

## Combined Phonology and Morphology mid-term essay

Write a short essay (6-10 pages) on the following topic:

**The description and analysis of a particular morphological process in a particular language.** For instance, the formation of plurals in Korean (or any other language), the derivation of verbs from nouns in English (or another language), the formation of agentive nouns in Chinese (or another language), the formation of accusatives in Russian (or another language), the formation of diminutives in Chinese sign language (or any other sign language), etc. A topic of special interest this year is English past tenses, including historical morphology. Any language (or dialect!) is fine, and any morphological process is acceptable. You can rely on your own intuitions if you describe a language that you speak well. You can also get the data from the Internet, books in the library, or other sources. You can also ask a native speaker (e.g. a foreign student at SISU) and record fresh data (in which case you can use the knowledge you needed for the Phonetics final assignment).

Pay attention to the following aspects:

- Data: always describe very exactly where your data comes from. Give full references or describe the sources in detail (including web pages, native speaker informants, etc.). Be precise and scientific. By the way: plagiarism automatically results in a **zero** score.
- Morphology: describe the morphological process in detail. Give examples. What is the meaning of the morpheme involved, as accurately as possible? Are there any morphological restrictions on its application? Are there any exceptions, or special factors related to the meaning? Is there any variation among speakers?
- Phonology: describe the phonological aspects of the morphological process well. Are there any alternations involved when the morpheme is attached? How can the alternations be described, in terms of phonological rules? Are there any problems, exceptions, or special characteristics?
- Structure of the essay: (short) introduction to the language, description of the morphological process (with examples), analysis of the morphology, analysis of the phonology, final remarks (any further research possible?), complete and proper references. Suggested length: about 6-10 pages.
- Feedback will be given after which you can extend your essay to 15 to 20 pages. The deadline for the final essay will be September 1.

Deadline for the mid-term essay: **April 28**. Send in by email to [jeroen@shisu.edu.cn](mailto:jeroen@shisu.edu.cn).