THE SEMANTIC CONTRIBUTION OF
THE PREFIXES 'AB-', 'AUS-', 'DURCH-',
'ER-', 'MISS-', 'MIT-' AND 'BE-'
TO THE MEANING OF
THE GERMAN COMPLEX VERB

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Abstract

Prefixes play a vital role in the German language as they can contribute meaning, or 'senses' to words. This thesis considers the semantic contribution (e.g. possible senses) of the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'er-', 'miss-', 'mit-' and 'be-' within various complex verbs. The prefixes were studied to see if they were found to be polysemous, monosemous, or without a sense. Two of the prefixes, 'er-' and 'aus-', were compared in order to test the claim of Fleischer / Barz that they demonstrate synonymy. The aim of the research was to find evidence of patterns / relationships shared by the seven prefixes in the range of possible senses they can contribute to complex verbs.

The study consists of three phases. The first phase of the study set out to analyse the semantic contribution of the prefixes to complex verbs. This was done by using the Oxford Duden Dictionary to study complex verbs which feature each of the prefixes. Entries for verbs as given in the Oxford Duden Dictionary were at times compared with entries for the same verbs as found in the Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch. The purpose of the exercise was to see if further clues as to the contribution of a prefix could be found if verb entries from different sources were compared and analysed.

In the second phase of the study, the University of Leipzig corpus was used in an attempt to validate the senses identified for the prefixes in the dictionary-based study. A selection of senses identified for the prefixes were successfully validated. The corpus was also used to find evidence of senses of the selected prefixes that had not been identified in the dictionary-based part of the study.

In the third and final phase of the study, the findings of the research were analysed. The aim was to find a characterization for the complete range of senses the seven prefixes had been found to contribute to those complex verbs studied. A characterization was found. This demonstrated how the seven prefixes show patterns / similarities in the range of senses they can contribute to complex verbs.

The findings of the research are valuable to anyone who uses / studies the German language. The characterization established for the senses of the seven prefixes, for example, shows how a German speaker / student of German can expect to find patterns / similarities in the range of senses these prefixes can contribute to complex verbs. The senses the prefixes were found to contribute to complex verbs may also be similar to the senses they can contribute to other word classes, e.g. nouns, adjectives etc. The results of the study therefore allow a greater understanding of the ways in which the seven prefixes can function to give meaning to words in the German language.
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This work is dedicated to all those who teach, and all those who learn.
CONVENTIONS

*Italics:*

- titles of books, e.g. *Wortbildung der deutschen Gegenwartssprache*
- examples (including those taken from sources), e.g. *Wir fahren übermorgen ab*
- adjectives / nouns, e.g. *artig, Maschine*
- emphasis, e.g. When two or more prefixes contribute the *same* sense to a complex verb, they are said to demonstrate *synonymy*

'Single inverted commas'

- when introducing terminology, e.g. These are known as its 'senses'
- for translation into English, e.g. Gegensinn means 'opposite sense'
- for senses of verbs, e.g. The simplex verb has the sense 'to borrow'
- for senses of prefixes, e.g. The prefix contributes the sense of

'Completeness / thoroughness'

'Single inverted commas and italics':

- prefixes, e.g. 'ab-'
- particles, e.g. 'mit'
- suffixes, e.g. 'unruhig'
- prepositions, e.g. 'durch'
- adverbs, e.g. 'ab'
- infixes, e.g. 's'
**Bold font style:**

- for emphasis if a word is already italicized, e.g. 'to dredge up', and for emphasis in diagrams / tables / when discussing findings
- in the Gegensinn sections to highlight the opposite senses of a verb

"Double inverted commas and normal font style":

- Quotations from books, e.g. According to Fleischer / Barz (1992, 28):
  "Affixe sind meist einsilbig"

**Underlining:**

- to show the roots of words, e.g. Erzähler, erzählenswert
- to show derivative forms of words, e.g. beabsichtigen (verb derived from a noun)
- for emphasis when comparing the senses of two verbs, e.g. for evidence of possible synonymy

When quoting the possible senses of a complex / simplex verb as given in a dictionary, the complete list of senses will not always be listed. Senses will be listed which are presumed to be the core senses of the word, or those which are considered the most relevant for the purpose of the study
| indicates where a verb is separable, compare durchblättern and durchblättern.

