

Word formation with the *-orama* libfix in English and Norwegian: A diasystematic construction grammar approach

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In this paper, we present a corpus-based analysis of deliberate and playful libfix formations (cf. Norde & Sippach 2019) in Norwegian and English with *-orama*. In Norwegian, word formations with *-orama* often have English bases, even though they are formed within the Norwegian language, e.g., *Scanorama* (a magazine), *glam-o-rama* (cf. glam rock) and *Bag-orama* (a chain of bag shops), in addition to *døllorama* (from English *dull*), *blomstorama* (from *blomst* ‘flower’), and other Norwegian-based variants. Drawing on the rich dataset of the HaBiT Web-corpus of Bokmål and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), our study adopts a diasystematic construction grammar approach to the investigation of the constructional development of *-orama*.

We begin by providing an overview of the use of *-orama* in English and Norwegian and exploring their sources and development. We discuss the structural and semantic properties of the libfix formations, as well as the factors that underlie the word formation process.

We then turn our focus to the role of DCxG in accounting for the cross-linguistic influence observed in the use of *-orama* in Norwegian. We explore whether the different constructional meanings found in the Norwegian formations can also be identified in English, or whether there are distinct developments. We argue that the choice of English as a source language for innovations formed with *-orama* evokes certain connotations associated with parts of the English-speaking community: “language choice itself can carry additional information by marking the utterance as belonging to a particular set of communicative domains” (Höder 2018: 43).

References

- Höder, S. 2018. Grammar is community-specific. Background and basic concepts of Diasystematic Construction Grammar. In: Boas, H. C. & Höder, S. (Eds.): *Constructions in contact : Constructional perspectives on contact phenomenon in germanic languages*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.

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