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*New High German so-called  
“unparadigmatic” interfixation  
as a matter of paradigmaticity*

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# Warming up

Examples of nominal compounds in NHG with:

(a) so-called „paradigmatic“ interfixes:

*Büch-er-tisch* ‚table with books‘ -> ~ PL

*Jahr-es-tag* ‚anniversary‘ -> ~ GEN.SG.

(b) so-called „un-paradigmatic“ interfixes:

*Asche-r-mittwoch* ‚Ash Wednesday‘ -> no PL

diachronically: vernacular PL (Kluge 2002)

*Schön-heit-s-operation* -> no GEN.SG.

‚plastic surgery‘, lit.: ‚operation for beauty‘

# First constituent: unanswered questions

- Which word class? N, V, Adj?
- If it is a N: role of morphology?
  - Quantification: Mass Noun, Count Noun, ... -> only CN can be put in the PL
  - Markedness: derived: y/n?
  - semantics: *-er*-nominalisations for instance create nomina agentis, instrumenti, acti: any differences?
  - gender: traditional criterion of classifying nouns => application to interfixation

# [suffixed N + interfix]-compounds as a matter of affix order

- Linguistic description shows a strong theoretical parallel:
  - finding a function of **gender**
  - finding a function of **interfixation**
- > One has to separate between paradigmatic organised nouns (with a transparent morphological structure) and lexicalised nouns (opaque)
- > **separation between productive grammatical forms („paradigmatic“ forms) vs. unproductive, lexicalised forms („un-paradigmatic“ forms)**
- -> rejection of „un-paradigmaticity“  
=> looking for **motivated patterns:**  
[[derived noun + interfix]+ N]

# Structure of this talk

**Productively suffixed, feminine nouns in NHG obligatorily select interfixes when being first constituents.** Therefore, feminine gender can be seen as a trigger for the so-called „un-paradigmatic“ interfixation (> interfix -s-) in NHG.

This raises the following questions:

- What and why is grammatical gender?
- How is grammatical gender encoded? The role of suffixation (Wegener 2000, Leiss 2005)
- Interfixation: Where is it (not) and why?
- Affix order: Combining gender suffixes and interfixes
- Functional explanation for productive -s-interfixation

# Former research

- Interfixes in NHG especially appear behind derived nouns with **certain suffixes** (see Aronoff/Fuhrhop 2002 so-called „re-opening“ for further morph. processes; Wegener 2003, Nübling et al. 2008, and others).
- Problem: **no functional** explanation, but several ‚explanations‘ offering different reasons (e.g. „morphologisation“ (Fuhrhop 2000), phonology, ...)
- Need of a purely morphological framework based on formal, grammatical (morphosyntactic) criteria

Idea of this talk: Morphology, and therefore, interfixation can be described in terms of **nominal quantification**.

# General introduction: gender <-> interfixation

Firstly observed in the 19th century by Jean Paul (1804), who made the following observations:

1. fem. gender <=> interfix -s
2. deverbal, derived nouns (with *-ung*) can easily be replaced by a verbal stem
3. rejection of a purely phonological explanation
4. role of word-class of the first constituent

# Jean Paul (1804)

„Aber mit dem weiblichen Geschlecht springt man, wie auch außerhalb der Sprachlehre, sündlich-unregelmäßig um, zumal da man den Wörtern auf *schaft, heit, keit, ung, ion* ein männliches Genitiv-s anheftet, das dadurch seine Unstatthaftigkeit nicht durch den Namen Biegung-S oder Biegung-s verliert. [...]

Wohllaut allein war hier nicht der Ab- und Zuspreecher; dagegen spricht Vernunftlehrer und Auskunftsmittel (mit seinem artigen Mitlauter-Quintett *nftsm*) oder die langen: Gerechtigkeitspflege, Beschimpfungswort etc. [...]

