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?

8. **Studying word-formation empirically**: How can we use the OED to study neologisms?

Theory

Lexical innovation

How do new words arise?

Lexical innovation

How do new words arise?

Kerremans (2015)

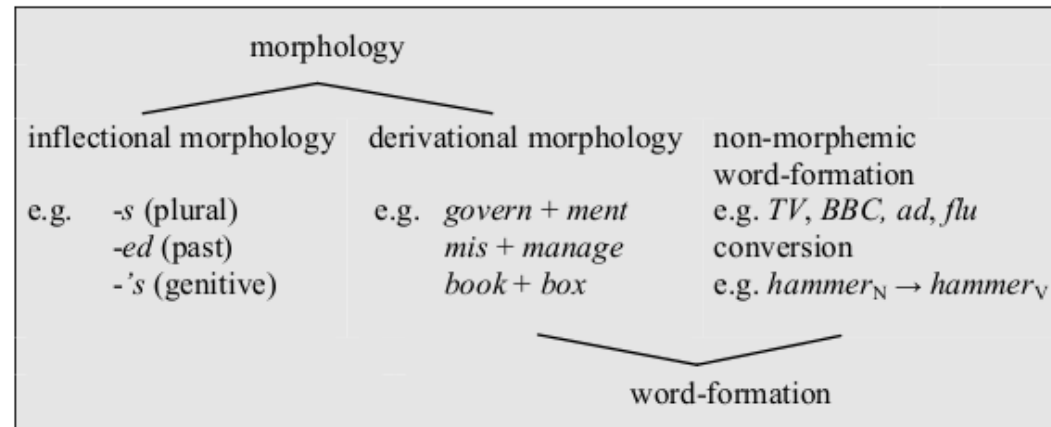|		meaning old	new
form	old	x	*subprime*
	new	*snowicane*	*detweet*

Morphology vs word-formation

What is the difference between morphology and word-formation?

Morphology vs word-formation

What is the difference between morphology and word-formation?

Schmid (2016)

Inflection in Present-Day English

Which inflectional morphemes exist in Present-Day English?

Inflection in Present-Day English

Which inflectional morphemes exist in Present-Day English?

Schmid (2016)

word class	morpheme	functions/meanings
noun	{plural}	marking of plural
	{genitive}	marking of genitive; possession, part-of etc.
verb	{3rd person}	3rd person singular present
	{ing}	present participle
	{ed$_1$}	simple past
	{ed$_2$}	past participle
adjective	{er}	comparative
	{est}	superlative
numerals	{th}	ordinal number

Morphological building blocks

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

Morphological building blocks

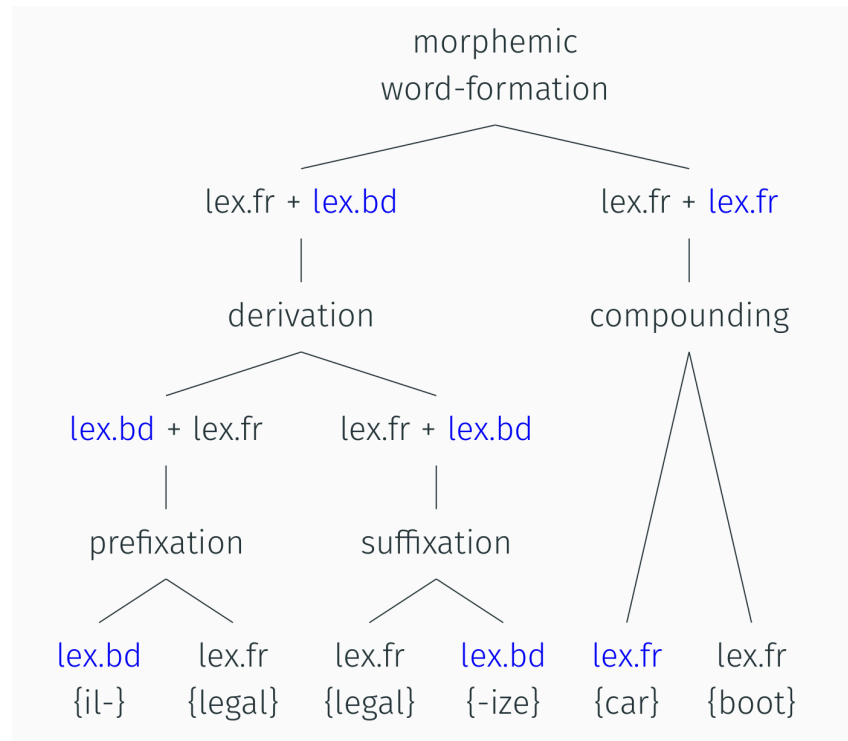Which types of morphemes are there and how do they differ?

