

**Aspects of contrastive word-formation:  
English and German derived resultative and causative-resultative verbs**  
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Abstract

The topic of the talk is derived verbs of two related kinds: those which, if intransitive or intransitively used, express a resultative semantic pattern (such as *fossilise*, *mature*, *solidify*, *tighten*; *aufweichen* 'make/become soft', *erblinden* 'go blind', *kristallisieren* 'crystallise', *versteinern* 'fossilise, turn to stone', *welken* 'wilt, wither'), and those which, if transitive or transitively used, express a causative-resultative semantic pattern (such as *enable*, *narrow*, *scrap*, *shorten*, *stabilise*; *abrunden* 'round (off/down)', *beruhigen* 'calm down', *erheitern* 'cheer up', *personifizieren* 'personify', *spitzen* 'sharpen'). I will be looking at the morphological patterns used in English and German for deriving such verbs, pointing out commonalities and differences between the languages. One observation that will be focused on is that German has significantly more of these verbs than English that express only resultativity. Most of the English verbs, by contrast, express both resultativity and causative-resultativity; actually, none seems to express resultativity to the exclusion of causative-resultativity in English. An explanation for this observation will be suggested which takes syntactic facts into account as well. In addition, the talk will address several conceptual and theoretical issues raised by these verbs, such as their morphological and semantic transparency and the different roles played by nominal bases as compared to adjectival bases in their derivation.