

From *The Oxford English Dictionary*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
(PIE etymology from Pokorny, *Indogermanisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*)

structure /'strʌktʃər/ sb. [L. *structūra*, fr. *struere* 'to build; to place together, heap up, pile, arrange'.

Proto-Indo-European root *\*ster*<sub>2</sub>- 'to spread'; English cognates include:

*street, stress, strain, stray, strew, straw, prostrate, sternum, strath, industry, streusel, consternation, and strategic*]

3. The mutual relation of the constituent parts or elements of a whole as determining its peculiar nature or character; make, frame.

a. gen.

- 1657 J. Cooke *Hall's Cures Englisht* 203 My Lady Rainsford beautifull and of a gallant structure of body.
- 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 262 The admirable structure of this part of the Country.
- 1757 R. Price *Review Morals* i. (1769) 13 Then..it [morality] has no other measure or standard, besides every one's private structure of mind and sensations.
- 1803 Brougham *Colon. Policy* I. 50 The structure of society..is the same in all those settlements.
- 1814 Brewster in *Phil. Trans.* CIV. 438 The interior part of the drop had a structure similar to that of fluid glass.
- 1839 Carlyle *Chartism* iii. (1858) 12 With a feeling of thankfulness rather that there do exist men of that structure too.
- 1872 Morley *Voltaire* (1886) 2 Men..became conscious of new fibre in their moral structure.
- 1880 Haughton *Phys. Geog.* ii. 20 The structure of the Southern Hemisphere.

d. With reference to a literary composition, a verse or sentence, a language, etc.

- 1746 Francis tr. *Hor., Epist.* i. xix. 37, I fear'd to change the Structure of his Line.
- 1789 *New Lond. Mag.* July 361/1 A new farce..was presented last Saturday at this theatre. The structure is light and pleasant.
- 1814 Keble *Occas. Papers* (1877) 154 There remain two sorts of imitation instrumental to Poetry: indirect, by which the style and structure takes the colour of the subject; and direct.
- 1823 Thomasina Ross *Bouterwek's Hist. Sp. Lit.* I. 260 Combining the unity of ideas, which ought to distinguish that species of composition [*sc.* the sonnet], with the most elegant rounding and regularity of structure.
- 1833 J. Rush *Philos. Human Voice* xlv. (ed. 2) 313 When the structure of a sentence is so much involved as to produce a momentary hesitation in an audience, about its concord or government.
- 1857 J. D. Morell *Gram. Engl. Lang.* 49 The Structure of Words. i. Roots and Derivatives.
- 1862 Stanley *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. xix. 371 The Apocalypse is..thoroughly poetical in structure.
- 1887 *Spectator* 23 July 996/1 The story itself is in structure extremely simple.

4. The coexistence in a whole of distinct parts having a definite manner of arrangement.

- 1873 Spencer *Study Sociol.* iii. (1880) 63 Though structure up to a certain point [in the animal organism] is requisite for growth, structure beyond that point impedes growth.

7. An organized body or combination of mutually connected and dependent parts or elements.

- 1859 Darwin *Orig. Spec.* vi. (1873) 140 When we see any structure highly perfected for any particular habit, as the wings of a bird for flight.
- 1876 Spencer *Princ. Sociol.* §254 (1885) I. 526 The general law of organization..is that distinct duties entail distinct structures.

## Some Linguistic Structures

- Syllable structure (from *Language, Thought, and Reality*, by Benjamin Lee Whorf)

