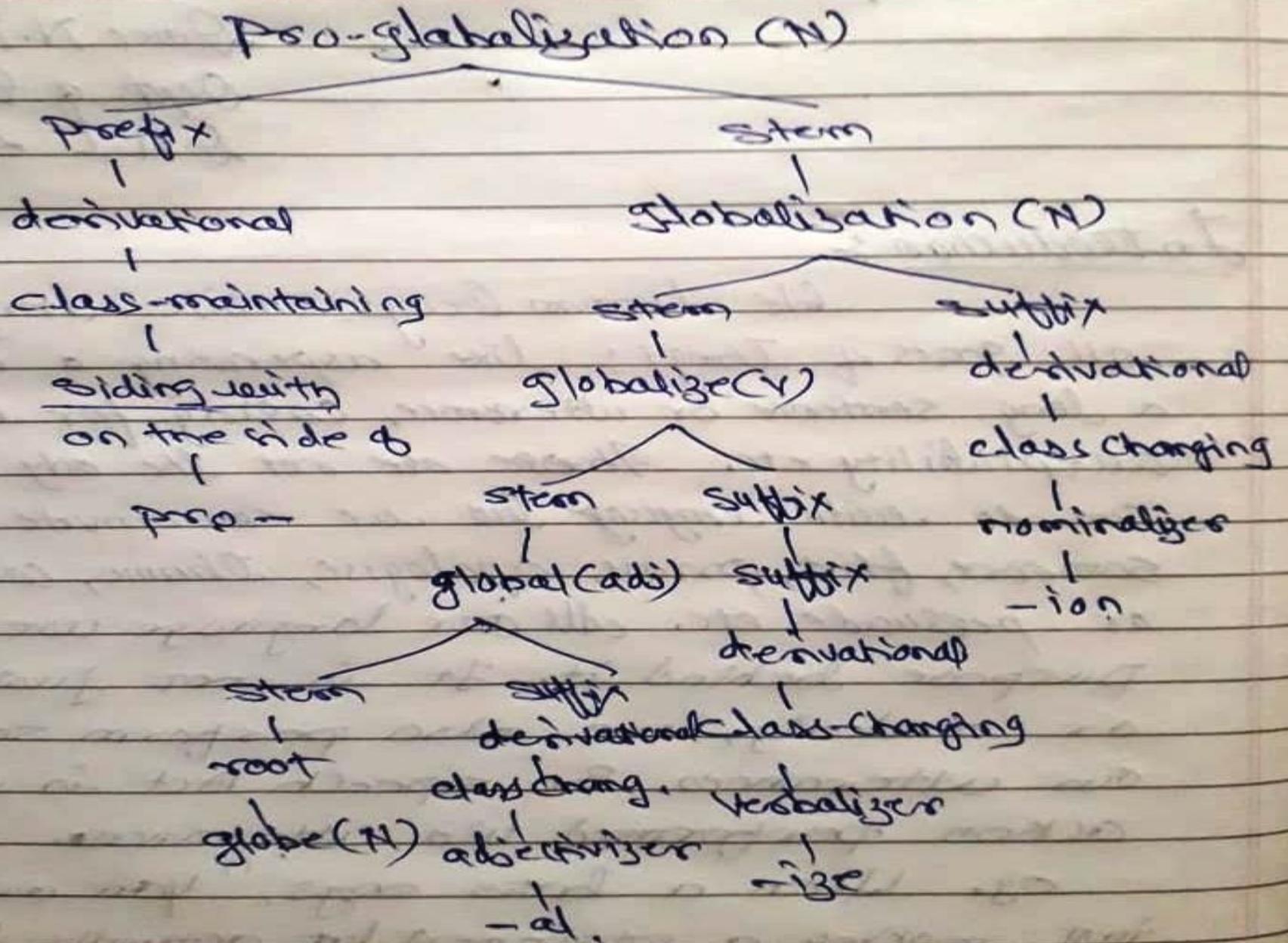
Eg. **Sheep** { sheep } + { Ø } i.e Plural morpheme morph / ʃi:p / + / /

Deer { deer } + { Ø } morph / diə / + / /

Asked: { ask } + { past } morphs / a:sk / + / t /	} allomorphs
Wanted: { want } + { past } morphs / wɒnt / + / d /	
Bagged: { bag } + { past } morphs / bæɡ / + / d /	

Morphemes are always written in curly braces i.e { }

Lets look at some analysed examples



Denationalization (N)

Prefix

Stem

deri.

nationalization (N)

class. main.

