Reflections on English Word-Formation

We are all familiar with coming across a new word, whether it has just been invented or whether we have just not met it before. How do we invent new words? How do we understand words that we have never heard before? What are the limits on the kinds of words we produce? How have linguists and grammarians dealt with the phenomenon of creating new words, and how justified are their ways of viewing such words? In this concise and compelling book, Professor Bauer, one of the world's best-known morphologists, looks back over fifty years of his work, seeking out overlooked patterns in wordformation, and offering new solutions to recurrent problems. Each chapter deals with a different morphological problem, meaning that the book can either be read from start to finish, or alternatively used as a concise reference work on the key issues and problems in the field.

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Conventions and Abbreviations

Conventions and Abbreviations

· , · ,,	round (a) meanings/glosses, (b) technical terms being discussed round direct quotations
· [decimal point]	in glosses, boundary between morphs not indicated by the spelling (also used in the corresponding gloss)
[]	to indicate morphosyntactic bracketing; to indicate a phonetic transcription
*	to indicate an impossible formation; to show the position of a missing letter
/ /	to enclose phonemic transcriptions
. [full stop/ period]	to divide words in glosses
~	replaces the meaning of the base in a gloss, or allows for a blank to be filled in by the reader
italics	for cited words, phrases, sentences, affixes not in displays
SMALL CAPITALS	(where needed) (a) for lexemes and (b) in glosses

Abbreviations in Glosses

1, 2, 3	1st, 2nd, 3rd person
ABL	ablative
ACC	accusative
ADV	adverb
DIMIN	diminutive
GEN	genitive
LE	linking element
NMLZ	nominalization
NOM	nominative
N, V, A	noun, verb, adjective
PL	plural
POSS	possessive
SG	singular

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