Schmid (2016)

morpheme class	attributes	examples	
lexically free (lexemes, roots)	• semantically autonomous • open class • inflecting (except for interjections)	N: Adj: Adv: V lex: Interj:	{head}, {key}, {part} {green}, {pale}, {nice} {fast}, {well}, {here} {plan}, {teach}, {pass} {ouch}, {damn}
grammatically free (lexemes, function words)	• not autonomous, relational • closed class • not inflecting	V aux: Pron: Prep: Conj: Num:	{will}, {must}, {have} {she}, {which}, {why} {of}, {in}, {at} {and}, {that}, {as} {one}, {thousand}
lexically bound (derivational affixes)	• (more or less) open class • create lexemes with discrete meaning • usually change word class (suffixes) • closer to the stem	prefixes: {re-}, {dis-}, {post-} suffixes: {-er}, {-ify}, {-ment}	
grammatically bound (inflectional suffixes)	• closed class • create word-forms with unchanged meaning • always maintain word class • further away from the stem	for Ns: for Vs: for Adjs: for Nums:	{plural}, {genitive} {3[rd] pers. pres. sg.}, {ing}, {ed$_1$}, {ed$_2$} {er}, {est} {th}

Morphemic word-formation processes

Which morphemic word-formation processes are there?

Morphemic word-formation processes

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Exercise: conducting a morphological analysis

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

Non-morphemic word-formation

Overview

Which non-morphemic word-formation processes are there?

Non-morphemic word-formation

Overview

Which non-morphemic word-formation processes are there?

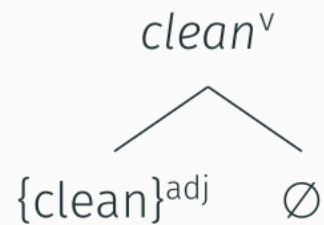| Process	Features	Examples
clipping	parts of words are deleted without a change in meaning	*bike, exam, fridge*
blending	forms and meanings of words are merged	*smog, brunch*
acronyms	shortened form retaining the initial letters of compounds or other fixed sequences of words; pronounced as *words*	*NATO,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

Zero-derivation / conversion vs derivation

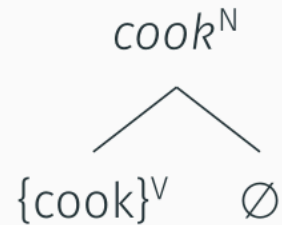What is the difference between zero-derivation and conversion?

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.
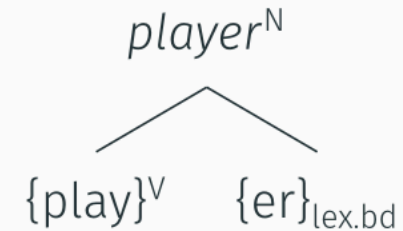
Zero-derivation: Adj > V

$clean^V$

{clean}^{adj} $\varnothing$

Zero-derivation: V > N

$cook^N$

{cook}^{V} $\varnothing$

cf. derivation:

$player^N$

{play}^{V} {er}$_{lex.bd}$

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[1]	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

