

# 03 – Morphology and word-formation

*Lexicology and Lexicography – Course Website*

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# Outline

1. **Lexical innovation**: How do new words arise and what are the key types?
2. **Morphology vs word-formation**: What's the distinction and scope?
3. **Inflection in Present-Day English**: What inflectional morphemes exist?
4. **Morphological building blocks**: What are morphemes and their categories?
5. **Morphemic processes**: How do derivation and compounding work?
6. **Non-morphemic processes**: What are conversion, clipping, blending, back-formation, and acronyms?
7. **Practice**: How can we analyse word structure?

# Introduction

# Lexical innovation

How do new words arise?

# Lexical innovation

How do new words arise?

Kerremans (2015)

|      |     | meaning          |                 |
|------|-----|------------------|-----------------|
|      |     | old              | new             |
| form | old | x                | <i>subprime</i> |
|      | new | <i>snowicane</i> | <i>detweet</i>  |

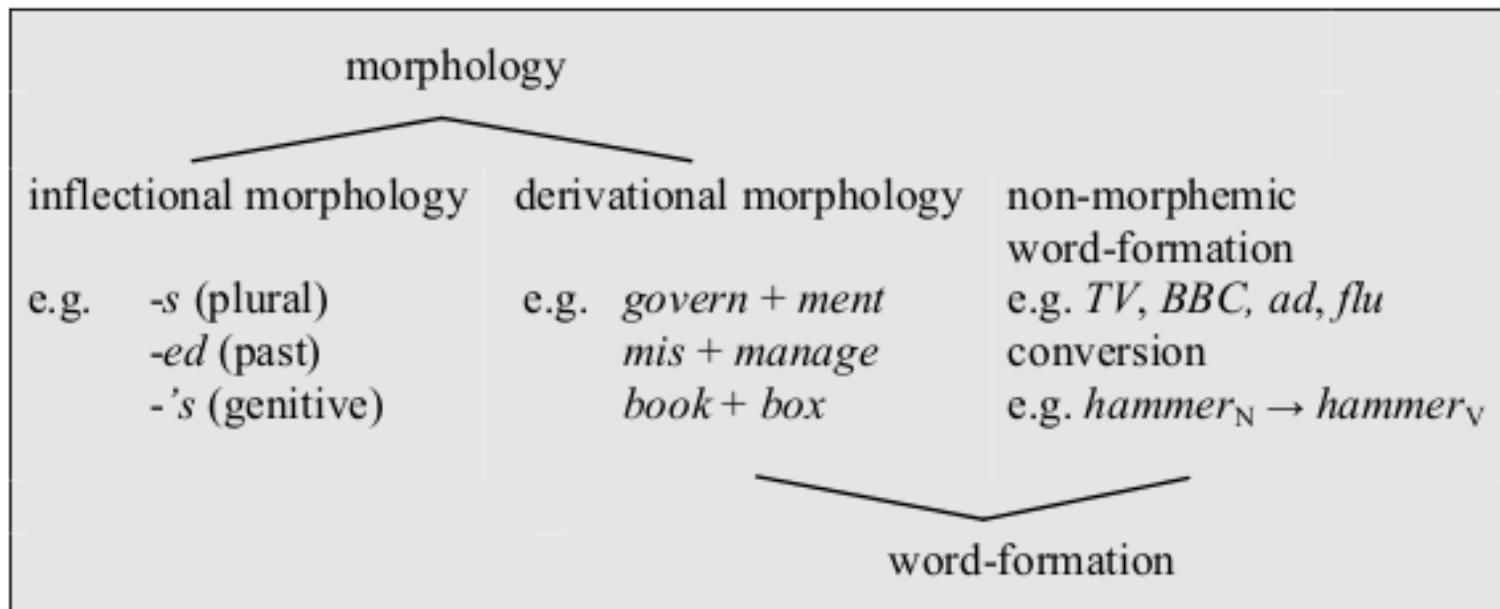
# Morphology vs word-formation

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Schmid (2016)



# Inflection in Present-Day English

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Schmid (2016)

| word class | morpheme                 | functions/meanings                            |
|------------|--------------------------|---|
| noun       | {plural}                 | marking of plural                             |
|            | {genitive}               | marking of genitive; possession, part-of etc. |
| verb       | {3 <sup>rd</sup> person} | 3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular present       |
|            | {ing}                    | present participle                            |
|            | {ed <sub>1</sub> }       | simple past                                   |
|            | {ed <sub>2</sub> }       | past participle                               |
| adjective  | {er}                     | comparative                                   |
|            | {est}                    | superlative                                   |
| numerals   | {th}                     | ordinal number                                |

# Morphemic word-formation processes

# Morphological building blocks

Which types of morphemes are there and how do they differ?

