Closing Suffixes in Bulgarian and German

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Goal

- To establish the role of semantics in closing suffixation, i.e. whether closing suffixation can be seen as driven by universal semantic constraints.

The structure of this talk

- Definition of a closing suffix
- Examples of closing suffixes from German
- Establishing the semantics of the German closing suffixes and their correspondent Bulgarian suffixes
- Checking the Bulgarian suffixes for being closing
- Discussion
- Conclusions

Closing Suffix: Definition

- Closing suffixes are suffixes that closed the word to the addition of further suffixes.

- There are closing suffixes in derivation and in inflection.
- This talk concentrates in closing suffixes in the derivational word slots.

Test for + /- closing

Logically,

    [BASE + SUFF]$_{N, A, V}$ → NOUN (N)

                              → ADJECTIVE (A)

                              → VERB (V)

If none of the three expected derivations is possible, SUFF is a closing suffix.

Closing Suffixes in German

Lehrer 'teacher' → *Lehrerin* 'female teacher'

Lehrer → *Lehrer-chen* ‚little teacher'

Lehrerin → **Lehrerin-chen* 'little female teacher'

Although diminutivization is a productive morphological change in German, *Lehrerin* cannot be diminutivized. Actually, no derivational suffix can be attached to the suffix *-in* (i.e. neither verbs nor adjectives can be derived from nouns terminating in the suffix *-in*), which allows us to conclude that *-in* is a closing suffix.

Reopening

If *Lehrerin* is used as a first constituent of a compound or before the suffixoids *-shaft* and *-tum*, a linking element 'reopens' it, thus *Lehrerinn-en-zimmer* 'a room for female teachers', *Lehrerinn-en-schaft* and *Lehrerinn-en-tum*.

(cf. Aronoff & Fuhrhop 2002)

German Closing Suffixes

- Aronoff & Fuhrhop (2002: 461) point out the following German suffixes as closing:

-e$_{suff}$, -heit/-keit/-igkeit, -in, -ish, -ling, and -ung

German Closing Suffixes in Detail

V + *-e*$_{suff}$ → N

A + *-heit/-keit/-igkeit* → N

N males + *-in* → N females

N person + *-isch* → A

V, A + *-ling* → N

V + *-ung* → N

G. -*e*suff

V + -*e*suff → N

G. pflegen 'to care for' → Pflege 'care', PL Pflegen

Cf. Bg. griža se '(I) care for' → griž-a 'care', PL griž-i

The parallel suffix in Bulgarian is inflectional and therefore doesn't allow further attachment of WF suffixes.

G. *-heit/-keit/-igkeit*

A + *-heit/-keit/-igkeit* → N

schön ‚beautiful' → Schön-heit ‚beauty'

Bg. xubav ‚beautiful' → xub-ost ‚beauty'

svjat ‚sacred' → svjat-ost ‚sacrednes'

N is an an abstract noun expressing property of A.

Bg. *-ost*

revniv ‚jelous' → *revn-ost* ‚jelouscy' → *revnost-en* ‚devoted' → *revnostn-ost* ‚devotedness'

sladăk ‚sweet' → *slad-ost* ‚sweetness' → *sladost-en* ‚pleasant' → *sladostn-ost* ‚pleasure'

cjal ‚whole' → *cjal-ost* ‚wholeness' → *cjalost-en* ‚complete' → *cjalostn-ost* ‚completeness'

xubav ‚beautiful' → *xubost* ‚beauty' → *xubost-nik* ‚rascal'

bjal ‚white' → *bjalost* ‚whiteness' → ø

! Bg. suffix *-ost* is not closing

G. *-in*

(derivation of females from males, i.e. G. *Movierung*)

- N males + *-in* → N famales

Over 90 % of all *Movierung* formations in German are derived through the attachment of this suffix.In other words, the fact that the suffix *-in* is closing is enough to determine German *Movierung* as closing in general.

Except *-in*, modern German uses for Movierung also *-(i/e)sse*, *-euse*, *-ine*, *-esse* and *-sche* (dialectal, North German), formations with these suffixes, however, often have *-in* doublets or allow addition of *-in*, e.g. *Baron-esse* and *Baron-in*, as well as *Prinzess-in* (cf. Wellmann 1975: 107ff).

Bulgarian suffixes for derivation of females from males (1)

- *-k-a* (e.g. *učitelka* ← *učitel* 'teacher')
- *-in-ja* (e.g. *boginja* ← *bog* 'God')
- *-kin-ja* (e.g. *srăbkinja* ← *sărbin* 'a Serbe')
- *-ic-a* (e.g. *kralica* ← *kral* 'king')
- *-es-a* (e.g. *poetesa* ← *poet* 'poet')
- *-is-a* (e.g. *aktrisa* ← *akt'or* 'actor') and
- *-v-a* (only in *svekărva* ← *svekăr* 'father-in-law')

Bulgarian suffixes for derivation of females from males (2)

These suffixes are closing only if the suffix is native and added to a base denoting male person. Suffixes deriving female animals are not closing.

