

Diachronic patterns of affixation. Morphological constituency through time
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Two aspects of diachronic changes in patterns of affixation promise to enhance our comprehension of the nature of morphological representation and change: the emergence of different types of affixes and the resegmentation of existing words. While there are fewer examples of prefix emergence, a significant amount of research has examined cases of suffix emergence. Unlike suffixes, prefixes tend to retain some of the features of free forms. The development of infixes demonstrates how phonological alternations can be morphologised when opacity becomes a factor. This process is comparable to the emergence of segmental or tonal featural affixes, as seen in phenomena such as umlaut and metaphony. Potential changes in the morphological segmentation of words comprise modifications at the boundary between base and affix as well as morphological boundary loss and reinsertion. In instances of suffix extension, a portion of the root of a complex form becomes a segment of the affix that is attached to it. The opposite process, where (a part of) an affix is re-segmented as a component of the base to which it attaches, appears to occur much less often, and clear examples seem to be hard to come by. In compound words consisting of a base and one or more affixes, there may be cases where the morphological boundary that separates the affixes or separates the base and an affix is lost. The first phenomenon is known as affix telescoping, the second as demotivation. Lastly, affix secretion corresponds to the creation of new morphological boundaries where none existed before, thus increasing the morphological complexity of both the given form and the morphological system.