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Hamawand, Zeki 2011. *Morphology in English. Word formation in Cognitive Grammar*. London & New York: Continuum. 336 pp. ISBN 978-0-8264-1946-0.

As indicated in the title, this textbook deals with word formation in English from a cognitive linguistics viewpoint. Morphological processes for building new vocabulary that are dealt with here are derivation (prefixation and suffixation) and compounding, with a goal of linking theory and practice. In achieving the theoretical goal, the author uses and describes category, construal and domain theory, which are used to describe word meaning. The practical goal is achieved by providing students with exercises in order to develop their skills in morphological analysis. The readers can visit the accompanying website with further exercises and resources.

The book is organized into four parts with three chapters each and a preceding *Fundamentals* part which contains basic terminology used in the study of morphology. Basic terms, such as *word*, *morpheme* or *allomorph* are introduced, explained in an understandable and concise way, and accompanied by exercises. Study areas of morphology, word formation and inflection, are also introduced and described here. Word formation as the process of creating new words can be done as derivation and compounding. Inflection is a grammatical process in which different forms of the same words are produced.

Part I is, as already said, organized into three chapters, all dealing with theoretical framework of cognitive linguistics: *Cognitive Assumptions*, *Cognitive Mechanisms and Cognitive Operations*.

Basic tenets of Cognitive Grammar, and these are symbolicity, conventionality, creativity, authenticity and semanticity, are dealt with in the Cognitive Assumptions part. Morphological expressions, as pairings of meaning and form, are symbolic: they are used to convey meaning by means of symbols. Their conventionality is seen in their repeated usage by a speech community. They are also creative and authentic since language users are able to coin novel expressions from the existing ones and use them in real life. Morphological expressions have semantic value and can produce different meanings depending on the context.

Composite words are constructed and interpreted with help of certain cognitive mechanisms and the author presents two of them in the chapter Cognitive Mechanisms: integration and interpretation. Integration is the process in which morphological items are combined or integrated into a linear sequence. A morphological



item, called composite structure, can be combined with another element only if the two correspond both at semantic and phonological level. One of the elements is always autonomous, while the other one is dependent. One element is called the head and is central in the construction since it imposes its profile on the whole construction. In the case of *teacher*, composed of *teach* + *er*, *teach* is an autonomous construction since it can stand, semantically and phonologically, on its own, but the profile determinant is *-er* since it designates an entity, a person who teaches and thereby characterizes the whole construction. Interpretation is joining of meaning and form and is governed by principles of compositionality and analysability. Morphological expressions can be fully or partially compositional. Full compositionality appears when the meaning of the expression can be derived from the meanings of its subparts, as is the case with *last-minute*. In partial compositionality one must take the pragmatic context in which the expression appears into account and apply encyclopedic knowledge about the expression when interpreting the meaning. Hamawand illustrates this on the example of *questionable* in *questionable theory*: it is not only a theory that can be questioned, but rather one that is problematic and unreliable. Analysability, as the process of combining the substructures of a composite structure phonologically and semantically, can also be full and partial. Full analysability is the case when substructures fully match at both phonological and semantic level. *A thinker*, a person who thinks, is combined of *think* + *er* and is thus fully analysible. This is not the case with *thriller*, combined of *thrill* + *er* phonologically, but semantically it is not a person who thrills another person, but rather a very exciting book or film. Chapter 3 in Part I, entitled *Cognitive Operations*, deals with speakers' mental abilities that are applied when they produce or interpret morphological expressions. Following the basic assumptions of cognitive linguistics, the author describes, exemplifies and provides exercises for three of them: categorization, configuration and conceptualization. Categorization is the human ability of grouping together different senses of a lexical item into a category. Different, but related senses form a category, which consists of a center or prototype and a periphery. For example, *kitchen chair* is the prototypical meaning of the *chair* category, since this sense is the one in which all the salient properties of a category are contained and the one that first comes to mind when thinking about chairs. *Rocking chairs* or *wheelchairs* would be the peripheral cases since they do not contain all the properties of the prototypical chair. All morphological expressions form categories with a prototype and a periphery. Another human ability dealt with in this section is configuration, a process of grouping lexical items into domains. Domain, as one of the crucial notions of analysis in cognitive linguistics, is the area in which morphological expressions appear and serves as a basis for characterization of a

certain expression. For example, the suffixes *-ette*, *-kin*, *-let* and *-ling* belong the domain of diminution, an area of knowledge in which size, extent or importance of someone or something is reduced and made small, young or less valuable. In order to understand the meaning of any morphological expression, one must understand its domain. Conceptualization is the third human ability in which humans as speakers construe the same situation in alternate ways and thus use their linguistic expressions according to the context, which is illustrated by the verbs *emigrate* and *immigrate*. Both verbs have the meaning of *to leave a place*, but their usage is context dependent.

The following chapters in Parts 2, 3 and 4 are organized in such a way that the notions discussed in them, that is prefixes, suffixes and compounds, are dealt with taking these three mental abilities into account (categorization, configuration and conceptualization).

