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## Constructions ex nihilo: conversion, backformation, secretion and spandrels

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Construction Morphology generally represents derivational relations in hierarchical terms, crucially relying on the mechanism of Default Inheritance (Booij 2010, Masini & Audring 2019). This is concretely visualized by means of vertical relations connecting more general patterns or schemas lying high up in the construction and more specific constructions placed down. Constructions ordered in such vertical relations are usually piled up in terms of specificity and/or reach of the schema, while these two criteria are not really elaborated in the current literature. In this paper, the attempt will be made at refining this view, especially focusing on cases in which new constructions are inferred ex nihilo by speakers, i.e. where on the basis of the formal substance occurring in a given schema a more general one is created which is formally less specific than the extant one, as is typical of conversions, backformations, secretions and spandrels (Gaeta 2014, 2016).

### References

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