

Morphological richness and transparency and the genesis of morphonotactic patterns

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In a short survey of our previous and ongoing work on first-language acquisition and in psycholinguistic experiments with adults we present the intermediate result that morphonotactic patterns of consonant clusters are faster acquired by children and faster processed by adults than purely phonotactic patterns in morphologically rich systems, at least Polish and Lithuanian inflection and German compounding (but rather not in comparatively poor German inflection). By September we hope to have also results on derivational morphology. Another factor facilitating acquisition and processing is morphotactic transparency, which may be decreased by morphonotactic patterns.

In the second part, we are going to study the diachronic origin of morphonotactic patterns in English, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Lithuanian, Polish and Slovak in regard to morphological richness and morphonotactic transparency. A further dimension will be the cross-linguistic typology of the position of consonant clusters within the word.