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An introduction

2nd, revised and translated edition

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Preface

This book is the translated, revised and updated second edition of an earlier book written in German and published in 2005. Like its precursor, it is mainly addressed to students of English and American studies as well as linguistics – in fact first and foremost to German students (which partly shows in the high proportion of German sources referred to).

The purpose of the volume is to introduce students to the field of English morphology and word-formation and assist them in preparing for their intermediate and final exams and in writing term papers and final theses. With these goals in mind, it seems only natural if at least at the outset very little prior knowledge is presupposed which goes beyond what is commonly taught in introductory classes on English linguistics at most universities. Nevertheless an effort has been made not to simplify but to do justice to the complexity of the field.

The analysis and description of morphologically complex words from a structural, sociopragmatic and cognitive perspective takes centre-stage in this book. Questions of a purely theoretical nature, especially those which are only relevant within certain frameworks such as Generative Grammar, receive comparatively little attention. What could nevertheless be of interest to readers who are well-versed in the field anyway, and who are kindly asked to keep in mind that this is meant to be an introductory textbook, is the systematic exploration into sociopragmatic and cognitive issues as well as the empirical corpus-linguistic approach taken.

This book would never have had a chance to be written if it was not for the support and assistance of a large number of people. Wolf-Dietrich Bald, the late co-editor of the series *Grundlagen der Anglistik und Amerikanistik*, prompted me to take the plunge. Carina Lehnen from Erich Schmidt publishers has now had the second opportunity to wait for the final manuscript to materialize. I am greatly indebted to Jens P. Dräger, Ursula Erhard and Sandra Handl for the great competence and stamina which were required for dealing with the intricacies of English morphology and their diligent analysis of the texts which made up the raw material for the corpus used (the *Munich UCL Morphology Corpus*). My heartfelt thanks also go to Bas Aarts, the director of the *Survey of English Usage* at University College London, for giving me permission to use the material.

I am particularly grateful to my father Wolfgang Schmid and my colleagues Wolfram Bublitz, Wolfgang Falkner, Ingrid Fandrych, Sandra Handl, Ursula Lenker, Len Lipka, Edgar Schneider (the series co-editor) and Friedrich Ungerer who read the manuscript of the first edition. A very special thank you goes to Ruth Owen and Sue Bollinger who did an extremely professional job translating and proof-

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reading the second edition. Working together with you was a rewarding experience! Finally, I would like to thank Claudia Höger for formatting the pre-final manuscript and Sandra Handl and Daniela Langer (Erich Schmidt) for their stunningly diligent proofreading. It's hard to imagine how this book would have turned out if it were not for their alertness and competence.

This book is dedicated to my two academic teachers, Len Lipka and Friedrich Ungerer.

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