

## Questionnaire – Word-formation Characteristics of Languages

**Language:**

**Language family:**

**Morphological Type:**

**Author (completed by):**

**Date:**

### Part I.

1. *Are words in your language formed productively by the following wf processes?*<sup>1</sup>

	WF process	YES or NO	Example	Literal translation of constituent morphemes	English equivalent
A.	Prefixation				
B.	Suffixation				
C.	Infixation				
D.	Circumfixation <sup>2</sup>				
E.	Prefixal-suffixal derivation <sup>3</sup>				
F.	Prefixal-infixal derivation				
G.	Infixal-suffixal derivation				
H.	Root-and-pattern derivation (transfixation)				
I.	Vowel alternation				
J.	Prefixation accompanied by vowel alternation				
K.	Suffixation accompanied by vowel alternation				
L.	Consonant alternation				
M.	Compounding				

<sup>1</sup> A productive WF process is one which is synchronically used for the formation of new words.

<sup>2</sup> The two parts of circumfix cannot exist independently. They represent a single meaning.

<sup>3</sup> The two forms represent two different morphemes each of them contributing to the meaning of the WF base. Both of them are attached simultaneously, within a single WF process.

N.	Incorporation <sup>4</sup>				
O.	Reduplication				
P.	Conversion <sup>5</sup>				
Q.	Back-formation/subtraction				
R.	Blending				
S.	Clipping				
T.	Other productive WF processes				

**2. Please, estimate the Productivity of each of the above-mentioned WF processes in your language by using a five-degree scale, with '5' indicating 'high productive'<sup>6</sup> and '1' indicating 'low productive'.<sup>7</sup>**

	<b>WF process</b>	<b>Productivity rating</b>
A.	Prefixation	
B.	Suffixation	
C.	Infixation	
D.	Circumfixation	
E.	Prefixal-suffixal derivation	
F.	Prefixal-infixal derivation	
G.	Infixal-suffixal derivation	
H.	Root-and-pattern derivation (transfixation)	
I.	Vowel alternation	
J.	Prefixation accompanied by vowel alternation	
K.	Suffixation accompanied by vowel alternation	
L.	Consonant alternation	
M.	Compounding	
N.	Incorporation	
O.	Reduplication	
P.	Conversion	
Q.	Back-formation/subtraction	
R.	Blending	
S.	Clipping	

<sup>4</sup> A verb-forming process, whereby a nominal stem is fused with a verbal stem to yield a larger, derived verbal stem.

<sup>5</sup> Including cases of change of class without adding any explicit morpheme, with inflectional paradigm functioning analogically to zero derivational morpheme.

<sup>6</sup> This evaluation should reflect other competing WF processes. Thus, a WF process can get the rating '5' if there is no competing WF process that restricts its applicability.

<sup>7</sup> Please, don't use '0' because it means that a WF process is not productively used. We are only interested in productive WF processes.

3. Please, answer the following questions:

	WF process	YES/NO	Example	Literal translation	English equivalent
<b>A.</b>	<b>Prefixation</b>				
(a)	Is more than one prefix possible in a word?				
(b)	In general, does each prefixal form have just one meaning? If no, give some examples of prefixes with more than one meaning?				
(c)	Are there variants of prefixes?				
(d)	Do prefixes ever cause changes in the base? If so, is it a frequent situation?				
<b>B.</b>	<b>Suffixation</b>				
(a)	Is more than one suffix possible in a word?				
(b)	In general, does each suffixal form have just one meaning? If no, give some examples of suffixes with more than one meaning				
(c)	Are there variants of suffixes?				
(d)	Are there any suffixes that cause changes in the base?				
<b>C.</b>	<b>Compounding</b>				
(a)	Is compounding recursive?				
(b)	Are there adjectival (A+A) compounds?				
(c)	Does the language make productive use of verbal compounds?				
(d)	Does the language make productive use of noun (N+N) compounds? Which of the following are found?				
(d1)	Stem+Stem <sup>8</sup> compounds				
(d2)	Stem+Link+Stem compounds (where the Link is specific to compounding)				
(d3)	At least one Stem is				

