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UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

# CEFR-graded morpheme family for L2 Swedish

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Based on work by: Elena Volodina, Yousuf Ali Mohammed, Therese Lindström Tiedemann  
and annotators

What is a morpheme family?

- Words that share morphological components form so-called **morphological families**, which are sets of words that are *related morphologically* (sharing a morpheme) and *semantically* (sharing a meaning)

Nikolaev et al. (2019) [cognitive studies]

- The **derivation family** is defined as a network of *derivationally related lexemes*.

Körtvélyessy et al. (2020) [typological studies]

- **Derivational families**, i.e. clusters of lemmas in derivational relationships.

Zeller et al. (2013) [computational lexicography]


- Inclusion of a related form of a word within a **word family** depends on criteria involving *frequency, regularity, productivity and predictability*. These criteria are applied to English *affixes* so that the *inflectional affixes* and the most *useful derivational affixes* are arranged into a **graded** set of seven levels.

Bauer and Nation (1993) [L2 acquisition studies]

Bauer &  
Nation  
(1993)

Word families			
2	develop develops developed developing	wood wood's woods wooded	bright brighter brightest
3	developable undevelopable developer(s) undeveloped	woody woodiest woodier woodiness	brightly brightish brightness
4	development(s) developmental developmentally		
5	developmentwise semideveloped antidevelopment	wooden	brighten
6	redevelop predevelopment	anti-wood	

# Swedish L2 morpheme family

Morpheme †	CEFR level †	Morpheme Category †	Lemgram †	Sense †	Word Class †	Saldo Word Class †	Word formation †	Receptive † 	Productive † 
a	C1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">skapa..vb.1</a>	skapa..1	Participle (PC)	Verb (vb)	Derivation	0.13 (2)	9.33 (49)
ing	C1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">meningsfull..av.1</a>	meningsfull..1	Adjective (JJ)	Adjective (av)	Compound	0.06 (1)	8.95 (47)
is	A1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">kompis..nn.1</a>	kompis..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	6.57 (17)	92.77 (38)
sk	B2	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">karolinsk..av.1</a>	karolinsk..1	Adjective (JJ)	Adjective (av)	Derivation	0.00 (0)	5.39 (24)
in	B2	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">karolinsk..av.1</a>	karolinsk..1	Adjective (JJ)	Adjective (av)	Derivation	0.00 (0)	5.39 (24)
ar	A1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">lärare..nn.1</a>	lärare..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	13.13 (34)	51.27 (21)
skap	B1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">äktenskap..nn.1</a>	äktenskap..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	0.45 (6)	8.33 (19)
en	B1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">äktenskap..nn.1</a>	äktenskap..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	0.45 (6)	8.33 (19)

# SweL2P, suffix -skap

Total rows : 53

Morpheme ↓↑	CEFR level ↓↑	Morpheme Category ↓↑	Lemgram ↓↑	Sense ↓↑	Word Class ↓↑	Saldo Word Class ↓↑	Word formation ↓↑	Receptive ↓↑ 📄	Productive ↓↑ 📄
skap	B1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">äktenskap..nn.1</a>	äktenskap..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	0.45 (6)	8.33 (19)
skap	B2	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">kunskap..nn.1</a>	kunskap..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	1.72 (26)	0.90 (4)
skap	B1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">partnerskap..nn.1</a>	partnerskap..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	0.15 (2)	1.31 (3)
skap	B1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">vänskap..nn.1</a>	vänskap..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	0.60 (8)	0.88 (2)
skap	C1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">föräldraskap..nn.1</a>	föräldraskap..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	0.57 (9)	0.19 (1)
skap	B2	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">medborgarskap..nn.1</a>	medborgarskap..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	0.26 (4)	0.22 (1)
skap	B2	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">kunskapsmässig..av.1</a>	kunskapsmässig..1	Adjective (JJ)	Adjective (av)	Derivation	0.00 (0)	0.22 (1)
skap	B2	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">språkkunskap..nn.1</a>	språkkunskap..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Compound	0.20 (3)	0.22 (1)

