**Ingo Plag’s *Productivity and the Mental Lexicon***

**ISSUES and concepts**

         Productive suffixes and productivity constraints that speakers unconsciously know

         Word formation: possible and actual words

                   Complex and simple words

         Word knowledge (speakers’ morphological competence) and storage

         Word retrieval – resting activation

         RULE is a rule if it yields the correct set of complex words

         REDUNDANCY (as when not decomposing words but storing them in memory) vs. MIND RULES: Do these two principles coexist or prevent mutual functioning?

**Unlike possible words, actual words may be idiosyncratic (not formed according to English grammar rules).**

In terms of following the rule, what’s the difference between *affordable* and *knowledgeable*? Are both actual words? Which one is idiosyncratic, i.e., not formed according to the can be …ed’ rule?

QUESTIONS:

1. How can we test what is part of passive and or vocabulary tested? How is one's size of vocabulary estimated?

2. The more frequent a word is the more easily we can remember and retrieve it from our lexicon. Are some words used “without thinking” and others with effort?

3. What technique do you use for retrieving a word that you cannot remember at that moment? Does it happen to you often?

4.    Why doesn't English use infixes?

5. How can a word that is considered a “possible word” by definition become an “actual” word? Does the word have to be written in the dictionary, or is widespread use of the word enough for it to be considered an actual word?

6. What is the most important property of a potential word?

7. Is there a way to control formation of new complex words? Who determines restrictions on forming new words?

8. Do all individuals have their own highly infrequent complex words or are there just certain words that are universally not used as often and we are thus rapid to decompose them mentally?

9. Why do so many irregularities exist in language, therefore limiting possible words from becoming actual words? Obviously in some instances the word sounds wrong, but in other cases it is not allowed by the design of the language, and I am curious in those cases how the word developed.

10. From where did idiosyncratic words originate?

11.  Does the "tip of the tongue" phenomena relate to this reading?

12. What is the cause for exchanging of words by mistake (like “neck” for “leg”) and how does it correspond with the fact **resting activation** also activates words that are semantically and phonetically similar with word we want to retrieve?

13. Does brain follow the organization principle that’s behind dictionary compilation, i.e. the principle that counts on speakers’ knowledge of regular forms and thus does not list them as separate entries? Does it “list” it even if redundant?

14. But could the necessarily economical storage be in conflict with the necessity of quick access? What’s the actual storage of words?

15. Why do infrequent words, unlike frequent ones, have a strong tendency to be decomposed for storage?