# **Construction Morphology**





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Word formation patterns can be seen as abstract schemas that generalize over sets of existing complex words with a systematic correlation between form and meaning.

 $[[x]_{V} er]_{N}$  'one who Vs







"In Construction Grammar, the grammar represents an inventory of form-meaningfunction complexes, in which words are distinguished from grammatical constructions only with regard to their internal complexity. The inventory of constructions is not unstructured; it is more like a map than a shopping list. Elements in this inventory are related through inheritance hierarchies, containing more or less general patterns." (Michaelis and Lambrecht 1996: 216)

#### **Ingredients of Construction Morphology**

twe ontfin heilighe gr Du die mt ghebe mt ghebe alle wee Alleluy alle wee Alleluy alle wee Alleluy alle wee Alleluy bie levdeste All sie harder his to be levdeste All sie harder his to

Both individual complex words and abstract generalizing schemas are part of the lexicon;
Hierarchical lexicon with layers of subgeneralizations;
Paradigmatic relations between (sets of) complex words can be expressed;
Constructional meanings
Word formation patterns are constructional idioms at

the word level, and individual complex words are hence word-level constructs.

**Default inheritance** 





hoofd-ingang head entrance 'main entrance' hoofd-bezwaar head objection 'main objection'

 $\begin{bmatrix} [a]_{X}[b]_{Y} \end{bmatrix}_{Y}$  $\begin{bmatrix} \\ \\ \\ \end{bmatrix}_{N} \begin{bmatrix} b \end{bmatrix}_{N} \end{bmatrix}_{N}$  $\begin{bmatrix} \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{bmatrix}$ 

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 $[[hoofd]_N [b]_N]_N$  'main x'

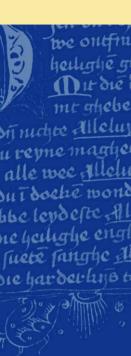


#### Semantic concentration

scharrel-kipscharrel-vleesscratch-chickenscratch-meat'free range chicken''free range meat'

(5)  $[[scharrel]_V[x]_N]_N$  'free range x'





## Intensifyier prefixoids

reuze- 'giant' reuze-leuk 'very nice', reuze-slim 'very smart'

wereld- 'world' wereld-meid 'fantastic girl', wereld-vrouw 'fantastic woman'

Repetitive coordination: *in- en in-triest* 'very sad', *dood- en dood-ziek* 'very ill' Noun Prefixoid > Adjective: reuze



#### **Affixoids**





(6) -baron 'baron' afvalbaron 'lit. trash-baron, rich dealer in trash'
-marathon 'marathon' jazz-marathon 'jazz marathon'

bliksem- 'lightning' bliksem-bezoek 'lit. lightning visit, fast and short visit', bliksem-actie 'lit. lightning action, fast and short action'

mammoet- 'mammoth' mammoet-wet 'lit. mammoth-law, all-encompassing law of education', mammoet-tanker 'lit. mammoth-tanker, huge tanker'

## Affixoids are constructional idioms;



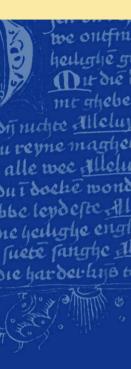
# $[[reuze]_N[x]_A]_A 'very x'$ $[[x]_N [baron]_N]_N 'rich dealer in x'$







Constructional idioms in Japanese: surucompounding (Kageyama 1982) kenyuu-suru research-do 'to do research' hoo-bei-suru visit-USA-do 'to visit the USA' saikuringu-suru cycling-do 'to cycle'



# $[VN] [suru]_V]_V \text{ 'to perform the act} \\ \text{denoted by VN'}$

Variants of suru: dekiru 'to be able to do' nasaru (honorific) itasimasu (humble form)





### Lexical prefixes in Japanese

dai- 'big', oo- 'big', tyuu- 'middle', syoo-'small', ko- 'small', koo- 'high'tei-'low', sin- 'new', ko- 'old', huru- 'old', zyuu- 'haevy', kei- 'light', tyoo- 'long', tan- 'short', kyuu- 'sudden', bibeautiful', aku- 'bad', koo- 'good', etc. (Kageyama 1982: 226):



#### **Paradigmatic word formation**

twe ontfru heilighe 5 Mit die mt ghebe mt ghebe mt ghebe alle wee Allelus alle wee Allelus alle wee Allelus be levdeste wond be levdeste Alle ne heilighe engt sue harder his t

(7) deverbal noun
arbeid-ster 'female labourer'
spreek-ster 'female speaker'
werk-ster 'charwoman'
zwem-ster 'female swimmer'

deverbal noun arbeid-er 'labourer' sprek-er 'speaker' werk-er 'worker' zwemm-er 'swimmer'

Idiomatic meaning, recurs in female derivative

(8) bet-wet-er 'lit. better knower, pedant'

pad-vind-er 'lit path finder, boy scout'

bet-weet-ster 'female pedant' pad-vind-ster 'girl scout'



