

INFORMACIJA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORD- FORMATION IN KOŠICE

The conference was organized by Pa-
vol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice,
Slovakia, Department of British and
American Studies, Faculty of Arts and
SKASE (Slovak Association for the
Study of English). It was dedicated to
two spheres of research into word-for-
mation, i.e. word-formation theories and
word-formation typology/universals.
Many scholars and students from Africa
(Ghana), Near East (Israel, United Arab
Emirates), Australia, Asia (China, Japan,
Iran, Nepal, Pakistan), Europe (Austria,
Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany,
Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithu-
ania, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Spain, the
Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal,
Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine), South
America (Argentina) and North America
(USA, Canada) participated in the confer-
ence. 47 papers and 17 poster presenta-
tions given during the conference dem-
onstrate that interest in word-formation
is significantly increasing in momentum.

The conference was opened by
prof. Pavel ŠtekaUER, assoc. prof. Slávka
Tomaščíková and Vice-Dean for In-
ternational Relations Renáta Panocová.
After the conference opening, scholars of

international renown have given plenary
sessions on areas of their expertise. As
was fitting, the opening plenary was pro-
vided by Paolo Ramat (Italy) who gave
some reflections on the nature of word
and its formation. Eve Clark (USA) also
talked about word analysis, however, she
focused exclusively on word construc-
tion in children. To be more precise, she
looked at the developmental sequence
children display in different languages,
and what kind of errors they commit
during acquisition of language. A couple
of plenary presentations concentrated
on compounding. Christina L. Gagné
and Thomas L. Spalding (Canada)
investigated compositionality, semantic
transparency and relational structures in
English compounds. They focused on
the research suggesting that the ease of
processing opaque compounds is influ-
enced by relational competition, but that
the effect varies for opaque and trans-
parent compounds. Livio Gaeta (Italy)
attempted to answer the question how
lexical is morphology by concentrating
on phrasal compounds, reduced phrases
and other marginal phenomena. Maria
Koptjevskaja Tamm (Sweden), in
contrast to the above invited speakers,
focused on derivational morphology. In
her talk, she devoted attention to the
cross-linguistic regularities in origin

and development of temperature terms, such as 'warm' or 'cold', by referring to the data from about 40 languages. Finally, Salvador Valera (Spain), the last plenary speaker, delivered a speech on formal identity, syntactic and semantic change in English adjectives and adverbs. Categorial space between these two parts of speech, as a result, has been the subject of much discussion among many linguists.

After the plenary the conference continued in the form of three sections. The theme of productivity was extended by Jesús Fernández-Domínguez (Spain) who studied changes in the availability/unavailability divide from Early Modern English by resorting to the OED and to diachronic corpus data. Lívía Körtvélyessy and Pavol Štekauer's (Slovakia) presentation attracted much attention from the audience. They acquainted with the parameter of saturation value and attempted to illustrate its importance for cross-linguistic research into word-formation. They demonstrated its advantage by referring to a sample of 14 Slavic languages on the basis of 95 word-formation features. The scholars claimed that the parameter of saturation value is distinct from productivity in representing the structural richness of word-formation systems of the studied languages. While the use of productivity as a basis for comparison of word-formation processes in large-scale cross-linguistic research is impossible for both theoretical and practical reasons,

the saturation value parameter takes into account all word-formation processes, types and subtypes which can be synchronically used for the coinage of new complex words.

The vast majority of presentations focused upon the analysis of compounds in different languages. Clement Appah (Ghana) investigated exocentric compounds in Akan referring to the classification proposed by Laurie Bauer. He also familiarized with a Construction Morphology modelling of the properties of Akan exocentric compounds. Alexandra Bagasheva (Bulgaria) examined [N N] and phrasal nominal compounds in contemporary Bulgarian. In her speech, she attempted to find out how these constructions behave with regard to semantics and to classify the most common internal semantic relations in the two constructions. Bożena Cetnarowska (Poland) presented which constituents of coordinate compounds in English and Polish share head-like characteristics, when one takes into account their semantic interpretation, inflectional properties, reversibility and coordination possibilities. An increasingly important theme concerned the concept of 'affixoids'. Stefan Hartmann (Germany) studied German compounds with the second constituents *welt(en)* 'world(s)' and *landschaft(en)* 'landscape(s)'. According to him, while the status of these components as affixoids is at least disputable, the performed diachronic analysis of data from the German Text Archive