Part II (Chapters 4, 5, 6) deals with English prefixes. Prefixation is a word formation process in which a bound morpheme is attached in front of a free morpheme. In the first chapter of this part of the book prefixes are discussed in a way that their meanings are given and grouped into categories. For both positive and negative prefixes the prototypical meaning is identified, accompanied by peripheral meaning and exemplified. Positive ones are described according to the base they are attached to and thus divided into nominal, adjectival and verbal. Negative prefixes are divided according to whether they denote oppositeness or adverseness. For example, *de-* denotes 'reversing the action described by the root' as in *decentralize*. *Anti-*, on the other hand, signals adverseness, as in *anti-discrimination*. Prefixes evoke certain domains, which is tackled in Chapter 5. They are often polysemous and can take part in more than one domain. Domains that are evoked by positive prefixes are domains of degree, spatiality, temporality and size. For example, temporality is realized by means of prefixes *ante-*, *fore-*, *pre-*, *mid-* and *post-*. Negative prefixes evoke distinction, opposition, privation, removal, reversal and treatment. For example, *mis-* and *mal-* as prefixes of treatment denote that the way of behaving towards someone is wrong. The last chapter in this part on prefixes deals with the construal theory and its impact on pairs of words that have the same bases, but begin with different, rival prefixes such as *hypermarket* vs. *supermarket* or *non-professional* vs. *unprofessional*. The prefixes may belong to the same domain (e.g. size or distinction), but their choice depends on the way speaker construes the situation, that is how he perceives and expresses it. Here Hamawand emphasises the role of the speaker and his perspective of a given situation.



The way prefixes are discussed in Part II, so are the suffixes in Part III (Chapters 7, 8 and 9). Suffixal categories, domains and construals are described, exemplified and accompanied by exercises. Suffixes participate in coining of new words by being placed at the end of the root. As far as their categorical description goes, they can be noun, adjective or verb forming. For example, the suffixes *-ate*, *-ify* and *-ise* are verbal suffixes: they are added to nouns to form verbs. In this chapter the semantic network is given for each suffix, with the prototypical meaning and less central, peripheral meanings. Suffixes are highly polysemous and their meanings depend on the bases they are attached to. They form cognitive domains: nominal suffixes can evoke domains of process, characterization, representation or agenthood and adjectival suffixes activate domains of voice, aspect, evaluation, possession, relation and resemblance. One and the same suffix can participate in more than one domain: *-ce* in *observance* activates process, actually the result of observing, whereas in *ignorance* it denotes characterization or the state of being ignorant. Chapter 9 deals with word pairs with the same root, but ending in different suffixes and the impact of construal on their different meanings. For example, both *oddness* and *oddity* belong to the domain of characterization since they describe the character of an entity, but *oddness* refers to 'the trait of being odd', whereas *oddity* denotes 'the odd entity'. This difference in meaning depends on the construal that is imposed on the root, that is on the perspective that the speaker has of the given situation.

The last part, Part IV (Chapters 10, 11 and 12) touches upon compounding in English, with emphasis on their semantics. Compounds are formed by grouping together two free morphemes that are phonologically and semantically dependent. In these last chapters the author explores the role of categorization theory, domain theory and construal theory on the description and analysis of English compounds. Categories of compounds that he gives are noun, adjective and verbs compounds, with each category having a prototype and a peripheral sense. Compounds can be grouped into inter-word-class domains (with compounds that belong to different word classes) and intra-word-class domains (with compounds of the same word class). For example, the domain of location can be activated by noun + noun compounds (*country lane*), noun + adjective compounds (*brain-dead*) or noun + verb compounds (*field-test*). On the other hand, the domain of gender is expressed only by noun + noun compounds (*chair person*). Again, as is the case with prefixes and suffixes, the choice of the compound depends on the speaker's conceptualization of a situation, which is tackled in the last chapter of the book. First, the author describes and exemplifies the properties of compounds such as inseparability, reversibility, analogy, accommodation and ambiguity. Then, compound pairs for different



domains are given and exemplified, with construal being the prevailing factor in the choice of the certain compound. For example, the modifier *care* is combined with either *less* or *free* in the domain of dispossession, but with different purpose in each combination. N-less compounds have the purpose of permanent privation and are used to describe something existing without something for a long time. N-free compounds, on the other hand, express temporary privation and describe something that lasts only for a limited period of time (*careless driving* vs. *carefree excursion*).

The book ends with an appendix part that covers etymology of English suffixes and gives contrastive views of formal and cognitive approaches to morphology and meaning, outlining the main differences between them. Further reading on cognitive linguistics is offered.

Using cognitive linguistics as basis of morphological description, Hamawand gives an overview of English morphology that is different from the one offered in more formal approaches to language. Taking into account that morphology, lexicon and syntax form a continuum, he describes word formation processes in connection to semantics and emphasizes the fact that it cannot be described using building-block approach. He sees and describes a complex word not as a structure combined by subparts by applying formation rules, but rather *as a network interrelated by semantic principles and affected by valence determinants, where the subparts serve to motivate selected facets of its meaning*. (2011: 253). His description is usage-based, with the speaker and their mental lexicon having a crucial role in deciding which affix to use in a certain context. This textbook is a certain follow-up of the author's previously published works on English morphology (2007, 2008, 2009) and as such provides an important contribution to the cognitive investigation into morphology.

References

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