



## Special Issue *Morphology through the Prism of Exemplars*

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### On the Journal

*Alicante Journal of English Studies*/Revista Alicantina de Estudios Ingleses (RAEI), is pleased to announce its Call for Papers for Volume 39 (Special Issue), whose date of publication is July 2023. RAEI is published biannually by the University of Alicante, and is currently indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, ErihPlus, Latindex. Since its creation in 1988, its aim has been to provide a forum for debate and an outlet for research involving all aspects of English studies. Articles are double-blind peer-reviewed by external evaluators. For more information on RAEI: <https://raei.ua.es/>. You can also follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RaeiJournal>.

### On the Special Issue

#### *Subfields:*

Inflectional morphology, derivational morphology, morphological productivity, language variation and change, word formation, word recognition

#### *Keywords:*

Exemplar theory, exemplar dynamics, frequency effects, morphological productivity, inflection, derivation, individual differences

#### *Research question:*

Frequency, similarity, recency and analogy effects in inflection and derivation – how do insights from Exemplar Theory complement research in morphology?

#### *Description:*

Exemplar theory came to linguistics from cognitive psychology, as a cognitive model of categorization and concept learning. Exemplar Theory is not a stand-alone theory, but a set of (usage-based) approaches which assume that linguistic knowledge is not necessarily generalized, but is instead comprised of exemplars, i.e. specific tokens of experience, with overlapping properties that are grouped together in memory. Each individual linguistic unit, e.g. a word, encompasses a number of real life exemplars we may have come across.

At the core of Exemplar Theory lies the idea that every time we encounter a linguistic unit (through production or perception), there appears a trace in memory, or an exemplar. Further encounters with the same (or similar) linguistic unit cluster in memory, and form a cloud of memories of this unit. The size and the density of this cloud is dependent on the amount and quality



of the exposure to this linguistic unit, as well as influencing the speaker's future use of it in communication. This makes the notions of similarity, frequency, and recency central to the Exemplar theory. As Walsh et al. (2010) explain it: "... similarity between percepts and stored exemplars facilitates categorization, frequency of occurrence influences exemplar access for production, and recency of occurrence has an impact on both categorization and production."

Exemplar-based approaches seem to be majorly associated with formalist research on phonology (Pierrehumbert 2001a, 2001b, 2006, Bybee 2001, 2006), and sociolinguistics (Abramowicz 2007, Doherty and Foulkes 2014). Yet, the intuitively appealing, usage-based assumptions of the Exemplar Theory have also attracted researchers from other fields, including syntax (Bod 2006, Hay and Bresnan 2006), word recognition (Pierrehumbert 2016, Sumner et al. 2014), and language acquisition (Gertner et al. 2006, Savage et al. 2003, Childers & Tomasello 2001).

With all this interest in the possibilities that Exemplar Theory may open for linguistic analysis, the domain of morphology, especially derivational morphology, seems to be largely avoided by the researchers. Morphological research that demonstrates application of at least some of the principles of Exemplar Theory is mainly focused on inflectional morphology, e.g. prediction of past tense verb forms (Albright & Hayes 2003, Rumelhart & McClelland 1986) or on phonology-morphology interface, e.g. prediction of stress patterns in NN compounds (Plag 2010), predicting the choice of linking morphemes (Krott et al. 2007).

This is not surprising since derivation, when compared to inflection, is more haphazard, less frequent and less predictable. Yet, as Bauer (2019) notes, applying Exemplar Theory approach will allow for a new look at morphology, with no necessity for the division into inflection and derivation: "Inflection and derivation may not even be relevant categories, but rather a proxy for highly frequent and predictable versus less frequent and less predictable" (Bauer 2019, p.109). Applying the principles of Exemplar theory will expand the domain of morphology to make it "... the domain of generalizable structure within words rather than the analysis of those elements of words which can be said to contribute to meaning in a consistent and predictable way" (Op cit., p.120).

We are inviting contributions to discuss the implications of exemplar theory in the field of inflectional and derivational morphology. The topics include but are not limited to:

- morphological productivity
- inflection and derivation
- exemplar dynamics in language variation and change
- word-formation patterns
- developmental morphology research
- the role of morphology in word recognition



**Important deadlines:**

- Submission of proposals (October 15, 2022): approx. 250-300 words. Please email your proposals to [etarasova@ipu.ac.nz](mailto:etarasova@ipu.ac.nz) and [belayanaveta@gmail.com](mailto:belayanaveta@gmail.com).
- Acceptance of proposals (November 15, 2022)
- Submission of manuscripts (February 15, 2023): to submit your manuscript (once your proposal is accepted), go to <https://raei.ua.es/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions>. Please make sure your manuscript conforms to the [Author Guidelines](#). Should you have any trouble submitting your paper, please contact [jasanchez@ua.es](mailto:jasanchez@ua.es) or [reme.ferni@ua.es](mailto:reme.ferni@ua.es).
- Acceptance of manuscripts (April 15, 2023)
- Copyediting & typesetting (May-June)
- Publication of special issue (July 2023)

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