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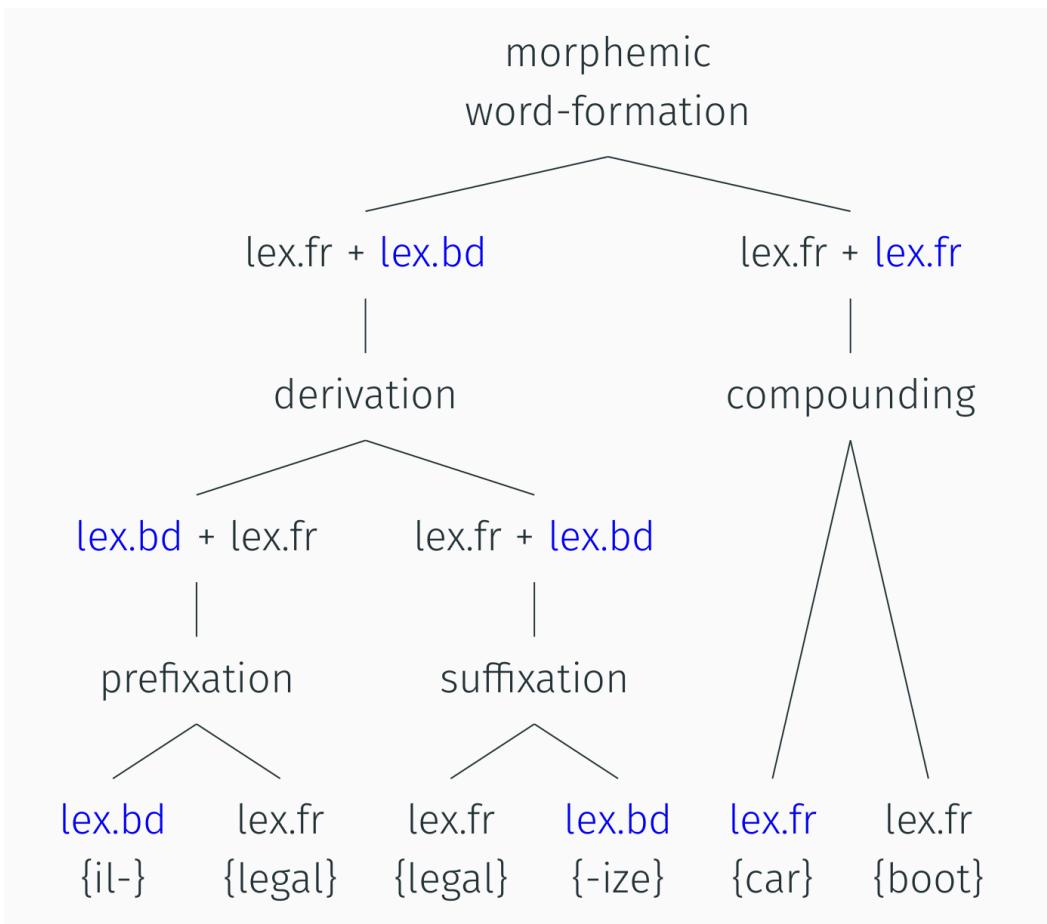
| morpheme class                                  | attributes   | examples                                      |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| lexically free<br>(lexemes, roots)              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• semantically autonomous</li><li>• open class</li><li>• inflecting (except for interjections)</li></ul>   | N:<br>Adj:<br>Adv:<br>V lex:<br>Interj:       | {head}, {key}, {part}<br>{green}, {pale}, {nice}<br>{fast}, {well}, {here}<br>{plan}, {teach}, {pass}<br>{ouch}, {damn}            |
| grammatically free<br>(lexemes, function words) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• not autonomous, relational</li><li>• closed class</li><li>• not inflecting</li></ul>   | V aux:<br>Pron:<br>Prep:<br>Conj:<br>Num:     | {will}, {must}, {have}<br>{she}, {which}, {why}<br>{of}, {in}, {at}<br>{and}, {that}, {as}<br>{one}, {thousand}                    |
| lexically bound<br>(derivational affixes)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (more or less) open class</li><li>• create lexemes with discrete meaning</li><li>• usually change word class (suffixes)</li><li>• closer to the stem</li></ul> | prefixes:<br>suffixes:                        | {re-}, {dis-}, {post-}<br>{-er}, {-ify}, {-ment}   |
| grammatically bound<br>(inflectional suffixes)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• closed class</li><li>• create word-forms with unchanged meaning</li><li>• always maintain word class</li><li>• further away from the stem</li></ul>            | for Ns:<br>for Vs:<br>for Adjs:<br>for Numbs: | {plural}, {genitive}<br>{3 <sup>rd</sup> pers. pres. sg.},<br>{ing}, {ed <sub>1</sub> }, {ed <sub>2</sub> }<br>{er}, {est}<br>{th} |

