Suffix-ordering in English and Slavic: Different or the same?

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This talk tests Manova’s (2011) approach to suffix ordering (A cognitive approach to SUFF1-SUFT2 combinations: A tribute to Carl Friedrich Gauss, Word Structure 4:2) against data from Russian (East Slavic).

For English and Bulgarian (South Slavic), Manova (2011) shows that any two neighboring derivational suffixes (SUFT1-SUFT2) in a word form combine in a specific way, more precisely SUFT1 selects only one particular SUFT2 of a major syntactic category, N, V and ADJ. If more than one SUFT2 with the same syntactic-category specification exists, either one of the SUFT2 suffixes applies by default (i.e. most of the derivatives exhibit that suffix) or semantic rules differentiate between the different SUFT2 suffixes and allow the attachment of only one particular SUFT2 depending on what the speaker intends and due to blocking (Aronoff 1976, among others). Additionally, since derivation is prototypically word-class-changing (Dressler 1989; Booij 2000), SUFT1 and SUFT2 usually have different syntactic-category specifications.

(1) and (2) illustrate the structure of the Slavic and English words respectively (the schemas are based on Manova 2011).

(1) Schema of the structure of the Slavic word
(PREFIX) - BASE - (DERIVATIONAL SUFF) - (THEMATIC MARKER) - (INFLECTIONAL SUFF)

(2) Schema of the structure of the English word
(PREFIX) - BASE - (DERIVATIONAL SUFF) - (THEMATIC MARKER) - (INFLECTIONAL SUFF) Ø

The Russian data come from Zaliznjak’s dictionary (Zaliznjak 1977), the Academy grammar (Švedova 1980), the Russian National Corpus, and the Internet; the suffix combinations were also checked by native speakers.

The Russian suffix combinations will be compared with the results obtained by Manova for English and Bulgarian. In the discussion, I will, among other things, devote special attention to the importance of the direction of derivation to suffix ordering. I will argue in favor of base-driven morphology, i.e. the direction of derivation is from SUFT1 to SUFT2, cf. Plag (1996).

305 words
References