

## Cross-morphemic transposed letter effects argue against a single decompositional pathway

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A masked priming experiment was designed to compare an account of visual polymorphemic word recognition that entails obligatory decomposition and a dual pathways account where such decomposition is supplemented with a whole-word recognition system through which words are decomposed post-lexically. Letter transposition was applied to word primes taken from a previous study, creating nonword primes by disrupting the suffix of truly derived words (e.g., *hunetr-HUNT*), the pseudo-suffix of pseudo-derived words (e.g., *corenr-CORN*), and the non-suffix of non-derived words (e.g., *casehw-CASH*). Priming was observed for the derived words whether disrupted or intact, and no priming was observed for the non-suffixed words whether disrupted or intact. In contrast, the priming found for the pseudo-derived words when they were intact disappeared when disrupted. Such a result opposed the single pathway decomposition model since letter transposition should have affected truly suffixed and pseudo-suffixed words in exactly the same way. Instead, a dual pathways model was supported whereby decomposition occurs only through post-lexical decomposition when the affix is disrupted. However, such a conceptualisation was opposed by a second experiment in which priming was equally strong for inappropriately suffixed nonwords when disrupted (e.g., *noveilsm-NOVEL*) as when intact (e.g., *novelism-NOVEL*), given that nonwords cannot be decomposed post-lexically. Discussion will centre on how the two sets of results might be reconciled.

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