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"The Lexicon: Multiple Affixation in English"

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Abstract:

The Lexicon : Multiple Affixation in English

During recent decades there has been substantial work on the internal structure of words, conceived as morphology. This holds for general morphology as well as for English morphology. We have bibliographical works (Beard, R. - Szymanek, B. (1988), Scalise, S. (online), and Stein, G. (1973), Stekauer, P. - Szymanek, B. (2002) for English. We have accounts of its research history (Spencer, A. – Zwicky, A.M. (eds.) (2001: Introduction) and Stekauer, P. (2000) for English, and there are three excellent handbooks (Spencer, A. – Zwicky, A. M. (eds.) (1998, 2001), Booij, G. – Lehmann, C. – Mugdan, J. (eds.) (2000) and Stekauer, P. – Lieber, R. (eds.) (2005). Progress has also been made by paying more attention to *ad hoc*-formations (cf. the work by P. Hohenhaus) and the consultation and use of larger corpora now available online.

Yet there are still some striking facts. There still is no successor to H. Marchand's classical work (1969), published nearly 40 years ago. The most comprehensive synchronic descriptions of English word-formation are the respective chapters in the standard grammars of English, Quirk, R. et al. (1985) and Huddleston, R. et al. 2002). And more seriously, the intrinsic function of word-formation is not addressed. The recent focus on aspects of productivity and lexical phonology shows that "a well-balanced approach to morphology [giving] equal prominence to both form and function" (Szymanek 1988: 163) is far from being attempted. That this is indeed the case will be demonstrated by refuting the "monosuffix constraint" for English put forward in 2002 by M. Aronoff and N. Fuhrhop. It will be shown in detail that a better and more comprehensive characterization of multiple affixation in English is feasible when

(1) The description is guided by the function of word-formation

(2) more consideration is given to the relation between word-formation and the lexicon

(3) semantic aspects of word-formation rules are taken into account

(4) the data are interpreted in an unbiassed way.