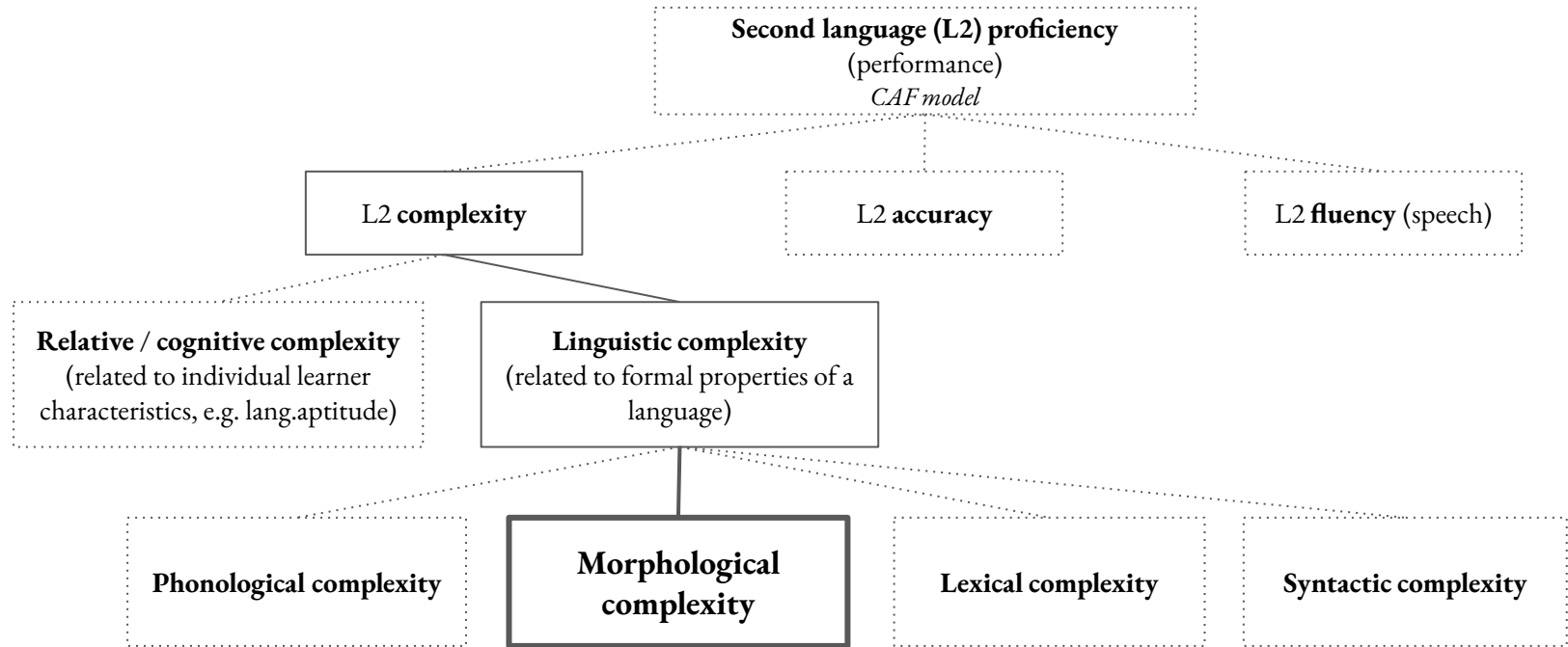
# Related resources (a few examples)

- CELEX (Dutch, German, English) lexicons based on L1 corpora
  - <https://catalog.ldc.upenn.edu/LDC96L14>
  - contain derivational and compositional structure, inflectional paradigms (among others)
  - protected by paywall
- DERivBase (German) - resource with morphological families
  - <https://www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/forschung/ressourcen/lexika/derivbase/>
  - based on German CELEX
- Derivational networks (40 EU languages)
  - <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110686630/html>
  - 3 word classes á 30 core root lexemes across languages
- Word formation networks (Polish, Czech, French, Spanish)
  - Lango et al. (2021); DeriNet (lexical network for Czech)
- Word families (English)
  - Bauer & Nation (1993) <https://academic.oup.com/ijl/article-abstract/6/4/253/941347>
  - Coxhead (1998) An Academic Word List (570 word families)