# Overview of morphemic word-formation processes

Which morphemic word-formation processes are there?

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# Exercise: conducting a morphological analysis

Provide a full morphological analysis for the word *misrepresentations*.

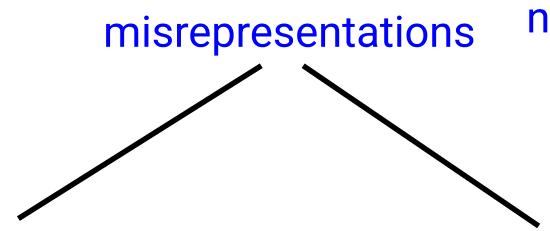
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**misrepresentations**

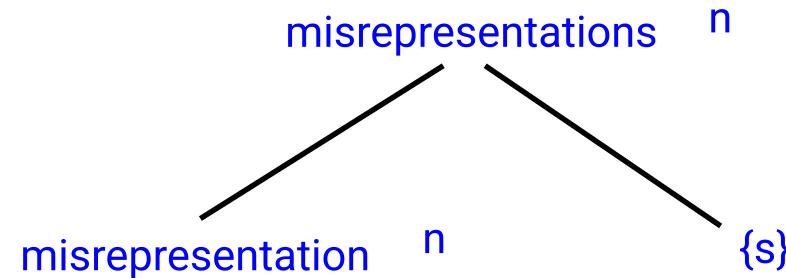
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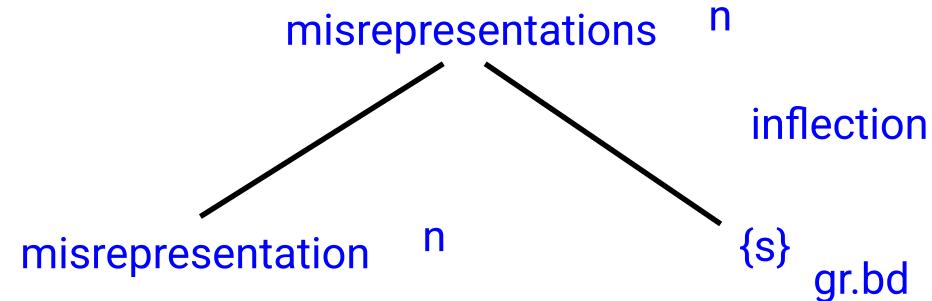
