

Morphomic properties and the interface of syntacticosemantic content with morphological form

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A B S T R A C T

In the simplest cases, the property set that determines a lexeme's inflectional realization as a word form w is exactly the set that determines the syntax and semantics of w . Very frequently, however, there is a mismatch between a word's form and its content; for the morphologist, such mismatches are precious, because they expose the nature of the interface of morphology with syntax and semantics. Mismatches of this kind are manifested as a range of phenomena, including deponency, homomorphy and syncretism. Here, I draw upon evidence from Kashmiri and Hua (Trans-New-Guinea) to examine a specific sort of mismatch, between morphosyntactic properties and the morphomic properties through whose mediation they are inflectionally realized. I show that this evidence implies a grammatical architecture in which a lexeme L 's **content paradigm** (which determines the syntactic distribution and semantic composition of L 's word forms) is distinguished from its stem's **form paradigm** (which determines the morphology of these word forms) and that the systematic interface between these two paradigms is sometimes nontrivial.

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