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Pickpocket compounds from Latin to Romance

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PICKPOCKET COMPOUNDS
FROM LATIN TO ROMANCE

BENEDICTE NIELSEN WHITEHEAD



“Pickpocket” symbol by Proletkult Graphik, from *thenounproject.com* collection.

PICKPOCKET COMPOUNDS FROM LATIN TO ROMANCE

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van Doctor
aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
prof.mr. P.F. van der Heijden
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties,
te verdedigen op
donderdag, 26 april 2012 klokke 13.45 uur
door

BENEDICTE NIELSEN WHITEHEAD
geboren te Kopenhagen in 1965



Promotiecommissie

Promotor: Prof.dr. A.M. Lubotsky
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CONTENTS

Contents	i
Propositions	iv
Curriculum vitae	v
Acknowledgments	vi
Samenvattingen/Summaries	vii
Abbreviations	xi
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Topic of the thesis	1
1.2 Terminology	2
1.3 Scope	3
1.4 Theories of origin	5
1.5 Structure	6
2 Nominal composition	8
2.1 Determinative compounds	8
2.1.1 Internalization of modifiers	9
2.1.2 Endocentricity	14
2.1.3 Verbal determinatives; incorporation	15
2.2 Possessive compounds	16
2.2.1 Vedic	17
2.2.2 Germanic	21
2.3 Agentive compounds	26
2.3.1 Verb–second agentives	27
2.3.2 Verb–first agentives	39
2.4 Constituent order	82
2.5 Stem compounds and case compounds	88

2.6	Conversion	94
2.7	Summary	97
3	Latin	101
3.1	Introduction	101
3.2	Nominal composition	101
3.2.1	Heritage and adstrate	101
3.2.2	Morphology	105
3.2.3	Summary	113
3.3	PICKPOCKET compounds	114
3.3.1	The first member is a passive participle	114
3.3.2	The first member is a verbal stem	129
3.3.3	Origin	148
3.4	Summary	150
4	Italian, French & Ibero-Romance	153
4.1	Introduction	153
4.2	Origin and relationship of the Romance languages	154
4.3	Nominal composition	159
4.3.1	Defining properties of Romance compounds	159
4.3.2	Constituent order	159
4.3.3	Inflection	160
4.3.4	Gender assignment	162
4.3.5	Morphology of second members	162
4.3.6	Verbal nouns in composition	163
4.3.7	Summary	164
4.4	PICKPOCKET compounds	165
4.4.1	Semantic categories	165
4.4.2	Morphology	168
4.4.3	Summary	192
4.5	The history of PICKPOCKET compounds and sentence-names	193
4.5.1	PICKPOCKET compounds	193

4.5.2	Phrase- and sentence–names	208
4.5.3	The relation between sentence–names and compounds	209
4.6	Summary	212
5	Romanian	215
5.1	Introduction	215
5.2	Nominal composition	215
5.2.1	Productivity	215
5.2.2	Constituent order	216
5.2.3	Gender and inflection	216
5.2.4	Morphology of second members	218
5.2.5	Summary	218
5.3	PICKPOCKET compounds	219
5.3.1	Semantic categories	219
5.3.2	Morphology of the first member	221
5.3.3	Summary	226
5.4	The fate of final <i>-ē</i> in Romanian	226
5.5	History of the PICKPOCKET compounds	232
5.5.1	The history of Romanian	232
5.5.2	The PICKPOCKET compounds in a comparative perspective	233
5.5.3	Romanian phrase- and sentence–names	236
5.5.4	Summary	238
5.6	Summary	239
6	Summary and conclusion	241
6.1	The morphosyntactic analysis	241
6.2	The historical analysis	248
6.3	Historical outlook	251
	Bibliography	255

Propositions

- The most universal formative principle underlying the PICKPOCKET compounds is that their deverbal first member is an uninflected verbal stem.
 - From the point of view of their internal syntactic structure, all compounds have a head-and-nonhead structure, regardless of their endo- or exocentricity.
 - The internal syntactic structure of a compounds is determined by its head element.
 - The order of the members of a compound is determined by the head element; it corresponds to the word order in a corresponding phrase. Compounds headed by nouns, for instance, display the word order of noun phrases.
 - Latin /ē/ yielded /i/ in final syllables in Proto-Romance, reflected as /i/ in Standard Italian, Romanian and Asturian.
-
- Language is designed to convey the sometimes very complex thoughts and sentiments of the human mind. It is a prerequisite for its efficiency that its basic building stones, beginning with its phonology and morphology, are as simple as possible and organized as economically as possible.
 - Language history can never be exploited to account for universal phenomena.
 - All linguistic research is based on some sort of theory about language, even if some researchers are unaware of it.
 - It is always useful to explore the theoretical premises of one's own research.
-
- Music is designed to convey the sometimes very complex thoughts and sentiments of the human mind. It is a prerequisite for its efficiency that its basic building stones, beginning with its scales and chords, are simple and organized as economically as possible.
 - It is a common misconception that if something can be deconstructed it means that it is superfluous, false or even fictitious.
 - Categorization is a means to an end, not an end in itself.
 - The universality of most proverbial truths can be deflated by citing other proverbial truths.

Curriculum vitae

Benedicte Nielsen Whitehead (née Nielsen) was born in Copenhagen in 1965. Having finished *gymnasium* at Rungsted Statsskole in 1984, she studied law at the University of Copenhagen from 1984 till 1986.

In 1987, she enrolled in Indo-European comparative linguistics at the University of Copenhagen, studying under associate professor Jens Elmegård Rasmussen. From 1990-92, she spent four semesters at the University of Vienna, studying comparative linguistics under professors Jochem Schindler and Heiner Eichner. Back in Copenhagen, she finished her MA in 1998.

From 1996-7, she was employed as a part-time bibliographical assistant at the University of Frankfurt-based *TITUS* project under professor Jost Gippert. In 2000-2001, she worked as a research assistant under professor Rosemarie Lühr at the University of Jena.

In 2001, she received a PhD scholarship from the Danish Research Council. Work on the thesis was carried out at the universities of Cambridge, Leiden and Copenhagen under the supervision of Dr. Torsten Meißner, Dr. James Clackson and Professor Alexander Lubotsky. Jens Elmegård Rasmussen acted as a shadow supervisor appointed by the Danish Research Council.

Since 2007, she has been employed at the Copenhagen University-based Programme of Excellence *Roots of Europe - language, culture and migrations*, led by Jens Elmegård Rasmussen and associate professor Birgit Anette Olsen.

She has co-organized and co-edited the proceedings of four conferences, one in Cambridge, three in Copenhagen, and a festschrift. She has published articles on Indo-European accentuation, laryngeal theory and derivational and compositional morphology.

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My interest in the topic of the thesis was spurred during my involvement, from 2000-2001, in *Das Lexikonkonzept des Indogermanischen*, based at the University of Jena. It is my pleasure to thank Dr. Irene Balles and the project leader, professor Rosemarie Lühr, for introducing me to new and inspiring areas of linguistics.

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