Meaning and Lexicalization of Word Formation

The study of word formation in mainstream generative morphology has always concentrated on forms. This is due in large part to the central position that syntax has been assigned in the different grammatical frameworks as devised by Noam Chomsky. As a consequence of this orientation, semantic aspects of word formation that do not immediately affect their form have largely been neglected. In addition, the focus tended to be on possible words and the account of their relationship to actual words was relegated to a general process of lexicalization. As a consequence, many potentially interesting phenomena were brushed aside.

There are various ways in which meaning and lexicalization can be given more prominence in the study of word formation. In recent work by Ray Jackendoff, a Parallel Architecture (PA) is proposed in which phonological, syntactic, and conceptual structure are generated independently and linked to each other without being derived from one another as in Chomsky's models. Jackendoff (2009) develops one way of describing word formation in PA, showing how meaning can be expressed. At the same time as raising new and interesting questions about the semantics and lexicalization of word formation, this approach has the potential to connect with insights gained in alternative frameworks. As described by ten Hacken (2009), many of the questions studied in generative semantics, in particular those related to meaning, were not answered but no longer oriented research when this approach was abandoned. The onomasiological approach, as described by Štekauer (2005), assigns an important role to the question of the choice of a form for a concept. This view of lexicalization can also be related to classical approaches in terminology and some of the more recent reactions to them.

Against this background the workshop will concentrate on the following questions:

- How do words formed by word formation get their meaning? What are the factors involved and what is the balance between them?

- What happens when a word resulting from word formation is lexicalized?

- What is the role of productivity, semiproductivity, and exceptions in the semantics and lexicalization of word formation?

Papers for the workshop can address these questions either at the level of the system / architecture of language or concentrate on the analysis of individual processes that illustrate possibilities and identify problems. The workshop will take place over one full day as a parallel session of IMM14. Individual papers will be assigned 30 minute slots including discussion. In order to be considered, abstracts should indicate clearly how the paper will approach an issue related to the workshop and be sent as an email attachment to the workshop organizer at the following address:

Pius ten Hacken
Email: p.ten-hacken@swansea.ac.uk

Abstracts:
Length: between 300 and 500 words (excluding bibliography)
Format: .doc, .rtf, and .pdf are all accepted, but NOT .docx
Deadline: 4 January 2010
Notification of acceptance: 20 January 2010

Speakers and participants at the workshop will have to register for IMM14 and pay conference fees. It will be attempted to publish proceedings as a special issue of a journal or as a volume with a major publisher.

References

Jackendoff, Ray (2009), 'Compounding in the Parallel Architecture and Conceptual Semantics', in Lieber & Štekauer (eds.), pp. 105-128.

ten Hacken, Pius (2009), 'Early Generative Approaches', in Štekauer & Lieber (eds.), pp. 54-77.

Lieber, Rochelle & Štekauer, Pavol (eds.) (2009), *The Oxford Handbook of Compounding*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Štekauer, Pavol (2005), 'Onomasiological Approach to Word-Formation', in Štekauer & Lieber (eds.), *Handbook of Word-Formation*, Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 207-232.