

Morphotactics, affix ordering, the mirror principles, and the relevance principle

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Morphotactics and Affix Ordering

The Mirror Principle

The Relevance Principle

Templatic Ordering

Implications

While the Mirror Principle and the Relevance Principle come at the problem from very different angles, but suggest that words with multiple affixes can be seen as composed as nested layers, each of which has scope over the layers inside of it. The Mirror Principle relates these layers to operations in the syntax. The relevance principle relates them to communicative function. But the Relevance Principle, in particular, leads us to believe that morphemes close to the root will be more collocated with it (that is, have higher mutual information). It also suggests that for a word like *re-implement-at-ion-s*, it should be easier to learn a meaningful embedding for *implementation* than for *ations*, even though both consist of the concatenation of three morphemes.

References