

Paradigms in derivational morphology

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The aim of this paper is to show how paradigms may function in derivational morphology and how they may give rise to productive processes of word formation. This will be done by discussing a few types of examples from English, Dutch and French, that are normally considered as marginal.

Traditionally paradigms are considered to be an inherent part of inflectional morphology. Within inflectional paradigms there appears only one major instance of language change: Ausgleich or paradigmatic levelling. However, in derivational morphology paradigms and language change may go hand in hand, especially when it comes to recent processes of word formation which so far were seen as quite uncommon, extra grammatical (Doleschal & Thornton 2000) and even irregular, such as *clipping on -o* in English, French, Dutch and some other languages or *lib fixing* (Zwicky 2010).

A few examples may show how the processes work. First trochaic clipping on *-o*.

(1) French	(2) English	(3) Dutch
aristo < aristocrate	psycho < psychopath	aso < asociaal
ado < adolescent	dipso < dipsomaniac	Indo < Indonesisch
Sarko < Sarkozy	nympho < nymphomaniac	provo < provocateur

According to Zabrocki (1980) speakers of these languages recognised a common part in these paradigms, the so called *confusivum*, which is here *-o*. This common segment may be used after other clipped forms not ending themselves in *-o*.

(4) prol+o < proletarien	(5) journ+o < journalist	(6) frust+o < gefrustreerd
metall+o < metallurgist	garb+o < garbage man	real+o < realist

A following step in this productive pattern is '*suffixing -o after non clipped forms*', whereby the suffix *-o* means 'a person who is X':

(7) follo < foux/folle 'mad'	(8) dumbo < dumb	(9) lullo < lul 'penis'
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Via *lib fixing*, or *secretion* as this phenomenon is called by Jespersen (1922:384), an element of a non complex form is 'liberated'. At the moment the lib fix becomes part of a new paradigm it may become a productive derivational segment, most often a suffix-like segment. Warren (1990) and others call such a segment a *combining form*. An example from English will show how this process works.

(10) entertainment

In this non complex form speakers recognize a part *enter*, which for instance appears also as a confusivum in the verb *enter*, since *entertainment* and *enter* are part of a list, or paradigm of forms starting with *enter*.

(11) enter
entertainment

enterprise

Since the words of this list share a common part or confusivum *enter*, speakers may think that *entertainment* and *enterprise* are complex forms, which means that *-tainment* and *-prise* also must have a certain morphological status. So *-tainment* could start a career as a libfix and became productive in a new paradigm such as

- (12) docutainment
- edutainment
- musitainment
- relitainment
- militainment

Lib fixing not necessarily has to start with a list of forms with a common confusivum. Reanalysis of opaque forms as if they were complex forms or a syntagma, as Marchand (1969: 2) would call this process, also is a source for new libfixes. However, a lib fix only becomes productive when it can be used in a derivational paradigm. See for instance the opaque French form *panorama*, borrowed from Greek, which has been reanalysed as consisting of two parts *pan* and *-(o)rama*

- (13) panorama
- (13a) diorama
- cyclorama
- etc.

Another source for new libfixes comes from reanalysing successful blends as example (14) shows

- (14) daycation from day + vacation
- staycation
- graycation
- praycation
- (14a) girlcation
- mancation.

It will be clear that the difference between example (12) in which a common confusivum is supposed to be the basis of the change and example (14) where reanalysis of a productive blend pattern is considered to be the starting point of the new process, is not self-evident.

Conclusion

However, what both examples, trochaic clipping and lib fixing, show is that paradigmatic language change leads to new derivational processes.

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