

## **Analysing affixal entries in Old English lexicographical sources: problems and solutions**

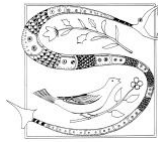
Raquel Vea Escarza (*University of La Rioja* – raquel.vea@unirioja.es)

Wednesday 9:00, Sala de Grados

This paper seeks to examine how affixal entries are organized in the main Old English dictionaries, including *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* by Bosworth and Toller (1973), *A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* by Clark-Hall (1996), *The Student's Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon* by Sweet (1976) and the *Dictionary of Old English* (Cameron *et al.*, eds. 2018) to identify possible weaknesses and unsystematic patterns in these entries and to offer a proposal of improved affixal entries that represents a solution to inconsistency and meaning coverage limitations. Considerable differences have been found in the sources consulted regarding the number and type of word formation elements attested or the degree of accuracy in the information provided by each entry. In addition, one and the same source may address affixal meaning diversely. In light of this situation, this paper suggests a solution to the aforementioned shortcomings by resorting to a framework of lexical functions (Author 2013, 2016, 2018) that capture the form and meaning relations found in the lexicon of a language in a consistent way. The lexical database of Old English *Nerthus* (Martín Arista, ed., *et al.* 2016) has contributed the main morphological information and has enabled data relations and the construction and description of meaning. The example below illustrates a suggested entry for the suffix *frēa*:

***frēa***. As a nominal affix, it attaches to nouns to designate a higher position both in an organizational or in an intensity hierarchy: ***frēa***-*bregd* ‘mighty device’, -*drihten*, -*meaht*, -*miht*, -*reccere*, -*wine*, -*wrāsn*. As an adjectival prefix, it derives adjectives with a greater intensity: ***frēa***-*beorht* ‘glorious’, -*fatt*, -*glēaw*, -*bræd*, -*mære*, -*micel*, -*torht*, -*wlitig*.

The model presented has thus permitted both a closer approximation to the affixal assortment of meanings and also a greater descriptive systematization.



## References

- Bosworth, J. and T. N. Toller. 1973 (1898). *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Cameron, A., A. Crandell Amos, A. diPaolo Healey, *et al.*, eds. (2018). *Dictionary of Old English: A to I online*. Toronto: Dictionary of Old English Project.
- Clark Hall, J. R. 1996 (1896). *A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Martín Arista, J. (ed.), García Fernández, Lacalle Palacios, L., M., Ojanguren López, A. E. and Ruiz Narbona, E. (2016). *NerthusV3. Online Lexical Database of Old English*. Nerthus Project. Universidad de La Rioja. [www.nerthusproject.com]
- Sweet, H. 1976 (1896). *The Student's Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Vea Escarza, R. (2013). Old English adjectival affixation. Structure and function. *Studia Anglica Posnaniensia*, (Vol. 48), 5-25.
- Vea Escarza, R. (2016). Old English affixation. A structural-functional analysis. *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 15 (1): 101-119.
- Vea Escarza, R. (2018). Las funciones y categorías de los nombres y adjetivos afijados del inglés antiguo. *Onomázein*, (41), 208-226.

## Contact data

Raquel Vea Escarza  
Departamento de Filologías Modernas  
Universidad de La Rioja  
Prolongación San José de Calasanz, 9, 26004 Logroño, La Rioja