The Semantics of Compounding

The question of how to determine the meaning of compounds was prominent in early generative morphology, but lost importance after the late 1970s. In the past decade, it has been revived by the emergence of a number of frameworks that are better suited to studying this question than earlier ones. In this book, three frameworks for studying the semantics of compounding are presented by their initiators: Jackendoff’s Parallel Architecture, Lieber’s theory of lexical semantics, and Štekauer’s onomasiological theory. Common to these presentations is a focus on English noun-noun compounds. In the following chapters, these theories are then applied to different types of compounding (phrasal, A+N, neoclassical) and other languages (French, German, Swedish, Greek). Finally, a comparison highlights how each framework offers particular insight into the meaning of compounds.

An exciting new contribution to the field, which will be of interest to morphologists, semanticists, and cognitive linguists.

* Offers an invaluable comparison of how the different frameworks are explored in the text function.
* Chapters on English, French, German, Swedish and Greek extend the theories across languages.
* Unique material on phrasal, A+N and neoclassical compounds.

PIUS TEN HACKEN is Professor of Translation Studies at Innsbruck University. He has also worked on the machine translation project Eurotra and at universities in Basel (Computer Science and General Linguistics) and Swansea (French and Translation Studies).
The Semantics of Compounding

Edited by

Pius ten Hacken
Contents

List of figures vii
List of tables viii
List of contributors ix
Acknowledgements x

1 Introduction: compounds and their meaning 1
PIUS TEN HACKEN

Part I Frameworks 13
2 English noun-noun compounds in Conceptual Semantics 15
RAY JACKENDOFF
3 Compounding in the lexical semantic framework 38
ROCHELLE LIEBER
4 Compounding from an onomasiological perspective 54
PAVOL ŠTEKAUER

Part II Noun-noun compounds 69
5 Categorizing the modification relations in French relational 71
subordinative [NN]N compounds
PIERRE J.L. ARNAUD
6 The semantics of NN combinations in Greek 94
ZOE GAVRILIDOU
7 The semantics of compounds in Swedish 110
child language
INGMARIE MELLENIUS AND MARIA ROSENBERG
8 The semantics of primary NN compounds: from form to meaning, 129
and from meaning to form
JESÚS FERNÁNDEZ-DOMÍNGUE
vi   Contents

Part III  Other compound types 151

  9  An analysis of phrasal compounds in the model of Parallel Architecture 153
      CAROLA TRIPS

  10 Adjective-noun compounding in Parallel Architecture 178
      BARBARA SCHLÜCKER

  11 Neoclassical compounds in the onomasiological approach 192
      RENÁTA PANOCOVÁ

Conclusion 209

  12 Three analyses of compounding: a comparison 211
      PIUS TEN HACKETT

References 233

Author index 247

Subject index 252
## Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>An onomasiological model of complex words</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>A semantic taxonomy of French and English [NN]_N compounds</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>The word formation component in PA (from ten Hacken 2010: 248)</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Conceptual-semantic structure of PCs</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Numbers of relations in inventories</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>The five most frequent relations</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Number of units, abstract relations</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Number of compounds with 1, 2, and 3 high-granularity and low-granularity (abstract) relations</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Some productive evaluative non-heads in Greek with examples of their use</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>Frequency of semantic relations in NN compounds for the children as a group and for each child</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>List of labels used by Jackendoff</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>List of labels used by Štekauer</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Phrasal compounds in the spoken part of the BNC</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>Conceptual-semantic classification of the heads of PCs</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contributors

PIUS TEN HACKEN, Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck
RAY JACKENDOFF, Tufts University
ROCHELLE LIEBER, University of New Hampshire
PAVOL ŠTEKAUER, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
PIERRE ARNAUD, Université Lumière-Lyon 2
ZOE GAVRIILIDOU, Democritus University of Thrace
INGMARIE MELLENIUS, Umeå University
MARIA ROSENBERG, Umeå University
JESÚS FERNAÑDEZ DOMÍNGUEZ, University of Granada
CAROLA TRIPS, Universität Mannheim
BARBARA SCHLÜCKER, Freie Universität Berlin
RENÁTA PANOCOVÁ, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
Acknowledgements

This volume was inspired by a workshop organized at the 19th Congrès International des Linguistes/International Congress of Linguists, which took place in Geneva from 21 to 27 July 2013. Earlier versions of most of the chapters in this book were presented at Workshop 130 “The Semantics of Compounding” of this Congress and most presentations at the workshop correspond to a chapter in this book. I would like to thank the congress organizers, in particular Jacques Moeschler and Fabienne Reboul, for their support in organizing the workshop and their continued interest in the publication of the result.

In producing this volume I was of course dependent on the contributors and I would like to thank all of them for their collaboration in getting good quality chapters to me in time. Special thanks are due to Ray Jackendoff, Rochelle Lieber and Pavol Štekauer, who sent me their chapters ahead of the deadline I had set and agreed to have their preliminary versions distributed to the other contributors. This made it possible for other contributors to refer to their chapters, which led to a higher degree of coherence in the volume.

While a significant part of the editorial work involved in a volume like this consists of working with the contents of the various chapters, another part concerns the form. For the latter, I benefitted greatly from the editorial assistance of Franziska Steffan, who also compiled the bibliography, and David Galvin, who proofread all chapters. I am also grateful for the support by Andrew Winnard and his team at Cambridge University Press.