

components of SSEs resemble suffixation (Fidler forthcoming) in Czech or a semi-derivational suffix in English SSEs (Rhodes 1994). SSEs can be therefore seen not as an encapsulated area of language, but as manifesting features transitional to more conventionalized linguistic forms; this view can be further strengthened by the observation that SSEs adhere to phonological rules, as seen in the final devoicing of *g* (e.g. *beng*, *cveng*).

Fifth, semantic properties associated with the SSE-final *m*, in contrast to *n*, can at least partially motivate the difficulty of making verbs of the type **bimknout*, **bimkat*. The SSE-final *m* is associated with gradual decay of resonance. Its internal property is heterogeneous (unlike *n*); a heterogeneous state cannot be divided into equal parts. In contrast, the SSE-final *n* does not explicitly contain decay nor terminus. This uniform structure allows segmentation resulting in a semalfactive (*drnknout*) as well as quantified (i.e. repeated) action (*drnkat*)¹⁰. Analysis of sound and meaning can therefore be useful to account for the varying degrees to which SSEs can be grammaticalized.

Obviously, my observations require examination of other sound segments and testing. Nonetheless, this article has suggested several key issues for further study in sound symbolism study as well as in cognitive linguistics. It seems that SSEs do not occupy a discrete and problematic area of language. On the contrary, they potentially show that the symbolic relationship between linguistic form and meaning can exist on all the levels of language. Furthermore, SSEs have the potential to motivate the psychological reality of linguistic forms in the sense that they may be viewed as somewhat of a prototype for a linguistic form that consists of a lexeme and a suffix.

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¹⁰ The lack of compatibility between delimitation and heterogeneity was elegantly discussed on the level of verbal aspect and the predicate (the properties of an event and the direct object) by Mehlig 2005.

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