(According to the Oxford Duden Dictionary (2001, 17): " | shows the juncture of elements forming a compound verb and indicates that the verb is separable."

Square brackets [ ] will be used to show where comments have been inserted in quotations to clarify / expand on text.

Roman numerals will be used in Chapter Eleven when studying simplex verbs and the various prefixes they make take, e.g. i) beackern, durchackern ii) missachten, beachten

In the Gegensinn sections, the verbs featured in brackets alongside each of the senses of the main verb are given as found in the Oxford Duden Dictionary, and are called 'sense indicators'. For example: ausleihen - a) (leihen) to borrow b) (verleihen) to lend. (Senses of verbs are labelled as found in the Oxford Duden Dictionary).

According to the Oxford Duden Dictionary (23, 2001): "Indicators, printed in italics in parentheses before translations, distinguish between the various senses of a headword and, together with the subject field labels, tell the user which sense is being translated." (In my opinion, indicators may sometimes act to provide a possible synonym of the verb which follows).
ABBREVIATIONS

CONVENTIONS FOR DICTIONARY ENTRIES:

abbrev. - abbreviation
Akk. - Akkusativ
Amer. - American, America
bes. - besonders
Biol. - Biologie
Bot. - Botanik
Brit. - britisch
bzw. - beziehungsweise
da. - circa, zirka
coll. - colloquial
D. - durative
Dat. - Dativ
d. h. - das heisst
etw. - etwas
fig. - figurative
geh. - gehoben
Ger. - German
Ggs. - Gegensatz
I - idiomatic
i.e. - OED: abbrev. that is to say. Origin from L. id est 'that is'
intr. - intransitiv
intrans. - intransitive
intr. V. - intransitives Verb
iron. - ironisch
Jägerspr. - Jägersprache
Jh. - Jahrhundert
jmd. - jemand
jmdm. - jemandem
jmdn. - jemanden
Kochk. - Kochkunst
L. - Latin
Landw. - Landwirtschaft
Med. - Medizin
mhd. - mittelhochdeutsch
mnnd. - mittelniederdeutsch
N(eutr). - Neutrum
nordd. - norddeutsch
ntl.-gr. - neutestamentlich griechisch
o.Ä. - oder Ähnliches
obs. - obsolete
od. - oder
österr. - österreichisch
Physiol. - Physiologie
Präp. - präposition
R. - resultative
rdal., Rda - redensartlich, Redensart
Rechtsspr. - Rechtssprache
refl. V. - reflexives Verb
regelm. - regelmäßig
salopp - *Oxford Duden Dictionary* (2001, 22) states: especially colloquial and expressive; often used only by particular groups (e.g. *Sauerei, ins Gras beißen müssen*)
Schülerspr. - Schülersprache
Seew. - Seewesen
std. - Standardwortschatz
stil. - stilistisch markiert
südd. - süddeutsch
tr. V. - transitives Verb
trans. - transitive
u.a. - und andere(s)
übertr. - übertragen
ugs. - umgangssprachlich
unr. intr. V. - unregelmäßig intransitives Verb
unr. refl. V. - unregelmäßig reflexives Verb
unr. tr. V. - unregelmäßig transitives Verb
urspr. - ursprünglich
usw. - und so weiter
veralt. - veraltet; veraltend
Vsw - schwaches Verb
Z.b. - zum Beispiel

**OTHER ABBREVIATIONS USED:**

adj. - adjective
CV - complex verb
intrans. - intransitive
n./N. - noun
ODD. - Oxford Duden Dictionary
OED. - Oxford English Dictionary
P - prefix
sb. - somebody (e.g. a person)
sth. - something
SV - simplex verb
trans. - transitive
v. / V. - verb
1.0. Chapter One: Introduction

The intricate workings of the German language have been of interest to me ever since my introduction to the language. I am particularly interested in the way that affixes are used in the construction of German words. For this reason, I have decided to study the input of a group of affixes, in this case prefixes, to the meaning of the German complex verb. A complex verb is composed of a prefix and a simplex (or uncompounded) verb. A complex verb / simplex verb can have a number of possible meanings, these are known as its 'senses'. A prefix can contribute meaning or 'sense(s)' to the sense(s) of the complex verb of which it forms a part. The study will be concerned with the senses prefixes can contribute to complex verbs.

