

## Morphology II: English Word Formation

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Questions for Exam I

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### Instructions

- Only 2 of the following 5 questions will be given to you in the written exam.
- All of the questions below require essay-type long answers. Make sure to provide a complete, and well-structured answer for each question. An ideal answer contains well-organized and coherent paragraphs, supported by facts, examples, and relevant observations. Note that you will have only 3 pages (not 3 sheets!!) for the two questions. Therefore, your answers should address the questions as completely and efficiently as possible within the space provided. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at Baris.Kabak@uni-konstanz.de
- The exam will take place on **18/01/2007** at 10:00 am in A704. Please note that it will **NOT** be an "open-book" exam. You may **NOT** use any books, notes, articles, flash cards, or other study aids while taking the exam.
- Those who don't need a Schein for the course are NOT required to take the exam.

### Questions

1. a. Focusing on their phonological shape and morpho-phonological properties, discuss the ways in which English suffixes of native Germanic origin behave differently from those borrowed from Latin or Greek. Illustrate your answer with examples.  
b. Describe the general morpho-phonological properties of *-ity* and *-ness*. What are some of the findings of Baayen & Renouf (1996) with respect to these suffixes?
2. What is prosodic morphology? How do English Expletive Infixation and Name Truncations constitute instances of prosodic morphology? Describe the formal properties of these two processes with specific examples.
3. a. Discuss the role of frequency in the storage and access of complex words in the mental lexicon. How does this relate to the notion of productivity? Why isn't simply counting the number of words with a given affix sufficient to show the productivity of the affix in question? Explain in what ways token frequency and hapax-legomena make the notion of morphological productivity explicit and calculable.  
b. Explain the role of blocking in constraining productivity. What are the problems with the notion of type-blocking? In which ways is token-blocking a psycholinguistic phenomenon which rests on storage and processing?
4. What is prefix-stripping? Discuss the assumptions and methodology employed in Taft's (1981) first experiment (Experiment I). How does Taft (1981) attempt to falsify the claim that prefix-stripping is due to a preponderance of prefixed items used in the experiments? What are the main findings of the study?
5. a. Discuss the directionality of conversion in (i) *to name* (frequency= 6284) vs. *name* (frequency=32309), and (ii) *to smoke* (frequency=3516) vs. *smoke* (frequency=2823) using the criteria of frequency and semantic complexity.  
b. Discuss the problem of directionality and zero-affixation raised by conversion. What are some of the solutions to these problems? Why does the notion of conversion raise the issue of the boundary between syntax and morphology?