

Rezension

Geert Booij: *Construction Morphology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010 (Oxford Linguistics).

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Morphology as a sub-domain of linguistic investigation seems to often find itself in a rather disfavored position in which the dispute between competing theoretical directions roughly dwells on the question of whether there exists an independent morphological component of grammar or not. In *Construction Morphology*, Booij delimits himself from morpheme-based approaches like Harley (2006) and Julien (2002), where morphology in his view is a mere 'syntax of morphemes', to side with Aronoff's (2007) word-based perspective on morphology, in which the word plays a crucial role and word formation patterns are viewed as abstractions over paradigms of related words in the tradition of the Neogrammarian Hermann Paul.

The book gathers a number of recent articles of Geert Booij's previously published in various journals and collections that are now re-organized under a unitary theoretical concept that pleads for a monostratal approach to grammar in which the phonology, the morpho-syntax and the semantics of words combine into larger units in parallel by means of unification, in a fashion similar to the model of lexicalist frameworks like Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar (Pollard and Sag 1987, 1994), or the Simpler Syntax of Culicover and Jackendoff (2005, 2006). The analysis of the various morphological issues that primarily concern word formation is cast within the frame of Construction Grammar (Fillmore et al. 1988, Kay and Fillmore 1999), to which this book contributes a well-documented and articulated module for morphological analysis. The book is organized in ten chapters plus an outlook on further research questions for a constructionist theory of morphology. The first three chapters are of a more theoretical nature and set up the technical grounds for the individual cases studies in morphology that are presented in Chapters 4 to 10.

Chapter 1 is an introduction to the use of 'constructions' in the domain of morphological analysis and thus also explains the assumptions and the claims of the theoretical orientation that the book follows, as briefly mentioned above. As an illustration of an opportune use of constructions in morphology, Booij presents the case of *out*-verbs (e.g. *outdance*, *outreach*, *outthink*) for which one need not speculate homophony between an adverb *out* and a prefix *out*- if the latter use is taken to be a specific construction in which the word exhibits a specific meaning: $[[out]_{Adv} [X]_{V_i}]_{V_j} \leftrightarrow [to\ exceed\ someone/thing\ in\ SEM_i]_j$ (i.e., the adverb *out* attaches to a verb *X* with the index *i* to build another verb with the index *j* whose semantics is 'to exceed someone/something in doing what the semantics of V_i expresses').

Chapters 2 and 3 present the principles that govern the structure of the lexicon as a network of relations between individual words and morphological schemas (i.e., constructions), and the role of subschemas in expressing generalizations about word formation. Like in other lexicalist frameworks, the lexicon is represented as a type hierarchy at the bottom of which we find all the individual words which may be subsumed by possibly more hierarchies according to various criteria like grammatical category and semantic type. An important property of the