Productivity in Serbian Inflection and Derivation in terms of Natural Morphology

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The main purpose of the Thesis is to investigate productivity of noun and verb microclasses in the Serbian language within the Framework of Natural Morphology. A novel classification of nouns- in terms of macroclasses, classes and microclasses, has been proposed in order to account for a much more insightful analysis of the productive patterns. The special focus has been placed on the integration of loan words with fitting and unfitting morphological properties.

The second part of the Thesis is dedicated to the productivity in derivation (in general) and in the investigated language. An evaluation test, in which 20 native speakers of the Serbian language filled in the forms with the diminutives and augmentatives of 33 loan and indigenous words, was conducted. The results of this evaluation demonstrated that all diminutives and augmentatives were formed in a very productive manner and that these coinages belong to the most productive Serbian/Croatian microclasses.

External evidence for the morphological productivity of the established inflectional classes and diminutive formation has been acquired from the corpus of one Croatian-speaking girl (Antonija, CHILDES database).

Finally, the concluding chapter provides an overview of the typological properties of the Serbian/Croatian language, as well as evidence for the relationship of typology with inflection, word formation and first language acquisition.

References


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