

# Notions of Paradigm

Laurie Bauer

Victoria University of Wellington

# What is a paradigm?

- Items which are in paradigmatic relationship can substitute for each other in the stream of speech and that such substitution leads to a contrast on the relevant linguistic level. The items that are in a paradigmatic relationship constitute a paradigm.

# Inflection and word-formation

- Paradigms are central in inflection, as in Latin
  - am·ō
  - am·ās
  - am·at
  - am·āmus
  - am·ātis
  - am·ant

# Inflection and word-formation

- Often complaints that the notion does not extend properly to derivation: non-inflectional paradigms are non-paradigm-like
- But paradigms are ubiquitous in both
- Part of the problem is that ‘paradigm’ means so much

# Paradigms of forms

- abuser            abusee
  - employer        employee
  - murderer        murderee
  - offender        offende
- Focus on the actual affixes involved

# Lexemic paradigm

- Based on the paradigm just given, we also have a paradigm of lexemes: *abuse, employ, murder, offend*.
- In inflection this corresponds to conjugation class, but there is no label for the derivational case
- Problem is that this paradigm is not marked in other ways

# Paradigm of functions

- attend      attendant
  - compete     competitor
  - cook         cook
  - create       creator
  - dance        dancer
  - graze        grazier
- Lots of verbs have agents, but the actual affix can differ

# Closed versus open paradigm

- Inflectional paradigms are typically closed (e.g. case systems)
- Some such in derivation: capitalist, capitalism, capitalize, capitalistic
- But new derivational affixes arise, and show that the system is not closed: cityscape, cloudscape, dreamscape, moonscape, skyscape, etc.



# Paradigm of relationship: internal

boarding school	in which students board
correspondence school	teaches by correspondence
dame school	run by a 'dame'
infant school	teaches infants
trade school	teaches trade subjects
Sunday school	operates on Sundays

# Paradigm of relationship: external

- air head
- blockhead
- bone head
- bubble head
- dick head
- fuck head
- knuckle head
- meat head
- shit head

# Paradigms of one or of more items

- VERB in ify + c + ation
  - Amplification, clarification, modification, qualification, specification
- VERB in ize + ation
  - Civilization, hospitalization, immortalization, italicization, liberalization, monopolization

# Invented data:

- They wanted the agreement to be handled with due **form**.
- They wanted it **formal** so that everything would be absolutely clear.
- They wanted to **formalize** it to avoid ambiguity.
- After its **formalization**, they distributed the agreement to all parties.
- They distributed it at a **formational** celebration.
- Those in favour of this procedure, the **formationalists**, were pleased with the outcome.
- They thought it validated their **formationalistic** ideals.
- They wanted to deal with other agreements just as **formationalistically**.

# Variable predictability: formal paradigms

man	boy	woman
manful	-	-
manhood	boyhood	womanhood
mannish	boyish	womanish
manly	in OED!	womanly

girl	cousin	aunt
-	-	-
girlhood	cousinhood	aunthood
girlish	-	-
-	cousinly	auntly

# Variable predictability: functional paradigms

- Many verbs of English have no derived nominalization:
  - *draw, dwell, earn, follow, hear; cavort, covet, daunt, fester, gloat, quit, render, thrive*

# Paradigm size

- German **einsam**
- English **singleton**
- English **-able** and **-er**
- English **-ment**

# Specificity of paradigms

- Following **-ist** can find **-ic** (artistic), **-ery** (dentistry) etc.
- In the environment **-ist** \_\_\_ **al** can find only **-ic**
- Defining the paradigm carefully may determine its content



# Terminology

- Productivity : usually restricted to word-formation
- Possible word : usually restricted to word-formation
- Defectiveness : usually restricted to inflection
- Suppletion : usually restricted to inflection
- Syncretism: usually restricted to inflection

# Value of paradigms in word-formation

- There are cases where paradigms are necessary to understand patterns of w-f (van Marle, Booij)
- There are cases where paradigms do not help in w-f
- There are cases where paradigms can be usefully exploited

# Thank you for your attention