Stem

suffix

reversative

nationalize (v)

deri.

de-

class. ch.

Stem

suffix

nominalizer

national (Adj)

deri.

-ion

stem

suffix

cl. ch.

verbalizer

root

deri.

-ize

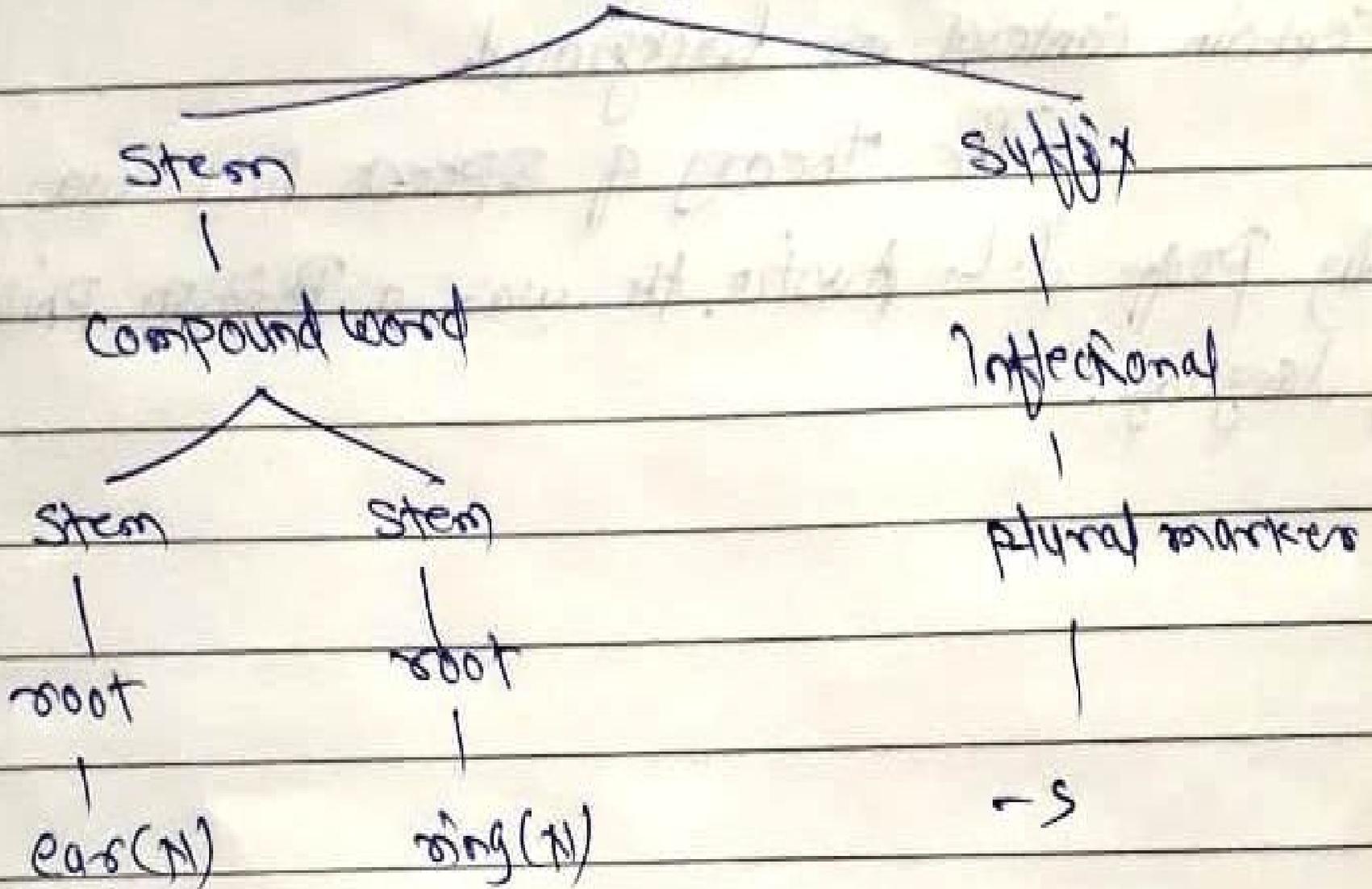
nation (N)