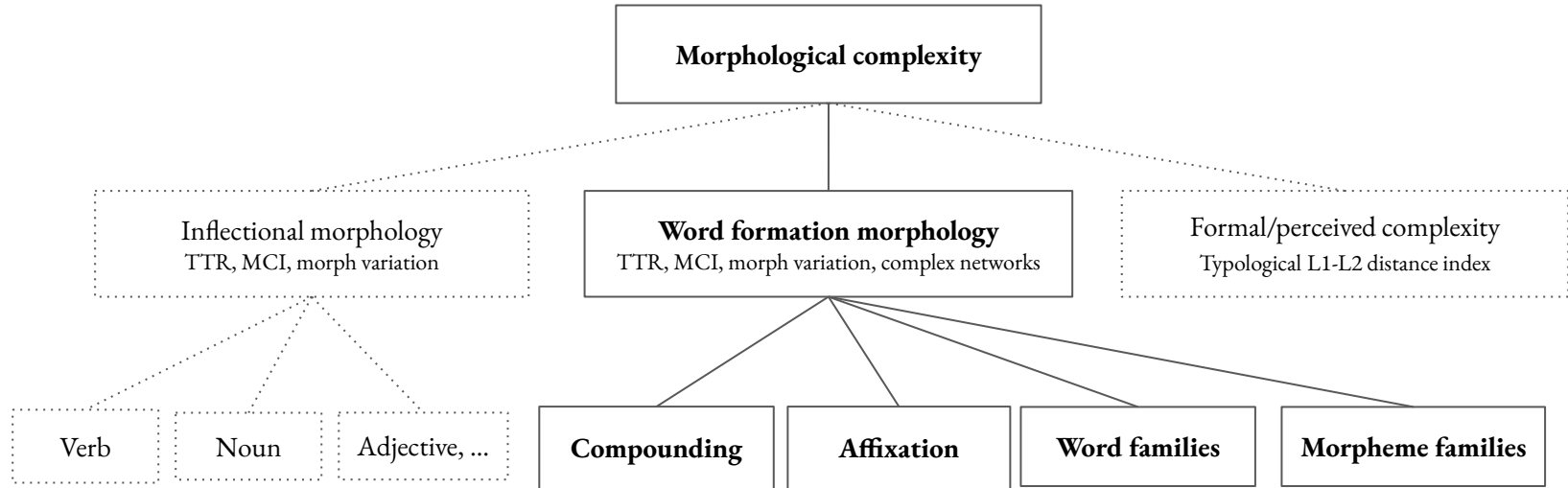


Why did we do it?

# Complexity as a proxy of learner language development



# Our focus



# Complexity measures (infl. morphology)

- Syntactic variety (Forster & Skenann, 1996; Ellis & Yan, 2005)
- Inflectional diversity index (Malvern et al., 2004)
- Normalized mean size of paradigm (Xanthos & Gillis, 2010)
- MCI - Morphological Complexity Index (Brezina & Palotti, 2016):
  - [http://corpora.lancs.ac.uk/vocab/process\\_text\\_morph.php](http://corpora.lancs.ac.uk/vocab/process_text_morph.php)

# Complexity measures (deriv. morphology)

- ...yet to be developed

## Within L2 context

- Relation of morphological awareness and language proficiency
- Awareness of derivational morphemes
- Priming effect of roots/affixes on learning of new vocabulary (cf word families)
- Vocabulary testing
- Pedagogical applications / ICALL (e.g. exercises)
- ...

# Outside L2 context

- Typological studies of languages
- Computational complexity of languages
- Psycholinguistic studies
- Cognitive studies
- Machine translation
- Cognate identification
- ...

## L2 profiles for Swedish

L2P - Documentation

L2P - MWE experiment

L2P - experiment with word  
difficulty

# L2 profiles for Swedish

Full name: Development of lexical and grammatical competences in immigrant Swedish, RJ, 2018-2020

## Background

Sweden has a growing number of immigrants, the need for courses and coursebooks in Swedish as a second language (L2) is increasing, as is the demand for standardized tests and qualifications. This project intends to study the development of lexical and grammatical competences in L2 learners of Swedish.

## General description

We intend to perform the study through two corpora: coursebook texts and learner essays, both marked up for proficiency levels according to the Common European Framework of References (CEFR). The corpora will be processed by computational methods, after which the results will be analysed by linguists, lexicographers, grammarians, teachers and language assessors - both linguistically, and based on theory of teaching, to find ways of identifying minimal or central (need-to-know) vocabulary and grammar scopes, as well as

## Project duration

2018-01-01 – 2021-12-31

## Project members

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## Funding

[Riksbankens Jubileumsfond](#)


(grant no. P17-0716:1)



What is Swedish L2 profile?


# Swedish L2 profile

Exercise Generator Tools Experimental prototypes Swedish L2 profiles Svenska English

 Language Acquisition Reusing **Korp**



Lexical profile Grammatical profile Morphological profile

Word family  
Morpheme family

Sen\*Lex 

Search word Word Class Saldo Word Class Noun declension Gender

A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2 Tables Graphs Statistics Download Statistics Clear all

Show only first occurrence [Statistics - description](#)  [Filters - description](#) 

(will be) freely available at: <https://spraakbanken.gu.se/larkalabb/svlp>

Lexical profile

Grammatical profile

Morphological profile

Sen\*Lex 

Word Class

Noun (NN) Saldo Word Class Noun declension Gender 

A1

A2

B1

B2

C1

C2

Tables

Graphs











Statistics

Download

Clear all

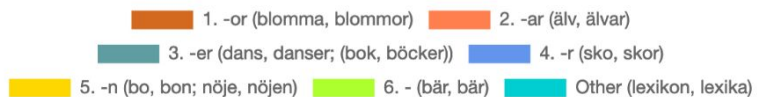
 Show only first occurrence [Tables - description](#)  [Filters - description](#) 

Total rows : 2221

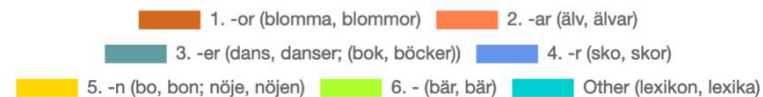
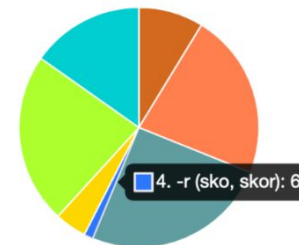
CEFR level 	Word 	Lemgram 	Sense 	Word Class 	Saldo Word Class 	Receptive  	Productive  
A2	<a href="#">skola</a>	skola..nn.1	skola..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	11.92 (82)	93.53 (214)
A2	<a href="#">kompis</a>	kompis..nn.1	kompis..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	2.76 (19)	62.94 (144)
A2	<a href="#">dag</a>	dag..nn.1	dag..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	23.54 (162)	52.45 (120)
A2	<a href="#">år</a>	år..nn.1	år..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	37.35 (257)	40.21 (92)