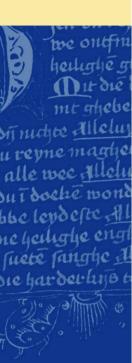
#### twe ontfru heilighe g Dit die mt ghebe mt ghebe mt ghebe u reyne maghe alle wee Allelus u toephe maghe alle wee Allelus be lepdeste All su toebe wond be lepdeste All sue harder hijs to

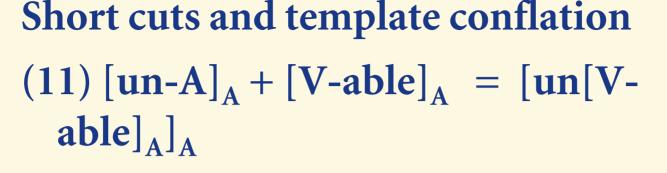


## Agent nouns without base word

(9) rederijk-er 'rhetorician' rederijk-ster 'female rhetorician' reizig-er 'traveler' reizig-ster 'female traveler'
(10)[X - er]<sub>Ni</sub> 'human agent '↔ [X - ster]<sub>N</sub> 'female N<sub>i</sub> '







unputdownable / ?putdownable uncomeatable / ? comeatable unsayable / ?sayable unmentionable / ? mentionable unbeatable / ? beatable





$[de[[N]ate]_V]_V$	$[de[[x]_A ize]_V]_V$
(possible words as intermediate step)	
noun	verb
caffeine	decaffeinate
moral	demoralize
nuclear	denuclearize
Stalin	destalinize





*Participia praeverbalia (pre-verbal participles) in Dutch* 

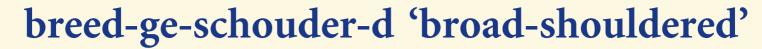
a. tand 'tooth' tak 'branch' spits 'point'
b. rok 'skirt' 'short-skirted'

jas 'coat' coated' ge-tand 'toothed' ge-tak-t 'branched' ge-spits-t 'pointed' kort-ge-rok-t

wit-ge-jas-t 'white-



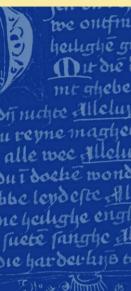




N to V conversion $[[x]_N]_V$ Past participle $[ge [x]_V t/d]_V$ conversion $[[ge [x]_V t/d]_V]_A$ AA compounding $[[x]_A [x]_A]_A$ 

Left A has scope over base N- of right A [[breed]<sub>A</sub>[[ge[[schouder]<sub>N</sub>]<sub>V</sub>d]<sub>V</sub>]<sub>A</sub>]<sub>A</sub>









*Embedded productivity*: In Germanic NV compounding is not productive, but Dutch NV compounding is productive within VN compounds:

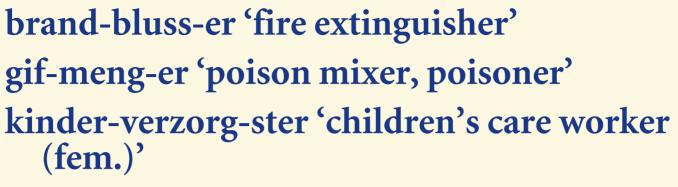
(16)  $[[[aardappel]_N[schil]_V]_V[mesje]_N]_N$  'lit. potato peel knife, potato peeler'

 $[[[brand]_N[blus]_V]_V[installatie]_N]_N$  'lit. fire extinguish installation, fire extinguisher'

 $[[[koffie]_N[zet]_V]_V[apparaat]_N]_N$  'lit. coffee make machine, coffee maker'

Morphological idiom  $[[NV]_V N]_N$ 





kranten-bezorg-ster 'newspaper deliverer (fem.)'

kinder-verzorg-ing 'child care' tempel-reinig-ing 'temple cleansing'

 $[[[N][V]]_{V} er]_{N} \\ [[[N][V]]_{V} ster]_{N} \\ [[[N][V]]_{V} ing]_{N}$ 







#### Construction-dependent morphology: morphological elements as markers of constructions

Determiner genitive

(19) Jan-s hoed 'John's hat'

Amsterdam-s rijke verleden 'Amsterdam's rich history'

ieder-s huis 'everybody's house'

iemand-s vriend 'someone's friend'

koning Salomo-s reputatie 'king Solomon's reputation'

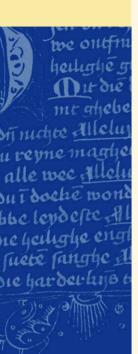




# Condition: NP<sub>i</sub> is

- a (simplex or complex) proper name, or,
- a (pro)noun denoting human beings (the noun must preceded by a definite article or possessive pronoun).





### **Partitive -s Construction**

# [NP $[... [x-s]_A]_{AP}]_{NP}$ 'an indefinite quantity<sub>N</sub> with the property expressed by the AP'



#### Conclusions





word formation schemas can be conceived of as constructional idioms, and complex words as constructs instantiating these constructional idioms;

both complex words and abstract schemas form part of a hierarchical lexicon;

in this conception of the lexicon we can account for the rise of affixes from compounds, effects of paradigmatic relationships between words, the cooccurrence of word formation processes, and embedded productivity;

the distribution of morphological forms requires constructional schemas in which morphological markers are specified.