

M Apr 23

**Discussion summary:
Clahsen et al. (2010), part 2
[Derivational morphology]**

Overview

Structure of article: Review of prior studies

Focus:

- Adult L2 learners (compared to L1 speakers)
- Morphological processing of complex words
 - Online tasks specifically
 - Irregular vs. regular inflection [what kind?]
 - Derivational morphology
 - Morphosyntactic phenomena (agreement, case)

Authors' theoretical position

How does the representation of these categories in the grammar differ, according to the authors?

- (a) regular inflection
- (b) productive derivation
- (c) frozen inflected and derived forms

L1 studies

What results do the authors report for an L1 study contrasting these categories?
(Clahsen, Sonnenstuhl & Blevins, 2003)

	stem-priming effects	wh-wd freq effects
Nonproductive derivation		
Irregular inflection		
Productive derivation		
Regular inflection		

L1 studies

What results do the authors report for an L1 study contrasting these categories?
(Clahsen, Sonnenstuhl & Blevins, 2003)

	stem-priming effects	wh-wd freq effects
Nonproductive derivation	reduced	yes
Irregular inflection	reduced	yes
Productive derivation	full	yes
Regular inflection	full	(no) / (reduced)

L2 studies

Silva (2008)

- Deadjectival nominalizations with -ness and -ity
- Masked priming and visual lexical decision experiments
- Adult L2 learners of English
 - either Chinese or German as the L1

L2 studies

Silva (2008), Silva & Clahsen (2008) – Results

Table 2 Summary of experimental findings on derivational word forms in English

	Lexical decision experiment		Priming experiment			
	<i>-ness</i> forms	<i>-ity</i> forms	<i>-ness</i> forms		<i>-ity</i> forms	
	Low Freq.- High Freq.	Low Freq.- High Freq.	Test- Identity	Test- Control	Test- Identity	Test- Control
L1	66 ms*	25 ms*	6 ms	-44 ms*	-15 ms	-57 ms*
German L2	118 ms*	67 ms*	69 ms*	-52 ms*	31 ms ^(*)	-83 ms*
Chinese L2	112 ms*	43 ms*	103 ms*	-97 ms*	72 ms*	-115 ms*

Note. The table presents RT differences between the low- and the high-frequency conditions in the lexical decision experiment and between Test versus Identity and Test versus (unrelated) Control conditions in the priming experiment.

*Significant at $p < .05$ by subjects and items.

^(*)Significant at $p < .05$ by subjects.

Source. Data from Silva and Clahsen (2008) and Silva (2008).

L2 studies

What do we conclude?

- In what way do L2 results look different from L1 for derivational morphology?

(Clahsen et al. (2010) warn that these findings are preliminary; more research is needed)