

Contents

Abbreviations	9
Introduction	11
1 Diminutives – theoretical background	15
1.1 Overview of definitions	15
1.2 Word class of input and output in diminutive formation	20
1.3 Diminutive formation	21
1.3.1 Derivational prefixation	22
1.3.2 Inflexional affixation	22
1.3.3 Reduplication	22
1.3.4 Compounding	23
1.3.5 Clipping	23
1.3.6 Suffixation	24
1.3.7 Analytic diminutive formation	25
1.4 Meaning carried by diminutives	28
1.5 Conclusion – characteristic features of diminutives	30
2 Research on diminutives	35
2.1 Traditional approaches to diminutives	35
2.2 Multifunctionality of affixes. The puzzling notion of quasi-diminutives	36
2.3 Acquisition of diminutives	38
2.4 Cognitive approaches to diminutives	41
2.4.1 Carlos Inchaurralde's explanation of diminutive meaning through personal space schemata	41
2.4.2 Ruiz de Mendoza's explanation of diminutive meaning through the ICM of size	46

2.4.3 The diminutive as a polysemous 'macro'-category	50
2.4.4 Universal radial category for the diminutive	51
2.4.5 Comments on the cognitive approaches to diminutives	56
2.5 Pragmatic approaches to diminutives	57
2.5.1 Diminutives in emotive semantics	57
2.5.2 Diminutives across cultures	64
2.5.3 Morphopragmatics of diminutives	78
2.5.4 Diminutives in discourse	85
2.6 Diminutives in translation	92
2.7 Conclusion	96
 3 General premises and current theories of Construction Grammar	 99
3.1 Basic tenets of Construction Grammar	99
3.2 Constructions in the view of Construction Grammar	109
3.3 Construction Morphology	115
3.4 Conclusion	120
 4 English diminutives in the perspective of constructional approaches to language	 123
4.1 Inheritance hierarchy for coinages with diminutive suffixes	125
4.2 The {LET} suffix	129
4.2.1 Background information on the {LET} suffix	130
4.2.2 CM analysis of the formations with the suffix {LET}	133
4.3 The {LING} suffix	137
4.3.1 Background information on the {LING} suffix	138
4.3.2 CM analysis of formations with the suffix {LING}	141
4.4 The {ETTE} suffix	149
4.4.1 Background information on the {ETTE} suffix	149
4.4.2 CM analysis of formations with the suffix {ETTE}	152

4.5 Diminutive formation involving multiple suffixes	158
4.5.1 Background information on the {ER} + {S} suffix combination	159
4.5.2 CM analysis of formations with {ER} + {S}	161
4.5.3 Background information on the {KIN} + {S} and {IE} + {KIN} + {S} suffix combinations	164
4.5.4 CM analysis of formations with {KIN} + {S} and {IE} + {KIN} + {S}	167
4.6 Conclusions following the CM analysis of synthetic diminutive formation	170
4.7 Analytic diminutives in the perspective of CxG	172
4.7.1 Constructional approach to translation	173
4.7.2 Constructional outlook on the definitions of diminutives	174
4.7.3 Analytic diminutives in English in the perspective of the constructional view of translation	179
Summary	195
Appendix	197
List of figures	281
List of tables	283
References	285