

Voorbeeld Linguistics:

1st topic: Frequency, transparency and decomposability in morphology – evidence from English and Dutch

It has been observed that the more frequent a complex word is, the greater the likelihood that it has an unpredictable meaning, and the more difficult it is for speakers to decompose it into its constituent morphemes (see e.g. Hay 2001, 2002 and Plag 2003). For example, the high-frequency word *government* has the unpredictable meaning of (among other things) ‘political administration’, while the low-frequency word *banishment* has a predictable meaning, viz. ‘the state of being banished’. For English, experimental evidence suggests that speakers find it easier to decompose *banishment* (into the root *banish* and the suffix *-ment*) than *government*. In my thesis, I will review the relevant literature on this topic. In addition, I will describe the results of a small-scale experiment that I carried out in order to ascertain whether we find the same relation between frequency, transparency and decomposability in Dutch.

Three secondary sources:

Hay, Jennifer (2001). Lexical frequency in morphology: is everything relative?. *Linguistics* 39, 1041–1070.

Hay, Jennifer (2002). From speech perception to morphology: affix-ordering revisited. *Language* 78. 527–555.

Plag, Ingo (2003). *Word-Formation in English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.