

MHG Word Formation

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Basic concepts of word formation: compounding

Copulative compounds
der meitmuoter gemüete
stuont in rîcher vröuwede
durch des Kindes beschöuwede (Priester Wernher, Maria, 4033-35)
 'At the sight of the Child, the Virgin Mary was in a most joyful mood'

Determinative compounds
 Endocentric: *vrîwîp* (Helmbrecht 711) 'head maidservant'
 Exocentric: *botenbrôt* (Helmbrecht 708) 'messenger's wages'

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Basic concepts of word formation: compounding

Possessive compounds/bahuvrihi
Wolvesgourne (Helmbrecht 1195) '[actually:] person who has a wolf's throat' or *Wolvesdrüzzel* (Helmbrecht 1203) '[actually:] person who has a wolf's snout'.

Phrasal conversions
 «*Doz ist mîn geselle Lemberslint und Slickenwider: die zwêne sint von den ich hân dise lère. noch nenne ich dir mîre Hellesac und Rütelschrin, daz sind die schulmeister mîn, Küefrâz und Müschenkelch.*» (Helmbrecht 1185-1191)
 'These are my comrades Lamb-slayer and Swallow-the-ram, the two of them taught me that. I'll tell you about the others: Hellbag and Shake-the-box, they are my teachers, plus Cow-eater and Smash-the-chalice.'

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Basic concepts of word formation: Derivation

2. Derivation

2.1 Explicit derivation (base + affix):
 Modification: *ungetriuwer* 'treacherous' (Helmbrecht 1809) – *un-* (negator) + *getriuwe* 'loyal'
 Transformation: *wârheit* 'truth' (Helmbrecht 207) – *wâr* 'true' + *-heit*

2.2 Implicit derivation: *slach* 'slap, punch' (Helmbrecht 1029) < *slân*

2.3 Conversion: *daz ezzen* 'food, meal' (Helmbrecht 858) < *ezzen*

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Basic concepts of word formation: Synthetic compounding

*Des ist mêre rouber und wuocherer,
 Diebe, morder, âbrecher,
 Lügener, trügener, êbrecher,
 [...]
 Denne bî der zît und bî den jâren,
 Do getriuwe und wol gezogen wâren
 Unser alten die nu sint vervarn.* (Hugo von Trimberg, Der Renner, 11163-69)
 'That is why there are more robbers, usurers, thieves, murderers, plunderers, liars, cheats, adulterers [...] than when our ancestors were reliable and well-mannered, who have now died.'
 (*diu*) *ê brechen* 'to commit adultery' + *-er* > *êbrecher* 'adulterer' (**brecher* not attested)

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Trends in MHG word formation: verb

NHG Predominance of derivation:

prefix: *be-stehen*, *ge-stehen*, *ver-stehen*, *ent-stehen* etc.
 preverb: *auf-stehen*, *bei-stehen*, *vor-stehen* etc.
 few suffixes: *Krise* > *kriseln*; *Stein* > *steinigen*; *Signal* > *signalisieren*

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Trends in MHG word formation: verb

OHG <i>-jan</i> -verbs: Factitives ,to make sth done'			
<i>trenken</i>	,to water (animals)'	-	<i>trinkan</i> ,to drink'
<i>leiten</i>	,to lead'	-	<i>līdan</i> ,to move'
OHG <i>-ōn</i> -verbs: Ornatives ,to provide with'			
<i>salbōn</i>	,to anoint'	-	<i>salba</i> ,ointment'
<i>lobōn</i>	,to praise'	-	<i>lob</i> ,praise'
OHG <i>-ēn</i> -verbs: Inchoatives ,to become'			
<i>heilēn</i>	,to heal up'	-	<i>heil</i> ,sane'
<i>fülēn</i>	,to rot'	-	<i>fül</i> ,rotten'

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Trends in MHG word formation: verb

MHG weakening of unstressed vowels

OHG <i>trenken</i>	>	MHG <i>trenken</i>
<i>leiten</i>	>	<i>leiten</i>
<i>salbōn</i>	>	<i>salben</i>
<i>lobōn</i>	>	<i>loben</i>
<i>heilēn</i>	>	<i>heilen</i>
<i>fülēn</i>	>	<i>vülen</i>

→ OHG suffixes losing transparency
 → Prefixation to become the central pattern of MHG verbal derivation

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Trends in MHG word formation: verb

late OHG	<i>fer-swenden</i> alongside <i>swenden</i> (>* <i>swand-jan</i>) ,to make sth fade'
	<i>ir-blindēn</i> alongside <i>blindēn</i> (,to go blind')
MHG	<i>verswenden, erblinden</i> strong verbs <i>ersehen, erscinen, verwerfen usw.</i>

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Trends in MHG word formation: prefix separation

der her den gürtel abe bant (Wigalois 602)
 ‚the gentleman took off the belt‘
 NHG *er band* [...] *ab*
si abebrechen den kelch (Kreuziger 2084)
 ‚they leave out the chalice‘
 NHG *sie brachen* [...] *ab*
Lähelîn dînen fürsten abervaht zwei lant (Parzival 128,5)
 ‚Lähelin took two lands from your princes in battle‘
 NHG **sie kämpften* [...] *ab*

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Trends in MHG word formation: Prefix separation

Präfixe	¹ 11/ ¹ 12	² 12	¹ 13	² 13	¹ 14	um 1500	Nhd.
untrennbar	70,5%	73,4%	71,4%	70,0%	66,9%	45,4%	29,8%
trennbar	29,5%	26,6%	28,6%	30,0%	33,1%	54,6%	70,2%

Relativer Anteil untrennbare/trennbare Präfixe am Gesamt aller Präfigierungen

Th. Klein - H.-J. Solms, K.-P. Wegera: *Mittelhochdeutsche Grammatik, III. Wortbildung*, Tübingen 2009, S. 546.

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Trends in MHG word formation: loan suffixes

Typen	Bildungen	Belege
-igen	63 (42,6%)	395 (54,7%)
-ieren	36 (20,9%)	142 (19,7%)
-er(e)n	21 (14,2%)	44 (6,1%)
-el(e)n	13 (8,8%)	50 (6,9%)
-(e)sen	11 (7,4%)	59 (8,2%)
-(e)zen	9 (6,1%)	32 (4,4%)
Summe	148 (100%)	722 (100%)

Anteil einzelner Suffixe am Gesamt aller verbalen Suffigierungen (Angaben ohne -en und -(en)en)

Th. Klein - H.-J. Solms, K.-P. Wegera, *Mittelhochdeutsche Grammatik, III. Wortbildung*, Tübingen 2009, S. 493.

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Loan suffixes: MHG *-ieren*

- 1st group: borrowings from Latin (*disputieren, glôrieren, absolvieren* etc.)
- 2nd group: borrowings from Old French
 - a) lexicalized borrowings: MHG *schumpfieren* > OF *desconfire* ‚to destroy; to rout so.; to defeat so.’
 - dâ mit der küene und der zage*
 - bede geschumphieret sint.* (Wolfram, Willehalm, 303,14f.)
 - ‘[...] with which the brave and the coward [=everyone] were struck down.’

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Loan suffixes: MHG *-ieren*

b) derivations from borrowed bases: MHG *bûhurt* > OF *bohourt*; MHG *buhurt* + *-ieren* > *bûhurdieren*

die ritter hêten einen site,
dâ liebtens sich den frouwen mite:
einez ist buhurdiern genant,
daz tete ein hoveman mir bekant,
dâ ich in frâgte der mære
wie ez genennet wære. (Helmbrecht 925-930)

‘The knights had a habit that endeared them to the ladies: it was called buhurdung. A courtier explained this to me when I asked what it was called.’

c) Derivations from domestic bases: MHG *stolz* + *-ieren* > *stolzieren*

Er gienc stolzieren hin und her, / Rehte als er ein pfâwe wâr. (Hugo von Trimberg, Renner (Ed. Ehrismann), 1733f.) ‘He strutted back and forth just as if he were a peacock.’

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Trends in German word formation: substantive and adjective

Determinative compounds in the OHG ‚Hildebrandslied’ (around 830):

Proper nouns: *Hiltibrant, Hadubrant, Heribrant bzw. Hiltibraht, Hadubraht*

Appellatives: *sunufatarunga* ‚a matter concerning father and son’, *guðhamo* ‚battle dress’, *chunincríhi* ‚kingdom’, *irmindeot* ‚people of humans’ etc.

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Trends in German word formation: substantive and adjective

1) ‚Real‘ (*echte*) determinative compounds:
 substantive + substantive = compound
 OHG *chunincrīthi* > MHG *künicrīche* > NHG *Königreich*

2) ‚False‘ (*unechte*) determinative compounds:
 Phrase > compound
 MHG *sīnes vater hūs* (Wernher der Gartenaere, Helmbrecht, 1709) > NHG *sein Vaterhaus*
 MHG *des menschen sēle* (Pseudo-Engelhart, Ed. Schneider, S. 15,12) > NHG *die Menschenseele*
 MHG *diu gotes hūs si zevuorten* (Kaiserchronik 15928) > NHG *die Gotteshäuser*

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Trends in German word formation: substantive and adjective

Word formation competing against syntax:

Dise ehte mochten strīten niht, / ê daz in gap strītes kleit, / der mit der stangen vor in streit. (Wolfram, Willehalm 416,16ff.)

syntactic: 'the eight could not fight before he who fought before them with the pole gave them battle robes' (syntax)

lexical: '[...] before the poleman in front of them gave them battle robes.' (word formation)

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Trends in German word formation: substantive and adjective

Syntax instead of word formation: precision and economy

(1a) *der mit der Stange kämpft*= unambiguous

(1b) *der Stangenkämpfer* = ambiguous („with a pole“, „like a pole“, „in the name of the pole“ etc.), but economical

(2) NHG *Zeitmaschine* – mod.F. *machine à remonter le temps*,
 NHG *Pannestreifen* – mod.F. *bande d'arrêt d'urgence*
 NHG *Außenminister* – mod.F. *ministre des Affaires étrangères*

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Trends in German word formation: univerbation

„Univerbation is the syntagmatic condensation of a sequence of words recurrent in discourse into one word, [...]. It affects both lexemes and grammatical formatives.“

Christian Lehmann: Univerbation. In: Folia Linguistica Historica 41 (2020) 205.

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Trends in MHG word formation: From lexis to word formation (adjectives in *-los*)

OHG

1) ‚without; deprived of sth‘
her furlaet in lante luttila sitten / prut in bure, barn unwahsan, / arbeo laosa: [...]
(Hildebrandslied, 20-22)
‚He left his young wife and young child at home, helpless and deprived of their inheritance.‘

2) ‚free‘: gloss to Lat *liber* (London, BL. Add. fol. 39v)

3) ‚solved‘: gloss to Lat *solutus* (Essen, Ältestes Evangeliar, p. 96)

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Trends in MHG word formation: From lexis to word formation (adjectives in *-los*)

4) ‚thoughtless‘: gloss to Lat *leue* (Zürich, ZB Ms. Car. C. 164, fol. 63r), *levis* (Wien ÖNB Cod. 2723, fol. 119r; Wien ÖNB Cod. 2732, fol. 135v; Augsburg, Bischöfliche Ordinariatsbibliothek Hs. K 10, fol. 79r; München BSB Clm 18140, fol. 242r)

5) ‚loose‘: gloss to Lat *levis* (München BSB, Clm 18140, fol. 235v; München BSB, Clm 19440, p. 79; München BSB Clm 19440, p. 195; Wien ÖNB Cod. 2732, fol. 128v)

6) ‚clever‘: gloss to Lat *callidus* (Oxford, Bodleian Library Jun. 83, fol. 63r)

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Trends in MHG word formation: From lexis to word formation (adjectives in *-los*)

1) ‚free‘
Dô Alexander wart lôs
dô sprang er ûf sîn ros (Pfaffe Lamprecht, Alexanderroman 1811)
‘When Alexander was released,
he jumped on his horse’

Si lîzin los di cristinen sant (Nikolaus von Jeroschin: *Kronike von Pruzinlant*, Ed. Pfeiffer, Stuttgart 1854)
‘They released the Christians immediately’

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Trends in MHG word formation: From lexis to word formation (adjectives in *-los*)

2) ‚unchanging‘
[...] *want vil vest und nicht lôs*
was sîn sêliger wille.
Nikolaus von Jeroschin: *Kronike von Pruzinlant*, V. 191-199 (Ed. Pfeiffer, Stuttgart 1854)
‘For his salutary will was constant and unchanging’

3) ‚sly, tricky‘
ein löser fuhs dare kam.
(Reinhart Fuchs, V. 1723-26)
‘A cunning fox came along.’

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Trends in MHG word formation: From lexis to word formation (adjectives in *-los*)

Evidence for the transition of MHG *los* from lexeme to suffix

1) Reduction of the lexeme’s OHG usage spectrum in MHG
2) Increase of MHG derivatives in *-los*

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	Simplex	Constituent of Compounds	Suffix
GOT	<i>haidus</i> strM ,manner'	---	---
OHG	<i>heit</i> strM F ,person, figure'	<i>cindheit</i> strF, 'childhood' <i>christânheit</i> strF, 'christendom' <i>zagaheit</i> strF, 'timidity'	
MHG	<i>heit</i> strMF ,nature, manner' (rare)	---	common: <i>snelheit</i> <i>geilecheit</i> <i>bitterkeit</i>
NHG	---	---	common: -heit (<i>Freiheit</i>) -igkeit (<i>Schnelligkeit</i>) -keit (<i>Bitterkeit</i>)

From lexis to word formation (adjectives in *-heit*)

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Lexical change: Basic concepts	
Procedures	
-metaphor	
-metonymy	
-folk-etymology	
-ellipsis	
Results	
-widening of meaning	
-narrowing of meaning	
-pejoration of meaning	
-amelioration of meaning	
Stephen Ullmann, <i>Semantics: An introduction to the science of meaning</i> , Oxford 1962.	

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<i>hof – hovelich, hâvesch – hâvescheit</i>
<i>nach hân ich einen compan, daz nie knappe gewan einen namen alsô hovelich; [...] der ist geheizen Wolfesdarm. (Helmbrecht 1215-21)</i>
'After all, I have a crony who bears such a distinguished name as no squire before him [...]. His name is Wolf's Belly'
<i>„Vater, und wirde ich geriten, ich trûwe in hovelichen siten immer alsô wol genesen, sam die ze hove ie sint gewesen.“ (Helmbrecht 299-302)</i>
'Father, if I only had a horse first, I would dare to be as successful in courtly behaviour as those who have always lived at court.'

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Courtly Values: *stæte – tugent – êre – zuht – triuwe – milte*

*Der vater sprach: «nû gloube daz,
mir geveile et michel baz
ein man der rehte tæte
und dar an belibe stæte.
wær des geburt ein wênic laz,
der behagte doch der weldē baz
dan von küneges frucht ein man
der tugent noch êre nie gewan.
ein frumer man von swacher art
und ein edel man an dem nie wart
weder zuht noch êre bekant [...] (487-497)*

The father said: "You can count on it, I like a man much better who is righteous and will not be dissuaded. Even if he is not so high-born, he would still be preferable to the world than a man from a royal stock who is no good and has no reputation. If a capable man of simple origin and a nobleman who has not had a proper education and has no reputation come to a country."

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edel

*ein edel ritter was min tote:
sælic si der selbe gote
von dem ich sô edel bin (Helmbrecht 483ff.)*
,My godfather was a noble knight, he deserves God's blessing for bequeathing me his nobility.'

*Ich hân mir eine unmüezekeit
der werlt ze liebe vür geleit
und edelen herzen z'einer hage,
den herzen, den ich herze trage [...] (Gottfrid von Straßburg, Tristan, 45-48)*
,I have set myself a task – for the benefit of the world and for the joy of noble hearts, those hearts for which my heart beats.'

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dienen, dien(e)st

*ein teil sînes künne was im komen,
und ouch die heten genomen
starkiu dienst von siner hant,
an den er niht wan triuwe vant. (Wolfram, Willehalm, 13.11-14)*
,Some of his kin had joined him [Willehalm] and even those had sworn war service to him who had only sworn allegiance to him.'

*Ich hân hêrn Otten triuwe, er welle mich noch rîchen:
wie nam abe er min dienst ie sô trûgelîchen? (Walther, L 26.23f.)*
,I have Sir Otto's [the Guelph Emperor Otto IV] promise of loyalty that he still wants to make me rich. But how deceptively he received my service.'

*Mîner vrouwen was ich undertân,
diu âne lôn minen dienst nan [...] (Friedrich von Hausen, II.4)*
,I was subject to my mistress, who received my service without consideration [...].'

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ar(e)beit

*Uns ist in alten mæren wunders vil geseit
von helden lobebæren, von græzer arebeit [...]. (Nibelungenlied 1,1f.)
,In old stories we were told unheard-of tales of glorious heroes, of great hardship [...].'*

*sô bûwe mit dem phluoge;
sô geniezent dîn genuoge:
[...]
jâ wirt vil manec frouwe
von dem bûwe geschœnet,
manec kûnec wirt gekrœnet
von des bûwes stiuwer. (Helmbrecht 545f; 554-57)
,If you till the field with the plough, it will benefit many: [...] Believe me, all noblewomen owe their beauty to peasant labour, and all kings owe their crown to peasant labour.'*

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vrouwe – wîp

*si sâhen beide einander an,
beide daz wîp und der man (Helmbrecht 729f.)
,They looked at each other, the woman and the man.'*

*die ritter hêten einen site,
dâ liebtens sich den frouwen mite:
einez ist buhurdiern genant [...] (Helmbrecht 925-27)
'The knights had a habit with which they endeared themselves to the ladies: it's called buhurding.'*

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vrouwe – wîp

*„lieber sun, geloube
mir diu mære und belîp
und nim ein êlîchez wîp.“ (Helmbrecht 358)
,My dear son, let my tale pass through your mind, stay here and take a wife.'*

*die hûsfrou sprach: „herre wirt,
wir sîn der sinne gar verîrt.“ (Helmbrecht 730f.)
,The landlady/wife said: „Landlord, we are not in our right mind anymore.“'*

*dâ von dîn manec man vil wert
zeinr êfrouwen hât gegert (Walther von Rheinau, Marienleben 1864f.)
'That is why many highly respected men have desired you as a wife.'*

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Terms of Address

sprach daz fr̄wip und der kneht:

«**bis** willekomen, Helmbrecht!»?

nein, si entäten,

ez wart in widerräten;

si sprâchen: «juncherre mîn,

*ir **sult** got willekomen sîn!»* (711-716)

,Did the grandmaid and the servant perhaps say: 'Welcome, Helmbrecht!?'

No, they wisely refrained from doing so, for something in them resisted it.

They rather said: 'Squire, be welcome!'

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Terms of Address

,[...] heizt mir daz tor ûf sliezen!'

der vater sprach: ‚tûr unde tor

*dâ **soltû** niht sîn lenger vor;*

beide gadem unde schrîn

sol dir allez offen sîn.‘ (834-38)

'[...] let the gate be opened for me!' - The father shouted: 'No longer shall you have to stand outside door and gate; rooms and chests shall all be open to you!'

Hæret wie er in gruozte:

*‚dê **ûs** sal, **her** blinde!*

[...]

*gât ir nu, **her** blindekîn!‘* (1712f., 1717)

,Listen how he received him: 'Dieu vous salve, blind knight! [...] Get thee hence, knight Blindekin!'

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