Evidence for non-compositionality in derivational morphology

Based on the conceptual distinction between syntagmatic and paradigmatic word structure I will present evidence in support of non-compositional, strictly paradigmatically based meaning in derivational morphology. For example I will argue against the claim that the English suffixes *-ity* and *-ness* are inherently associated with separate meanings (cf. Riddle (1985), Plag (2003)). After presenting additional evidence for paradigmatically based meaning in German *e*-nominalizations (e.g. *Stille, Wärme*) I will conclude by addressing learnability issues.