

Ingredients of Construction Morphology

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



1. Paradigmatic word formation

angst-haas ‘lit. fear-hare, terrified person’. >
paniek-haas ‘panicky person’

moeder-taal ‘lit. mother language, native
language’ > vader-taal ‘father-language,
native language of father’

hand-vaardig ‘lit. hand-able, with manual
skills’ > muis-vaardig ‘with mouse-handling
skills’

nieuw-komer ‘lit. new-comer, recent
immigrant’ > oud-komer ‘old-comer,
immigrant who has arrived a long time ago’



[[x]_N [gate]_N]_N ‘political scandal pertaining to
[x]_N’

kippen-gate ‘chicken-gate, scandal concerning
chickens’

Stadion-gate ‘financial problems concerning
renovation of the Olympic Stadium’

Zuid-Holland-gate ‘financial scandal
concerning the province of Zuid-Holland’



Italian –poli

tangento-poli ‘town where the rake-of system is dominant’

sanito-poli ‘health ministry affair’

banco-poli ‘bank scandal’

(Ramat 2001)



Intensifying lexemes in Dutch X A compounds

Noun:

example

ber-e ‘bear’

bere-sterk ‘very strong’, bere-aardig ‘very kind’

bloed ‘blood’

bloed-serieus ‘very serious’,
bloed-link ‘very risky’

dood ‘death’

dood-eng ‘very scary’, dood-gewoon ‘very ordinary’

kei ‘boulder’

kei-goed ‘very good’, kei-gaaf
‘very nice’

pis ‘piss’

pis-nijdig ‘very angry’, pis-woedend ‘very angry’

poep ‘shit’

poep-heet ‘very hot’, poep-lekker
‘very pleasant’



adjective

dol 'mad'

dol-blij 'very happy', dol-gelukkig 'very happy'

stom 'dumb'

stom-toevallig 'completely coincidental', stom-verbaasd 'very surprised'

verb

kots 'vomit'

kots-misselijk 'very sick', kots-beu 'very tired of'

loei 'sizzle'

loei-hard 'very hard', loei-goed 'very good'

piep 'squeak'

piep-jong 'very young', piep-klein 'very small'



Constructional idioms in Dutch

[[**bere**]_N [**x**]_A]_A ‘very A’

[[**dol**]_A [**x**]_A]_A ‘very A’

[[**loei**]_A [**x**]_A]_A ‘very A’



“Grammaticalization is the change whereby in certain linguistic contexts speakers use parts of a construction with a grammatical function. Over time the resulting grammatical item may become more grammatical by acquiring more grammatical functions and expanding its host-classes.”

(Brinton & Traugott 2005)



Reinterpretation as adjectives

[reuze-]_N ‘giant-’ > reuze (A)
‘fantastic’

[kut-]_N ‘cunt-’ > kut (A) ‘bad,
worthless’



kunst-N ‘artificial N’

kunst-bont ‘artificial fur’

kunst-boter ‘artificial butter, margarine’

kunst-mest ‘artificial manure, fertilizer’

kunst-koe ‘artificial cow’



Semantic concentration

**polder-cultuur ‘polder-culture,
consensus culture’**

**polder-discussie ‘polder-discussion,
discussion aimed at consensus’**

**polder-gezeur ‘polder-nagging, nagging
aimed at consensus’**

polder- ‘aimed at consensus’



scharrel-kip ‘scratch-chicken, free range chicken’

scharrel-vlees

‘free range meat’

scharrel-ei

‘free range egg’

[[scharrel][x]_N]_N ‘free range x’



stief-gezin ‘step-family, family with step-
parents’

stief-problemen ‘problems originating
from being a step-family’

stief-problematiek ‘problems originating
from being a step-family’

stief-informatie ‘information about the
problems of stepfamilies’

stief- = ‘concerning step family issues’



Lexical affixes

- “a historical origin in compounding accounts well for the special properties of lexical affixes” (Mithun 1999: 55)
- “productive compounding, particularly of nominal objects and locatives led to the set of bound morphemes referred to as lexical affixes” (Carlson, 1990: 69). Lexical suffixes in Spokane developed from right members of compounds, and lexical prefixes from left members (Carlson 1990: 78).



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’, bi- ‘beautiful’, aku- ‘bad’, koo- ‘good’, etc. (Kageyama 1982: 226):



3. Allomorphy patterns in Dutch compounds

first part of a compound: mede [me:də]

postposition and particle: mee [me:]

preposition: met [mɛt]



[[mede]_{ADV} N]_N 'N shared with other persons'

mede-beslissing 'co-decision'

mede-bewoner 'fellow occupant'

mede-broeder 'fellow brother'

mede-lander 'fellow countryman'



einde / eind ‘end’

[[eind]_N [x]_N]_N ‘final [x]_N’

eind-examen / *einde-examen ‘end-exam, final exam’

eind-gesprek / *einde-gesprek ‘end-interview, final interview’

eind-station / *einde-station ‘end-station, final station’



glijd /glij 'to glide'

rijd /rij 'to ride / drive'

compound

glij-baan 'slide-track, slide'

glij-middel 'slide-means, lubricant'

rij-baan 'ride-track, lane'

rij-bewijs 'driving license'

derived word

glijd-er 'slid-er'

rijd-er 'rid-er'



eer-wraak ‘honour-revenge, revenge for
the protection of family honour’

eer-betoon ‘honour-show, tribute’

ere-lid ‘honorary member’ /*eer-lid

ere-voorzitter ‘honorary chairman’ /
*eer-voorzitter

ere-doctor ‘honorary doctor’ / *eer-
doctor

[[ere]_N[x]_N]_N ‘honorary x’



4. Headedness variation

Spanish right-headed compounds

auto-escuela, ‘car school’, cine-club
‘cinema club’, eco-sonda ‘echo
sonder’, tele-novela ‘television
novel’, video-arte ‘video art’



Italian right-headed compounds

autocentro ‘car center’, autoconvoglio
‘convoy’, autodromo ‘motor-racing
circuit’, autolinea’ bus route’,
autoservizio ‘car service’, autostop
‘hitch-hiking’



Catalan compounds

Left-headed

radio despertador ‘radio alarm clock’

radio pirata ‘pirate radio station’.

Right-headed

radio-pirata ‘illegal radio amateur’ and

radio-novel ‘radio serial’.



Left-headed Sino-Japanese compounds (Kageyama 1982, 2008)

soo-kin

send-money 'remit'

ki-koku

return-country 'return to one's country'

syuk-ka

go.out-fire 'a fire breaking out'



rai-han ‘coming to Osaka

rai-sin ‘coming to Kobe

rai-huku ‘coming to Fukuoka

“If a new city is born, a new *rai*-
compound will most probably be made”
(Kageyama 1982: 233).

constructional idiom [rai]_{VN} [x]_N]_{VN}



Biak (Van den Heuvel 2006) has left-headed compounds but also right-headed for certain semantic categories.

randip-vukór

pig-head

‘head of a pig’

ai-snáw

tree-branch

‘branch of a tree’

‘N2 is part of N1’, or ‘N2 is a product of N1’



Compound construction

Stage 1: selection of abstract structure (selection of schema)

Stage 2: computing the exact form of constituents (probabilistic rules or similarity-based selection) in case of variation.



“ the symbolic approach in which paradigmatic structure provides a similarity space over which probabilities are defined provides an excellent level of granularity for understanding the role of probability in language production” (Baayen 2003: 263)

