



## Towards a constructionist analysis of deverbal adjectival compounds in OE

Pilar Guerrero Medina (*Universidad de Córdoba* – ff1gumep@uco.es)

Carmen Novo Urraca (*Universidad de La Rioja* – carmen.novo@unirioja.es)

Wednesday 9:00, Sala de Grados

Our main aim in this paper is to put forward a comprehensive syntactico-semantic analysis of deverbal adjectival compounds in OE. Building upon work by Domínguez Barragán & Novo Urraca (2016), and drawing on data from the *ParCorOEv2 parallel corpus* (Martín Arista et al. 2021), we will explore in some detail the main different types of semantic relations between determinant and determinatum in the following two patterns: *Noun/Adjective + Present participle* and *Noun/Adjective + Past participle*. In (1) and (2) we illustrate some of the different semantic types that each pattern comprises (see Kastovsky, 1992, pp. 373–374):

- (1) *hunigflōwende* ‘flowing with honey’; *ealodringende* ‘beer-drinking’; *bencsittende* ‘sitting on a bench’; *lindwīgende* ‘fighting with a shield’; *rihtfremmende* ‘acting rightly’.
- (2) *ceorlboren* ‘low-born’; *bēagbroden* ‘adorned with rings’; *ǣhtboren* ‘born in bondage’; *ǣnnumboren* ‘legally born’; *healfbrocen* ‘half-broken’.

In Construction Morphology (CM), where “abstract schemas and individual schemas of those instances coexist” (Booij, 2009, p. 206), the schema in (3) generalizes over the class of right-headed compounds in Germanic languages (Booij, 2010, p. 95):

- (3)  $[X_i Y_j]Y_k \leftrightarrow [SEM_i \text{ with some relation } R \text{ to } SEM_j]_k$

The NOUN/ADJECTIVE PRESENT PARTICIPLE COMPOUND construction and the NOUN/ADJECTIVE PAST PARTICIPLE COMPOUND construction illustrated in (1) and (2) would instantiate two different subpatterns of this general schema (see Hilpert, 2014, p. 93). At a lower level of abstraction, the specific meaning of the subclass of compounds with the form  $[[X_N] [boren]_{\text{pastP}}]_A$  (as in *ceorlboren*, *pegnboren* or *cifeshoren*) can be represented by the template in (4), a constructional idiom whose head is lexically specified:



(4)  $[[X_N] [boren]_{pp}]_A$  – ‘born with the legal status of an X’

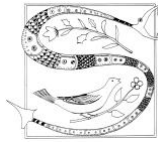
Adopting Booij’s (2009, 2010) constructionist model will enable us to specify the semantic relations existing between the two parts of these adjectival “verbal-nexus combinations” (Marchand, 1969, p. 17) at different levels of abstraction, thus refining and enriching previous classifications of OE adjectival compounds in the literature.

### References

- Booij, G. (2009). Compounding and Construction Morphology. In R. Lieber, & P. Štekauer (eds.), *The Oxford handbook of compounding*. (pp. 201–216). Oxford University Press.
- Booij, G. (2010). Compound construction: Schemas or analogy. A construction morphology perspective. In S. Scalise, & I. Vogel (eds.), *Cross-disciplinary issues in compounding*. (93–107). John Benjamins.
- Domínguez Barragán, S., and Novo Urraca, C. (2016). Old English adjectival compounds by adjunct. *Working Papers in Early English Lexicology and Lexicography (WPEELEX)* 6, 5–68.
- Hilpert, M. (2014). *Construction Grammar and its application to English*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Kastovsky, D. (1992). Semantics and vocabulary. In R. Hogg (ed.), *The Cambridge history of the English Language I: the beginnings to 1066*. (pp. 290–408). Cambridge University Press.
- Marchand, H. (1969). *The categories and types of present-day English word-formation. A synchronic-diachronic approach*. 2nd ed. C.H. Beck’sche Verlagsbuchhandlung.
- Martín Arista, J., Domínguez Barragán, S., García Fernández, L., Ruiz Narbona, E., Torre Alonso, R., and Veá Escarza, R. (comp.). (2021). *ParCorOEv2. An open access annotated parallel corpus Old English-English*. Nerthus Project, Universidad de La Rioja, [www.nerthusproject.com]

### Contact data

Pilar Guerrero Medina  
Departamento de Filologías Inglesa y Alemana  
Facultad de Filosofía y Letras  
Universidad de Córdoba  
P/Cardenal Salazar, 3  
14071 Córdoba



32nd International Conference of Selim  
University of La Rioja  
14–16 September 2022

Carmen Novo Urraca  
Departamento de Filologías Modernas  
Facultad de Letras y de la Educación  
Universidad de La Rioja  
C/ San José de Calasanz, 33  
26005 Logroño (La Rioja)