WHEN ‘NOUN’ MEETS ‘NOUN’

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What’s this workshop about?

- We want to explore the ways in which the languages of the world name complex concepts by combining two (or more) ‘**nouny**’ **elements**, and what happens (semantically) when this occurs

  - Word Formation | Typology | Semantics | Categorization
What’s this workshop about?

- We call these naming strategies **binominal lexemes**
- What do we mean by ‘nony elements’?
  - Thing-Roots *à la* Haspelmath (2012)
    - Not only nouns, but also nominalizing affixes or noun classifiers
    - → “Onomasiological type 3” (Štekauer 1998)
      - Deverbal nominal constructions are **out of scope**
Why this workshop now?

- Extensive work on NN compounding, but...
  - We still know little about (NN) compounding in a **typological** perspective
  - NN compounding is **related** to a number of other binominal lexemes (BLs), both *intralinguistically* and *crosslinguistically*
### Names for the ‘railway’ concept

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Syntax</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NN ‘proper’ compounds</strong></td>
<td>German</td>
<td><em>eisen.bahn</em></td>
<td>[iron.track]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prepositional ‘compounds’ NPN phrasal lexemes</strong></td>
<td>French</td>
<td><em>chemin de fer</em></td>
<td>[track PREP iron]</td>
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<td><strong>Relational ‘compounds’ AN phrasal lexemes</strong></td>
<td>Russian</td>
<td><em>želez.naja doroga</em></td>
<td>[iron.ADZJZ road]</td>
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<td><strong>Izafet constructions</strong></td>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td><em>demir yol.u</em></td>
<td>[iron road.3SG]</td>
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<td><strong>Construct state constructions</strong></td>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td><em>mesila.t barzel</em></td>
<td>[track.CS iron]</td>
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<td><strong>Genitive-like constructions</strong></td>
<td>Malagasy</td>
<td><em>lala.m.by</em></td>
<td>[road.PERT.iron]</td>
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<td><strong>Denominal nominalizations</strong></td>
<td>Slovak</td>
<td><em>želez.n.ica</em></td>
<td>[iron.ADZJZ.NMLZ]</td>
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A new modus operandi

- Aiming at broad empirical coverage
  - Linguistic diversity
- Adopting a functional perspective
  - Structural diversity

Allowing (NN) compounds to be explored alongside other (conventionalized) morphological or phrasal constructions, which may also coexist in the same language.
Structural diversity

- Different BL-types for the same concept in different languages
  - **Indonesian**: NN compound
    - *lubang hidung* [hole nose] ‘nostril’
  - **Bora**: N+classifier
    - *túú.heju* [nose.CM(hole)] ‘nostril’

- Different BL-types for similarly arranged complex concepts in the same language
  - **Italian** (NN compound vs. NPN phrasal lexeme)
    - *carta.viaggio* [card.travel] ‘fidelity travel card’
    - *carta di credito* [card of credit] ‘credit card’
What are the aims of this workshop?

- **Structural aspects of BLs**
  - Which types (and morphosyntactic properties) in which languages?
    - Towards a typology of BLs
    - Diachrony and grammaticalization

- **Semantic aspects of BLs**
  - What kind of relations between the two ‘nouny’ elements?

- **Usage aspects of BLs**
  - Frequency, productivity, acquisition
  - Competition between equivalent BLs

- **What are the consequences for linguistic categorization?**
  - And for linguistic theory?
Tripartite functional typology

- Top-level classification of compounds (Bisetto & Scalise 2005)
  - Subordinate
  - Attributive
  - Coordinate

- By accident or design (!), none of the presentations in this workshop discuss coordinate constructions
  - “Synthetic compounds” (e.g. truck driver) deliberately excluded
  - Focus on “determinative” constructions with a head and a modifier – Haspelmath 2017 notwithstanding!*

* “Thus the concepts of head and dependent are dispensable for typology” (fn.11, p.10).
Towards a formal typology

- The problem with (hierarchical) taxonomies
  - Imply clearly distinct categories
  - Obscure some commonalities
  - Hide in-between phenomena
A preliminary formal typology

Formal (non-taxonomic) classification of binominals
How is the workshop structured?

- How are we tackling these questions in these two days?

Diagram:
- Cross-linguistic diversity
- A fruitful final discussion
- Intralinguistic competition
- Diachrony and acquisition
Cross-linguistic diversity

- **Naccarato & Huang:** Complex nominals denoting instruments: a contrastive perspective (ITA, RUS, CMN, JAP)
- **Hennecke & Clasmeier:** Constituent placement in relational adjective constructions (FRA, POL)
- **Van Linden & Rose:** How to distinguish between nouns and classifiers in Binominal Naming Constructions? Answers from two Western Amazonian languages (HARA1260, TRN)
- **Pepper:** Semantic relations in binominal lexemes: A cross-linguistic survey (77 languages)
Intralinguistic competition

- **Zubaitienė & Judžentytė**: Noun + noun sequences in Lithuanian: medical and legal discourses
- **Cetnarowska**: Noun + Noun vs. Noun + Adjective juxtapositions in Polish
- **Gürer**: Compound Formation in Karachay-Balkar: Implications for the marker -s/l
- **Næss**: Six ways for nouns to meet nouns in Äiwoo
- **van Egmond**: Binominal compounds in Enindhilyakwa (AOI; Gunwinyguan; Australia)
- **Károly**: Semantic correlation between binominal constructions and denominal nominals in Turkic
Diachrony and acquisition

- **Laisis**: Some morphological peculiarities of Balto-Slavic binominals and nominal derivatives
- **Kopf**: The formal redistribution of binominal naming constructions in Early New High German
- **Rosenberg**: Combined concepts in language development: Evidence from Swedish
A fruitful final discussion

- Double slot – a feature, not a bug!
- Martin Haspelmath is our discussant
  - Looking forward to his thought-provoking comments!
- Possible publication...?
  - Selected papers from the workshop
- Workshop Dinner: Wednesday 7pm
  - Presenters and attendees
References

LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING WORKSHOP AND A FRUITFUL DISCUSSION!

http://folk.uio.no/stevepe/SLE17(intro).pdf