and the Core Corpus of the Digital German Dictionary reveals that over the past century, these items have been combined with ever more first constituents, extending their semantic scope from literal to highly metaphoric uses. In their presentation, Andra Kalnača and Ilze Lokmane (Latvia) noticed that compound genitives in the Latvian grammars are considered as indeclinable nouns that are characterized only in the connection of the morphemic division without detailing the syntactic aspects of their derivation and functions. In their research, they considered these aspects in greater detail.

Several presentations focused upon the theme of polysemy. In her presentation, Maria Bloch-Trojnar (Poland) presented an overview of the semantic patterns exhibited by action nouns based on verbs of distinct situation types/aspect classes in Polish and related them to relationships holding between the marked and unmarked categories of grammatical aspect. Angeliki Efthymiou (Greece) aimed at exploring the polysemy of the Modern Greek prepositional prefix *para-*, which is used to form adjectives, nouns, adjectival and adverbial participles, verbs and adverbs. Ewa Konieczna (Poland) studied the polysemy of verbal prefixes and particles expressing the relation OVER in typologically distinct languages such as English, Polish and Italian. In her talk, she adopted a cognitive approach to polysemy, treating this phenomenon

as a kind of categorization, i.e. related word meanings form categories and are linked with one another through family resemblances. Drawing on the insights of cognitive grammar, Henryk Kardela (Poland) provided a cognitive grammar perspective on nonce-words, blends and acronyms in English. He proposed compositionality and analyzability potential scales for these formations.

An increasingly important theme concerned the issue of borrowings. Jurgis Pakerys (Lithuania) talked on the derivational adaptation of borrowings by summing up the previous research and by bringing attention to some new issues in three areas, namely the types of formal processes involved, their interpretation, and their relation to productivity. Angela Ralli (Greece) investigated verb borrowing in a language-contact situation involving dialectal variation. She argued that the accommodation of loan verbs in a recipient language is not only the product of extra-linguistic factors but follows specific linguistic constraints, mostly due to language internal factors. On the basis of Greek dialectal evidence, she arrived at conclusion that it is possible for a language (in this case, the fusional Greek) to be affected by a linguistic system of distinct typology (agglutinative or analytical) provided that certain morphological conditions are met. Bonifacas Stundžia and Lina Inčiuraitė-Noreikienė (Lithuania) presented a preliminary cross-linguistic overview of competing patterns which

are characteristic of borrowed adjectives in typologically different languages such as Lithuanian, Latvian, Russian and English. In their speech they distinguished three rival patterns of borrowed and hybrid adjectives that are characteristic of these languages. Renáta Panocová (Slovakia) and Pius ten Hacken (Austria) investigated neoclassical formations in English and Russian. They put forward an idea that neoclassical word-formation can involve word-formation rules and borrowing to different degrees. In their presentation they argued that neoclassical word-formation is a separate subsystem of word-formation in English in comparison to Russian. In the latter language the neoclassical structure has only etymological importance.

Several presentations concentrated on the investigation of affixes. Erzsébet Tóth-Czifra (Hungary) analyzed the Hungarian deverbal suffix -Ó which is

a highly polysemous symbolic unit. Her presentation provided an account of how the flexibility of coding allows the affix -Ó to acquire various, though pertinent, meanings in discourse. In her presentation, Luise Kempf (Germany) attempted to model the meaning of derivational affixes. She argued that a Construction Grammar approach lends itself to modelling the construal of meaning in adjectival derivation, because it takes into consideration the constructions the affix occurs in.

In a brief closing ceremony, the conference organizers thanked all participants for their contributions. This conference became a well-established tradition for the scholars to meet every three years and share their ideas on the newest research in word-formation.

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