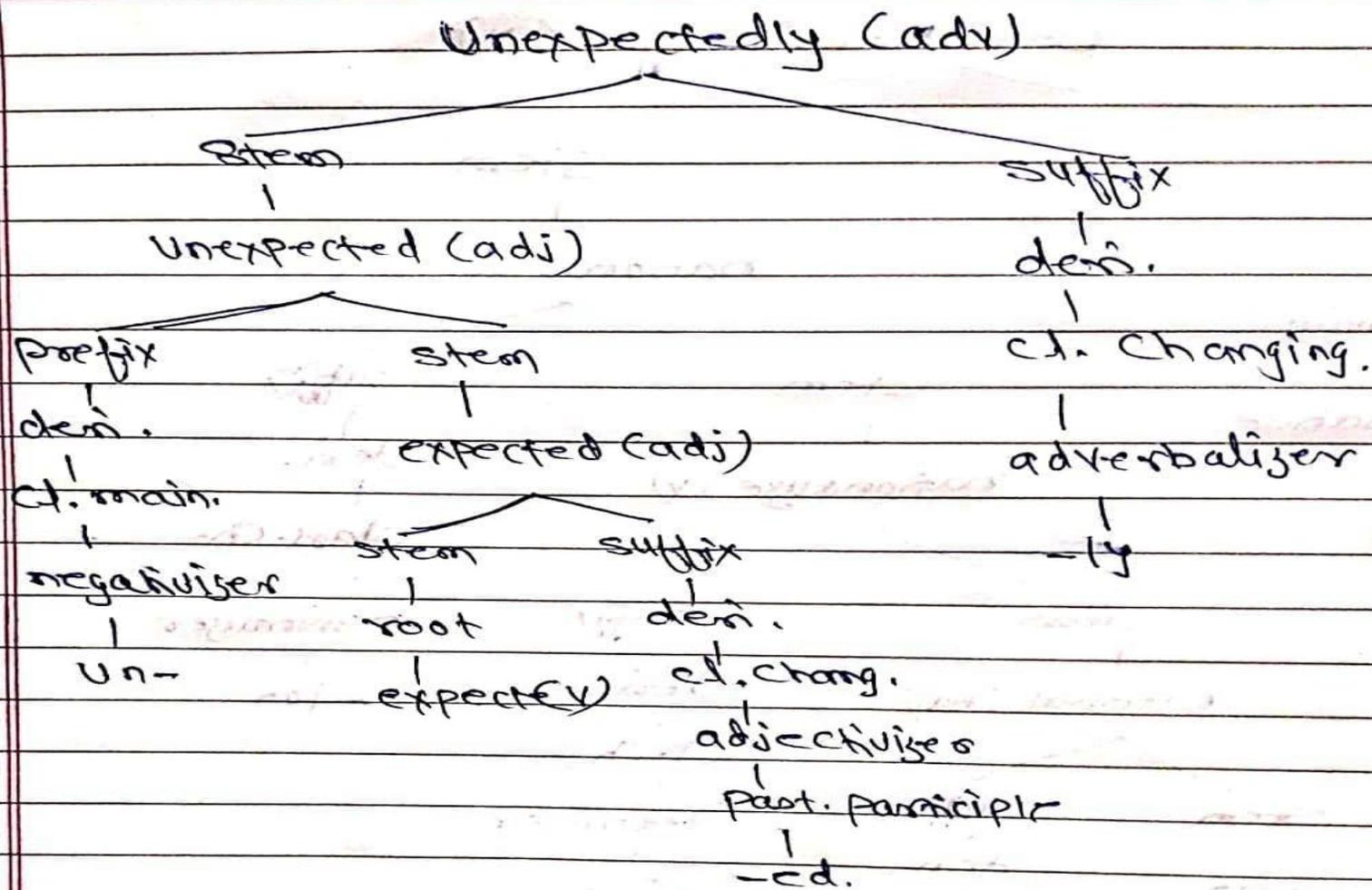
cl. ch.

