



LING3383

Morphosyntax of the World's Languages

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Department of Linguistics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

50cp at 2000 level or above including 10cp of LING units at 2000 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the internal structure of words, taking a typological perspective on the world's languages. It considers the interface between morphology, syntax and phonological structure. Alternative theories of word formation will be critically compared and contrasted, especially in the light of the typological diversity vs. uniformity revealed by the world's 7000 languages.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Critically analyse morphologically complex words from a range of typologically diverse languages.

ULO2: Compare and contrast word structures across language and language families.

ULO3: Develop levels of argumentation sufficient to explain synchronic morphological and morphophonological processes, as well as diachronic processes such as grammaticalization.

ULO4: Evaluate your analyses within the context of current debates on morphological

theory.

ULO5: Communicate an understanding of how linguistic typology informs other fields of linguistics.

ULO6: Effectively communicate the importance of morphological diversity for theoretical linguistics.

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 5pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	75
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Assignment 1	30%	No	18/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Assignment 2	30%	No	09/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Examination	40%	No	Week 13	Individual	No	Open

Assignment 1

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **18/08/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Morphological problems sets

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse morphologically complex words from a range of typologically diverse languages.
- Compare and contrast word structures across language and language families.
- Develop levels of argumentation sufficient to explain synchronic morphological and morphophonological processes, as well as diachronic processes such as grammaticalization.
- Evaluate your analyses within the context of current debates on morphological theory.
- Effectively communicate the importance of morphological diversity for theoretical linguistics.

Assignment 2

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **09/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Morphological problems sets

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse morphologically complex words from a range of typologically diverse languages.
- Compare and contrast word structures across language and language families.
- Develop levels of argumentation sufficient to explain synchronic morphological and morphophonological processes, as well as diachronic processes such as grammaticalization.
- Evaluate your analyses within the context of current debates on morphological theory.
- Communicate an understanding of how linguistic typology informs other fields of

linguistics.

Examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 2 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Examination

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse morphologically complex words from a range of typologically diverse languages.
- Compare and contrast word structures across language and language families.
- Develop levels of argumentation sufficient to explain synchronic morphological and morphophonological processes, as well as diachronic processes such as grammaticalization.
- Evaluate your analyses within the context of current debates on morphological theory.
- Communicate an understanding of how linguistic typology informs other fields of linguistics.
- Effectively communicate the importance of morphological diversity for theoretical linguistics.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

There are three contact hours for this unit to be delivered as a 3 hour seminar in 01CC 116 Active Learning Space. Some of this will be delivered like a lecture. Some of it will be more

hands on, like a tutorial, although we will mix it up, as required.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2026.01R of the [Handbook](#)