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## Parasyntetic, Synthetic and Exocentric Compounds

Susan Olsen

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Attempts to define the term *exocentric compound* and characterize the scope of exocentric linguistic configurations in the world's languages are manifold and result for the most part in different arrays of structural data. cf. Bauer (2008), (2010), Scalise & Guevara (2006), Scalise, Fábregas & Forza (2009), Ten Hacken (2010) among others. This lecture will approach the issue from a different angle, that is, not from a broad typological perspective, but first by focusing on the empirical data from one language family, Indo-European. The aim is to see whether, when studied in this manner, the notion *exocentric compound* has a coherent content and a useful function in the morphological description of the IE family. The discussion will attempt to reconstruct the origin of the term *exocentric compound* and compare it to the earlier terms *parasyntetic* and *synthetic* that have a longer tradition in the traditional discussion and in part overlap and in part contrast with the later notion of exocentric. It will ask what formations the term originally applied to, to determine when the term was first coined and aim to show how the range of data it originally encompassed has shifted in a uniform manner in the diachronic history of this larger IE family, leading to a slightly modified understanding of the term today than what was in its original focus.

### References

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