

Name-based lexical patterns

Milena Belosevic, Bielefeld University

In this talk, I will discuss the form and the semantics of word-formation patterns that emerge by combining lexical units and proper names (name-based lexical patterns), such as name-name-blends (*Hitlary* < *Hitler* and *Hillary*) (*Brangelina* < *Brad* and *Angelina*), name-lexeme-blends (*Killary* < *kill* + *Hilary*), complex blends (*Gerda Schröckel* < *Gerhard Schröder* and *Angela Merkel*), proper name compounds (*Berater-Ursula* / *advisor-Ursula*), or derivatives (*Selenator* < a fan of *Selena Gomez*).

In studies of word formation, name-based lexical patterns are often described as marginal (cf., Kürschner 2020), creative, unpredictable or extragrammatical (Dressler & Merlini Barbaresi 1994, Wildgen 1981). I will argue that the alleged creative nature and marginality of name-based lexical patterns should be relativized by looking at the formal, semantics and pragmatics properties of 3000 types extracted from German and English reference corpora, blogs and social media. The analysis provides evidence against previous accounts by indicating that name-based lexical patterns are particularly productive and predictable in informal language use. On the other hand, they also bear variability across discourse domains and languages.

References

Dressler, Wolfgang U. & Lavinia M. Barbaresi. 1994. *Morphopragmatics: Diminutives and Intensifiers in Italian, German, and Other Languages*. Berlin: de Gruyter.

Kürschner, Sebastian. 2020. Nickname formation in West Germanic: German *Jessi* and *Thomson* meet Dutch *Jess* and *Tommie* and English *J-Bo* and *Tommo*. In Gunther de Vogelaer, Dietha Koster & Torsten Leuschner (eds.), *German and Dutch in Contrast*, 15–47. Berlin: de Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110668476-002>.

Wildgen, Wolfgang. 1981. Grundstrukturen und Variationsmöglichkeiten bei Eigennamenkomposita: Komposita mit den Eigennamen *Schmidt* und *Strauß* als Konstituenten in Wahlkampfberichten des Spiegels. Trier.