

OLD ENGLISH AGENTIVE SUFFIXES AND THE ASYMMETRY OF MORPHOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIONS

The purpose of this paper is to apply the model of layered morphological representation put forward in Martín Arista (2006) to Old English agentive nouns ending in *-a/-e*, *-end*, *-ere*, *-estre* and *-icge* like *æ:boda* 'messenger', *tiðe* 'receiver', *æfterfylgend* 'follower', *æ:tere* 'eater', *telgestre* 'dyer' and *byrdicge* 'embroideress'. Since previous works partly or wholly devoted to these suffixes that have been found in the literature, such as ten Brink (1882), von Lindheim (1958), Schabram (1970) and Kastovsky (1971), are descriptive, this paper aims at reaching the explanatory level. For this purpose, the emphasis will be placed on the asymmetry which arises in layered morphological representations based on Role and Reference Grammar (Van Valin and LaPolla 1997, Van Valin 2005) hierarchical structures involving Nucleus, Core, Word and Complex Word levels. The conclusion will be drawn that such asymmetry can be the result of the expansion up to Complex Word level rather than to Word level; the insertion of Arguments vs. the expression of Operators; and the insertion of arguments vs. non-arguments.

References

- Martín Arista, J. 2006. Old English Morphology in RRG: Analysis, Description and Explanation. RRG Meeting held at UNED Spain, January 2006.
- Schabram, H. 1970. Bemerkungen zu den AE. Nomina Agentis auf *-estre* und *-icge*. *Anglia: Zeitschrift für englische Philologie* 88: 94-98.
- ten Brink, B. 1882. Das Altenglische Suffix *-ere*. *Anglia: Zeitschrift für englische Philologie* 5: 1-4.

Van Valin, R. 2005. *Exploring the Syntax-Semantics Interface*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Van Valin, R. and R. LaPolla. 1997. *Syntax: Structure, meaning and function*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

von Lindheim, B. 1958. Die Weiblichen Genussuffixe. *Anglia: Zeitschrift für englische Philologie* 76: 479-504.