

Im Einklang mit der Konstruktion:

a diachronic corpus analysis of deverbal nominalizations in prepositional phrases

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The increasing use of nominalizations in the recent history of German has been repeatedly emphasized in the literature and often described in the context of a general tendency towards the *Nominalstil* (cf. Eggers 1962, Möslein 1981, Khadijeva 2017). In this connection, the textual function of information condensation (Lipka 1987) has been assumed to be the driving force behind this tendency. It remains however to be seen how precisely information condensation is achieved at the text/discourse level. Furthermore, the question remains open as to why this tendency becomes apparent only in the 19th century, even though most word formation patterns have existed since the oldest periods of German. The present study aims for a better understanding of the role of deverbal nominalizations on the level of text and discourse. It reports the first results of a corpus study based on the data from the 19th century (www.deutschestextarchiv.de). Expanding the focus from extensively studied *ung-*nominalizations (*Beendigung* 'ending', *Auswechslung* 'replacement', *Entwicklung* 'development'; see Demske 2000, Hartmann 2016) to all types of deverbal nominalizations, including implicit derivations (*Bezug* 'reference') and conversions (*Erscheinen* 'appearance'), the study looks at their behavior in particular syntagmatic patterns, namely in prepositional phrases with postnominal modifiers, as illustrated in (1)–(3):

- (1) *Er habe erfahren, dass die Botschafter **zu Auswechslung der Ratifikationen** über Pe-tań nach der Hauptstadt reisen wollten, und deshalb **beim Erscheinen der Schiffe** die Besatzung von da entfernt.*
[Berg: Die preussische Expedition, 1873]
'He had learned that the ambassadors wanted to travel to the capital via Pe-tań to exchange ratifications and therefore [he] removed the crew at the appearance of the ships.'
- (2) *So kam erst **nach glücklicher Beendigung des Siebenjährigen Krieges** ein frischer Hauch **in die industrielle Entwicklung des Landes**.*
[Beck: Die Geschichte des Eisens, 1897]
'Thus, only after the fortunate ending of the Seven Years' War did a breath of fresh air come into the industrial development of the country.'
- (3) *Die höhere Bestätigung bleibt vorbehalten **in Bezug auf die stimmführenden Mitglieder des Magistrats und des Stadtgerichts**.*
[Dahlmann: Die Politik, 1835]
'The higher confirmation is reserved with regard to the voting members of the Magistrate and the Municipal Court.'

The study is guided by two general hypotheses:

1. The textual function of nominalizations is not limited to information condensation. In addition, it comprises other functions such as referential cohesion and textual connectivity.
2. The textual function of nominalizations is not achieved in isolation, by using a newly coined word in a text. Instead, they have first to be integrated into a particular syntagmatic configuration (= construction).

It will be argued that textual functions arise via a complex interplay between the (elements of the syntactic) construction and the nominalization itself. Over time, certain patterns conventionalize and become independent from the original syntactic configurations, which has been the case for the present-day complex prepositions such as *im Einklang mit* and *in Bezug auf* (cf. Stefanowitsch et al. 2020). More generally, the contribution is meant as a plea for a constructional-based approach, which is seen as bridging discourse-pragmatic distributional patterns and morphosyntactic regularities in mutual dependence.

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