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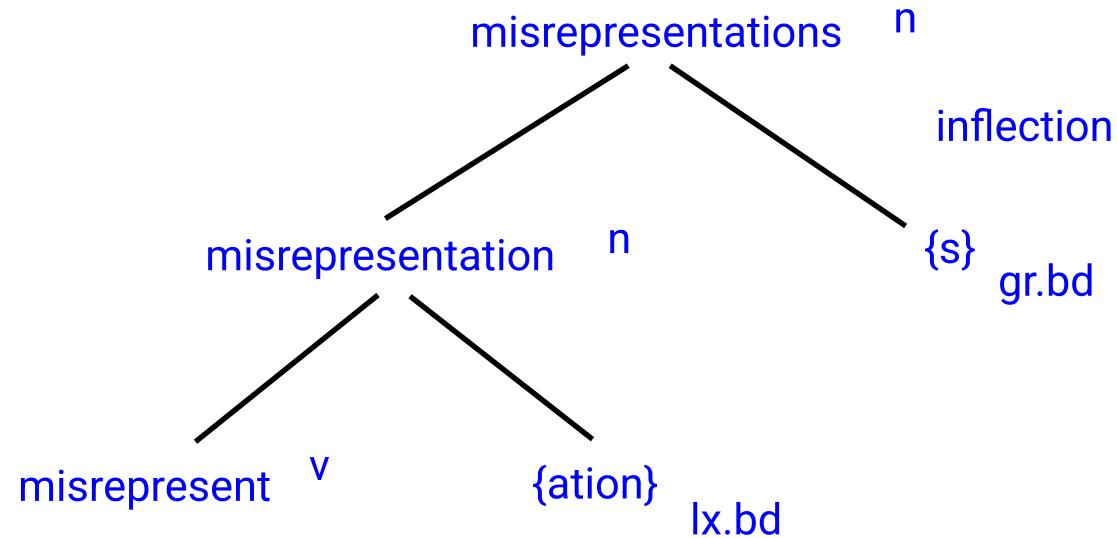
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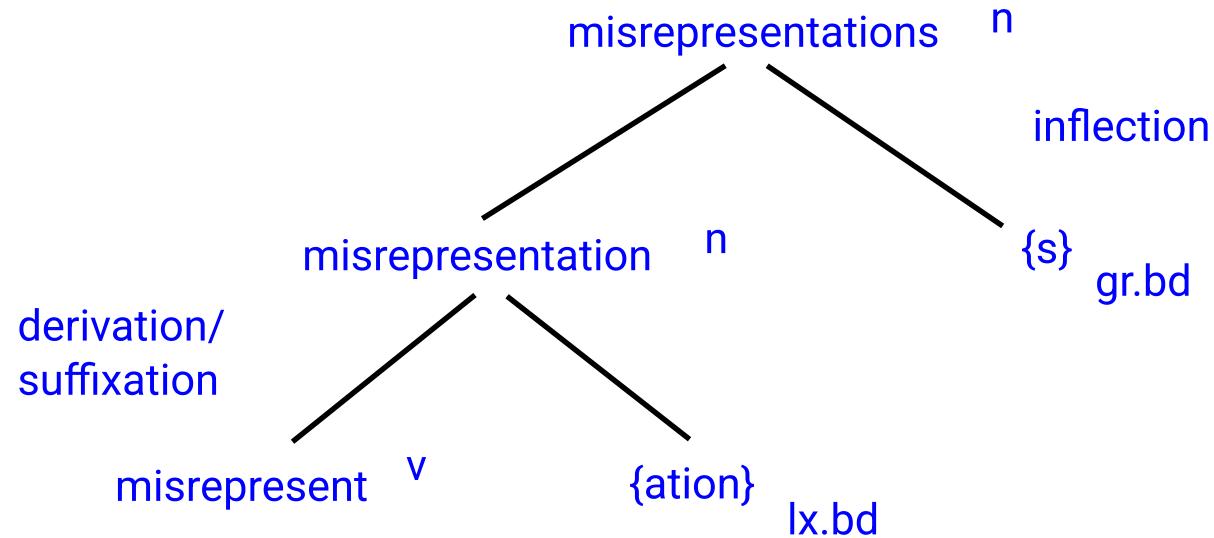
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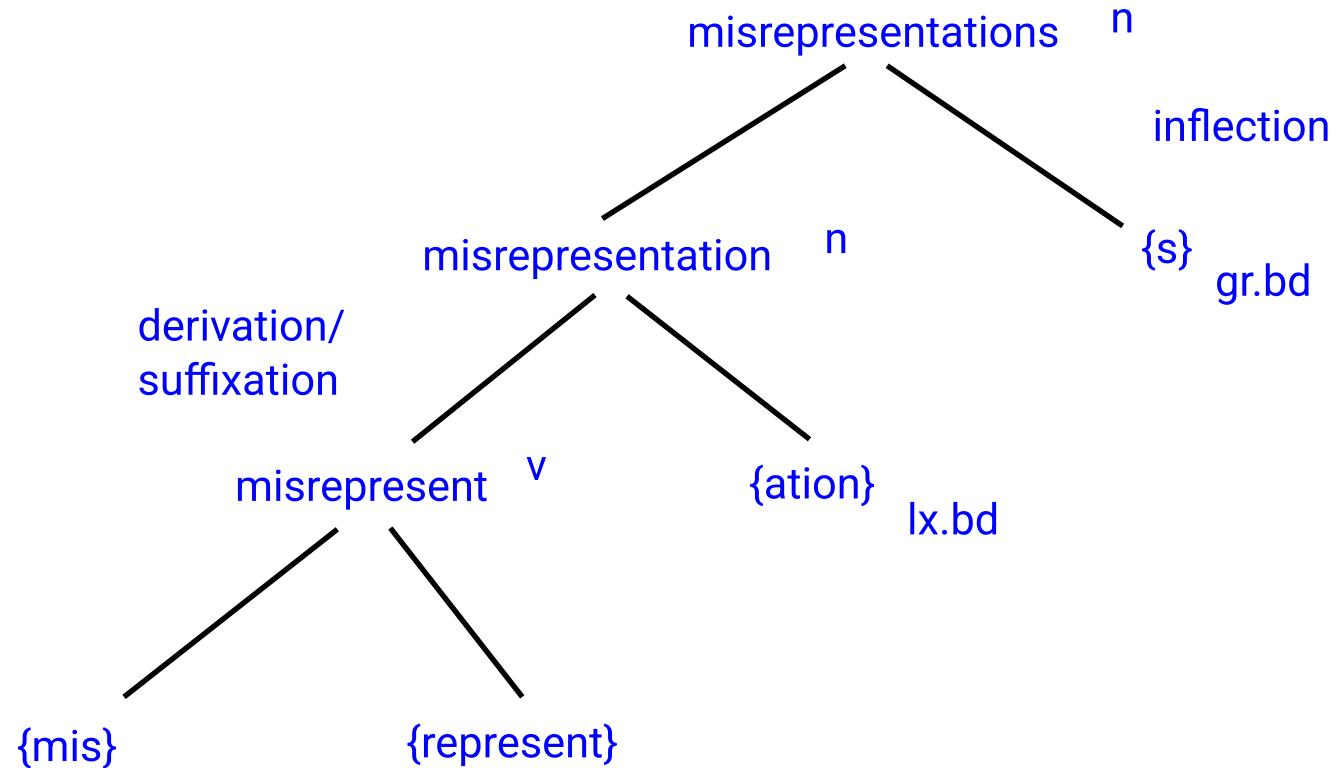
