

Preface

The main goal of this book is to bring advanced students in linguistics with a basic knowledge of morphology to such a level that they can fruitfully read the current morphological literature on English. The focus of the book is on understanding theories and theoretical discussions within generative approaches to the morphology of English that have been important in shaping this field of linguistics since the late 1970s; a field that, judging from a growing number of publications and specialized journals, is becoming a more and more central topic of linguistic theorizing.

Every chapter has a particular morphological approach or theory as its main focus, and in explaining this approach or theory the empirical material that forms its basis is introduced at the same time. In choosing this way of introducing morphological theories I hope to have achieved in each chapter a certain level of theoretical depth that the student will need in order to be able to read new theoretical contributions on his or her own. This theoretical depth comes at the cost of breadth in coverage of the field. The field, because of its growing importance, has attracted more and more linguists, and as a consequence, there is a growing number of theories and theoretical approaches. This book only contains some of – what I see as – the more central approaches to the study of morphology of English.

At the end of each chapter some suggestions are made as to the further study of the topic and issues being introduced. These should be taken for what they are, i.e. *suggestions*, rather than my choice of a core or “must-read” list. Other criteria have played a role in their selection, such as their accessibility and the extent to which this literature is related to the issues being discussed in the main text. It may contain a further exploration along the same lines as those explored in the main text, or it may propose a different or even opposite view on the topical issues.

I would like to thank Heinz Giegerich for asking me to write this

book. I do hope the result is not too far from what he expected it to be. I would also like to thank Paula Fenger and an anonymous reviewer for valuable comments and suggestions on an earlier version. Silke Hamann is gratefully acknowledged for advice on the proper phonetic transcription of some of the examples. Finally, I would like to thank Fiona Sewell for her meticulous reading of the manuscript and the many improvements she has made.