Die Bestimmungswörter auf *ung*, z.B. Bestimmungswörter, reichen eine kleine Hülfe. Wozu nämlich denn die Substantiv-Endigung *ung*, da wir ja dem Zeitwort bloß den Infinitiv abzuschneiden brauchen; also nicht Denkungs-, Heilungskraft sagen sollen, sondern Denk-, Heilkraft; [...] “

[Jean Paul: Vorschule der Ästhetik, p. 481. Digitale Bibliothek Band 1: Deutsche Literatur, p. 54329, emphasis added by M.W.]



# What is grammatical gender?

- Several approaches since early 19th century
- In languages with gender, every noun possesses **inherently** a certain gender :  
German *Baum* ‘tree’: MASC / \*FEM / \*NTR
- Grammatical gender (genus) has to be distinguished from biological gender (so-called “sexus”).
- No regularity could be found concerning the question of why certain nouns belong to a certain gender class, gender in current linguistic research is defined of being a purely **formal category**.

# Formal-functional approach to gender (I)

The function of gender is agreement:

German:    *d-er*                    *schön-e Baum*  
                  DET.M.                ADJ.M. N:M

- Problem 1: languages like Arabic (gender, but no agreement in the NP)
- Problem 2: other nominal categories (like number, case) also provide agreement
- Problem 3: Agreement is not a grammatical function in the narrower sense.

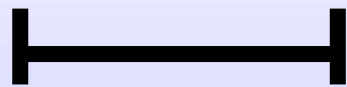
# Formal-functional approach to gender (II)

- Especially in recent times, grammatical gender is considered as being a **category** for **nominal quantification** (cf. Vogel 1996, Leiss 1997, 2005, Weber 2001, Froschauer 2003, Balles 2004, Siemund 2008, and many others, following Brugmann 1897).
- Greenberg (1963), universal # 36:  
**Gender > Number**

# Common ground of gender and number: mass-/count distinction

[- homogenous]

vs. [+ homogenous]



*house*

[- additive]

[- divisible]

-> count noun



*sand*

[+ additive]

[+ divisible]

-> mass noun



*houses*

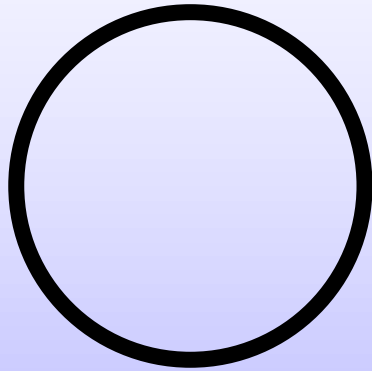


*sand*

(cf. Krifka 1986 with respect to number)

# Gender and countability

Visualisation (following Bittner 2002: 211)



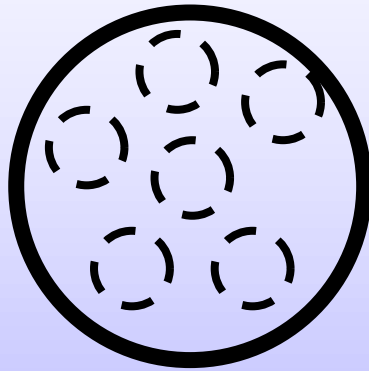
masculine

individuative

[+ count]

*der Lacher*

‘a single laugh’



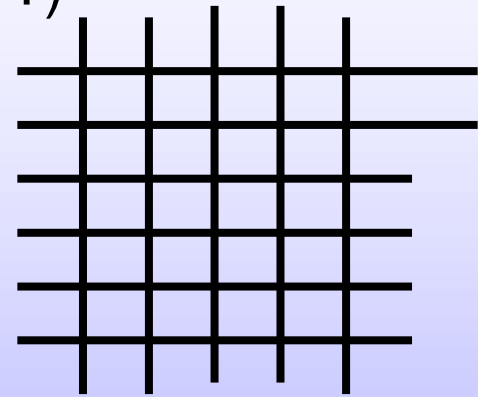
feminine

collective/abstr.

