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Cross-Disciplinary Issues in Compounding

Edited by Sergio Scalise and Irene Vogel

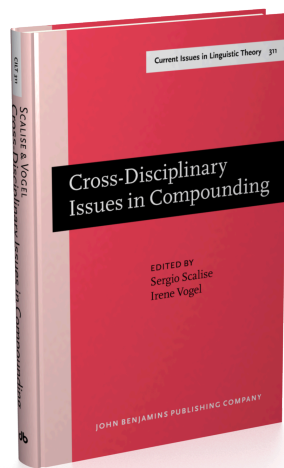
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Acknowledgments

Cross-Disciplinary Issues in Compounding comes as a response to the strong interest in compounds and issues related to compounds that have been developing in the last few years. At the core of this interest is the question of where and how compounds fit into the grammar, and in this respect, the ways in which compounds challenge our view of the organization and architecture of the language capacity more generally.

To address such issues, a conference was organized in Bologna, Italy in June 2008, representing the conjunction of two large research projects: Componet and ENLM. The Componet project (<http://componet.sslmit.unibo.it/>), with its center at the University of Bologna, has offered a home to a very fruitful research effort dedicated to compounds, in particular their description across a wide range of languages. A database consisting of information on approximately 30 languages is in the process of being developed with the intention of making access available to the entire linguistics community. The European Network for Linguistic Morphology, whose center is also in Bologna, is a project that has brought together major European research centers with the goal of addressing issues of morphology in a broader sense, including psycholinguistics, language acquisition and computational approaches. It was in the context of the activities of these two projects that the idea for the 2008 Bologna conference was developed, and ultimately brought to fruition. In keeping with the broad interests of the projects, speakers were invited to participate in diverse areas with respect to languages studied as well as to areas of research- theoretical linguistics as well as issues in sign language and language acquisition, and quantitative and typological analytical approaches.

The present volume, thus, has its origins in relation to the Bologna conference. It has aimed at retaining the cross-linguistic and inter-disciplinary approach to compounds, however, it represents a significantly revised and restructured contribution to the field. A selection of the topics covered at the conference was made so as to yield a well-rounded book, not simply a series of conference papers. To this end, too, the authors of the chapters of this book substantially revised their contributions so that they were more generally authoritative with respect to their topic, providing both a strong background and interesting original research.

The Master list of references collects the references of all of the individual contributions, and thus serves as a unified, up-to-date and quite complete list of literature on compounds, from the wide variety of perspectives present in the book. This, in itself, will serve as a valuable resource for researchers interested in issues related to compounding.

In order to make the Bologna conference, as well as this volume a success, scholars came from around the world — from New Zealand to the USA and Canada, among others. We extend our thanks to all the participants.

We would like to especially thank the Magnifico Rettore of the University of Bologna, Pierugo Calzolari, for establishing our research office, and the staff of this office for all of their assistance

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Bologna & Newark, Delaware, 12 September 2009

Sergio Scalise & Irene Vogel