

## Affixes in Discourse

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This talk considers the possibility that affixes as word formation elements without a semantic information can still play a vital role for the constitution of discourse.

Until now relatively few studies of word formation elements have been conducted. The majority of research in that field took place in the late 1970s and 1980s (E.g. Schröder 1978, Viehweger 1978, Dederding 1983). Since then a few more works on this topic have been published (E.g. Wolf 1996, Matussek 1994, Peschel 2002, Schlienz 2004). But most of them exclusively focus on compound forms and their function within text constitution, while ignoring derivational or conversional patterns.

Although a large corpus study is yet to be done, smaller samples of texts I collected already suggest that affixes might play a larger role in forming text constitution and coherence in discourses. Plag's et al. work on productivity of derivational affixes (1999) shows that the use of affixes depends on register, text type and subject of the text. This use is explained - among other things - with the affixes's embedding in the context.

Furthermore, it is assumed that topic relations are achieved by linking anaphoric elements that are semantically recurrent. Those *topic elements* (Koch 1966, Agricola 1972) are primarily cohesion markers, but function as coherent elements when they are used to link a sequence of sentences. The problem is that only recurrent elements that form a semantic connection are considered to be able to fulfill a coherent function. Other cohesive markers such as affixes are excluded because they carry no semantic information (Wolf 1996).

However, Lim (2004: 118) briefly shows - based on the following example - that word formation elements such as the affix *zer-* are capable of forming topic relations, since two identical affixes carry the same semantic information, like two basic morphemes do. This suggests that affixes can also function as text linking elements and possibly even as coherence markers.

Am liebsten **zerstört** die Masse Häuser und Gegenstände. Da es sich oft um **Zerbrechliches** handelt, wie Scheiben, Spiegel, Töpfe, Bilder, Geschirr, neigt man dazu zu glauben, daß es eben diese **Zerbrechlichkeit** von Gegenständen sei, die die Masse zur **Zerstörung** anreizt. Es ist nun gewiß richtig, daß der Lärm der **Zerstörung**, das **Zerbrechen** von Geschirr, das Klirren von Scheiben zur Freude daran ein Beträchtliches beiträgt.

Therefore, the main question that needs to be discussed is the following: Do affixes only function as cohesive markers - as believed by most scientists (e.g. Wolf 1996, Averintseva-Klisch 2018) - or are they capable of fulfilling a larger function, specifically by establishing coherence in a broad sense?

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