

Veranstalter.....	Marion Neubauer
Thema	Word formation: A problem-oriented approach AA-A1, ENG-4/a, ENG-5, AA-V1ab, AA-V2ab, ENG-10, ENG-11, AA7 , AA9, LAA8, LAA11, ENGAGE-M1, AA-W, AA-WB
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar Ib Seminar II (für Studierende mit Zulassung ab WS 14/15)
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-510
Zeit	Fr 10 - 12
Raum.....	Phil 1250
Beginn.....	16.10.2015

When reading the title of the seminar you certainly have no difficulties to grasp the meaning at once: the course will be about words, how they are construed and the problems in this area. This is, of course, what we do in everyday life - we focus on the information encoded in linguistic units, especially if these units are inconspicuous. As linguists, however, we might want to take a second look at these inconspicuous units, concentrating on the formal makeup of the words.

Looking at the title through the "morphologist's glass", we note no less than four problematic issues; in fact, the only uncontroversial item is the indefinite article *a*. First, consider the status of *word formation*, which could easily be rephrased (or reworded?), e.g. *lexical formation*. Apparently, the noun *word* and the adjective *lexical* are on a par; can we, thus, conclude that both sequences are phrases? Or compounds? Next, look at the complex adjective *problem-oriented*, which could just as readily have taken *orientated* as its head, or could it? If these adjectives are not in free variation, we would expect them to code semantic differences, however slight these may be. Far from slight, by the way, are semantic differences that are usually conveyed by singular vs. plural forms. Consequently, we would expect the adjective modifier to be plural, **problems-oriented*, in view of the number of problems spelled out so far. Finally, consider *approach*: Certainly, the nominalization suffix *-ation* (as in *formation*) is ruled out because of the phonemic result (just try to pronounce **approachation*), but why don't we have a noun such as **approachment* or **approachance*, which would be formally distinct from the verb *approach*, and thus help processing the words?

Some of these problems (and many more) can be considered to result from the particular position that (derivational) morphology occupies in the linguistic hierarchy: situated between phonology and syntax, word formation often straddles the boundary between phonology and morphology, on the one hand, and morphology and syntax, on the other. In this seminar, we will first have a detailed look at issues arising at the morphological-syntactical and the phonological-morphological interfaces. Subsequently, we will see how linguists from different theoretical backgrounds have tried to account for such problems, some of them proposing very surprising solutions. The critical assessment of their ideas will be guided by the rationale of linguistic (word-formation) theory: the design of rules and/or models powerful enough to account for (all) actual words and to predict (im)possible words.

Requirements:

Regular attendance, oral report, term paper

Recommended preparative readings:

Bauer, Laurie. 1983. *English word-formation*. Cambridge: CUP.

Plag, Ingo. 2003. *Word-formation in English*. Cambridge: CUP.

Schmid, Hans-Jörg. 2011. *English morphology and word-formation. An introduction*. Berlin: Schmidt.