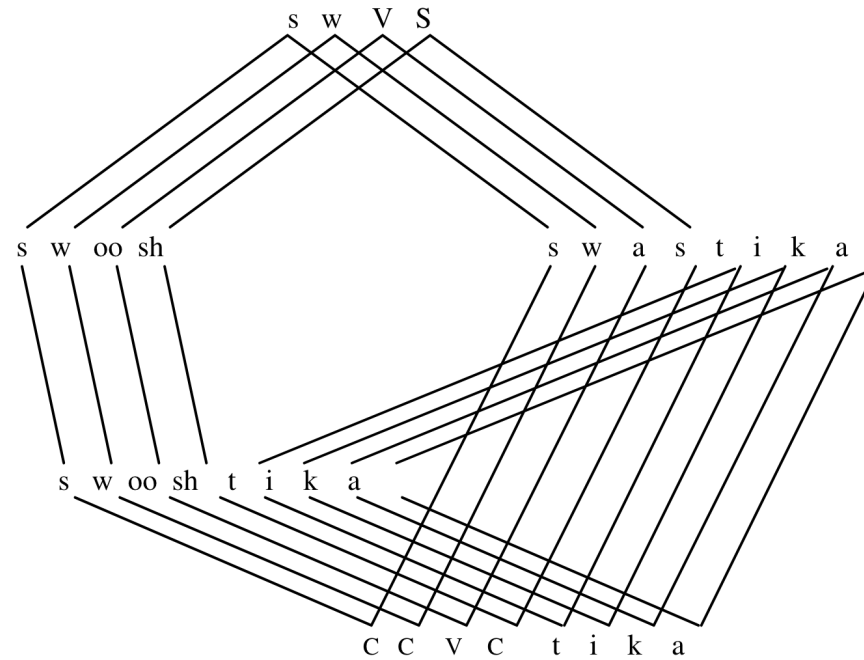*swooshtika* − derogatory reference to Nike logo

Figure 1. Phonological Relations in an English Blend

Kemmer (2003)

Semantic properties of blends

glitterati

Quiz: classify word-formation processes

Interactive version

Max challenge attempts exceeded. Please refresh the page to try again!

Interactive version on Wayground.

Morphemic vs non-morphemic WF – summary

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

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.

Studying word-formation based on empirical data using the OED

Research questions

1. Which neologisms have entered the OED since 2000?

2. What are the most common word classes among these recent neologisms?

3. What are the most common word-formation processes?

4. Which semantic domains are most common?

5. Since when have these neologisms been in use?

Extracting neologisms from the OED

Using OED's Advanced Search functionality, we can extract neologisms – words that have only been used since the year 2000 – from the OED.

Search URL

Analyzing the data in Microsoft Excel

model Excel sheet: URL

Data preparation

1. Open a blank Excel sheet.

2. Click `import` and `CSV file`.

3. Select file origin encoding to `Unicode (UTF-8)`.

4. Specify that the data are **delimited by commas** (`csv`) as column separator.

5. Convert the region containing the data to a `Table`.

6. Insert one `Pivot Table` (and `Pivot Chart`) for each research question.

Table

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	LEMMA	PART OF SPEECH	DATE OF USE	FREQUENCY	DEFINITION	TYPE OF FORMATION	LA
2	CIO	noun	-2000	5	'Cry it out', a method of sleep training in which…	initialism
3	DDoS	noun	-2000	4	= distributed denial of service, n.; usually…	initialism
4	click and collect	adjective, noun	-2000	4	Of or relating to a shopping facility whereby a…	compound
5	CubeSat	noun	-2000	4	A small, lightweight space satellite that fits…	compound
6	stan	noun	-2000	4	slang (derogatory, except when self-deprecatory)…	proper name
7	Greatest Generation	noun	-2000	3	The generation of Americans reaching adulthood…	compound
8	Sudoku	noun	-2000	3	A type of logic puzzle, the object of which is to…	borrowing
9	blue state	noun, adjective	-2000	3	A state (projected to be) won by the Democratic…	compound
10	teleserye	noun	-2000	3	A television soap opera.	borrowing
11	downvote	noun	-2000	3	In the context of social media: an instance of…	conversion
12	butterfly ballot	noun	-2000	3	A machine-readable ballot paper having the names…	compound
13	video blog	noun	-2000	3	A blog primarily composed of video postings…	compound
14	WWJD	interjection	-2000	3	'What Would Jesus Do?'; used among some…	initialism
15	bling	verb	-2000	3	intransitive. To glitter with or like bling; to…	conversion
16	EESC	noun	-2000	3	European Economic and Social Committee; = ESC, n.	initialism
17	G2C	noun	-2000	3	Government to citizen (also consumer or…	initialism
18	geocaching	noun	-2000	3	An activity or pastime in which an item, or a…	compound
19	mobile health	noun	-2000	3	Health and medical services provided and accessed…	compound
20	nutrigenomics	noun	-2000	3	With singular agreement. A branch of genomics…	compound
21	speed dating	noun	-2000	3	A process by which people seeking romantic…	compound
22	Anthropocene	noun, adjective	-2000	3	Chiefly with the. The epoch of geological time…	compound
23	boba	noun	-2000	3	A cold drink of Taiwanese origin which typically…	borrowing
24	deep web	noun	-2000	3	The part of the World Wide Web that is not…	compound