The prefixes that have been chosen for the study are: 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'er-', 'miss-', 'mit-' and 'be-'. These prefixes have been selected as they feature in many complex verbs in the German language. When forming a part of complex verbs, the prefixes can also be seen to occur with a number of shared simplex verbs. The prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-', for example, can both occur with the simplex verbs bauen and arbeiten: abbauen / ausbauen and abarbeiten / ausarbeiten. This could suggest that prefixes which share a simplex verb can also share similarities in the range of possible senses that they can contribute to complex verbs. I will therefore be looking for evidence of patterns / relationships shared by the prefixes in the range of possible senses they are found to contribute to those complex verbs studied. To this end, I will attempt to establish a characterization for the complete range of senses that are found to be contributed by the seven prefixes. The characterization found will describe the range of senses of the prefixes according to shared characteristics in their meaning. For example, the senses identified for the seven prefixes may each be found to describe 'Removal' in which case the characterization established will be 'Removal'.

A prefix that can contribute only one sense to a word is said to be 'monosemous', while a prefix that can contribute more than one sense to a word is said to be 'polysemous'. If two or more prefixes can contribute the same sense, these prefixes
are said to be 'synonymous'. A prefix may also be found to contribute no sense. It is expected that one of the following logical possibilities will obtain as a result of studying the contribution of a prefix:

1) the prefix is found to be polysemous

2) the prefix is found to be monosemous

3) the prefix is found to be without a sense.

These initial observations will then allow us to look for possible patterns/relationships which may be demonstrated by any senses identified for the prefixes. As part of the study, I will also be investigating two of the prefixes, 'er-' and 'aus-', to see if they are synonymous. We will therefore also be considering the synonymy of prefixes in this study.

The bi-lingual (German-English/English-German) Oxford Duden Dictionary (2001) and the monolingual Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch (2001) will be used in the research in order to examine the senses of the prefixes and the complex verbs of which they form a part. Other sources of reference (as given in Chapter Four), will also be consulted for this purpose.

The thesis is structured as follows: Chapter Two considers language and how it functions to allow the communication of meaning. Chapter Three provides a review of current literature on the semantic contribution of German prefixes to words. Chapter Four presents the methodology that will be used in the study. In Chapter Five, we begin the first phase of the research. This will involve analysing the possible senses of the first of our seven chosen prefixes: the prefix 'ab-'. (Prefixes will be studied in the order in which they were chosen for investigation). The analysis of the possible senses of the prefix 'ab-' will be carried out by using the Oxford Duden Dictionary to list the first eleven complex verbs which feature the prefix. The
possible senses of the prefix 'aus-' will then be determined by considering the possible sense(s) of each of the eleven complex verbs, and the possible sense(s) of each of the eleven simplex verbs of which they are composed. For each complex verb, the difference in the sense(s) of the complex verb and the sense(s) of the simplex verb will be attributed to the sense(s) contributed by the prefix. If the prefix 'ab-' is found to be polysemous, the Oxford Duden Dictionary will be used to search for examples of the prefix forming a part of complex verbs demonstrating Gegensinn or 'opposite senses'. Lutzeier states that Gegensinn is considered "a specific form of polysemy" (1997, 381). We will also consider the input of the prefix to the meaning of each of the eleven complex verbs selected at the beginning of the chapter. The analysis will allow us to determine whether the prefix 'ab-' is polysemous, monosemous or without a sense in relation to the chosen verbs.

Chapter Six will investigate the possible senses of the prefix 'aus-' using the same method carried out in Chapter Five when investigating the possible senses of the prefix 'ab-'. Chapter Seven will then use this method to consider the possible sense(s) of the prefix 'durch-'. The analysis carried out in Chapters Six and Seven will therefore allow us to see if the prefixes 'aus-' and 'durch-' are polysemous, monosemous or without a sense in relation to the verbs selected.

