

# Ordering constraints in English derivation and compounding

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Traditional models of the English lexicon assumed that English derivation is subject to an ordering constraint with Germanic suffixation peripheral to Nonnative suffixation (see, e.g., Allen, 1978, Giegerich, 1999, Kiparsky, 1982). Recently, Hay (2001), Hay & Plag (2004) and Plag & Baayen (2009) have developed an approach in which processing constraints are held accountable for ordering constraints, without any special role for lexical stratum.

The aim of the present paper is to show, on the basis of a comprehensive survey of the CELEX lexical database, that the combinatorial ordering constraints first discussed by Hay & Plag (2004), and characterized as constraints working against cycles in the directed suffix graph by Plag & Baayen (2009), are stronger for the Germanic stratum than for the Nonnative stratum. Furthermore, we show that constraints favoring acyclicity also govern the sequences of constituents in noun-noun compounds: nouns can be ordered in a hierarchy such that for any nouns A, B and C, given the existence of compounds A-B and B-C, the compound C-A is unlikely to exist as well.

The consequences of these findings for the theory of complexity-based ordering, as well as the processing consequences of cycles in morphological directed graphs, will be discussed.

## References

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