

# ”Morphological Rivalry and Polysemy” - Presentation

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Workshop, LLF

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"In general, morphological processes are regarded as rival if they are phonologically distinct but semantically identical" (Plag 2012:227)

Examples of morphological rivalry in French

- Verbal base + -age/-ment → N denoting **Act of Ving**
- Adjectival base + iser/ifier → V denoting **make A**

Two perspectives

- **Generation** - Do we have distinct morphological processes to express **the same meaning** and, if so, which one will be preferred?
  - Predictive modelling
  - Psycho-linguistic experiments
- **Analysis** - Do lexical units resulting from distinct morphological processes have **the same (morphological) meaning**?
  - Lexical semantic analysis

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Lexical units produced from a given morphological process are often semantically heterogeneous

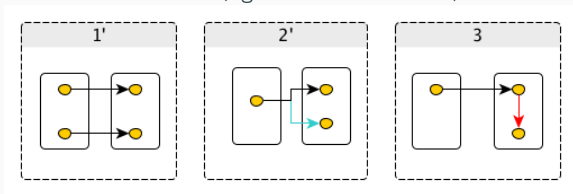
- French nouns in *-ment*:
  - *approvisionnement* 'supply' Act
  - *découragement* 'despondency' Feeling
  - *traitement* 'treatment' Act, Substance
  - *détachement* 'detachment' Event, Feeling, State, GroupxPerson
- French nouns in *-age*:
  - *jardinage* 'gardening' Act
  - *clivage* 'divide' State
  - *témoignage* 'testimony' Act, Cognition
  - *emballage* 'packaging' Act, Artifact

How to accurately evaluate morphological rivalry between two processes when they produce semantically heterogeneous sets that do not (completely) match?

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## Possible sources of semantic heterogeneity

- **Semantics** of morphological processes
  - 1 Scope: heterogeneity of bases (eg. **Action** vs **State** V for N in *-ment*)
  - 2 Results specifications (eg. **Person** vs **Artifact** for N in *-eur*)
- **Polysemy** of complex forms
  - 1' Parallel derivations (eg. *aspiration* 'aspiration')
  - 2' Multiple specifications (eg. *distributeur* 'distributor/dispenser')
  - 3 Semantic extension (eg. *allumette* 'match')



## Current work: statistic models of affix selection

- Predicting the choice between rival suffixes
  - *-ity* vs *-ness* (Arndt-Lappe 2014)
  - *-iser* vs *-ifier* (Bonami & Thuillier 2018)
- Phonologic/morphologic/diachronic/lexical semantics factors
- Members of the morphological family play a role in jointly predicting the choice of a suffix (Bonami & Thuillier 2018)

## Current work: semantic contribution of processes

- Semantic contributions of rival suffixes
  - *-age vs -ée* (Ferret *et al.* 2010)
  - Composition vs conversion (Tribout & Villoing 2014)
- Distributional profiles of rival suffixes
  - *-eur vs -euse vs -rice / -ion vs -age vs -ment* (Wauquier *et al.* 2018)
- Disambiguation in context for versatile suffixes
  - Newly derived N in *-ment* (Lapesa *et al.* 2018)

## Current work: influence of the lexicon in rivalry

- Doublets
  - -age and -ment doublets (Fradin to *appear*)
  - Semantic granularity
- Morphological blocking
  - Synonymy: \**tombage* because *chute* already exists
  - Polysemy: *pompiste* 'station attendant' because of *pompier* 'fireman'?

## Current work: rivalry beyond Morphology

- Derivational process vs syntactic construction
  - Eg. Expressing **related to (sth)** through denominal adjectives vs prepositional phrase in *de* (Strnadová, 2018)
    - *faute grammaticale-faute de grammaire* (eng. grammatical mistake - grammar mistake)
- Derivational process vs semantic extension
  - Eg. Expressing **quantity of sth (contained in sth)** through *-ée* suffix vs sense extension
    - *une cuillère -cuillérée de sel* (eng. spoon-spoonful), *une brouette-brouettée de gravier* (eng. wheelborrow)



## Today's contributions

- Ambiguity
  - Of suffix: the case of *out*-prefixed verbs in English (S. Kotowsky)
  - Of derived forms: the case of French Adj in *-ique* (F. Namer)
- Subsystems: semantic overlaps
  - Prefixes building meanings of temporal and spatial anteriority and posteriority (D. Amiot)
  - Agent nouns in French (M. Wauquier & R. Huyghe)
  - Deverbal nouns in French (A. Missud & F. Villoing)
- Semantic factors of affix selection
  - Denominal and desadjectival verbs (F. Montermini & J. Thuilier)
  - Paradigm semantics (B. Fradin)

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