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## Creative *-ness*

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In a strong sense, creativity in word formation is a purposeful usage of existing patterns to not only create new words but in doing so exploit non-default means and as a result change the balance of patterns in the lexicon. If it is purposeful, it must be conscious, cf. the definition of creative modification “as an irregular, intentional and conscious intervention of a speaker into the form and/or meaning of a pattern directed at the violation of the existing norms” (Filatkina, 2018). The aim of this paper is to investigate whether clearly consciously used new word formations fulfill this definition of creative modification. To this end, instances of English *-ness* derivations in scare quotes in a synchronic written corpus are investigated.

All occurrences of *-ness* forms were extracted from the ukWaC corpus. Quoted hapaxes were further annotated for type of quote, syntactical category and morphological subcategory of the base. The semantics were considered within their sentential context.

The 7831 *-ness* lemmata contain 3429 hapaxes, 89 are hapaxes in scare quotes. The base categories, against the numbers from Arndt-Lappe (2014, Table 3), are distributed as follows:

syntactic category	OED 20th century neologisms (n=220)	ukWaC scare quote hapaxes (n=89)
adjective	84.5%	61.8%
noun	6.4%	23.6%
phrase	4.5%	10.1%
minor category	4.5%	4.5%

The difference in the distribution of the syntactic categories of the bases is in line with scare quotes signaling creative modification: the pattern is markedly different, minority bases are used more often. The morphological subclass of the adjectives also showed variation and less usage of the dominant base. A closer look at the semantics shows that intended meanings typically require additional elaboration not present in standard examples.

**References:** • Arndt-Lappe, S. (2014). Analogy in suffix rivalry: the case of English *-ity* and *-ness*. *English Language and Linguistics* 18 (03), 497–548. • Filatkina, Natalia (2018). Expanding the Lexicon through Formulaic Patterns. In S. Arndt-Lappe et al., *Expanding the Lexicon*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 15–42.