

## Call for Papers

# “Historical English Word-Formation”

### Munich, 17–18 February 2023

In its development from Old English to today, the English vocabulary underwent a radical restructuring due to an enormous influx of (complex) lexemes from Latin, Anglo-Norman, French, Greek, and other languages. Even though historical linguistics has traced and investigated many aspects of the complex mechanisms of language contact involved in all levels of language, studies on historical word-formation are comparatively rare (cf., e.g., Kastovsky 1968 and 2007; Faiß 1992; Sauer 1992; Ciszek 2008; Fisiak/Bator 2013; see also further below). For this reason, our 2023 symposium at Munich University focuses on English word-formation *from the earliest texts to the Late Modern English period*. We invite studies in Old, Middle, and/or Early and Late Modern English with a specifically historical perspective, working with different theoretical and methodological approaches – functional, semantic, socio-pragmatic, sociolinguistic, cognitive, computational, etc. Contributions may address questions such as:

- Which new insights into the frequency and productivity as well as the rules and restrictions of word-formation units and patterns are gained from studying historical sources? For instance, how, why, and when do native (Germanic) and non-native (Romance) elements, patterns, and levels of word-formation compete or overlap (e.g., Middle English hybrid-formations with a Germanic base and a Romance affix such as *know-able* vs. borrowed, stem-based forms such as *charit-able*; or derivational affixes like *fore-* vs. *ante-*, *-ness* vs. *-ity*; cf., e.g., Säily 2018).
- How and why do phrasal and prepositional verbs and other multi-word lexical items emerge (cf., e.g., Thim 2012; Rodríguez-Puente 2019) and what is their relation to inherited and borrowed vocabulary?
- Which roles do regional, social, and medial factors as well as text-types and genres play in historical English word-formation (cf., e.g., Terasawa 1994; Gardner 2014; Säily 2014)?
- Which current approaches and methodologies applied to Modern English word-formation research can be made fruitful for investigating past language stages (cf. Lloyd 2011; Müller et al. 2015–2016)?
- How have electronic (historical) corpora and the Digital Humanities enhanced the study of Old, Middle, and/or Early Modern English word-formation (cf., e.g., Dalton-Puffer 1996; Markus et al. 2012)?

#### General information

**Abstracts of 250 words** (bibliography excluded) should be sent to [kerstin.majewski@anglistik.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:kerstin.majewski@anglistik.uni-muenchen.de) by **13 June 2022**.

The symposium will take place at the Fachbibliothek Philologicum, Ludwigstr. 25, 80539 München. If this should not be possible, we will hold the conference in a hybrid-format or as an online video conference.

## Registration and fees

The conference fee includes coffee, tea, and non-alcoholic beverages as well as snacks during the symposium.

Regular attendance: EUR 50,-  
University students' attendance: EUR 25,- (LMU students free)

Registration and payment methods will be announced in September 2022.

## Important dates

Deadline for abstract submissions (250 words): 13 June 2022  
Notification of acceptance: 11 July 2022  
Registration deadline: 30 January 2023  
Symposium: 17–18 February 2023

Any questions about the event may be directed to Kerstin Majewski:  
[kerstin.majewski@anglistik.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:kerstin.majewski@anglistik.uni-muenchen.de)

For further information, see:

<https://www.anglistik.uni-muenchen.de/abteilungen/sprachgeschichte/aktuelles/international-symposium-2023/index.html>

## Works cited

- Ciszek, Ewa. 2008. *Word Derivation in Early Middle English*. Frankfurt: Lang.
- Dalton-Puffer, Christiane. 1996. *The French Influence on Middle English Morphology: A Corpus-Based Study on Derivation*. Berlin/New York: De Gruyter Mouton.
- Faiß, Klaus. 1992. *English Historical Morphology and Word-Formation: Loss versus Enrichment*. Trier: WVT.
- Fisiak, Jacek and Magdalena Bator (eds). 2013. *Historical English Word-Formation and Semantics*. Berlin: Lang.
- Gardner, Anne-Christine. 2014. *Derivation in Middle English: Regional and Text Type Variation*. Helsinki: Société Néophilologique.
- Kastovsky, Dieter. 1968. *Old English Deverbal Substantives Derived by Means of a Zero Morpheme*. Esslingen: Langer.
- Kastovsky, Dieter. 2007. "Middle English Word-Formation: A List of Desiderata". *Studies in Middle English Forms and Meanings*. Ed. Gabriella Mazzon. Frankfurt a. M.: Lang. 41–56.
- Lloyd, Cynthia. 2011. *Semantics and Word Formation: The Semantic Development of Five French Suffixes in Middle English*. Oxford: Lang.
- Markus, Manfred, Yoko Iyeyri, Reinhard Heuberger and Emil Chamson (eds.). 2012. *Middle and Modern English Corpus Linguistics: A Multi-Dimensional Approach*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Müller, Peter O., Ingeborg Ohnheiser, Susan Olsen and Franz Rainer (eds.). 2015–2016. *Word-Formation: An International Handbook of the Languages of Europe*. 5 Vols. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.
- Rodríguez-Puente, Paula. 2019. *The English Phrasal Verb, 1650–Present: History, Stylistic Drifts, and Lexicalisation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Säily, Tanja. 2014. *Sociolinguistic Variation in English Derivational Productivity: Studies and Methods in Diachronic Corpus Linguistics*. Helsinki: Société Néophilologique.
- Säily, Tanja. 2018. "Change or Variation? Productivity of the Suffixes *-ness* and *-ity*". *Patterns of Change in 18th-Century English: A Sociolinguistic Approach*. Eds. Terttu Nevalainen, Minna Palander-Collin and Tanja Säily. Amsterdam: Benjamins. 197–218.
- Sauer, Hans. 1992. *Nominalkomposita im Frühmittelenglischen: Mit Ausblicken auf die Geschichte der englischen Nominalkomposition*. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
- Terasawa, Jun. 1994. *Nominal Compounds in Old English: A Metrical Approach*. Copenhagen: Rosenkilde and Bagger.
- Thim, Stefan. 2012. *Phrasal Verbs: The English Verb-Particle Construction and its History*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.