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## That English has no diminutives is a common myth - based on Klaus P. Schneider's book "Diminutives in English"

By Monika Rusek

GRIN Verlag GmbH Mrz 2008, 2008. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 212x147x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Titel. Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, printed single-sided, grade: 1,3, University of Potsdam, 4 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Introduction Several attempts have been made to analyse diminutives. This essay will provide a morphological approach. Morphology, the study of word-formation was influenced by three main sources in the past and each of these sources has contributed to the study of diminutives. Now, the three sources Bauer (1988: 5) and Schneider (2003: 29) mention are a) the philological grammar or traditional grammar, b) the structuralist schools of Linguistics or structuralism, and b) the transformational grammar or generative grammar. My analysis will be based on the approach Bauer (1988) made, and additionally on the approach Schneider (2003) made. This essay focuses on synthetic diminutive formation in English. Questions like what are diminutives, what grammatical approaches have been made to diminutives, what are its formation processes and what is the meaning diminutives convey, are treated in the first section. The second section deals...



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from English Grammar Today. A diminutive creates a meaning of "small" or "little". The most common diminutives are formed with the prefix mini- and with suffixes such as -let and -y. We often use a diminutive with names or with abbreviated names when we want to be more informal, or to express affection for someone or something: There's a minibus outside waiting to take you all to the station. (minibus = a bus which is smaller than a standard bus). Here's a booklet which gives advice on keep-fit. (booklet = a small book). I can feel one or two droplets of rain. (droplet = little drops of rain). We sometimes use a diminutive -y when we don't need to be precise: Her new dress was a sort of bluey colour. (bluey = almost blue). See also

@inproceedings{Schneider2003DiminutivesIE, title={Diminutives in English}, author={Klaus P. Schneider}, year={2003} }. Klaus P. Schneider. This study investigates the analytic and synthetic diminutives of the English language. It is based on three assumptions. First, diminutives are not an exclusively morphological category. Second, to understand the specific nature of diminutives, both formal and functional aspects must be examined, as well as the interaction between them. And third, diminutives must be studied empirically and in context. Against this background, an integrative approach is developed which combines grammatical and

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As in other languages, the diminutive forms of words in English usually have special suffixes. This is the type of diminutive we are going to focus on here. There are other forms of diminutives in English, one example of this is something called the sibling diminutive. This is not the focus of this post, but here are two examples of sibling diminutives in English: "œmovie" instead of "œmovie theater" and "œplane" instead of "œairplane." These diminutives are produced by adding special suffixes to nouns. Here are some common suffixes used to create diminutives in English. -y or "ie (these two are pronounced the same) -sie, -sies or -sy -o or -io -s. Here are some examples of these suffixes applied to words to create diminutives. 26. -ing: This English diminutive generally appears in references to fractions or parts, as in farthing or tithing. 27. -ish: This suffix can be added to almost any noun to create an adjective noting the connection or similarity of one thing to another: English, greenish. 28-29. -ita, -ito: Spanish words including the feminine form -ita (such as fajita) and -ito (burrito, for example) have been borrowed into English. 39-40. -olo, -oli: Piccolo, borrowed from Italian by way of French, is a double diminutive, because the root word means "œlittle"; ravioli includes a plural form of -olo. 41. -olus: This Latin diminutive shows up in scientific terminology from Latin, such as nucleolus. 1. Diminutives in English: An introduction. Traditionally, the term diminutive has been used to refer to words that denote smallness and possibly also express the speaker's attitude. On his part, Crystal (1997: 116) defines what is meant by diminutive as "œa term used in morphology to refer to an affix with the general meaning of "œlittle". It is a common myth. size, often additionally. that English has no diminutives, but one can find out that diminutives do exist in. it due to the fact that it is rare to find a book on English morphology that does. not touch upon diminutives. English diminutives are categorized as synthetic and analytic: the latter are lexis signalling the sense of "œsmallness". English has lexical units that carry the sense referred to.