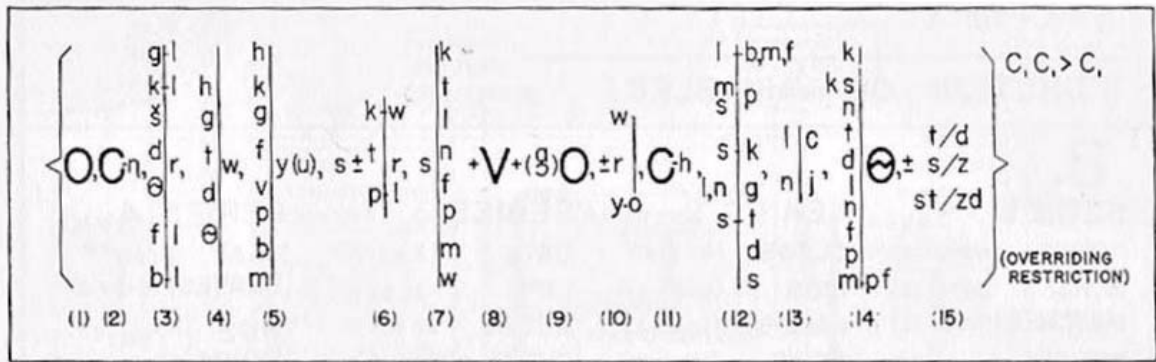
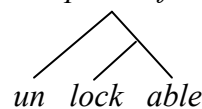
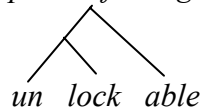


Figure 12. Structural formula of the monosyllabic word in English (standard mid-western American). The formula can be simplified by special symbols for certain groups of letters, but this simplification would make it harder to explain. The simplest possible formula for a monosyllabic word is  $C + V$ , and some languages actually conform to this. Polynesian has the next most simple formula,  $O, C + V$ . Contrast this with the intricacy of English word structure, as shown above.

- Word structure (morphology)

- bookkeepers* = [ [ [book + keep] -er] -s]
- unlockable* = a) capable of being unlocked      b) not capable of being locked



- Turkish *Bayramlaşamadıklarımızdandır*  
 'He is among those with whom we haven't been able to exchange season's greetings.'  
*bayram* 'holiday'      *bayramlaş* 'exchange season's greetings'  
 (-*la* denominal verb    -*ş* reciprocal form)    -*ama* 'not being able to do' form of verb  
 -*dık* deverbal noun    -*lar* plural    -*ımız* first person plural possessive  
 -*dan* ablative case ending, 'from'    -*dır* enclitic denoting 3rd pers. of verb 'to be'

- Phrase Structure

- some of the creepy old red brick Tudor houses on this street* [but notice the awfulness of...]
- \**the some on this street houses of Tudor brick red old creepy* ...or any other arrangement]
- She will have been being interviewed for several hours by then.*
- \**She will being have been interviewed for several hours by then.* [or any other order of verbs]

- Sentence Structure

- Harry is the man I want to succeed & He objected to the shooting of the hunters.* [ambiguous]
- John is easy to please* = (For someone) to please John is easy. [Tough-movement]
- John is eager to please* = John is eager (for John) to please (someone). [Equi-NP-Deletion]
- He did not hit Bill at any time.* ~ *Not at any time did he hit Bill.*
- He did not hit Bill with any club.* ~ \**Not with any club did he hit Bill.*
- Bill thinks the Cubs won't win the pennant.* = *Bill doesn't think the Cubs will win the pennant.*
- Bill said the Cubs won't win the pennant.* ≠ *Bill didn't say the Cubs will win the pennant.*
- I never go there any more.* ~ \**%I always go there any more.*