## Noun declension

Receptive



Productive

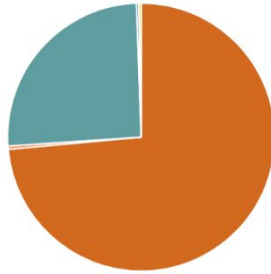


Noun declension	Receptive
1. -or (blomma, blommor)	211
2. -ar (älv, älvar)	475
3. -er (dans, danser; (bok, böcker))	572

Noun declension	Productive
1. -or (blomma, blommor)	43
2. -ar (älv, älvar)	110
3. -er (dans, danser; (bok, böcker))	124

## Gender

Receptive

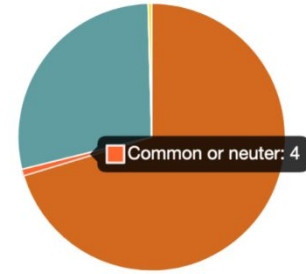


■ Common (en älv, en bil) 
 ■ Common or neuter 
 ■ Neuter (ett ägg, ett år)

■ No gender 
 ■ Always plural - no gender

Gender	Receptive
Common (en älv, en bil)	1537
Common or neuter	8
Neuter (ett ägg, ett år)	533

Productive



■ Common (en älv, en bil) 
 ■ Common or neuter 
 ■ Neuter (ett ägg, ett år)

■ No gender 
 ■ Always plural - no gender

Gender	Productive
Common (en älv, en bil)	346
Common or neuter	4
Neuter (ett ägg, ett år)	140

Total rows : 649

CEFR level ↓↑	Word ↓↑	Lemgram ↓↑	Sense ↓↑	Word Class ↓↑	Saldo Word Class ↓↑	Receptive ↓↑ 🗨	Productive ↓↑ 🗨
A1	skola	skola..nn.1	skola..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	11.20 (29)	<a href="#">249.02 (102)</a>

Antal träffar: 102

« < 1 2 3 4 5 > »

Gå till sida  av 5 [Visa kontext](#)

SPIN (stödjer ej utökad kontext)

min <b>skolan</b> ligger på N-gata på N-gata.
I <b>skolan</b> är 300 elever.
NN arbetar i <b>skolan</b> .
Ja bra i <b>skolan</b> pratar svenska.
Min <b>skolan</b> heter NN.
Min <b>skola</b> ligger på N-gata på N-gata.
Det finns fyra våningar i <b>skolan</b> .
i <b>skolan</b> eleverna finns 16.
Jag slutar <b>skolan</b> kl. 2:00.
Jag kommer <b>skolan</b> sprbangn och but.
Jag tycker om bild och Lesnär på music och Simu <b>skola</b> .

What is L2 Swedish Morphological Profile?

# Swedish L2 Morphological profile

Lexical profile

Grammatical profile

Morphological profile

Word family

Morpheme family

**Morpheme family** 

(will be) freely available at: <https://spraakbanken.gu.se/larkalabb/svlp>



# Morpheme family

Search morpheme:  Search word:

Morpheme Category:  Binding morpheme,  Derivational prefix,  Derivational suffix,  Inflectional ending,  Root morpheme,  Unclassified / unknown



Word Class:  Saldo Word Class:  Word formation:

A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2

Add column for related roots  Show only first occurrence *Tables - desc*

Tables Graphs Statistics Download Clear all

Total rows : 12

Morpheme ↓↑	CEFR level ↓↑	Morpheme Category ↓↑	Lemgram ↓↑	Sense ↓↑	Word Class ↓↑	Saldo Word Class ↓↑	Word formation ↓↑	Receptive ↓↑ 	Productive ↓↑ 
ling	A1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">älskling..nn.1</a>	älskling..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	1.16 (3)	0.00 (0)
ling	A2	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">Moderata_samlingspartiet.pmm.1</a>	Moderata_samlingspartiet..1	Adjective (JJ)	Multiword proper noun (pmm)	Lexicalized form	0.29 (2)	0.00 (0)
ling	A2	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">böckling..nn.1</a>	böckling..1	Noun (NN)	Noun (nn)	Derivation	0.29 (2)	0.00 (0)
ling	B1	Derivational suffix	<a href="#">änkling..nn.1</a>			Noun (nn)			

*Tables - desc*

älskling

**Definition :**

- älskling (svenska.se)

**Morphology :**

- r: älsk s: ling

**SAOL Analysis :**

- älsk-ling

**SO Analysis :**

- älsk-ling-en

Antal träffar: 3

« < 1 > » Gå till sida  av 1 [Visa kontext](#)

