

# Introduction

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## Morphological Analysis in Comparison

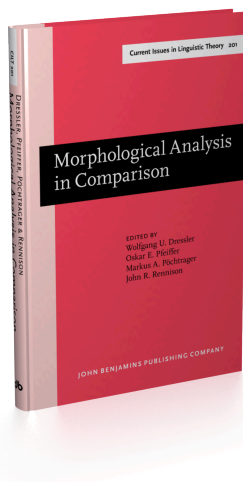
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# **Introduction**

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The Seventh International Morphology Meeting was held in Vienna, Austria, from the 16th to the 18th of February 1996 and consisted of a main section and several workshops. It continued the series of biennial meetings held alternately in Austria and Hungary. The proceedings of the third and fifth meetings (both held in Krems, Lower Austria) had been published under the titles of "Contemporary Morphology" and "Advances in Morphology" with the publishing house Mouton de Gruyter.

This volume presents selected papers from the main section of this meeting (plus one contribution from the workshop on the acquisition of morphology). They deal with questions of morphological analysis in many fields. The comparative aspect comes through contrasts between compounding and derivation, derivation and inflection, the gradual emergence of morphology in language acquisition, and via the cross-linguistic spread of the investigations. They cover such areas as the morphology-syntax interface, agreement, the distinction or transition between derivation and inflection, straight derivation (suffixation and prefixation), composition, and the acquisition of morphology. We are going to introduce the volume by presenting the papers in this order of contents.

Edwin William's paper investigates alternative positions about the extent to which syntax can actually have access to morphological information, i.e. whether words really are atomic units to syntax, recognizable only by their syntactic properties, or whether syntax and morphology can interact, e.g. in such a way that affixes occupy syntactic positions. He concludes in arguing against a minimalist position which would reduce typological distinctions between languages to lexical differences.

Andrew Spencer presents evidence against the model of Distributed Morphology from agreement facts in the ergative languages Chukchee and Koryak. In the course of his analysis, which pleads for a realizational view of inflection, he deals with the status of inflectional morphology, i.e. with the question whether the boundary between affixes and lexemes is only a minor one (as held by Lieber) as opposed to treating affixes and lexemes as totally distinct entities.

An ergative language, Basque, is also the object of Pablo Albizu and Luiz Egreu's paper on ergative displacement and epenthetical prefixation. Their framework, Optimality Theory, allows them to treat these phenomena as violations of relatively low-ranked constraints, thus avoiding a violation of the highly preferred principle of 'Obligatory Prefix'.

The (originally distributionalist) concept of position class is attacked by Joyce McDonough in her Athabaskanist paper, which argues for an alternative bipartite model. It presents a recursive extension of the binary division between stem and the affix attached to it and thus strives for greater theoretical depth of analysis.

Vladimir A. Plungian discusses a recurrent problem within agglutinating languages, sc. the frequent difficulty of deciding whether a morpheme is a clitic or an affix and, if the latter, an inflectional or derivational one. This is illustrated with agentive noun formation in the West African language Dogon.

Henry Davis presents alternative routes in Lillooet Salish for the formation of inchoatives and their relations to causatives and reflexives. Typological differences between Salish and, e.g., European languages are thus shown to be not of a categorial or morphosemantic nature, but due to different derivational histories.

With the example of English, Adrienne Lehrer argues against Beard's separationist view of meaning and form in morphology and for the sign character of affixes. Although their meanings represent subsets of lexical meanings, they are relatively stable and exhibit the same basic semantic relationships of synonymy, antonymy and polysemy as lexical signs.

Luísa Grácia and Miren Azkarate analyse Romance and Basque prefixes according to the head-complement-parameter and conclude that such analyses cannot only account for basic meaning differences between prefixes but also relate morphological to syntactic headedness and thus deepen the understanding of an inductive Greenbergian universal.

Verbal prefixes are also the subject of Mária Ladányi's contribution to the productivity of Hungarian derivational morphology. She relates productivity both to semantic properties and to degree of grammaticalization within a synchronic and diachronic perspective.

Lluïsa Gràcia and Olga Fullana devote their paper on Catalan to verb compounds which attach a modifier to the following verb and discuss both structural and semantic consequences of their novel analysis.

Marianne Kilani-Schoch and Wolfgang U. Dressler present the evolution of fillers in early French language acquisition as evidence for a constructivist view of Natural Morphology whereby children construct their morphological modules from nonmodular bases.

In this way the present volume offers a kaleidoscope of different theoretical trends within the various domains of contemporary morphology.<sup>1</sup>

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