[+ iterative]

*die Lacherei*

‘laughing’



neuter

continuative

[- count]

*das Lachen*

‘laughing’

# Some examples of multiple gender in OHG

- *luft*, 3 genders:
    - ‘wind gust’ MASC
    - ‘air’ NTR
    - ‘heaven, summary of airs’ FEM
  - *buoh*, 3 genders:
    - ,code‘ MASC
    - ,chapter‘ NTR
    - ,Holy Bible, literary work‘ FEM
- > Systematic gender variation within one and the same text(s) (Froschauer 2003).

# Parallel processes

- The OHG multiple gender system has ceased to exist. In NHG, gender variation does not exist (apart from 1-2 nouns, cf. Talanga 1987).
- For late OHG, a strong increase of nominal suffixes can be attested (Froschauer 2003).
- Nominal suffixes (so-called “gender-markers“, Wegener 2000) carry the function of inherited gender systematicity in terms of a process of grammaticalisation (Leiss 2005).

# Morphological patterns in NHG

Paradigmatic organisation (following Leiss 2005; **bold**: suffixes):

<i>Schrei-</i>	∅	,cry‘	MASC
	- <i>en</i>	,crying‘	NTR
	<b>-<i>erei</i></b>	,crying‘	FEM
<i>Schreib-</i>	- <i>er</i>	,writer‘	MASC
	- <i>en</i>	,writing‘	NTR
	<b>-<i>ung/-erei</i></b>	,spelling/writing‘	FEM
<i>Lustig-</i>	- <i>er</i>	,s.o./s.th.funny‘	MASC
	- <i>es</i>	,s.th. funny‘	NTR
	<b>-<i>keit</i></b>	,funnyness‘	FEM



# Suffixes combining with interfix -s- ?

- *-ling*: *Liebling-s-essen* ,favourite dish‘
- *-sal*: *Schicksal-s-melodie* ,melody of fate‘
- *-schaft*: *Schwangerschaft-s-vertretung* ,substitution during pregnancy‘
- *-tum*: *Altertum-s-forscher* ,researcher on antiquity‘
- *-ität*: *Grammatikalität-s-kriterium* ,criterion of grammaticality‘
- *-ion*: *Religion-s-unterricht* ,religious education‘
- *-ung*: *Umgeh-ung-s-straße* ,by-pass‘
- *-heit/- (ig)keit*: *Schön-heit-s-operation* ,operation for beauty‘  
(Aronoff/Fuhrhop 2002, Wegener 2003, Nübling et al. 2008: 4, and others)

# Problems with this approach (I)

Not each of these suffixes mentioned is (fully) productive anymore in NHG. This holds for:

**-ling:** \**Cool-ling*, \**Hässlich-ling*, \**Klug-ling*, \**Fahrling*, but *ein Cooler / Hässlicher / Kluger / Fahrer* -> unproductive suffix (Kluge 2002)

**-sal:** *Scheusal*, but \**Schönsal* -> unproductive suffix (Kluge 2002).

**-schaft/-tum:** restrictions: derives only some personal nouns (-> “semi-lexicalisation“)

**-ion/-tät:** non-native suffixes do not derive native stems (Aronoff 1976, Corbin et al. 1997), but productive

native/“nativised“ suffixes do: *Grammatikalisierung / Grammatikal-isierung, Absurdität / Absurdheit; Cool-ness / Cool-heit*, but not: \**Schön-ness / Schön-heit*

=> morphological criterion of a ,real‘, productive suffix: non-nativity of a stem does not play any role.