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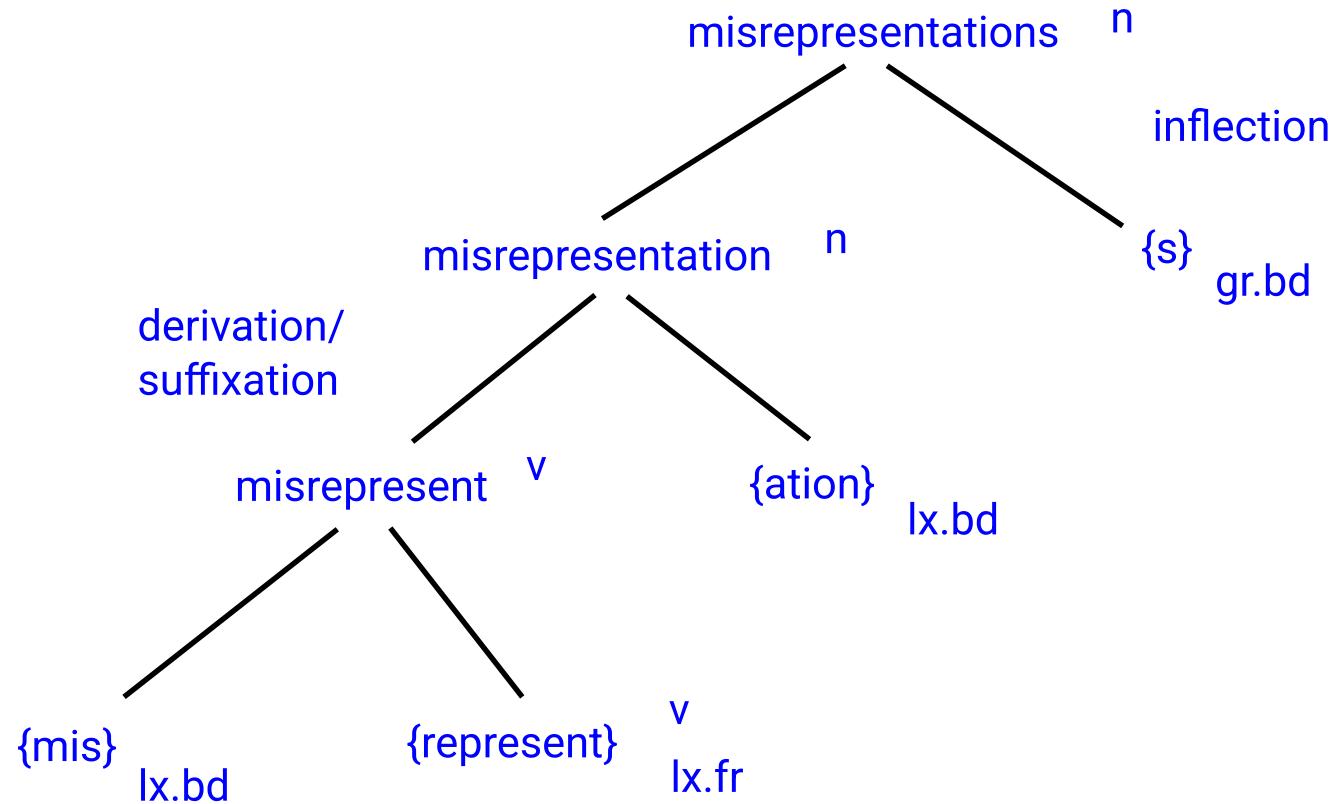
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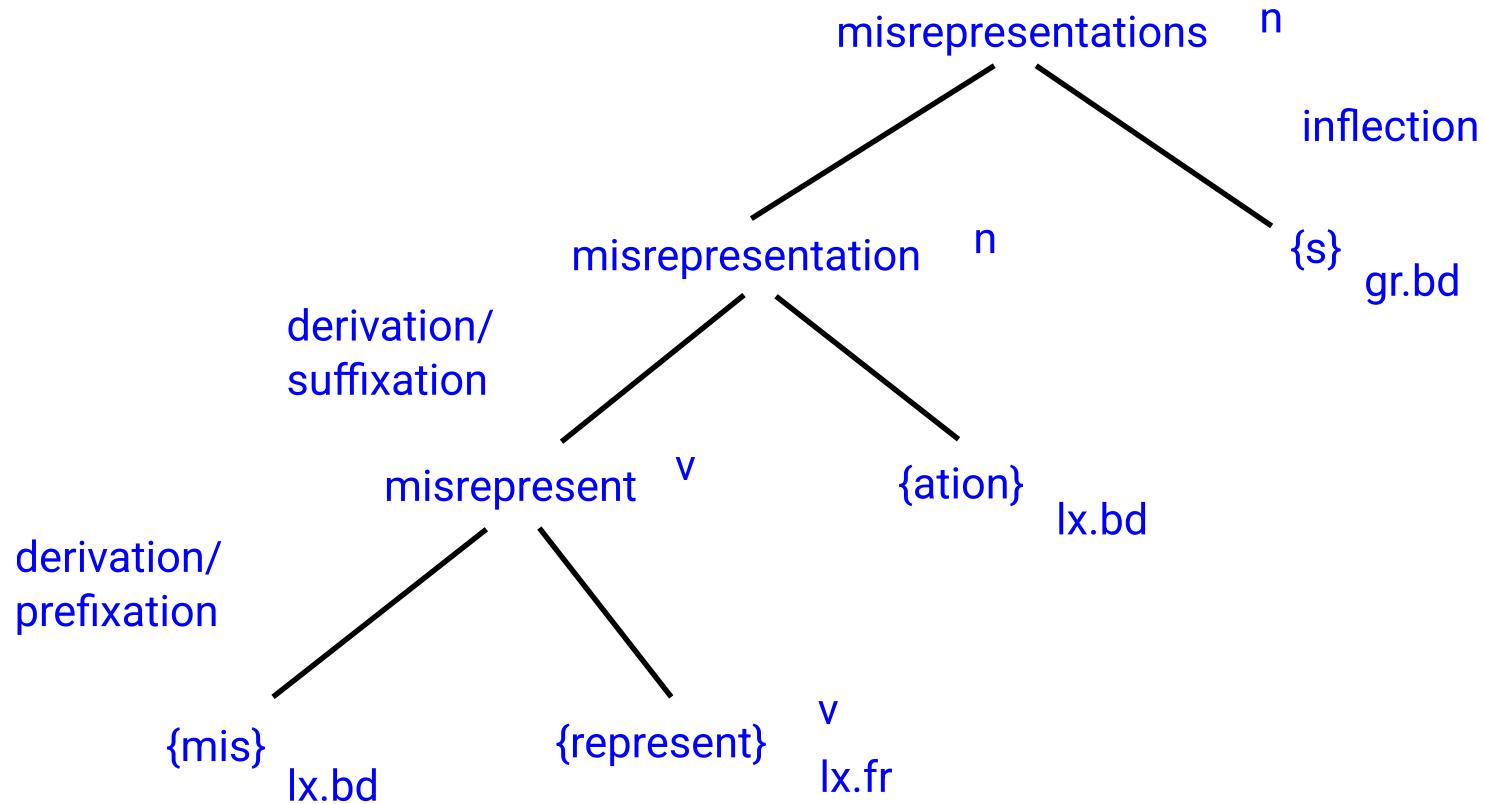
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# Non-morphemic word-formation