(Manova 2008)

Females from males in Bulgarian (animals)

magare ‚donkey' → *magarica* → DIM *magarička* (Google – 683 occurrences)

lăv ‚lion' → *lăvica* → DIM *lăvička* (Google – 8 occurences)

The only instance of a derivation involving a human being is *svekăr* 'father-in-law' → *svekărva* 'mother-in-law' → *svekărvička* (rather ironical) (Google – 82 occurrences), *svekărva* being derived with the unique Movierung suffix *-v-a* (note that nouns such as *etărva, zălva*, though terminating in *-v-a* are non-derived)

Females from males in Bulgarian (foreign bases)

princ 'prince' → *princesa* → DIM *princeska* (Google – 528 occurrences)

poet 'poet' → *poetesa* → DIM *poeteska* (Google – 236 occurrences)

baron 'baron' → *baronesa* → DIM *baroneska* (Google – 1 occurrence)

akt'or 'actor' → *aktrisa* → DIM *aktriska* (Google – 54 occurrences)

Lexicalizations

- *daskal* ‚teacher (archaic)'→ *daskalica* →
  DIM *daskalička* ‚little female teacher &
  little female pupil'

- *princesa* 'warm sandwich' → DIM
  princeska

G. *-isch*

N person, animals + *-isch* → A

Schriftsteller ‚writer' → *schriftsteller-isch* ‚writer's'

   Hund ‚dog' → *hünd-isch* ‚dog's'

Bg. *pisatel* ‚writer' → *pisatel-ski* ‚writer's'

   kuče ‚dog' → *kuč-eški* ‚dog's'

Bg. *-ski*

The Bg. suffix *-ski* is closing.

N + *-ski* → ADJ → *N
　　　　　　　　 → *V
　　　　　　　　 → *ADJ

G. *-ling*

V, A + *-ling* → N

However:

prüfen ,to examin' → *Prüfling* ,the examined person' → FEM *Prüflingin*

lehren ,to teach' → *Lehrling* ,the thaught person' → FEM *Lehrlingin*

Source: Google

(Native speakers evaluate such forms as impossible.)

G. *-ling* does not have an equivalent in Bulgarian.

G. *-ung*

V + *-ung* → N

piša → *pis-ane* ‚writing'→ ø

    → *pis-anie* ‚a piece of writing' → DIM   *pisanijce*

dviža (se) ‚(I) move' → *dviž-ene* ‚moving' → ø

              → *dviž-enie* ‚moving, movement'→

   DIM *dviženijce*

Bg. -Vne is clsoing but *-Vnie* is not!

Bg. *-Vne* and *-Vnie* action nouns

The suffix *-Vne* attaches only to IMPFV bases whereas the suffix *-Vnie* takes both IMPFV and PFV bases.

+/- closing does not depend on the semantics of the derivative and therefore lexicalitzed *-Vne* nouns cannot be further diminutivized:

prane ‚loundry', *piene* ‚drink', *jadene* ‚food'

G & Bg. Suffixes

German Closing Suffixes	Bulgarian Parallels	Closing in Bulgarian
-e$_{suff}$	ø	ø
-heit/-keit/-igkeit	-ost	NO
-in	-ka, -(k)inja, -ica, -esa, -isa, -va	Only if added to N for male humans
-isch	-ski	YES
-ling ?closing	ø	ø
-ung	-ne, -nie	Only -ne

Diminutivization

- Aronoff & Fuhrhop (2002 : 460) exclude German diminutive suffixes (*-chen, -ei/-erei,* and *-lein*) from their analysis since a diminutive suffix is not expected to be followed by another suffix. This observation, however, does not hold for Bulgarian:

snim-k-a 'photograph' → DIM1 *snim-č-ic-a* → → DIM2 *snimčič-ic-a*

Note that not all diminutive suffixes can be attached recursively, e.g. DIM *-k-a* does not allow recursive use.

Conclusions (1)

- Semantics that is closing in German is not always closing in Bulgarian;
- If (closing) semantics is expressed by a set of suffixes, not all the suffixes of the set are closing;
- A (set of) suffix(es) can be closing with a semantically restricted type of bases (e.g. females derived from human males). However, if the base has another, though semantically related meanig (e.g. male animal), the suffix(es) is(are) not closing.

Conclusions (2)

- Semantics is of importance to closing suffixation, but semantic restrictions alone cannot define a suffix as +/-closing.

- There are diffrent types of closing suffixes:

1) suffixes that are always closing; and

2) suffixes that are closing only if particular formal or (and) semantic restrictions apply.

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