

## **Verb prefixation in contemporary German**

### **Lexeme formation and occasionalisms**

The article contributes to the study of the formal properties of German prefix verbs, which are represented in the form of well-formedness conditions for words and lexemes in several inflectional and lexeme formation categories, as well as linguistic innovations in the area of verb prefixation.

The communicative needs of the speech community result not only in the naming of new objects or abstract facts but also in the naming of activities specific to them, which are recorded using verbal structures. Linguistic structures that have not (yet) entered the standard vocabulary are understood as occasionalisms. If an occasionalism was created using a lexeme formation process, then it is a new lexeme formation product that can be checked for its well-formedness within the framework of the declarative approach. It should be noted that individual well-formedness conditions must be formulated in accordance with a grammar theory.

The declarative analysis model for prefix verbs is used to differentiate between well-formed and non-well-formed data. This distinction is made possible by applying the conditions and restrictions presented in the present text that determine the well-formedness of the morphological categories. Of particular relevance to the study are verbal inflection categories such as the infinitive or past participle as well as the lexeme formation category of prefix verbs and the concrete lexeme formation patterns that capture German prefix verbs. This article primarily addresses the question as to which conditions a prefix verb must meet in order to be classified as being formally well-formed. This question of system linguistics is addressed using the axiomatic method by formulating morphological, phonological and syntactic properties of verb formations as well-formedness conditions. The approach is also synchronous, a-morphous and heuristic.

In addition, the paper examines whether new creations identified in the empirical material obtained from the online project “Wortwarte” can be classified as well-formed or not well-formed using the declarative analysis model. This comprises 190 occasional verbs with the prefixes *ver-*, *be-*, *ent-*, *er-* and *zer-*. The structural properties of the new prefix verbs (for example, the derivation base, the complexity of the base, stress patterns and combinations with non-native elements, etc.) are then focused on in order to identify and characterize current occasional lexeme formation processes.

The results of the present work reveal that not all new creations in the empirical material can be classified as being well-formed. Some occasional prefix verbs violate both general and specific well-formedness conditions that are associated with particular lexeme formation patterns. However, the vast majority of the new prefix verbs in the corpus satisfy the relevant well-formedness conditions of the declarative analysis model. Qualitative and exemplaric quantitative analyses of the empirical material also show which formal properties new prefix verbs have and which lexeme formation patterns are characteristic. Other lexeme formation products could conceivably be examined with regard to their well-formedness using the declarative analysis model for the corresponding morphological categories.