

## *Report 2: Morphological Analysis*

*FSEM CORE S119: Language as Human Nature*

*Fall 2025*

*Prof. Forrest Davis*

*Due 11:59PM Oct 3, 2025*

### *Overview*

Your task in this (3-4 page single spaced Times New Roman size 12) report is to conduct an in-depth analysis of one specific morphological process in a language unfamiliar to you (that is, one you do not speak or have studied). In class, we have proceeded from curated datasets. As part of this report, you will develop skills to build your own datasets by consulting a reference grammar. Broadly, your work should follow four steps:

1. Select a Language and Process
2. Collect and Present Data
3. Provide a Description of the Phenomenon
4. Provide an Morphological Analysis

In reading your report, I should come away understanding some basic facts of the language you chose, able to articulate the basic pattern (with relevant examples) you are working on, and comprehend the analysis you propose and why it is the correct one. Details on each section of your report are included below.

#### **Note**

Just like with Report 1, this is an iterative process. You are collecting data, coming up with hypotheses, consulting more data, building an analysis, testing out your analysis, etc. What you are turning in is a clear, cohesive presentation of your final state of knowledge, not a document of the way you came to know what you know. You aren't telling a story, you are arguing for a hypothesis about how a morphological process works in your target language.

### *Languages and Processes*

You should select one language from the set given below (with their reference grammar). Note an online version of the reference grammar is available via the library at Colgate. **Please consult with a librarian about how to access the material.**

- **Finnish** - Finnish: An Essential Grammar by Fred Karlsson
- **Welsh** - Modern Welsh: A Comprehensive Grammar by Gareth King
- **Tagalog** - Tagalog Reference Grammar by Paul Schachter and Fe T. Otanes

Report on one morphological processes. This should be one of the following:

- Plural marking on nouns
- Gender marking on nouns
- Tense formation in verbs (choose 1 or 2 tenses)
- Comparative formation in adjectives
- Case marking (choose 2-3 specific cases if there are many)
- Person marking on verbs

Note you should choose a process that is morphologically interesting in your language. That is, there should be some allomorphy displayed that is conditioned in some interesting way. (This is to prevent a selection of a process where a noun is plural in all cases if a [t] is added or nothing is added, etc.)

### *Report Sections*

#### *Selected Language*

Give a brief description of the language you chose. What language family is it part of, what are related languages, how many people speak the language, where is it spoken, etc. This should also include the consonants and vowels (e.g., the segments) in the language. If your reference grammar denotes a certain IPA symbol in an unusual way, you should note that here.

### *Data*

From your reference grammar, collect at least 15-20 clear examples of your chosen morphological process (that also demonstrate the relevant contrasts). Each example should include:

- The base form (root)
- The inflected form
- English gloss
- Page number in reference grammar to the source

For example,

Base	Inflected	English Gloss	Reference
zseb	zsebekben	zseb-ek-ben pocket-pl-locative	Rounds (2009, p. 66)

Table 1: Example data from Hungarian.

### *Description*

You should write a simple and clear description of the general pattern. Note, you are not walking the reader through how you arrived at your description, rather you are articulating your current perspective. You should not reference aspects of your analysis here. In particular, you are describing the relevant allomorphs and their distribution.

### *Analysis*

You should write your actual formal analysis, identifying the underlying morpheme(s) and accounting for the distribution of the allomorphs. Argue for your analysis by reference to concrete examples.

### *References*

Rounds, C. H. (2009). *Hungarian: An Essential Grammar*. Routledge Essential Grammars. Routledge, 2 edition.