

**The grammar of words: An introduction to morphology.** By **Geert Booij**. (Oxford Textbooks in Linguistics.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Pp. vii-xiv, 345. ISBN 9780199226245. \$39.15

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Morphology is an integral part of linguistic theories (e.g. American Structuralism and the parameters side of Principles and Parameters approaches) and has numerous theoretical models of its own (Distributed Morphology, Word-and-Paradigm Morphology, Trapped Morphology, among others). Additionally, many textbooks on morphology are limited to a particular framework or theory. For these reasons, a textbook with coverage of both empirical data and various theoretical techniques of dealing with this data is an extremely useful text. Booij's second edition is such a text.

The book is partitioned into twelve chapters of six sections and covers datum from languages such as Georgian, Sanskrit, Nahuatl, Italian, Polish, Latin, and about 60 others. A large portion of language data is from Dutch and English. Booij introduces multiple theoretical techniques for dealing with data and specific phenomenon such as reduplication and allomorphy in optimality theory (pp. 181, 159 respectively), derivation of adjectives using inheritance trees (pg. 62), productivity of derived suffixes and activation levels in the lexicon using various measures of corpus frequency (pp. 234, 70), and noun-incorporation and causatives in generative syntax (pp. 198-201). The focus on compounds throughout the book serves to provide a wealth of accessible data exemplifying a number of morphological processes and the methods used by differing theories to account for these processes. Also of interest, Booij focuses on interfaces between morphology and other parts of grammar (i.e. phonology, syntax, semantics) useful to current Minimalist Program approaches.

Some of the sections include word-formation, inflection, interfaces, and a conclusion with a newly added essay on the problems of defining 'word.' Each section contains at least two chapters on specific topics with plenty of concrete examples from diverse languages. The chapters also each include a list of ten problems (with answers in the back) and a good list of suggested further readings. The new edition has also added a very useful glossary of terms (boldfaced throughout the book). The requisite bibliography, typographic conventions, and list of abbreviations and symbols are easy to access and read. I did not find any misspellings or other typos.

The only drawback to the book is that the range of coverage sometimes limits the depth of analysis. At times the presentation of material seems to jump from topic to topic without much introduction. However, I don't see this as a stylistic fault of Booij's, but instead, a practical problem for reasonably sized introductory textbooks that want to give a theoretically and empirically balanced representation of a subfield of inquiry. Overall, the book is a coherent and accessible text with clear prose, explanations, and examples. It meets its apparent goal of a basic introduction to the diverse study of Morphology and

connections to other areas of linguistic research. I highly recommend this readable and accessible book for both novices and professionals.