

# Chapter 1

## NONTERMINAL CATEGORIES OF MORPHOLOGY

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### 1. COMPETING APPROACHES TO MORPHOLOGY

In linguistics, morphological operations have been mostly ascribed to the lexicon (the lexicalist view, e.g. Lieber, 1992), to the syntax (the syntactic view, e.g. Wunderlich, 1996), or to a syntactically distributed morphology (Distributed Morphology, e.g. Halle & Marantz, 1994). In such views, where morphology is considered a subsystem of the lexicon (the first view) or syntax (the second and third views), morphological rules/processes do not appear to have their own autonomy. The problem with such dependent morphologies is that they (lexicalist morphologies) either cannot provide accounts for phrasal derivations such as the Turkish expression *sarı gömlek-li* (yellow shirt-ORN)<sup>2</sup> ‘with (a/the) yellow shirt’, where a phrasal, but not lexical, structure, *sarı gömlek*, falls inside the scope of the derivational suffix *-li*. Or they (syntactic morphologies) have difficulty in explaining various different characteristics between the outputs of syntax (phrases) and word formations. For instance, whereas Turkish pronouns with subject or object functions may be ordered to the right or left of the predicate based on information structure, as shown in *sen*

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<sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations are used throughout the study: ACC: accusative, AGT: agentive, AOR: aorist, CAUS: causative, CM: compound marker, GEN: genitive, NZ: nominalizer, ORN: ornative, POSS: possessive, PRIV: privative, PROG: progressive, RSL: resultative, RZ: relativizer, SG: singular.

zation clearly proves the lexicalist morphological views to be on the wrong track: A morphological process targets a syntactically driven element. Applying due solely to morphological requirements, i.e. base specifications, the *-I* nominalization refutes a syntactically manipulated morphology. A split morphology also seems to be unnecessary when morphology is let free working collaboratively with other components but autonomously with its own tenets, as argued for in this study.

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