

Corpus based insights into adverbial morphology: the case of German *-(er)weise*

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With our poster we want to shed some light on the somewhat neglected field of adverbial word-formation by looking closely at the German suffix *-(er)weise*. Based on a quantitative analysis of a corpus of German newspapers we argue that in contrast to the common view *-(er)weise* should better be understood as two suffixes (i.e. *-weise* and *-erweise*). Unlike Ronca (1975) and Ros (1992) we do not propose a semantic based typology but argue that a differentiation according to the lexical category of the base captures the semantic and syntactic characteristics of these formations more adequately. Formations with adjectival bases (e.g. *glücklicherweise* ‚luckily‘) are generally interpreted as sentence adverbials. In the corpus data we also find formations with present participles (e.g. *lesenderweise* ‚while reading‘) which have not been discussed in the literature so far. Syntactically they either denote a circumstance and modify the event or they modify the process, so they are base-generated in a different position than sentence adverbials (c.f. Pittner 2004). On the other hand we find formations with nominal bases (e.g. *probeweise* ‚as a test‘, *kistenweise* ‚by the case‘) which can be further subdivided depending on whether the base is a deverbial or non-deverbial noun. As the corpus data show only non-deverbial nouns that denote a container or a measurement have recently developed a use as a quantitative determiner (*Die Polizei stieß auf haufenweise Drogen* ‚The police pounced on heaps of drugs‘) where *haufenweise* only denotes a large amount but does not necessarily refer to actual piles or heaps anymore.

References

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