

Dr. Bill

Vicars

ASL

Linguistics

**A bit of
review...**

**Adding a
movement
segment
between
signs is:**

**Movement
Epenthesis**

**What is an
example of
Movement
Epanthesis?**

**Example: The
meaningless
movement that is
inserted between
FATHER and STUDY
when signing those
two words.**

**Shortening
the holds
when two
signs occur
in sequence:**

HOLD

REDUCTION

**What is an
example of
HOLD
REDUCTION?**

Hold reduction happens any time a sign normally has a hold but you get rid of it because you are stringing words together.

What are some examples?

**Hold reduction
examples:
WHY NOT vs
“WHY-NOT?”**

**GOOD IDEA
vs
“GOOD-IDEA!”**

**Segments of
some signs can
change places.**

**What is that
called?**

Metathesis

**What is an
example of
Metathesis?**

Metathesis

examples:

DEAF

RESTAURANT

HONEYMOON

**What is the big
word for: “A
segment takes on
the characteristics
of a nearby
segment”**

?

Assimilation

**Examples of
assimilation?**

**Example of
assimilation:
I KNOW
(using a bent hand)**

**The passive
hand is
dropped in a
formerly 2-
handed sign:**

Weak Hand Deletion

Example?

DEER

COW

CAT

**Quick Review:
What is
phonology?**

**Phonology is a
study of the
smallest
contrastive
units of a
language.**

**What two
types of
segments are
signs
segmented
into?**

**Signs are
segmented
into holds and
movements.**

**During the
hold portion of
a sign what
parameters
does that sign
have?**

Handshape
Orientation
Location
Nonmanual

**During the
movement
segment of a
sign what
parameters
does that sign
have?**

Handshape
Orientation
Location (!)
Nonmanual

**LOUSY
AWKWARD
PREACH**

3-MONTH
3-DOLLARS
9-WEEKS

(...in numerical incorporation.)

Phonology is the study of the smallest contrastive parts of language. The parts of language that we study in phonology do not have meaning. So when we study phonology and we look at the sign THREE-MONTHS, we are simply interested in the fact that the sign has a handshape, a location, an orientation, and a movement. The fact that the handshape has the specific meaning of the quantity three is part of morphology.

**What is
morphology?**

Morphology is the study of the smallest MEANINGFUL units of language and how those units are used to build new words (or signs).

UNIT
2

Deriving Nouns from Verbs in ASL

In unit 1, we said that morphology is the study of word formation, of how a language uses meaningful units to build new words or signs. One example of a morphological

In unit 1, we said that morphology is the study of word formation, of how a language uses meaningful units to build new words or signs. One example of a morphological process is the way that a language uses verbs to derive nouns. That is, the verbs that are already in the language are used to create nouns. English has a group of verbs from which nouns have been made. In each of these cases, the difference between the verbs and nouns is found in the stress placed on different syllables (see Table 2).

Table 2. Nouns Derived from Verbs in English

Verbs	Nouns
convíct	cónvict
segmént	ségment
subjéct	súbject
présént	présent
impáct	ímpact
impórt	ímport
incréase	íncrease
contrást	cóntrast



SIT



CHAIR



OPEN-BOOK



BOOK

3. Which of the following sets are noun-verb pairs in ASL the verb?

a. PUT-IN-JAIL

JAIL

b. PUT-ON-EARRING

EARRING

c. SHOOT-GUN

GUN

d. MAIL-LETTER

LETTER

e. DRIVE-CAR

CAR

Table 4. ASL Compounds

ASL Compound	English Translation
GIRL $\widehat{\text{SAME}}$	"sister"
BOY $\widehat{\text{SAME}}$	"brother"
MOTHER $\widehat{\text{FATHER}}$	"parents"
BLUE $\widehat{\text{SPOT}}$	"bruise"
THINK $\widehat{\text{MARRY}}$	"believe"
THINK $\widehat{\text{SAME}}$	"it's like"; "for example"
THINK $\widehat{\text{TOUCH}}$	"be obsessed with"
TALK $\widehat{\text{NAME}}$	"mention"
FACE $\widehat{\text{NEW}}$	"stranger"
GOOD $\widehat{\text{ENOUGH}}$	"just barely adequate"
JESUS $\widehat{\text{BOOK}}$	"Bible"
LOOK $\widehat{\text{STRONG}}$	"resemble"

**What does it mean when we
refer to a rule as a
“morphological rule”?**

...