COCTAILL

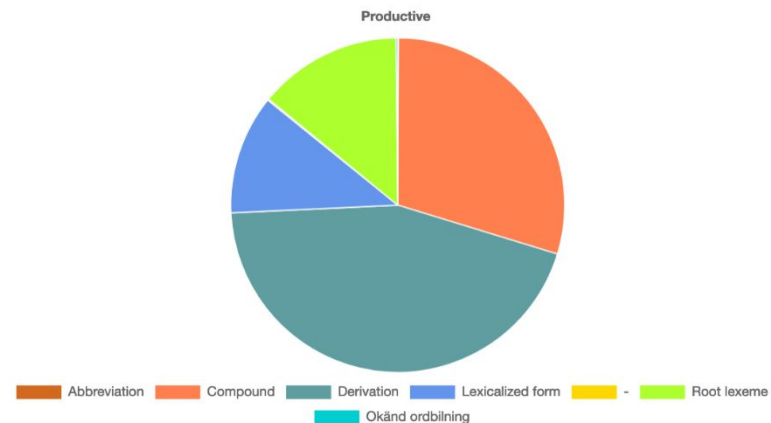
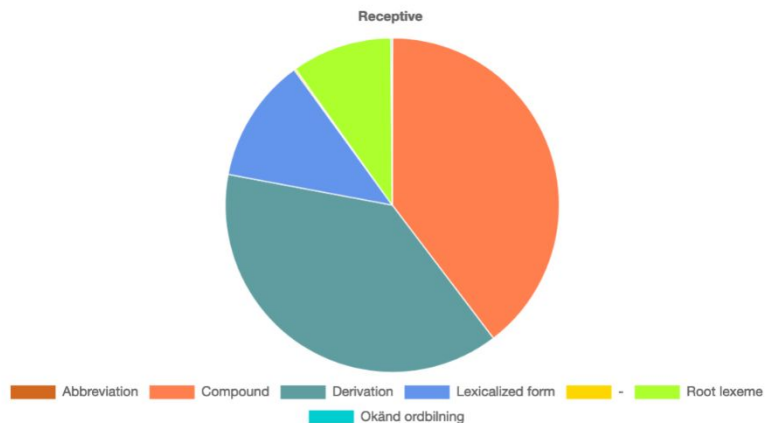
Mona: God natt, älskling, och sov gott!

Lasse: Hej, älskling, nu är jag hemma!

Lasse: God morgon, älskling!

« < 1 > » Gå till sida  av 1

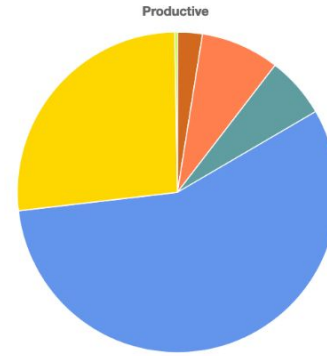
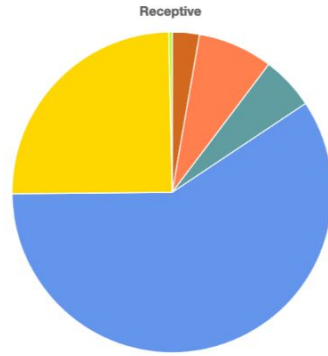
# Word formation mechanisms



Word formation	Receptive
Abbreviation	17
Compound	14344
Derivation	13871
Lexicalized form	4367

Word formation	Productive
Abbreviation	4
Compound	1629
Derivation	2448
Lexicalized form	634

# Morpheme categories



Word

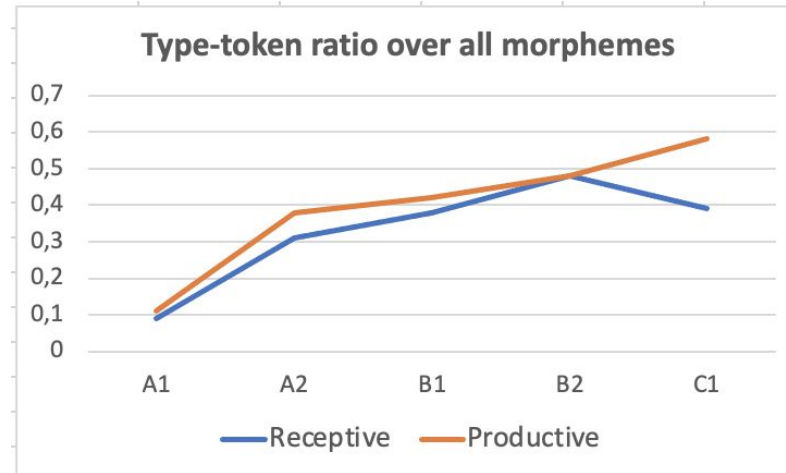
Morpheme Category	Receptive
Binding morpheme	990
Inflectional ending	2739
Derivational prefix	1939
Root morpheme	21444

Morpheme Category	Productive
Binding morpheme	138
Inflectional ending	436
Derivational prefix	338
Root morpheme	3108

# Statistics: type-token ratio

## CEFR level

CEFR level	Receptive (Type)	Productive (Type)	Receptive (Token)	Productive (Token)	Receptive (TTR)	Productive (TTR)
A1	2166	464	25015	4083	0.09	0.11
A2	5134	714	16367	1866	0.31	0.38
B1	10327	1184	27224	2829	0.38	0.42
B2	10916	1310	22569	2748	0.48	0.48



How did we do it?

