Jenny Audring

MORPHOLOGICAL COMPLEXITY IN THE 'GERMANIC SANDWICH'

Morphological structure is not a given. Whether speakers perceive and linguists analyze words such as *splendid*, *bombard*, *whiting*, *ugly*, *happy*, or *struggle* as morphologically complex or not can depend on a variety of factors. Contrastive research on related languages reveals the central importance of relationality: the availability of other lexical items with some amount of shared structure. An intuitively simple notion, relationality is not trivial if we try to put it on a systematic footing. When are two structures perceived as the same? What does this mean for our theoretical understanding of morphological knowledge? In this talk, I discuss these and related questions with data from the 'Germanic sandwich': English, Dutch and German. I use the framework of Relational Morphology (Jackendoff/ Audring 2020), a construction-based approach to the grammar of words, to make sense of situations where morphological structure is ambiguous or questionable.