

Construction morphology

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Construction Morphology (*CM*) as developed in (Booij, in preparation) is an approach to morphology in which complex words are treated as signs, as pairing of forms and meanings, and therefore similar in spirit to Sign-Based Morphology (*SBM*) (Inkelas and Zoll, 2005). Morphological patterns are accounted for by means of constructional schemas; complex words are morphological constructs that instantiate these schemas. Each schema expresses a correlation between the phonological form, the morpho-syntactic form, and the meaning of sets of words.

In my talk I will present a number of arguments in favour of *CM*. I will focus on:

- non-compositional semantic properties of complex words (compare (Inkelas and Zoll, 2005), p. 14-16 for similar arguments);
- non-compositional formal properties of complex words (lexical category, gender).

In the domain of inflection

- morphological schemas are ideal for describing cumulative exponence;
- a constructional approach can do justice to the nature of periphrasis by making use of the notion (phrasal) constructional idiom.

As to the division of labour between phonology and morphology, *CM* sides with *SBM*: morphological operations are operations that correlate three types of information, whereas phonology only deals with the phonological form of language constructs, but may be triggered by, and hence have access to the morphological structure of the words upon which it operates.

Patterns of stem allomorph selection are often purely morphological in nature, and receive a straightforward account in *CM*, which makes use of the notion ‘hierarchical lexicon’ for expressing generalizations concerning subsets of complex words.

References

BOOIJ, GEERT. in preparation. Construction morphology. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

INKELAS, SHARON and ZOLL, CHERYLL. 2005. Reduplication. Doubling in morphology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.