What do we know about lexical access?

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The study of lexical access can help to provide independent justification for models of morphological theory. This poster aims to present a detailed review of the various models of lexical access, both connectionist and lexical search models, as well as an overview of some of the factors motivating the different theories. An analysis of the cross linguistic variables and psycholinguistic factors, as well as experimental evidence from Plag and Baayen (2009), shows that the dual route model of lexical access (Caramazza et al 1988, Frauenfelder and Schreuder 1991, Schreuder and Baaven 1995) may be the most logical, and indeed psychologically realistic model. The dual route model of lexical access appears to be already manifested in the formalisation of the lexical stratification model. Giegerich's (1999) base-driven stratification model has two distinct strata with specifications for the categories Root and Word respectively, accounting for both the storage of listed root forms - where the lexicon acts as a repository - and the production of word-units on stratum two by affixation and compounding. At the same time, the results from Plag and Baayen's (2009) experiments also appear to support this dual route model of lexical access. This may point towards correspondences and overlaps between the formal stratification model and the morphological research currently being done in the psycholinguistic field, particularly by Hay, Plag and Baayen and also indicates areas of interest for further research.

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