# Overview

Which non-morphemic word-formation processes are there?

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Which non-morphemic word-formation processes are there?

| Process                      | Features   | Examples                           |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| clipping                     | parts of words are deleted without a change in meaning   | <i>bike, exam, fridge</i>          |
| blending                     | forms and meanings of words are merged   | <i>smog, brunch</i>                |
| acronyms                     | shortened form retaining the initial letters of compounds or other fixed sequences of words; pronounced as <i>words</i>                | <i>NATO, laser, AIDS</i>           |
| initialisms/<br>alphabetisms | shortened form retaining the initial letters of compounds or other fixed sequences of words; pronounced as <i>sequences of letters</i> | <i>CNN, OED, USA</i>               |
| back-formation               | word-class-changing word-formation process which deletes a morpheme or morpheme-like element; longer form pre-existing                 | <i>babysit/ʌ/ &lt; /babysitter</i> |
| reduplication                | rare word-formation process repeating a word or word-like element either identically or in a slightly varied form                      | <i>walkie-talkie, hip-hop</i>      |

# Zero-derivation / conversion vs derivation

What is the difference between zero-derivation and conversion?

# Zero-derivation / conversion vs derivation

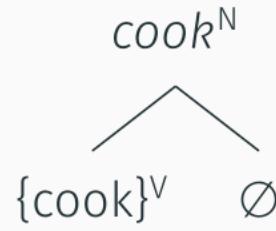
What is the difference between zero-derivation and conversion?

**Definition:** Creation of a new lexeme by changing the word class of an existing word without the addition of an overtly marked suffix.

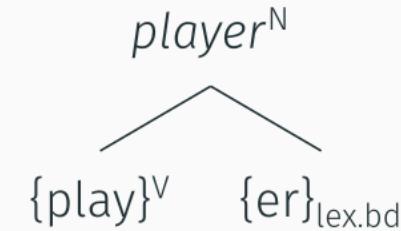
Zero-derivation: Adj > V



Zero-derivation: V > N



cf. derivation:



# Compounding vs blending

## *Compound types*

| Type                    | Structure                    | Example             | Paraphrase   |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| endocentric             | AB is a type of B            | 'apple pie'         | 'an apple pie is a type of pie'                                    |
| exocentric              | AB is neither A nor B, but C | 'egg head'          | 'an egg head is not an egg nor a head, but a person'               |
| copulative <sup>1</sup> | AB is both A and B           | 'singer-songwriter' | 'a singer-songwriter is sb. who is both a singer and a songwriter' |

