



Rules and Exemplars in Inflectional Morphology

By Stephan Bandelow

VDM Verlag Dr. Müller E.K. Jun 2009, 2009. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 220x153x15 mm. Neuware - There are currently two main competing theories that aim to explain the neural organisation of inflectional morphology, which concerns the generation of past tenses and plurals: Exemplar-based theories, including connectionist models, and dual-route accounts. The latter propose the existence of a distinct symbolic rule system dedicated to human language processing. These contrasting views can have significant implications for learning theory. The work presented in this book relies on connectionist models and empirical behavioural data to determine which theory can best account for German plural and English inflections. The central result regarding German plurals contradicts previous claims by finding that neither the -s nor the -(e)n plural constitute a regular default type. Simulations of English plural and past tense inflections are also presented because they offer a novel stochastic interpretation of rare double dissociations between regular and irregular inflection. A behavioural experiment on English past tense production is included to test the differing predictions from connectionist and dual-route models. These results are broadly in favour of exemplar-based theories. 192 pp. English.



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