The Interaction between Borrowing and Word Formation

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Borrowing and word formation are two of the most prominent naming devices that are invoked when new concepts need to be named. In borrowing, the name used in another language is adopted. In word formation, a rule is applied to form a new word on the basis of one or more existing words. In the history of the study of language, borrowing has become part of the fields of etymology and lexicography, whereas word formation has been incorporated into morphology.

Etymology is the study of the origin of words, as described by Durkin (2009). In etymological studies, the history of a word is followed backwards through time within the same language as far as sources go. The identification of cognates in related languages is a crucial method for achieving a greater historical depth than can be achieved within a single language. In lexicography, the origin of words is given for a larger set of words. Whereas etymology concentrates on cases where the origin is not immediately obvious, lexicographic work tends to take a more comprehensive approach, describing the origin also for borrowings that are still recognizable as such (cf. Svensén, 2009: 333-343).

Morphology is the study of the form of words. Word formation is one of its main components. Depending on the theory adopted, word formation rules can be conceptualized as rules combining morphemes to produce words or as processes that apply to one word and produce another word. The position of word formation rules in the system of language is a matter of theoretical debate, as can be seen in the different chapters of Lieber & Štekauer (2009, 2014).

The interaction of word formation and borrowing occurs in language contact situations, because borrowing is a side effect of language contact. The interaction can take the form of competition or collaboration. One context in which competition is found is when we find two competing names for the same concept, one a borrowing the other the result of word formation. It is frequent in the domain of computing in German, e.g. *Computer* or *Rechner* ('computer'), where the latter is formed on the basis of *rechnen* ('calculate'). At a more theoretical level, we find competing analyses of the same word. English *dependence* can be

analysed as a borrowing from French or as the result of a word formation rule applied to *depend*.

Collaborative interaction occurs where borrowing feeds word formation. One type of process where this occurs is in calques. German *übersetzen* ('translate') consists of two components that correspond to the ones in Late Latin *traducere* ('translate'), cf. Pöckl (2016). Another type of feeding is found in word formation processes that emerge under the influence of another language. An example is Mühleisen's (2010) analysis of the emergence and history of the English suffix *-ee*, as in *employee*. She argues that the suffix arose from the reanalysis of French borrowings, especially in legal language, but was subsequently used much more widely. It has often been proposed that a similar historical development occurred for neoclassical word formation. Words such as *morphology* and its cognates in many languages consist of components that have a recognizable Ancient Greek origin, but the full word does not occur in Ancient Greek.

Individual contributions to the workshop discuss questions such as how the competition between naming procedures is decided in a particular language, which arguments can be used to choose between competing analyses, and how in a particular language contact situation borrowing and word formation may feed each other.

References

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