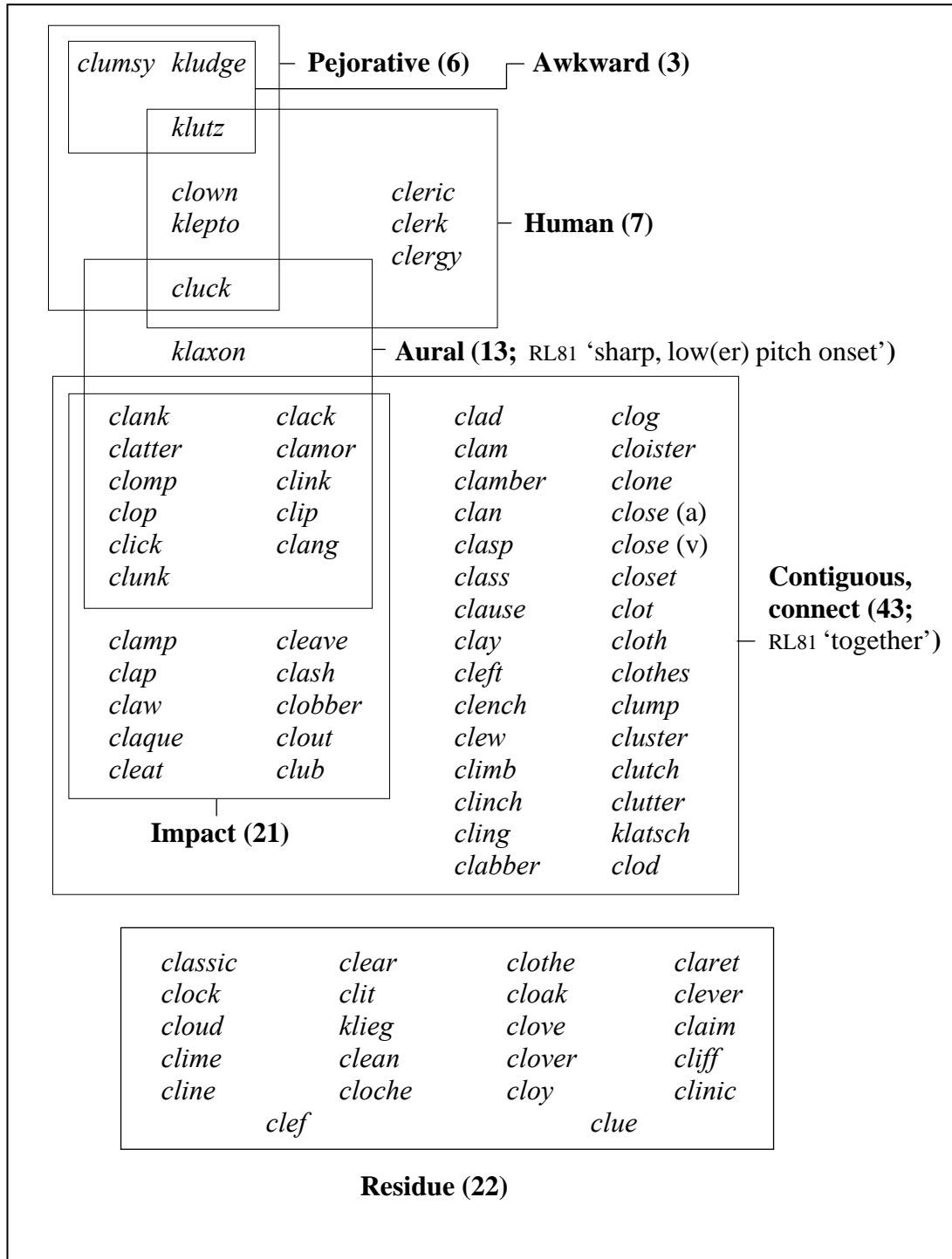
Some Phonosemantic Structures  
 (from <http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/#mono>)