<sup>8</sup> Stem is defined here as that part of a word which remains after removing all inflectional morphemes. Stem corresponds, in principle, to a WF base.

	phonologically modified <sup>9</sup>				
(e)	If the language makes productive use of compounds both with and without a linking element which type is more productive?				
(f)	Are there any copulative compounds? <sup>10</sup> Which, if any, of the following are found?				
(f1)	Substantival				
(f2)	Adjectival				
(g)	Are there any exocentric compounds? <sup>11</sup> Which, if any, of the following are found?				
(g1)	words like <i>redskin</i> <sup>12</sup>				
(g2)	words like French <i>garde-manger</i> <sup>13</sup>				
<b>D.</b>	<b>Reduplication</b>				
(a)	Complete reduplication				
(b)	partial reduplication				
(b1)	preposing reduplication				
(b2)	postposing reduplication				
(b3)	infixing reduplication				
(c)	What meanings can reduplication encode productively?				
<b>E.</b>	<b>Does stress have a word-forming capacity?</b> <sup>14</sup>				
<b>F.</b>	<b>Does pitch level have a word-forming capacity?</b>				

<sup>9</sup> cf. Japanese *rendaku*, or Danish compounds with missing *stød*, or compounds with specific tones in modifying positions, etc.

<sup>10</sup> For example, *producer-director*, *blue-green*. These are sometimes referred to as *dvandvas*. The compound is formed by two elements of equal status, and the compound as a whole is often not a hyponym of either element.

<sup>11</sup> The head of compound is not explicitly expressed; it lies outside the compound.

<sup>12</sup> A type of potato with a red skin – the **unexpressed denotatum** has a red skin

<sup>13</sup> *garde-manger* ‘keep food’ = ‘pantry’ – where a verb and its object are used to denote an entity which carries out this action

<sup>14</sup> For example, *record* [ˈrekəd]<sub>N</sub> vs. *record* [riˈkɔ:d]<sub>V</sub>

## Part II

Please answer the questions

If a particular category is not formed in your language by WF processes, simply state 'NO'

	<i>Question</i>	<i>give examples</i>	<i>estimate the productivity by means of a five-degree scale</i>
1.	The most productive way(s) of forming Agent nouns?		
2.	The most productive way(s) of forming Patient nouns?		
3.	The most productive way(s) of forming Instrumental nouns?		
4.	The most productive way(s) of forming Locative nouns?		
5.	The most productive way(s) of forming Diminutives?		
6.	The most productive way(s) of forming Augmentatives?		
7.	The most productive way(s) of forming Feminine nouns from masculine nouns?		
8.	The most productive way(s) of forming Masculine nouns from Feminine nouns?		
9.	The most productive way(s) of forming Causative verbs?		
10.	The most productive way(s) of forming Transitive verbs?		
11.	The most productive way(s) of forming Intransitive verbs?		
12.	Does your language have a way of forming parts of speech other than noun, verb, adjective, or adverb?		
13.	The most productive way(s) of forming benefactee nouns?		
14.	The most productive way(s) of forming action nominals <sup>15</sup>		
15.	The most productive way(s) of forming frequentative or intensive markers on verbs?		
16.	The most productive way(s) of forming abstract nouns from nouns?		
17.	The most productive way(s) of forming abstract nouns from adjectives?		
18.	Any other important categories in your language?		
19.	Do any of these categories overlap? That is, is the same morpheme or process		

<sup>15</sup> abstract nouns derived from verbs, for example *engagement*<sub>N</sub> from *engage*<sub>V</sub>

	ever used to form more than one of these categories?		
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**Part III.**

**Additional comments completing the picture of PRODUCTIVE word-formation PROCESSES in your language:**

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