

(14)

Saathi

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Given this difference between inflection and derivation, inflectional morphemes occur in a peripheral position with respect to derivational morphemes.

In the past participle of the verb *ge-de-compon-een-d* 'decomposed' the inflectional prefix *ge-* which derives past participles occurs before the verbalizing prefix *de-*, and the inflectional suffix *-d* follows the derivational suffix *-een*.

One reason for making the distinction b/w inflection and derivation is that normally (but not always) the formal basis for derivation is the STEM of a word, i.e. the word minus its inflectional affixes. For instance, derivational word formation used the bare stem of the verb as the input form, with all its inflectional affixes stripped off. The same holds for denominal and deadjectival word formation.

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| Word class | Stem              | Derived word             | Inflected form     | Impossible   |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| V          | work<br>'to work' | work-er<br>'worker'      | work-t<br>'works'  | *work-t-er   |
| A          | stood<br>'stood'  | stood-ness<br>'stodness' | stood-e<br>'sted'  | *stode-heid  |
| N          | boom<br>'tree'    | boom-<br>the little tree | boom-en<br>'trees' | *boom-en-tje |

In the morphological literature we find a number of criteria for distinguishing b/w inflection and derivation (Cf. Plank 1994, Booij 1998 and Booij 2000 for surveys).

A first of criterion is that derivation may change syntactic category, unlike inflection. This is not an absolute criterion, since inflected forms like infinitives and participles also change their syntactic category, at least in the sense that obligatorily. A potential problem for this criterion is that it is theory-dependent in its application. For instance, a Dutch singular noun has no inflectional ending, and is singular by

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default. As long as we do not assume a singular zero-suffix, we might claim that such nouns are not inflected, and that therefore inflection is not always obligatory. A third distinguishing characteristic of inflection is full productivity. As far as Dutch is concerned, this is the true for verbal inflection. Nouns, however, may fail to have a plural form (see *singularia tantum*), and many adjectives do not have comparative and superlative degree forms. This shows that full productivity is not always a fail-safe criterion. As a corollary of the more general and productive nature of inflection it has also been claimed that inflection is semantically more transparent than derivation. Again, this appears to be a matter of degree, since inherent inflection also lends itself to lexicalization and semantic opacity. For instance, some plural nouns have a lexicalized meaning; such as the archaic plural form *vader-en* 'forethesis' (compare the regular plural form *vader-s* 'father-s')

Finally, it has been assumed that there are psycholinguistic differences b/w inflection and derivation. Outputs of derivational processes will be stored and can be computed on-line, because they are transparent and are formed by productive processes. However, there is some evidence for storage of certain types of inflectional forms, in.

## Syntax

### Basic and transformed sentences in English —

Syntax is a form of grammar. It is concerned primarily with word order in the sentence and with the agreement of words when they are used together. So it, in a sense, acting as a kind of 'police officer' for the way in which sentences are constructed.

English is a language that has a structure known as SVO. That is subject, verb and object. The cat (subject) washes (verb) its paw (object).