# Co ● De ● Roo ● Mor

**Compounding** ● **Derivation** ● **Root** ● **Morphology** ...and more

- ... is a dataset of 16 230 Swedish words analyzed manually for inner word formation structure

# Lemgram view

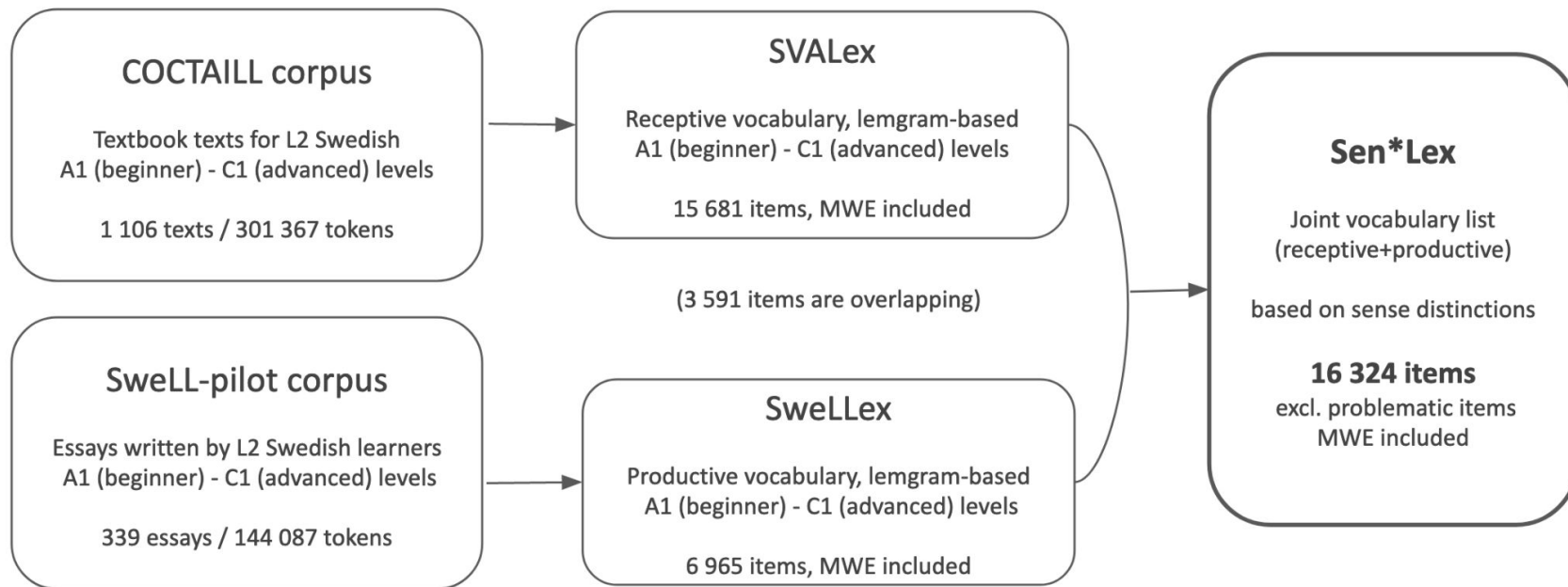
Lemgram	Sense	POS	Analysis	Segment.	Pattern	RealRoot	WordForm	CEFR
adekvat..av.1	adekvat..1	JJ	p:ad r:ekv s:at	ad-ekv-at	p:r:s	rr:adel	derivation	C1
adla..vb.1	adla..1	PC	r:adl s:a	adl-a	r:s		derivation	B2
adel..nn.1	adel..1	NN	r:adel	adel	r		root_lexeme	B1
adelsman..nn.1	adelsman..1	NN	r:adel f:s r:man	adel-s-man	r:f:r		compound	B1
adjektiv..nn.1	adjektiv..1	NN	p:ad r:jekt s:iv	ad-jekt-iv	p:r:s		derivation	A2
adjö..in.1	adjö..1	IN	r:adjö	adjö	r		root_lexeme	A2

## “Morpheme family” view

Morpheme	Identifier	Category	Frequency	Examples
a	s	suffix	1 605	leverera, lugna_sig, meritera, narkotika, pumpa, rasa
er	s	suffix	577	abdikera, intrigera, politiker, kritiker, motivera, tekniker
tid	r	root	128	arbetstid, nutid, skoltid, livstid, dåtid, deltid
ny	r	root	46	nyinköpt, nykocht, nykomling, nyligen, nymodighet, Nynäshamn
o	p	prefix	240	olaglig, olämplig, olik, olika, olikhet, oljud
re	p	prefix	105	reaktionstid, rebell, rebellisk, recensent, recensera, recension
s	f	infix*	803	fredstid, landsfader, riksbank, tvångsgift, landsdel, riksdag
o	f	infix*	76	vilopaus, sagobok, sannolik, sociolog, vilorum, typografi



