Morphology beyond the generative ideal

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Linguistic theory has long been dominated by the generative ideal that grammatical patterns are fundamentally productive in nature and can be used to create novel words and sentences. This has left traces in the theoretical landscape: less attention for non-productive phenomena and a certain disregard for the lexicon. Even within morphology, where such a position is much harder to maintain than in syntax, we are still seeing a fundamental divide: Should productivity be considered the norm, so we need to explain the restrictions that we find? Or is productivity itself the phenomenon that needs explaining?

With the rise of usage-based approaches to grammar, there is a growing awareness that nonproductive patterns deserve a more prominent place in morphological theory. In this talk, I offer a few suggestions for how this could be achieved, drawing on two recent theories of morphology, Construction Morphology (Booij 2010) and Relational Morphology (Jackendoff & Audring 2020).

Booij, Geert. 2010. Construction Morphology. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Jackendoff, Ray S. & Jenny Audring. 2020. *The Texture of the Lexicon*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.