

NATIVE/BORROWED FORMATIVES AND SUFFIX RIVALRY IN ONOMASIOLOGICAL LEXICOGRAPHY: SYNONYM STRINGING TO CO-DERIVATIVES IN ENGLISH

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Though English is a language with moderate means of transposition, its de-verbal derivation reveals some relevant aspects of affix ontology: coined lexemes in language contacts, native and borrowed suffixes, rivalry of formatives in select deverbal categories and issues of suffix ordering. We posit that these are also relevant for the compilation of thesauri of same-root derivatives

The modes of co-existence and competition of suffixes in English de-verbal lexicon rest of the PATTERN and MATTER templates of coinages. The former encompasses derivatives with mostly native and sometimes borrowed suffixes. The latter sets off as stocks of ready-made derived borrowings. In terms of psycholinguistics here also belong native-suffix coinages that are perceived as stale, or ‘brick’, lexemes. In this vein native and borrowed morphologies interlace in a two-tier modelling. The principle of parallel concatenation touches upon modern stocks and diachronic binding of derivatives.

Presented in the paper will be pairs of a de-verbal native-suffix-coinage and its same-root borrowed-suffix-counterpart (both referred to as co-derivatives).

We consider parallel same-root action/factitive nouns (in -ING/- (A/E)NCE, -ING/-AGE, -ING/-MENT, -ING/- (T/S)ION, -ING/- (T/S)URE), agent nouns (in -ER/-OR, -ER/-ANT, -ER/-IVE) as well as participle I /adjectives (in -ING /-(A/E)NT, -ING/-IVE, -ING/-ORY, -ING/-OUS) and second order, with variant intermediary (as above), de-adjectival adverbs or nouns (respectively, in -LY or -NESS/-ITY). Also, the native suffix in these pairs can be swapped for a second borrowed suffix. This fact extends the ELSEWHERE principle in borrowed morphology.

Some issues of suffix rivalry have already been tackled previously (Arndt-Lappe 2014; Aronoff 2019; Kaunisto 2009; Säily 2018; cf., also, Uth 2010).

We argue that the meaningful credentials of same-verb coinages with rival suffixes can be expounded by the overlaps/mismatches in the composition and sequencing of their (non-)suffixed synonyms. The research is deemed to be doable in the alternating inventories within construed or existent thesauri.

Suggested for consideration are three compatible modes of analysis of derived (near-)synonymous strings with rival (attached to the same verb/root) or default (singularly attached) suffixes:

- (1) clustered thesauri of suffixed de-verbal coinages construed upon feeding verb strings data from select thesauri (in full scope) to deverbal morphology. This juxtaposes word families from synonymous verbs giving parallel (with an arbitrary suffix) and crisscrossing (with variant suffixes, where applicable) strings of derived synonyms. Both here and in the two approaches below the strings are started by the verbs that gave rise to at least two parallel same-category different-suffixes derivatives;
- (2) compatible present-day online thesauri <https://www.thesaurus.com> and <https://www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus> (selectively) as well as for illustrations evenly shortened lists of synonyms from <https://www.onelook.com/reverse-dictionary> in which two coinages with rival suffixes take on respective synonymous strings. Typically, such sets intertwine a given suffix and (a) rival suffix(es) in different-root coinages and, oftentimes, non-suffixed synonyms;
- (3) the OED-given strings (<https://www.oed.com>) modelled on the basis of dated textual prototypes of the sense wise corresponding elements of the Historical Thesaurus (<https://ht.ac.uk>), which, as above, entail, respectively, suffixed (co-) coinages and non-suffixed synonyms (adduced selectively).

Alongside of revealing the ontology of co-derivation in variant thesauri the suggested approach can seek to expound the crisscrossing of derived and root verb-related synonymy.

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