Data PartOfSpeech TypeOfFormation Subject DateOfUse
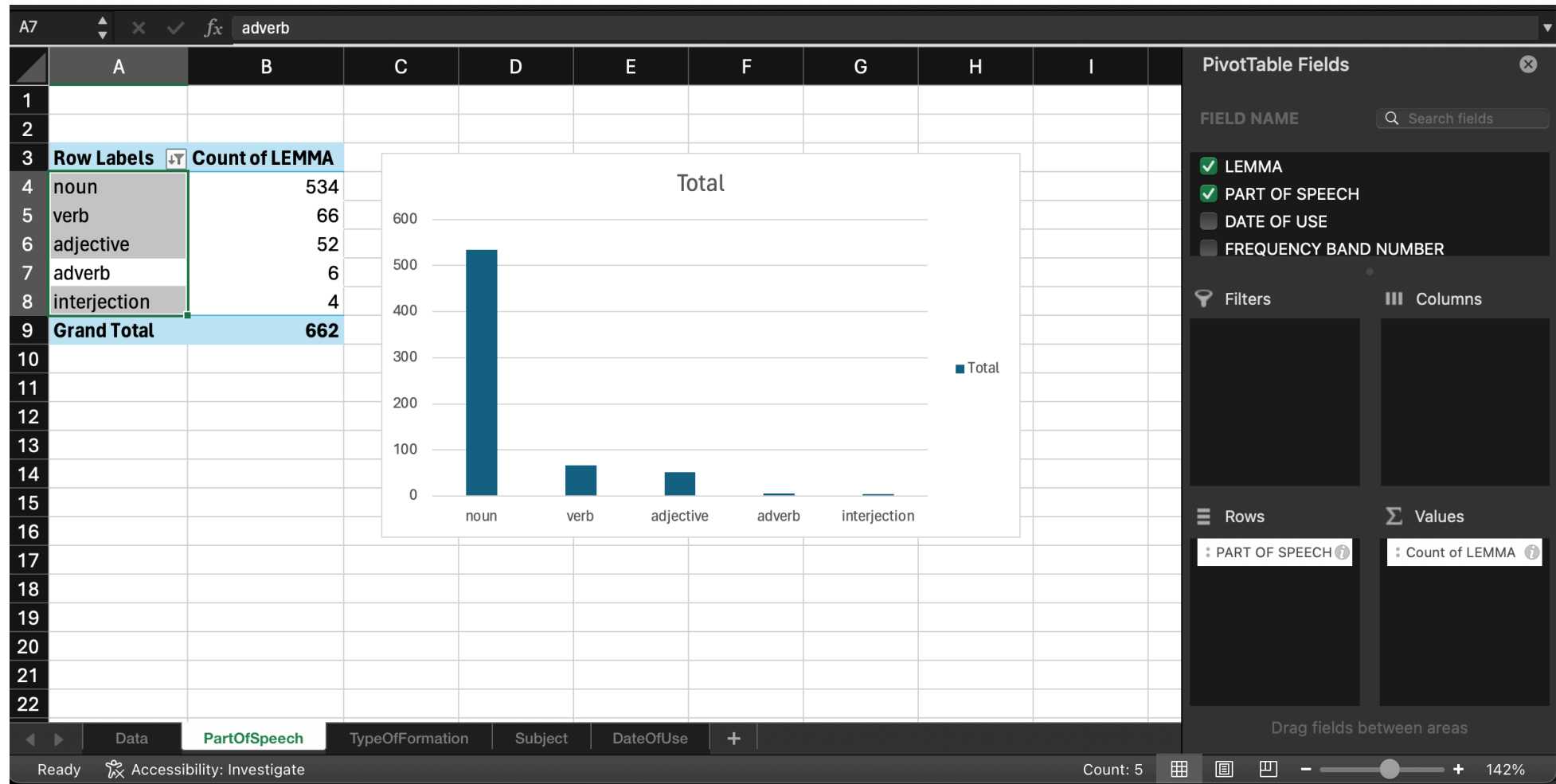
Pivot Table

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.