

ch.11

Inflectional paradigm

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Lecturer :

Wassan Abdulhadi Abdulameer

2021

- A paradigm is a set of related forms having the same stem but different affixes, for example:
 - . Head: ahead, behead, header, headlong headship, heady, subhead (derivational paradigm)
- Play, plays, played, playing
- Paradigms are also formed by the words to which the inflectional affixes are attached. These are called inflectional paradigms

Inflectional Paradigms are of three types

1. Noun Paradigm 4 forms: stem – plural – singular possessive – Plural Possessive

Doctor doctors doctor's clinic doctors' clinics

2. Verb Paradigm It has 5 forms Stem pres. 3 rd person sing. Present part. past tense past part.

Show shows showing showed showed/shown

Ring rings ringing rang rung

3. Comparable paradigm It has 3 forms Stem(pure adj.) comparative superlative

Sweet sweeter sweetest

Lively livelier liveliest

- In the paradigms above the meaning of the stem remains constant(the same). The suffixes produce the differences in meaning among the forms of each paradigm. Membership in one of these inflectional paradigms is one of the signals that enable us to group words into 4 of the major parts of speech—nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.
- In addition there is a pronoun paradigm which differs from the previous three in that it is not a stem-and-affix group but a small and closed set of words of fixed form. Structure class

- The Noun Paradigm Plural+possessive
PossessivePluralStemForms {-s pl ps} {-s ps} {-s pl} Inflectional
suffixes
- man men man's car men's houses
- This four-form paradigm is maximal, and not all nouns have
all the four forms. Many nouns do not take the possessive forms
because an of structure often takes the place of the {-s ps}
morpheme. E.g. The ceiling of the room
- **NOT** the room's ceiling

- Exceptions
- 1. Tennis, courage, haste (only the form of the stem)
- 2. Clothes, trousers, environs (do not have singular forms)
- 3. Economics, linguistics, mathematics, ethics (do not have plural forms)
- 4. oats, pliers, suds (can either be singular or plural)

- There three useful tests for number in the noun
- 1. a noun is singular if it can take one of these substitutes: he/him, she/her, it, this or that. It is plural if it can take one of these substitutes: they/them, these or those.
- sand—it
- Phonetics—it
- Trousers—they

- The number of a noun may be signaled by a modifier such as several, many, this, that, these, those, fifteen or by a pronoun reference such as his/her/its, their.
- We saw many fish swimming under the bridge.
- Note— The modifier some can be used with a singular or plural noun
 - e.g. She bought some cake
 - She bought some cakes

- When a noun functions as subject of a verb, its number is sometimes shown by the form of the verb, for example:
- Measles is a contagious disease.
- The fish swims in the pond .
- The fish swim in the pond
- The goods are on the way.
- If the verb has a form that does not change for sing. or pl. (past tense except for was and were) one can usually substitute a present tense form or the present or past tense of be, ex. The goods came (come) late. The goods came (are) late. The goods came (were) late

- Collective Nouns :
- represent a collection or unit of individuals such as tribe, family, team, committee Collective nouns, may be either sing. or pl. in meaning when they are sing. in form.
- Speakers use singular forms in connection with such words when thinking of the unit as a single whole, but they will use plural forms when intending the separate individuals within the unit.

- E.g.
- 1.The family is sitting at the dinner table.= (it, the family as one unit)
- 2.The family are gathered from many parts in the country to celebrate Eid= (they, the individuals, the members of the family father ,mother, sons and daughters) .
- 3.The families have arranged for a meeting in the city centre.

- 1.the team is playing well today.(=team as one unit)
- 2.the team are playing well today.(=all players+all team members)
- 3.The teams are competing for the golden prize.

Good luck