

When Words Coalesce - A Sequel

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The presentation explores the various paths along which neo-roots were formed in Proto-Indo-European and within the single Indo-European languages. Neo-roots are typically of dephrasal origin and emerge through a path leading from syntagmatic relations and lexical solidarities to compounds, and eventually to the resegmentation of new lexemes. A crucial prerequisite for this process is the semantic shift of the involved morphemes from compositional semantics to noncompositional semantics, which is a major furthering factor for the blurring and resegmentation of morpheme boundaries. In Hackstein 2002 I dealt with a tripartite derivational chain involving a) syntagms, b) their nominalization in the guise of nominal compounds, and c) the reanalysis of secondary neo-roots. The reanalysis of nominal compounds turns out to be an important catalytic for the formation of neo-roots. Another important base for the reanalysis of neo-roots is the univerbation of syntagms involving the incorporation of verbal arguments, adjuncts, and local particles (cf. Hackstein 2011, 2012). Both these processes, the reanalysis of nominal compounds and the reanalysis of univerbated syntagms merit further investigation.

Literature

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