

The term 'synthetic compound' has traditionally been defined as a formation in which the right-hand side element (the head) is derived from a verb. This definition is firmly rooted in the lexicalist theory which viewed morphology as a separate component of grammar and compounding as a morphological operation consisting in putting together two or more lexical items. This approach has largely been abandoned in favour of frameworks according to which word formation processes are incorporated into the syntax.

Despite the fact that synthetic compounding has been a popular subject among language researchers, little attention has been paid to synthetic compounds based on verbal participles and de-verbal adjectives. The goal of the project will be, therefore, to perform a comprehensive morpho-syntactic examination of English and Polish adjectival synthetic compounds, which will consequently allow us to propose the internal structure for English and Polish adjectival synthetic compounds. This, in turn, will make it possible to point out similarities and differences in the internal mechanics governing the creation of adjectival synthetic compounding in English and Polish.

The research will be based on linguistic material extracted from the language corpora (namely the Corpus of Contemporary American English and the National Corpus of Polish) and, when necessary, other Internet resources. The analysis of the collected data will be grounded within the current state-of-the-art Distributed Morphology approach, the fundamental assumption of which is that there is a single generative engine responsible for the creation of both complex words and complex phrases.

The proposed research study is worth undertaking for the following reasons: firstly, it will bring to attention and disentangle issues concerning adjectival synthetic compounding (a phenomenon that has remained largely understudied) and re-define the notion of a synthetic compound. Secondly, the results of the examination will yield a number of revealing insights into the study of event and argument structure, a concept remaining at the centre of linguistic debates. Thirdly, our research will shed new light on the principles underlying the DM theory (especially those relating to the nature of roots), thus substantially contributing to its development.