

Inflection and the Morphology-Syntax Interface

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Infixes are affixes that can appear *inside of* the stem they combine with, in specific phonologically- or prosodically-defined locations (Ultan 1975, Moravcsik 1977, 2000, Yu 2007). Due to their hybrid morphological and phonological nature, infixes have long been taken to have significant implications for the morphology-phonology interface (see, e.g., McCarthy and Prince 1993, Halle 2001, Yu 2007, Samuels 2009).

In this talk, I show that infixes are equally informative and important to consider in the study of the morphology-syntax interface. Bringing together results across a number of studies (Kalin 2020, 2022, To appear a, To appear b, In prep, Kalin and Rolle To appear), I present a variety of evidence from infixation that supports the following big picture conclusions: (i) syntax precedes realization (morphology); (ii) realization operates over hierarchical structures, from the bottom up; and (iii) morphemes are linearized cyclically during realization, prior to being exponed (given a phonological form). These conclusions, taken together, provide strong novel evidence for realizational, derivational, post-syntactic models of morphology.

References

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