adjective

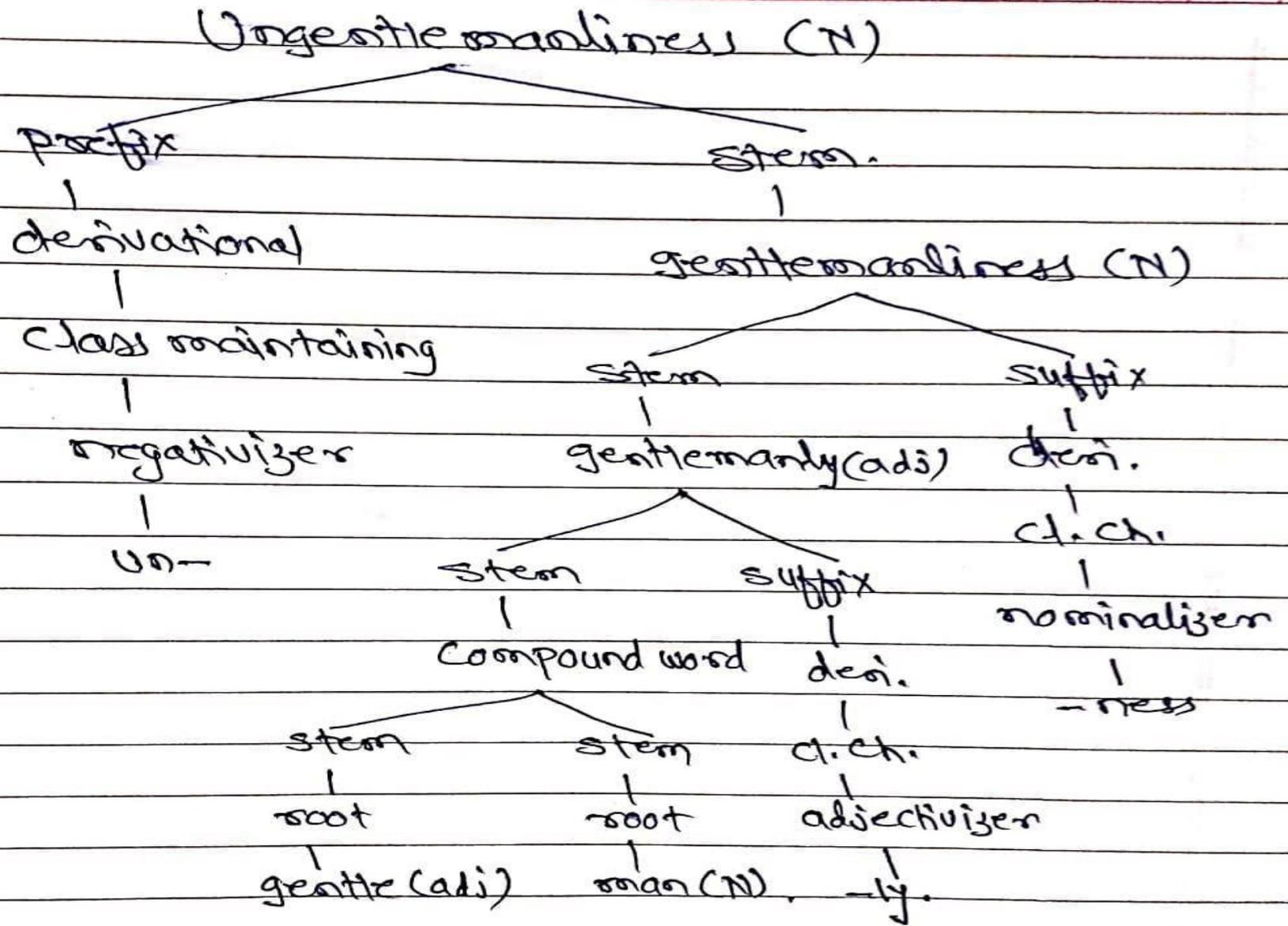
-al

Earnings (N)





- * 'ied' looks like an inflectional suffix but it is not.
- * Had it been inflectional → further addition of '-ly' was impossible, because inflectional suffixes always stand last.
- * Vedz inc. P.P form of verbs can be used as an adjective. Same is the case here.



Generally adverb formation is done by '-ly' but adverb formation is possible only from adjective. 'Gentleman' is a noun.

Now try to analyse the following words morphologically

- Universalised uselessness
- Untouchables Pass- books
- Disagreement Revengeful
- Sawdust Uncontrollable
- Conversations Reintroduction
- Insanity Drinking- water
- Uncontroversial Decentralised
- Disallowed Employees

Short answer type questions

- What is zero morph?
- Distinguish between free and bound morphemes
- Distinguish between phoneme and morpheme
- Write a note on inflectional suffixes
- Jot down noun forming suffixes
- Write a note on plural formation in English and your mother tongue

A close-up photograph of two hands, palms up, holding a small, rectangular white paper strip. The paper strip has a slightly torn, deckled edge and is held gently between the fingers. On the paper strip, the words "Thank You" are written in a black, elegant cursive script. The background is a solid, dark color, which makes the hands and the white paper stand out prominently.

Thank You