# Source data → item selection



# Annotation categories: word formation

Word formation	Definition	Example
Abbreviation	words consisting of the initial components of a word or several words, including chemical abbreviations and some blends	AB (aktiebolag) (cf. Eng. 'ltd' = 'limited'), Au (Sw. guld, Eng. 'gold')
Compound	words formed by adding together two stems	skol+bok ('school book')
Derivation	words formed by adding a prefix or a suffix to a stem	sorg <b>lig</b> ('sad')
Lexicalized form	words that cannot be reduced to baseforms, e.g. MWEs	Aftonblad <b>et</b> (name of a tabloid), järnspik <b>ar</b> (a swearword)
Root lexeme	words consisting of a root only or a root and an inflectional suffix	bok ('book'), adjö ('goodbye'), ande ('spirit')
Unknown	reserved for difficult or uncertain cases including most first names	alzheimers (name of a disease), kalender ('calendar')

Guidelines: <https://tinyurl.com/fbe73ran>

# Annotation categories: morpheme types

<b>Morph. category</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Example</b>
p	derivational prefix	<b>fördjupa</b>
r	root (orthographic)	<b>kaotisk</b>
rr	real root	<b>kaos</b> (kaotisk)
s	derivational suffix	<b>kaotisk</b>
f	infix*	kedjebrev
i	inflectional suffix	i_höstas
?	unknown	<b>ironi</b>

# Annotation tool: Legato

## Lexicographic Annotation Tool (LEGATO)

Guidelines Skipped items <sup>0</sup> Search Filter External links

Quick jump to:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z Å Ä Ö

Jump to:

Jump

1 - 16230

Current task: **MORPHOLOGY**

Progress: 11457/16230

**SALDO** lemgram

samvete..nn.1

Saldo POS

noun (nn)

Part-of-Speech

Noun (NN)

CEFR level

B1

Saldo sense: **samvete..1**

Saldo primary descriptor: **känsla..2**

Saldo secondary descriptor: **rätt..2**

**Examples:**

Jonas : Har du aldrig fått dåligt \*\* samvete \*\* ?

Kanske hade han trots allt dåligt \*\* samvete \*\* för att han hade lämnat oss och skaffat ny familj .

Birgitta erkänner att hon borde ha riktigt dåligt \*\* samvete \*\* för det här , men hon menar att det inte drabbar någon enskild .

Previous morphology1:

p: sam r: vet s: e

Copy

Previous morphology2:

SO analysis:

sam=vete

Copy

SAOL analysis:

sam=vete

Copy

Current values:

r: sam

r: vet

s: e

Select word form:

- ROOT LEXEME
- DERIVATION
- COMPOUND
- LEXICALIZED FORM
- UNKNOWN
- ABBREVIATION

<https://spraakbanken.gu.se/larkalabb/legato>

# Annotation quality

<b>Annotation type</b>	<b>1-100</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-400</b>
Segmentation	0.87	0.87	0.89	0.93
Labeling	0.86	0.86	0.89	0.86
Segmentation+Labeling	0.85	0.85	0.87	0.88
Word formation	0.89	0.89	0.94	0.91

(Krippendorff's alpha for Inter-Annotator Agreement)

**Annotators: Beatrice Silén, Stellan Petersson, Maisa Lauriala  
+ Therese Lindström Tiedemann (researcher)**

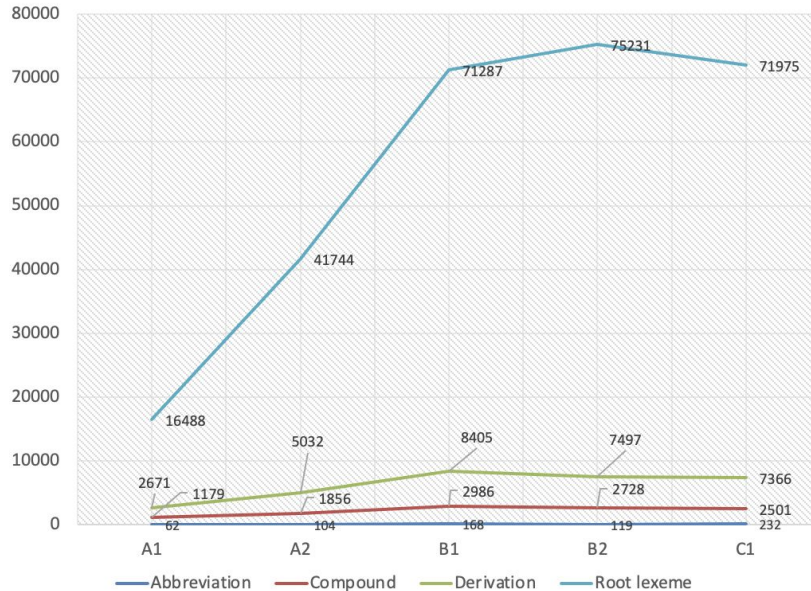
What can we do with it?