Rime	Size	Coherence			Examples
		Num	Pct	Rank	
-ap	31	27	87%	1	RL81 <b>Ab</b> <i>Cess chop drop</i> <b>Ballistic</b> <i>topple hop</i> <b>Sep</b> <i>chop crop</i> <b>Impact</b> <i>plop bop</i>
-ɔl	28	24	86	2	<b>2D</b> <i>shawl sprawl wall</i> <b>Motion</b> <i>crawl brawl haul fall</i> <b>Contact</b> <i>maul trawl spall awl</i>
-əb	34	29	85	3	<b>1D</b> <b>Thick</b> <i>slub club chub stubble</i> <b>Dim</b> <i>shrub stub cub</i> <b>Pej</b> <i>flub lubber rubble</i>
-əmp	26	22	85	4	RL81 <b>3D</b> <i>rump hump lump clump stump</i> <b>Pej</b> <i>frump grump chump rumpus</i>
-əŋk	22	18	82	5	<b>Pej</b> <i>junk flunk bunk skunk drunk</i> <b>Hum</b> <i>punk lunk monk</i> <b>Aural</b> <i>clunk thunk plunk</i>
-ɪp	41	32	78	6	<b>2D+3D</b> <i>pip lip grip flip blip</i> <b>2D-3D</b> <i>nip chip snip dip</i> <b>Dim</b> <i>sip yip tip ripple</i>
-əg	31	24	77	7	<b>Pej</b> <i>ugh ugly lug slug thug mug</i> <b>Fluid</b> <i>glug jug chug</i> <b>3D</b> <b>Dim</b> <i>nugget snug</i>
-ɪz	21	16	76	8	<b>Separated/Dispersed/Multiple</b> <i>fizz drizzle schism sizzle dizzy</i> <b>Fluid</b> <i>jism chrism</i>
-ɪŋk	34	25	74	9	<b>Dim</b> <i>slink trinket tinker wink shrink dinky</i> <b>Dim</b> <b>Aural</b> <i>chink dink plink tinkle</i>
-æk	47	33	70	10	<b>2D</b> <b>Connected</b> <i>plaque stack bracket tacky</i> <b>Aural</b> <i>crack clack quack yack</i>
-æg	39	27	69	11	<b>Crooked/Broken</b> <i>snag zag crag sag rag</i> <b>2D</b> <i>drag rag wagon swagger flag</i>
-æf	25	17	68	12	RL81 <b>Violent</b> <b>Contact</b> <i>bash trash crash thrash slash gash</i>
-æŋ	27	18	67	13	<b>1D</b> <b>Connected</b> <i>hang angle dangle tangle</i> <b>Aural</b> <i>jangle twang bang clang</i>
-æp	30	20	66	14	RL81 <b>2D</b> <i>flap clap lap map wrap</i> <b>Contact</b> <i>slap strap chap rap tap</i>
-ɪŋ	32	21	66	15	RL81 <b>Dir</b> <b>Force</b> <i>sling sting spring ring</i> <b>Dim</b> <b>Aural</b> <i>ping ding jingle lingo</i>

13 Coherent Assonances, with examples

- st-** 1-Dim Rigid (Standing Man) *stick staff stem stub stab step stake stave stiff stilt*
- str-** 1-Dimensional Non-Rigid *strap string strum strain strip streak stream straw strand*
- br<sub>1</sub>-** 1-Dim Connected (Plant) *brush break bridge brim briar browse branch bramble*
- br<sub>2</sub>-** Human (Gender Roles) **M:** *brute brawl bruise bris* **F:** *breed broad breast bread*
- pr<sub>1</sub>-** 1-Dimensional Extended *prick prod prop prow pretzel privet prong probe prawn*
- pr<sub>2</sub>-** Human (Social Roles) *proper prim priest prom prissy primp proud pray preen prude*
- bl<sub>1</sub>-** Color (Eye) *blue blood blush blue black blank blotch blaze blind blond bleach*
- bl<sub>2</sub>-** Compressed Fluid (Eye) *blimp blush bloom blot blain blintz blood blow bloat*
- bl<sub>3</sub>-** Excess ('too much') *blotto blister blast bluster blab bliss bleep blare blemish*
- gl-** Reflected Light (Eye) *glaze glimmer glimpse gleam glance glare glow gloss glitter*
- kr-** 1-Dimensional Bent *crutch cripple crack crotch cross crank crimp crevice crane*
- kl-** Connection ('together') *club clutch clam clamp clap cluster clench click cling cleave*
- dr-** Liquid *dredge drink drop drown drought dry drain dribble drizzle drool dram*

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 (from <http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/#mono>)



84 Simplex Words with Assonance KL-  
 Coherence  $62/84 = 74\%$

RL81 = Rhodes, R. & J. Lawler. 1981. "Athematic Metaphors" in *Papers from the 17th Regional Meeting, Chicago Linguistic Society* (CLS 17)