**Calling a “rule” a
“morphological rule” means
that it is a description of a
process that takes place at the
morphological level of
language.**

**Morphological rules are the
category we stick processes in
when those processes involve
creating or changing meaning.**

Calling a “rule” a “**phonological rule**” means that it is a description of a process that takes place at the **phonological** level of language.

Phonological rules are the category we stick processes in when those processes do **NOT** involve creating or changing meaning.

The first contact rule, the single sequence rule, and the weak hand anticipation rule are morphological rules.

[57] “GOOD” and “NIGHT”

H

M

H

+contact

–contact

The sign NIGHT has the structure:

X

M

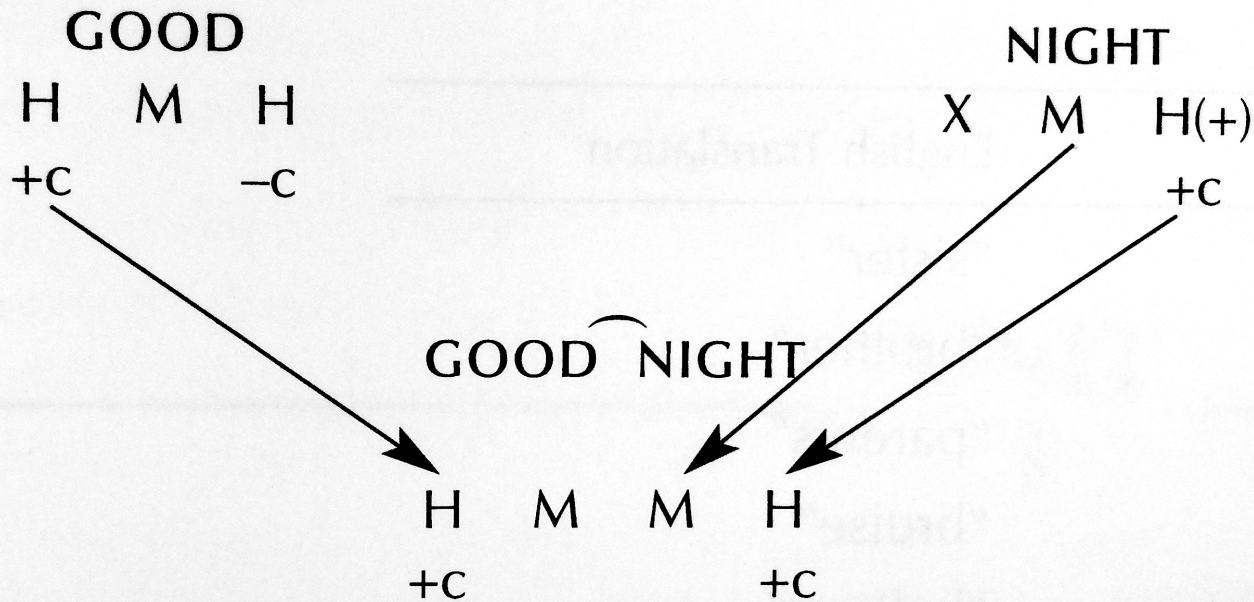
H(+)

+contact

[58] "GOOD-NIGHT"

58

MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX



It happens that both GOOD and NIGHT have contact holds. But THINK SAME, only THINK has a contact hold. The structure of

X M H

+C

