

**“Principle of compositionality: The meaning of an expression is a monotonic function of its parts and the way there are put together”
(Cann, 1993),p. 4.**



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.



“In Construction Grammar, the grammar represents an inventory of form-meaning-function 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) p. 216.



Example of a constructional schema:

[[*x*]_V *er*]_N ‘one who Vs’



Constructional meaning

Resultative construction: [Verb Reflexive Result] ‘to achieve Result by V-ing’

Mario Ridder kookte zich in zeven maanden van nul naar twee Michelin-sterren

Mario Ridder cooked himself in seven months from zero to two Michelin-stars

‘Mario Ridder managed to get from zero to two Michelin-stars through his way of cooking’



Constructional meaning in word formation:

Endocentric compounds: head-complement or modifier-head interpretation

Exocentric compounds: Italian VN compounds

[[*porta*]_V[*lettere*]_N]_N ‘one who / thing which Vs N’

Semantic head is not one of the constituents, but provided by the construction as a whole



Particle verbs [= phrasal verbs] as constructional idioms

door-eten 'to continue eating'

door-werken 'to continue working'

door = preposition 'through, by'

door = adverb 'from point a to point b, during the time of, at the end of'

door = adjective 'worn out, into pieces: ' De schoenen zijn door 'The shoes are worn out'

door = compound constituent in [door-A]_A 'very':
door-nat 'very wet'

door = prefix 'to put N completely through the object:
[[door[spek]_N]_V 'to interlard with'

door = particle 'to continue V-ing'



Heterosemy (Lichtenberk, 1991).

Selection of specific meaning is determined by the construction in which the morpheme occurs.

[[**door**]_{Adv} [**x**]_V]_V 'to continue V-ing'



the *uitgegeten*-construction (Audring
and Booij, 2005)

uit-gegeten ‘lit. out-eaten, finished
eating’

uit-geschilderd ‘lit. out-painted, finished
painting’



We zijn uit-gepraat ‘We are done talking’

We raken uit-gekeken op elkaar ‘We are becoming tired of each other’

Predicates for states and properties



[[*uit*][[*X*]_{ptcp}]_A]_A ‘done with V-ing’

The specific meaning of *uit* ‘done with V-ing’ is licensed by a specific morphological construction, adjectival compounds with a participial head.



Semantic subgeneralizations in compounding

Polysemy of *hoofd* ‘head’

- a. (physical sense) head of a body, as in *hoofd-pijn* ‘headache’;
- b. abstract meaning ‘uppermost’, referring to a hierarchy, as in *hoofd-kwartier* ‘headquarters’;
- c. abstract meaning ‘most important, main’, as in *hoofd-ingang* ‘main entrance’.



hoofd-altaar ‘head-altar, main altar’

hoofd-bezwaar ‘head-objection, main objection’

hoofd-doel ‘head-goal, main goal’

hoofd-verdachte ‘head-suspect, main suspect’



Constructional idiom at compound level

[[hoofd]_N [y]_N]_N ‘main N’



Maale, North-Omotoc language, Ethiopia

bayi nayi

cattle child

‘one who brings cattle to the grazing area’

waari nayi

goat child

‘one who takes care of goats’



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 ‘stupid’

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’



[[bere]_N [x]_A]_A ‘very A’

[[dol]_A [x]_A]_A ‘very A’



Noun prefixoids

[[wereld]_N [vrouw]_N]_N
'fantastic woman'

[[wereld]_N [x]_N]_N 'fantastic N'



Repetitive coordination of intensifier prefixes

bere- en bere-goed ‘very, very good’

bloed- en bloed-mooi ‘very, very beautiful’

dood- en dood-ziek ‘very, very ill’

kei- en kei-leuk ‘very, very nice’

pis- en pis-nijdig ‘very, very angry’



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), p. 69).



Semantic concentration

polder-cultuur ‘polder-culture,
consensus culture’

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

polder-gelul ‘polder-bullshit, bullshit
aimed at consensus’

polder-houding ‘polder-attitude,
consensus attitude’



scharrel-kip
scratch chicken
'free range chicken'

scharrel-vlees
scratch-meat
'free range meat'

scharrel-ei
scratch-egg
'free range egg'



Analogical 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'



Conclusions

A proper account of semantic regularities in word formation requires

- a hierarchical lexicon with subgeneralizations across sets of complex words**
- word level constructions of varying degrees of abstractness.**