# Problems with this approach (II)

- Some inherited but semantically productive patterns of suffixation do not provoke interfixation (*Lehrer-zimmer* ‚room for teachers‘, *Bohrer-spitze* ‚top of a drill‘).
- Some derived nouns within the same suffixal pattern avoid being first constituent of a compound such as **deverbal nomina acti** with *-er*: \**Jodlerversuch*, but *Jodel-versuch*, \**Räuspererpause*, but *Räusperpause* ‚break because of throat clearing‘
- -> (de)verbal first constituents are verbal stems, this holds also for the though highly productive patterns of conversion: *Turnschuh*/\**Turnen-s-schuh*, *Laufband*/\**Laufen-s-band*. Exceptions: only extremely old conversions, already observed in OHG times such as *Leben*, *Essen* => *Leben-s-versicherung*, *Essen-s-ausgabe*
- Some derived nouns (such as *Schwangerschaft*) are synchronically not transparent anymore (<-> diachrony)

**Solution:**

**Looking for motivated patterns in NHG**

# Where is interfixation: the role of parts-of-speech (I)

Deverbal N as first constituents:

- ?-erei: ?Schreiberei-situation ,situation of writing‘
  - \*Ge-...-e: \*Geschreibe-situation
  - -ung+-s: Umgeh-ung-s-straße ,by-pass‘
  - -er: ok with n. agentis/instrumenti: Lehrer-zimmer ,room for teachers‘, Bohrer-set ,set with drills‘, but not with nomina acti: ?Räusperer-pause ,break because of throat clearing‘
  - conversions: no NHG examples: \*Turnen-s-schuh, but Turn-schuh ,sneaker‘ (ex. like *Leben* mostly from diachrony)
- > tendency to take verbal stems: Schreib-situation, Räusper-pause, Lauf-band

# Where is interfixation: the role of parts-of-speech (II)

Deadjectival N as first constituents:

- *-heit, -keit, -igkeit*: obligatorily with *-s-* interfix, consider:
  - Schönheit-s-operation* lit., operation for beauty‘
  - Hässlichkeit-s-test* ,test of ugliness‘
  - Knabenhaftigkeit-s-ideal* ,ideal of boyishness‘
- *-er*: no examples: *ein Klug-er* = inflection!
- *-ling*: not productive in NHG: \**Chatling*, \**Fahrling*, but: *Chatter*, *Fahrer* ,driver‘

# Where is interfixation: the role of parts-of-speech (III)

Denominal N as first constituents:

- Collective nouns with *-schaft* and *-tum* take the *-s-*interfix:

?*Studenten-schaft-s-demo* ,demonstration of

?*Studenten-tums-s-demo* student body‘

But there are semantic restrictions:

\**Bäumeschaft*, \**Wellensittichschaft*,

?*Chatterschaft*

-> strong tendency of being/becoming  
inproductive

# Intermediate conclusion: [NHG derivation + interfixation]

- **deverbal**: *-er*; (*-ung*); *-erei*, *Ge-...-e*:  
restrictions; preference of taking the verbal stem
- **denominal**: *-schaft/-tum*:  
*restrictions*; not fully or really productive  
-> but take the *-s-*
- **deadjectival**: *-heit*, *-keit*, *-igkeit*; (not *-ling!*)  
fully productive in NHG  
-> *-heit* with adjectival bases and past participles:  
*schön* > *Schönheit*, *verloren* > *Verlorenheit* lit.:  
,lostness‘  
-> *-keit* and *-igkeit* with (pseudo)suffixed adjectives:  
*lustig* > *Lustig-keit* lit.: ,funnyness‘  
*knabenhaft* > *Knabenhaft-igkeit* lit.: ,boyishness‘



# Conclusion and outlook I

- NHG productively **derived, feminine nouns paradigmatically** select interfix *-s-* (see also Nübling et al. 2008).
- This does not hold for other genders. Productively formed masculine nouns with  $\{-er\}$  show restrictions concerning appearing as 1st constituents: only nomina agentis and instrumenti (not acti) act as first constituents (possessive relation, but without interfix). No neuter (deverbal) nouns (conversions, circumfixations) act as first constituents.
- Only the suffix *-erei* forms fem. N, but these N do not appear as first constituents of compounds  
But: deverbal nouns in general avoid the first position (see next slide). The same holds for pejorative nouns (consider also circumfixation!).

