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An introduction

3rd, revised and enlarged edition

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ERICH SCHMIDT VERLAG

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Preface to the second edition

This book is the translated, revised and updated second edition of an earlier book written in German and published in 2005. Like its precursor, it is mainly addressed to students of English and American studies as well as linguistics – in fact first and foremost to German students (which partly shows in the high proportion of German sources referred to).

The purpose of the volume is to introduce students to the field of English morphology and word-formation and assist them in preparing for their intermediate and final exams and in writing term papers and final theses. With these goals in mind, it seems only natural if at least at the outset very little prior knowledge is presupposed which goes beyond what is commonly taught in introductory classes on English linguistics at most universities. Nevertheless an effort has been made not to simplify but to do justice to the complexity of the field.

The analysis and description of morphologically complex words from a structural, sociopragmatic and cognitive perspective takes centre-stage in this book. Questions of a purely theoretical nature, especially those which are only relevant within certain frameworks such as generative grammar, receive comparatively little attention. What could nevertheless be of interest to readers who are well-versed in the field anyway, and who are kindly asked to keep in mind that this is meant to be an introductory textbook, is the systematic exploration into sociopragmatic and cognitive issues as well as the empirical corpus-linguistic approach taken.

This book would never have had a chance to be written if it was not for the support and assistance of a large number of people. Wolf-Dietrich Bald, the late co-editor of the series *Grundlagen der Anglistik und Amerikanistik*, prompted me to take the plunge. Carina Lehnen from Erich Schmidt publishers has now had the second opportunity to wait for the final manuscript to materialize. I am greatly indebted to Jens P. Dräger, Ursula Erhard and Sandra Handl for the great competence and stamina which were required for dealing with the intricacies of English morphology and their diligent analysis of the texts which made up the raw material for the corpus used (the *Munich UCL Morphology Corpus*). My heartfelt thanks also go to Bas Aarts, the director of the *Survey of English Usage* at University College London, for giving me permission to use the material.

I am particularly grateful to my father Wolfgang Schmid and my colleagues Wolfram Bublitz, Wolfgang Falkner, Ingrid Fandrych, Sandra Handl, Ursula Lenker, Len Lipka, Edgar Schneider (the series co-editor) and Friedrich Ungerer who read the manuscript of the first edition. A very special thank you goes to Ruth Owen and Sue Bollinger who did an extremely professional job translating and proof-

Preface

reading the second edition. Working together with you was a rewarding experience! Finally, I would like to thank Claudia Höger for formatting the pre-final manuscript and Sandra Handl and Daniela Langer (Erich Schmidt) for their stunningly diligent proofreading. It's hard to imagine how this book would have turned out if it were not for their alertness and competence.

This book is dedicated to my two academic teachers, Len Lipka and Friedrich Ungerer.

Preface to the third edition

For the present third edition I have added and updated numerous references and corrected typos and infelicities that had survived proofreading for the second edition. I am greatly indebted to Franziska Günther and Matthias Klumm and the members of their seminars for drawing my attention to them. Thanks also to Stephanie Hackert for her advice on variation concerning the marking of inflectional morphemes in the world-wide varieties of English.

As regards content, I have added one new chapter, now chapter 13, because I felt that it would be helpful to give a survey of current theoretical models of word-formation. I would like to thank Wolfgang Falkner, Paul Greenleaf, Franziska Günther, Elisabeth Huber and Matthias Klumm for their comments on earlier versions of this chapter. In addition to that, only a small number of passages were rewritten to make explanations clearer or more up-to-date.

Many thanks to Lena Posingies from Erich Schmidt for carefully reading and meticulously checking the whole manuscript.

Table of contents

Preface to the second edition	5
Preface to the third edition	6
1 Introduction	13
1.1 Morphology and word-formation	14
1.2 Objectives and target groups	15
1.3 Theoretical framework: broadening the perspectives	16
1.3.1 Structural perspective	16
1.3.2 Sociopragmatic perspective	17
1.3.3 Cognitive perspective	18
1.4 The corpus	20
1.5 Overview of the structure of this book	21
2 The morphological building blocks of English	23
2.1 Ambiguity of the notion of <i>word</i>	23
2.1.1 Word – word-form – lexeme	23
2.1.2 Typical, less typical and atypical words	25
2.2 The basic morphological units	28
2.2.1 Morpheme and morph	28
2.2.2 The distributional classification of morphemes	29
2.2.3 The functional classification of morphemes	30
2.2.4 Corpus study I: overview of morpheme classes and their frequencies in texts	36
2.3 From prototypical morphemes to submorphemic units	39
2.4 Morphemes and allomorphs	44
2.5 Summary: overview of morphological building blocks	46
2.6 Morphological segmentation and classification: sample analysis	48

