

Ingo Plag, University of Verona, PhD seminar course, September 2009

COMPOUND STRESS IN ENGLISH: METHODOLOGICAL AND THEORETICAL ISSUES

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE

Tuesday, 15 September 2009 and Thursday, 17 September 2009, 4 hrs each day

0. Introduction

Topics: theoretical problems, empirical and methodological challenges

Reading: Plag 2003: chapter 6, Plag et al. 2007

1. The acoustics of compound stress

Topics: linear regression, discover relations between variables, modeling of acoustic properties

Reading: Balling 2008, Kunter & Plag 2007

Tasks: plotting of sample measurements, discovering relationships between variables, preparation of next session with sample data codings

2. Coding and measuring of the influence of structural and semantic factors

Topics: testing hypotheses about compound stress assignment based on speech corpus data, coding of factors, statistical modeling

Reading: Plag et al. 2008

Tasks: Coding of factors with sample data, making predictions, interpreting regression output

3. The role of the constituent family in compound stress assignment

Topics: psycholinguistic underpinnings, statistical modeling (logistic regression), theoretical implications

Reading: Plag et. al 2009

Tasks: stress placement as a function of informativeness, lexical decision latencies as a function of morphological family size

References

- Balling, L.W. 2008, [A brief introduction to regression designs and mixed-effects modelling by a recent convert](#), *Copenhagen Studies in Language*, vol. 36, pp. 175-192.
- Kunter, Gero, and Ingo Plag. 2007. [What is compound stress?](#), in *Proceedings of the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, University of Saarbrücken, 6-10 August 2007*. Saarbrücken: Universität Saarbrücken.
- Plag, Ingo. 2003. *Word-formation in English*. Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Plag, Ingo, Gero Kunter, and Sabine Lappe. 2007. [Testing hypotheses about compound stress assignment in English: a corpus-based investigation](#), *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory* 3.2, 199-233.
- Plag, Ingo, Gero Kunter, Sabine Lappe, and Maria Braun. 2008. [The role of semantics, argument structure, and lexicalization in compound stress assignment in English](#). *Language* 84.4, 760-794.
- Plag, Ingo. 2009. [Constituent family size and compound stress assignment in English](#). Submitted for publication.