# Conclusion and outlook II

- Tendency in diachrony: Deverbal (derived) N are continuously replaced by verbal stems. If the productivity of the suffix *-ung* has come to an end (which Demske 2000, and Werner, to app., assume), one can argue that **abstract activity nouns in principle avoid being first constituents of compounds** (*\*Räuspererpause*. This rule also integrates the question of the ‚dubious‘ *-erei*-nouns).
- **Property nouns** in contrast do not display such a restriction. They can act as **first constituents, obligatorily interfixed**, in NHG (*Schönheit-s-operation*) although adjectival stems cannot (*\*Cool-lehrer*, but *cooler Lehrer* ‚cool teacher‘; *\*Schönblume*, but *schöne Blume* ‚beautiful flower‘).

# Conclusion and outlook III

- Considering the quantifying role of the suffixes: FEM collective/iterative [ $\pm$ count], MASK [+count], NTR [count], **interfixation in principle can be interpreted as a matter of quantification.**
- Etymology: Traditionally “paradigmatic“ interfixes go back to PL or genitive morphemes -> both quantifying categories!
- The interfix -s itself as an old genitive marker has/had a quantifying function: MHG *des wazzers* ‚some water‘, NHG *Gefroren-es*, *Schweinern-es* (partitivity as one function of the genitive).
- Interpretation: The **interfix -s** in this regard **neutralises** more complex forms of gender **quantification** (abstractness) in NHG.

# Conclusion and outlook IV

- Further research would be required, especially in order to elucidate diachronical developments and in order to find more covert patterns of quantifying interfixation.
- Theory and axiomatics of (nominal) quantification („mereology“) can serve as a tool for describing and explaining matters of affix order.

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~ THANKS! ~

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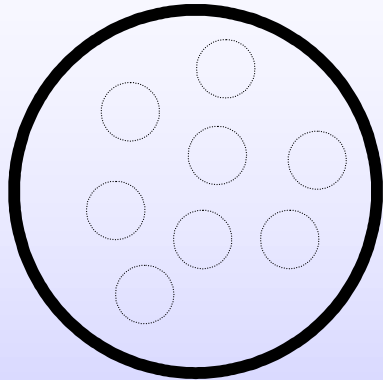
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# Affix order(s)

- *-heit/-keit/-igkeit* + *-s-* for property N
- *-ung*: not fully productive anymore (\*Hustung, \*Chattung)
- *-erei*: pejoration leads to semantic restrictions
- Productively derived deverbal N in NHG avoid being first constituents of a compound. This holds for all gender classes.
- Property nouns appear at first position. This is relatively exotic (consider English!) and goes back to a diachronical development where simple count nouns were marked by interfixes (Werner, to app.)

# Feminine vs. neuter collectives



FEMININE

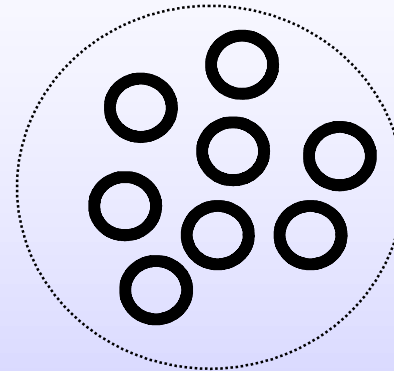
[+ iterative],  
but primarily [+ count]

SG: *Studentenschaft*

PL: *Studentenschaften (aus aller Welt)*

SG: *Schlägerei*

PL: *Schlägereien*



NEUTER

[+ iterative],  
but primarily [- count]

SG: *Studententum*

PL: \**Studententümer*  
*(aus aller Welt)*

SG: *Geschlage*

PL: \**Geschlage*