

The relevance of phrasal compounds for the architecture of grammar

Phrasal compounds (PC) have been ascribed to a marginal type of word-formation for at least two reasons: a) they integrate a whole syntactic phrase into a word and hence violate the *No Phrase constraint* (Botha 1981) and the *Lexical Integrity Hypothesis* (Lapointe 1980), b) they have an evaluative or expressive flavour typical of marginal morphology (Zwicky & Pullum 1987, Meibauer 2003, 2008):

- (1) Bombay-based Anil put India's failure to exploit its manpower and mind power and its lack of excellence in sport, economics and the arts down to a "**Learn what is there and don't question it'**" attitude. (BNC, HAE4088)

In his 2009 paper on compounding, Jackendoff poses a number of hitherto unanswered questions directly relating to the architecture of grammar. In my paper, I will concentrate on the following two: 1. Concerning the basic functions of compounds, which of these are generally available for pragmatics and non-linguistic conceptualisation? 2. Concerning the structure of compounds, which other morphosyntactic patterns must be added to the simple N+N compounds in order to account for quasi-syntactic elaborations as e.g. *health and welfare fund*, and what is their status vis-à-vis morphology and syntax? The first question addresses the morphology-pragmatics interface, the second question the morphology-syntax interface. Since PCs obviously have properties of both interfaces, they raise interesting questions from a theoretical point of view. Although this has been noted in the literature for the morphology-syntax interface, albeit in a rather sporadic fashion (e.g. Lieber 1988, 1992, Lieber & Stekauer 2009 for English, Gallmann 1990, Wiese 1996, and Meibauer 2003 for German), only Meibauer 2008 has extensively dealt with the morpho-pragmatics of PCs in German. No account of PCs in English dealing with both interfaces has been put forward so far. This paper tries to fill this gap and answers these questions by taking findings from my corpus of PCs from the *British National Corpus* (BNC) into account: First, I am going to discuss the pragmatic properties of PCs by applying Meibauer's findings to my data. Second, I will deal with their structural or quasi-syntactic properties along the lines of Jackendoff's model of Parallel Architecture (PA) where their structural complexity is not attributed to syntax but to semantics. This leads to an overall analysis of PCs in Jackendoff's compounding schemata which can account for both properties in an elegant way. In more general, theoretical terms, I will claim that the properties of PCs clearly show that an account where all combinatorial phonological and semantic properties are derived from syntax cannot explain phenomena like these, and that a model like the PA where semantic structures are built in an independent generative component of semantics linked via components of interface rules to generative components of syntax and phonology, should be favoured. Thus, the investigation of a phenomenon like PCs provides us with fundamental insights into the architecture of grammar.

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