Table of contents

3	Inflectional morphology	51
3.1	The inflectional morphology and allomorphy of present-day English	52
3.1.1	Overview of inflectional morphemes	52
3.1.2	The formal realization of morphemes: phonological and morphological conditioning of allomorphs	56
3.2	The history of English inflectional morphology	60
3.2.1	The richness of forms in Old English	62
3.2.2	Inflectional decline in late Old English and Middle English	64
3.2.3	Summary	66
4	The origin, development and establishment of complex lexemes	69
4.1	New words: possibilities for extending lexical resources	69
4.2	Three perspectives on the establishment of complex lexemes	71
4.3	The development towards establishment	73
4.3.1	Creation	73
4.3.2	Consolidation	75
4.3.3	Establishment	77
4.4	Summary	81
5	Fundamental issues in English word-formation	83
5.1	Overview of English word-formation patterns	86
5.1.1	Morphemic word-formation patterns	86
5.1.2	Non-morphemic word-formation patterns	87
5.2	Different approaches to the classification of English word-formation patterns	88
5.2.1	The 'traditional' approach	88
5.2.2	The syntagma approach	89
5.2.3	Tournier (1985) and (1988)	90
5.2.4	Onomasiological approaches	92
5.2.5	Cognitive approaches	93
5.2.6	Summary	95
5.3	Questions and methods in word-formation analysis	95
5.3.1	Structural perspective	96
5.3.2	The sociopragmatic perspective	101
5.3.3	The cognitive perspective	103
5.3.4	Summary	108

Table of contents

6	Productivity	111
6.1	The productivity of word-formation patterns and elements	111
6.2	Potential lexemes and restrictions on productivity.....	115
6.2.1	Pragmatic and cognitive restrictions on productivity	116
6.2.2	General structural restrictions on productivity	116
6.2.3	Pattern-specific restrictions on productivity.....	118
6.3	Summary and sociopragmatic outlook.....	119
7	Compounding	121
7.1	The morphological and semantic structures of compounds	121
7.1.1	Typical compounds	121
7.1.2	Deviating semantic structure: exocentric and copulative compounds.....	125
7.1.3	Special morphological structures: genitive compounds, particle compounds and neo-classical compounds.....	127
7.2	Borderline phenomena and demarcation problems	131
7.2.1	Demarcation from syntactic groups and phraseologisms	131
7.2.2	The transition to other word-formation patterns: synthetic compounds and verbal compounds	134
7.3	Corpus study II: compounds	137
7.3.1	Structural perspective.....	138
7.3.2	Sociopragmatic perspective.....	141
7.4	The cognitive functions of compounds	142
7.5	Summary.....	143
8	Prefixation	147
8.1	Typical prefixations, variations and transition phenomena	147
8.1.1	Typical prefixations	147
8.1.2	Synthetic prefixations and pseudo-prefixations	148
8.1.3	Class-changing prefixes	149
8.1.4	Prefixes and related elements.....	150
8.2	Corpus study III: overview of prefixation patterns	151
8.2.1	Negative, reversative and privative prefixes	152
8.2.2	Locative prefixes.....	154
8.2.3	Temporal prefixes	156
8.2.4	Prefixes denoting degree	157
8.2.5	Number prefixes.....	157

Table of contents

8.2.6	Prefixes denoting attitude.....	158
8.2.7	Summary.....	159
8.3	Cognitive functions of prefixation.....	160
9	Suffixation	163
9.1	Typical suffixations and transitional phenomena.....	163
9.1.1	Typical suffixations.....	163
9.1.2	Stem allomorphy and morphophonological variation.....	163
9.1.3	Derivational correlation and suffixations with bound roots.....	165
9.1.4	Suffixes and related elements.....	166
9.2	Corpus study IV: overview of types and models of suffixation.....	167
9.2.1	Noun-forming suffixes: reification.....	168
9.2.2	Adjective-forming suffixes: modalizing and relationizing...	174
9.2.3	Verb-forming suffixes: dynamizing.....	177
9.2.4	Adverb-forming suffixes.....	178
9.3	Quantitative summary.....	179
9.3.1	Structural perspective: distribution of corpus data according to word class.....	179
9.3.2	The sociopragmatic perspective: distribution of corpus data according to register.....	181
9.4	Cognitive functions of suffixation.....	181
10	Conversion	183
10.1	The linguistic phenomenon.....	183
10.1.1	The synchronic view.....	183
10.1.2	The diachronic view.....	185
10.2	Theoretical approaches.....	186
10.2.1	Grammatical indeterminacy and complex word classes.....	186
10.2.2	Functional transposition and conversion.....	187
10.2.3	Zero-derivation.....	188
10.2.4	Metonymy.....	190
10.3	Determining the direction of derivation.....	191
10.4	Considerations on conversion from a cognitive perspective.....	194

Table of contents

11 Polymorphemic complex lexemes	201
11.1 Polymorphemic affixations	201
11.2 Corpus study V: polymorphemic compounds	205
11.3 Summary	209
12 Non-morphemic word-formation processes	211
12.1 Back-formation	212
12.2 Corpus study VI: clipping	213
12.3 Corpus study VII: acronyms	215
12.4 Blending	219
12.5 Reduplication	221
12.6 Summary: borderline cases and problems of classification	222
13 Theoretical models of word-formation	225
13.1 Rule-based models	225
13.2 Schema-based models	228
13.3 Exemplar-based and exemplar-cum-schema-based models	232
13.4 Summary	234
14 Summary and conclusion	239
References	243
Subject and author index	259
Index of prefixes, suffixes and combining forms	271