B.A. Seminar:
Word-formation in English

Dr. Paula Orzechowska
WiSe 2012/13, Tuesday 2:00-4:00 p.m., room 1.19.1.22

Contact
Office hour: Tuesday 10:30-11:30
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Aims
The goal of this seminar is to introduce you to the study of morphology, in particular to various types of word formation processes and the combinatorics of morphemes. Word-formation processes allow for the expansion of the lexicon and involve, e.g., compounding, blending, acronymy or affixation, as in:

a) air-conditioning
b) teleprinter + exchange → telex
c) I owe you → IOU
d) develop+ment+al.

The possibility of combining morphemes to form novel words is not arbitrary. Therefore, we will also explore theory-specific restrictions governing possible combinations of stems and affixes as well as phonological processes which accompany affixation. Why does the suffixation of {-ian} result in stress shift, as in `magic → ma`gic+ian? Why does the morpheme {-ity} trigger a change in vowel quality, as in sane /seɪn/ → san+ity /sænɪti/?

What factors determine complex combinations of many suffixes, such as:

a) environ + ment + al + ist + s
b) anti + dis + establish + ment + ar + ian + ism

but rule out re-ordering of these suffixes (e.g. *environ+al+ment+s+ist)? These and many other morphological questions will be addressed in the seminar.

Assessment
3 credits will be granted based on continuous assessment of the following components:
(1) final test
(2) one in-class presentation
(3) completion of readings on time and active contribution to in-class discussion.

Reading list
Below is the required reading for each week of the course. The compulsory reading, marked with an asterisk, will be available online on the Moodle course website (no password required). The material to be reported on in class will mainly concern the basic reading assignment but might be extended (depending on the number of students presenting on a particular week) so please contact me in advance for instructions.

Main textbooks
### General course outline

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### Detailed course outline (week number corresponds to that on the Moodle webpage)

**Week 0: Introduction**  
Course requirements

**Week 1: Basic terms and concepts in morphology**  
HWF: Carstairs-McCarthy, Andrew “Basic terminology”  
Selkirk, Elizabeth “A general theory of Word structure” (ch.1 in *The Syntax of Words*)

**Week 2: Inflection vs. derivation**  
HWF: Stump, Gregory “Word-formation and inflectional morphology”

**Week 3: Types of word-formation processes**  
*HWF: Lieber, Rochelle “English word-formation processes”  
HM: Fabb, Nigel “Compounding”  
Selkirk, Elizabeth “Compounding” (ch. 2 in *The Syntax of Words*)  

**Week 4: Compounds in the mental lexicon**  
*HWF: Szymanek, Bogdan “ The latest trends in English word-formation”

**Week 5: Morphological productivity**  
Week 6: The lexicalist approach to word-formation  
*HWF: Scalise, Sergio & Emiliano Guevera “The lexicalist approach to word-formation and the notion of the lexicon”

Week 7: WF and phonology 1: Lexical Phonology  
HWF: Kaisse, Ellen “Word-formation and phonology”  

Week 8: Lexical Phonology - continued  

Week 9: Affix ordering: morphological constraints  

Week 10: Affix ordering: phonotactic and frequency constraints  
http://www2.uni-siegen.de/~engspra/Papers/Morphology/hayplag.pdf

Week 11: Acquisition of morphology  

Week 12: Inflection and psycholinguistics  

Week 13: Revision / Reserve

Week 14: Test