

A corpus-based study on English *bahuvrihi* compounds with *head* as a second element: Semantic patterns and conceptualization of the characteristic property

Isabel Jiménez Sáez

Universidad de Córdoba

The noun *head* is found in the second position of a significant number of English *bahuvrihi* compounds giving rise to different patterns of form and meaning. Given the productivity of these formations, Barcelona (2008) and Portero (2014) set out to identify and characterize the different patterns underlying these compounds. Barcelona's classification is based on the metonymic and/or metaphoric motivation of the source in the overriding conceptual metonymy CHARACTERISTIC PROPERTY FOR CATEGORY which he proved to yield the essential meaning of this type of compounds, whereas Portero, relying on Ryder's (1994) schema-based and Booij's (2010) constructional approaches, postulated a hierarchical classification of different degrees of abstraction. The purpose of this study is two-fold: to review the patterns proposed by both authors by analyzing a collection of new instantiations retrieved from different corpora, and to identify emergent patterns or subpatterns. The results show that the different *bahuvrihi* formations with *head* can be conveniently characterized by the three main conceptualization patterns proposed by Barcelona (2008) (i.e., literal, metonymic or metaphonymic) and the five linguistic templates or constructions indicated by Portero (2014), but also reveal the emergence of a new pattern of the *puckhead* type.

Keywords: *bahuvrihi* compounds; exocentric compounds; motivation; metonymy; metaphor; semantic patterns; schemas; reference-point property.

References:

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