# Statistic analysis of L2 Swedish

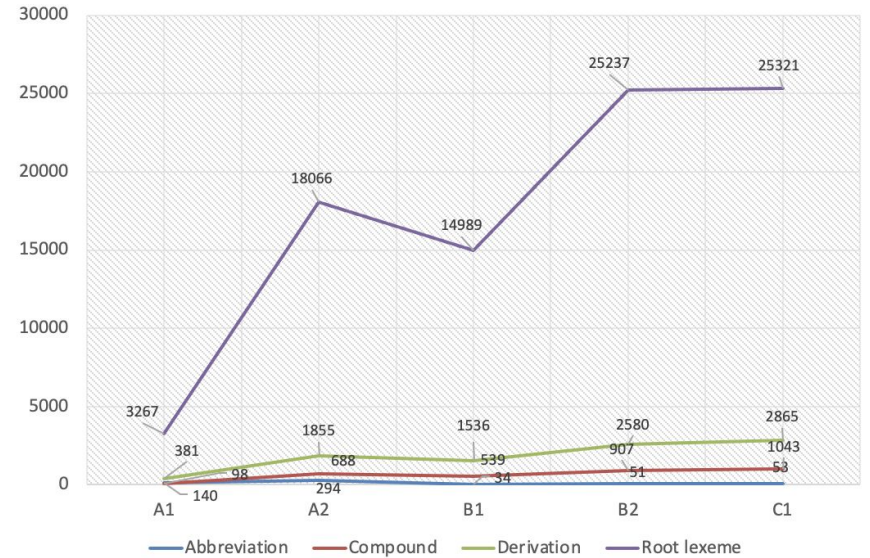
Morpheme category	Unique count	Sen*Lex	COCTAILL	SweLL-pilot	Examples
root	4429	23 987	471 056	142 381	<b>mat</b> bord, <b>kär</b> leksaffär, sag <b>olik</b>
suffix	259	10 062	91 646	28 638	mark <b>nad</b> , kost <b>sam</b> , milit <b>är</b>
prefix	155	2 183	19 828	5 489	<b>kon</b> sonant, ny <b>ren</b> overad
infix	12	1 089	3 441	1 641	känn <b>ed</b> om, kvinn <b>or</b> örelse
inflection	32	3 067	88 641	28 810	sak <b>er</b> _och_ <b>ting</b> , Medelhav <b>et</b> , läs <b>a</b>

# Relate statistics and levels of language development

Word formation mechanisms in COCTAILL data per level



Word formation mechanisms in SweLL-pilot essay data per level





# Derivational complexity

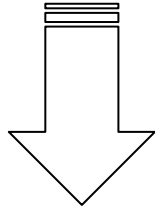
Item	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	Total
word	1369	2689	4518	4440	3211	16230
morpheme	2457	5727	11318	11732	9292	40534
morpheme/word	1.79	2.13	2.51	2.64	2.89	2.50

# Morphological complexity

- MCI - morphological complexity index (cf. Brezina & Palotti, 2016)
  - [http://corpora.lancs.ac.uk/vocab/analyse\\_morph.php](http://corpora.lancs.ac.uk/vocab/analyse_morph.php)
- Experiments with automatic proficiency prediction based on derivation morphology features
- ...

# Automatic tools for

- ...detection of morpheme boundaries
- ...labeling morphemes for their types
- ...labeling words for their word formation type



- ...with the ultimate aim/hope to add this type of analysis to automatic pipelines, primarily to Sparv



Select root: bild

Search word:

WordClass:

Saldo WordClass:

WordForm:

A1 A2 B1 B2 C1

Table View Graphical View Statistical View Download Clear All

Only first occurrence

Total rows: 34

Root ↕	CEFR ↕	Lemgram ↕	Sense ↕	WordClass ↕	Saldo WordClass ↕	WordForm ↕	Receptive ↕	Productive ↕
bild	A1	<a href="#">bild..nn.1</a>	bild..1	Noun (NN)	noun (nn)	Root lexeme	13	5
bild	A2	<a href="#">universitetsutbildning..nn.1</a>	universitetsutbildning..1	Noun (NN)	noun (nn)	Compound	1	0
bild	A2	<a href="#">utbilda..vb.1</a>	utbilda..1	Verb (VB)	verb (vb)	Compound	3	0
bild	A2	<a href="#">utbildning..nn.1</a>	utbildning..1	Noun (NN)	noun (nn)	Derivation	6	0
bild	A2	<a href="#">utbildningsnivå..nn.1</a>	utbildningsnivå..1	Noun (NN)	noun (nn)	Compound	1	0
bild	A2	<a href="#">bilda..vb.1</a>	bilda..1	Verb (VB)	verb (vb)	Derivation	2	0



Thank you!  
Comments? Questions?

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