

Neoclassical Compounding

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Guest Editors: Stéphanie Lignon and Fiammetta Namer

Among all the available morphological processes for lexical creation in languages, the neoclassical compounding involves specific models. Compounding is a constructional process during which at least two base lexemes are combined in order to construct a new lexeme (*tea bag*, *timbre-poste*, *porte-bagage*). Two types of compounding may be distinguished: standard compounding (also called popular) on the one hand which involves the modern vocabulary (*porte-bagage*), and neoclassical compounding on the other hand which involves lexemes borrowed from ancient languages, often Greek and Latin (*coléoptère*, *anthropophage*).

Neoclassical compounding (also called in French “savante”, “érudite”, “infixation”, “confixation”, etc.) was first used to describe the creation of terms in specialized vocabularies, such as medicine, chemistry, zoology, botanics, etc. More recently however, this type of compounding also provides models for the creation of lexemes which do not belong to specialized vocabularies, but to the “general” language; e.g., *contraintophobe*, *ferrovipathe*, *capillo-tracté*, *chronophage*, *théâtrôlâtre*, *publivore*, *bobophile*. Moreover, automatic identification of such lexemes is not obvious, while the affixed lexemes may be detected quite easily. We can mention several reasons for this situation:

- the only segment shared by the neoclassical compounds is the binding vowel –o- (*politicomédiate*, *primoaaccédant*) or –i- (*liberticide*) occurring between the components;
- the segment which follows the binding vowel is either a modern word (in French, English or in other languages) or a Greek or Latin element also present in other words of the modern language;
- the Greek or Latin elements are not part of the modern lexicon of a given language (French, English...), while the modern words are.

Hence, in addition to the linguistic modeling, the automatic processing of the neoclassical compounds also requires a specific treatment.

The unsuspected success of the neoclassical compounding within the general language is our main motivation for this special issue dedicated to neoclassical compounding.

Special attention will be paid to submissions which establish a link between corpus processing and formal models, within monolingual and multilingual contexts, in specialized areas or in general language.

The call welcomes researchers from different areas, whatever their theoretical schools and trends:

- linguistics: lexicon, terminology, morphology;
- Natural Language Processing,
- psycholinguistics (aspects related to the perception, language learning, language impairment, etc.).

Important dates (deadline extension):

- **January 30th, 2013:** Authors who would like to submit an article addressing these topics are invited to send their proposal consisting of two pages (plus references) with their publication project before January 15th, 2013. The abstract should not be programmatic but should clearly indicate its purpose and present the main results which will be developed in the article.
- **February 28th, 2013:** Selection of the communications performed by the Scientific Committee and notifications sent to the authors.
- **June 30th, 2013:** Reception of final versions of the articles, which should contain between 15 and 20 pages. The style sheet will be provided to the concerned authors with the acceptance notifications.

Please send your submission to Stéphanie LIGNON (stephanie.lignon@univ-lorraine.fr) et Fiammetta NAMER (fiammetta.namer@univ-lorraine.fr)/

Scientific committee:

Dany AMIOT (STL, Université Lille 3),
Frédérique BRIN-HENRY (ATILF, Université de Lorraine),
Georgette DAL (STL, Université Lille 3),
Natalia GRABAR (STL, Université Lille 3),
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