## *Formal properties of blends*

swooshtika – derogatory reference to Nike logo

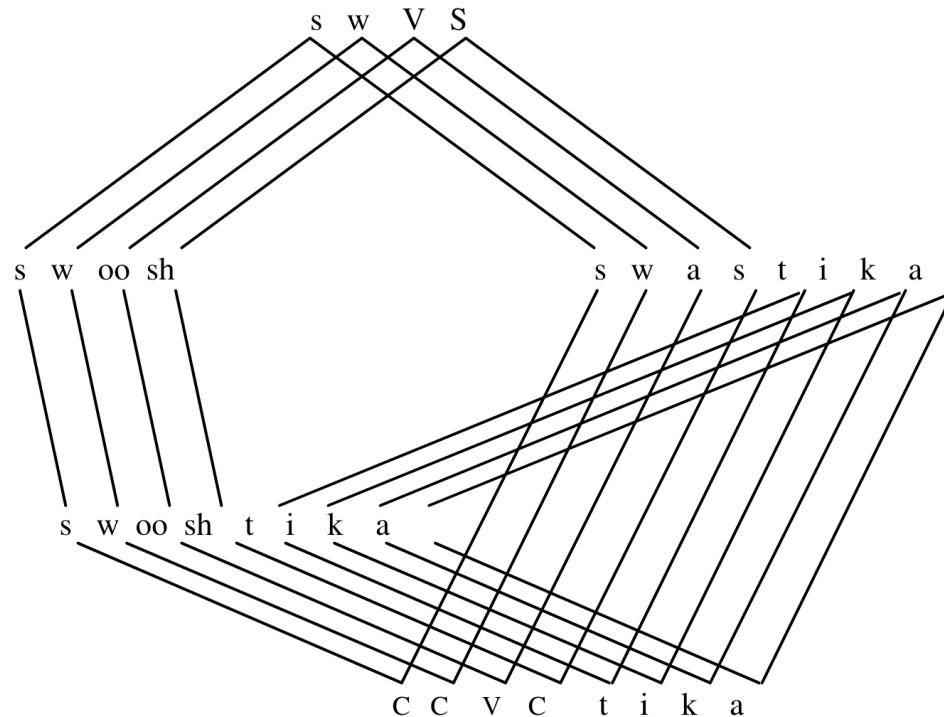


Figure 1. Phonological Relations in an English Blend

Kemmer (2003)

## *Semantic properties of blends*

*glitterati*

Quiz: classify word-formation  
processes

Interactive version



## word-formation

Created by

Quirin Würschinger

13 questions

Play now

Interactive version on Wayground.

# Reference answers

| Word                              | Process/type                 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>friendship</i>                 | derivation                   |
| <i>distasteful</i>                | derivation (prefix + suffix) |
| <i>washing machine</i>            | compounding (endocentric)    |
| <i>redneck</i>                    | compounding (exocentric)     |
| <i>singer-songwriter</i>          | compounding (copulative)     |
| <i>paperback</i>                  | compounding (endocentric)    |
| <i>cook</i> (N) ← <i>cook</i> (V) | conversion                   |
| <i>to Google</i> (V)              | conversion                   |
| <i>fridge</i>                     | clipping                     |
| <i>Brangelina</i>                 | blending                     |
| <i>swooshtika</i>                 | blending                     |
| <i>sightsee</i>                   | back-formation               |
| <i>LOL</i>                        | acronym/initialism           |

# Morphemic vs non-morphemic WF – summary

|                      | morphemic                            | non-morphemic                      | examples               |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| building blocks      | morphemes                            | parts of words                     | <i>br + unch</i>       |
| combination          | adding morphemes                     | removing parts                     | <i>in flu enza</i>     |
| serialization        | concatenative                        | interspersed                       | <i>CHUCKLE x snORT</i> |
| regularity           | clear rules,<br>predictable patterns | heterogeneous,<br>high variability | <i>Brangelina</i>      |
| cognitive processing | largely unconscious                  | conscious coining                  | <i>BBC</i>             |

## Further reading

- Bauer, Laurie. 2022. *An Introduction to English Lexicology*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Lipka, Leonhard. 2002. *English Lexicology: Lexical Structure, Word Semantics and Word-Formation*. Tübingen: Narr.
- Schmid, Hans-Jörg. 2016. *English Morphology and Word-Formation - an Introduction*. 2nd ed. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag.

# References

- Kemmer, Suzanne. 2003. "Schemas and Lexical Blends." In *Motivation in Language: Studies in Honor of Günther Radden*, edited by Günther Radden and Hubert Cuyckens, 69–97. J. Benjamins Pub. Co.
- Kerremans, Daphné. 2015. *A Web of New Words*. Bern: Peter Lang. <https://doi.org/10.3726/978-3-653-04788-2>.
- Schmid, Hans-Jörg. 2016. *English Morphology and Word-Formation - an Introduction*. 2nd ed. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag.