

Ordering Paradoxes in English Suffixation: An Account Based on Relative Frequency

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Lee, Ju-Eun & Hong, Sung-Hoon. 2011. Ordering Paradoxes in English Suffixation: An Account Based on Relative Frequency. *Linguistic Research* 28(1), 95-115. This paper is an attempt to explain ordering paradoxes found in English suffixation. On the assumption that the order of suffix attachment follows Siegel's (1974) Level Ordering Hypothesis, we obtain attested suffix combinations from the CELEX lexical database (Baayen et al. 1995), and analyze them using the concept of productivity proposed by Hay & Baayen (2002). It is found, however, that the productivity approach alone does not explain the attested order of suffixes properly. In this paper, we rather propose an account of ordering paradoxes based on the notion of relative frequencies (Hay 2002, 2003): Ordering paradoxes come about when the relative frequency of a suffixed word is greater than 1, or put it differently, when a suffixed word is used more frequently than its base word so that the suffixed word behaves like one lexicalized whole. (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies)

Key Words suffix order, Level Ordering Hypothesis, ordering paradoxes, productivity, relative frequencies