Chapter Eight will have a different structure from Chapters Five, Six and Seven as it will compare the contribution of two of the seven prefixes chosen for study: the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-'. The chapter will test the claim of Fleischer / Barz that the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' can demonstrate synonymy. An investigation of the possible synonymy of the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' will be conducted. This will be done by using the Oxford Duden Dictionary to list in pairs alphabetically a sample of the first seven complex verbs which feature either the prefix 'er-' or the prefix 'aus-', and which share a simplex verb, e.g. erarbeiten and ausarbeiten. Test sentences will then be constructed in order to determine whether or not the verbs in a pair of 'er-' and 'aus-' complex verbs are interchangeable without involving a change in the meaning of two sentences. As the simplex verb will be the same in each pair of 'er-' and 'aus-' complex verbs, any change in the meaning of a sentence will be attributed to the difference in the sense(s) contributed by the two prefixes in a verb pair. If the
verbs are interchangeable without involving a change in the meaning of the sentence, the verbs may be said to be synonymous. If the verbs are found to be synonymous, the prefixes may also be said to be so.

In Chapter Nine, we consider the prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-' to see if they demonstrate monosemes. Personal experience of their use in the German language suggests that these prefixes will be found to demonstrate monosemes. The investigation will be carried out by using the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* to list the first eleven complex verbs which feature the prefix 'miss-', and the first eleven complex verbs which feature the prefix 'mit-'. If the prefixes are found to be polysemes, they will each be examined for evidence of Gegensinn or 'opposite senses'. We will also examine the input of the prefix to the meaning of each complex verb that is considered. The results of the analysis will show whether the prefixes are polysemes, monosemes or without a sense.

Chapter Ten will consider the possible senses of the prefix 'be-' using the same method used to study the contribution of the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'miss-' and 'mit-' in Chapters Five, Six, Seven and Nine. The results of the investigation will show whether the prefix 'be-' was found to be polysemes, monosemes or without a sense in relation to the chosen verbs.

In Chapter Eleven, we enter Phase Two of the study. In this section, we will consult the University of Leizpig corpus of German in an attempt to validate the senses identified for the prefixes in Phase One. The University of Leizpig corpus will also be used to try to find evidence of senses of the prefixes that were not identified in the dictionary-based study.

Chapter Twelve concerns Phase Three of the research. In this phase, the findings of all previous chapters will be discussed and analysed. We will also attempt to establish a characterization for the senses that were found to be contributed by the seven prefixes. The characterization will be based on shared characteristics of the senses of the prefixes. By establishing a characterization, we will be able to see how the prefixes share patterns / relationships in the range of senses they may contribute
to those complex verbs examined.

Chapter Thirteen will discuss what has been learnt over the course of the study, and will consider the implications of the findings.
2.0. Chapter Two: Language and meaning

2.1. What is a language?

A language is a system of communication. A natural language is one that has evolved over time through use by a community of speakers, for example, the English or the German language. An artificial language, however, is one that is man-made. Esperanto is an example of an artificial language. According to Bussmann (1996, 154): "Esperanto: Artificial language invented by the Warsaw optometrist L.L. Zamenhof (pseudonym 'Esperanto' = 'he who hopes')." Natural languages function using words. Not all forms of language, however, rely on words. Sign language and body language, for example, are languages which do not function using words. Language, then, is about communication, whether verbal or non-verbal: the communication of meaning from one party to another. This could lead to the question of whether language would be necessary if there was only one person in the world? Perhaps this is the only situation where it would not be vital to life. Language, after all, is a very important part of our lives. It allows us to communicate with others and to discuss our experiences of life itself. It could therefore be said that we need to use language, in one form or another, in order to survive in our world. Language can even be seen to be influenced by developments which take place in our world. For example, if a new tool is invented, a word or name needs to be created to describe it. This shows us how language evolves out of the need to discuss what is happening in the world around us. Saeed (2003, 12) notes: "Words stand in relationship to the world, or our mental classification of it: they allow us to identify parts of the world, and make statements about them." Language is therefore a very powerful and necessary tool. As Corbett (1989, 36) comments: "Understanding language is a path towards understanding ourselves."

So how do we communicate using language? The production and the reception of language are processes which take place in the mind. Finding the right word for a sentence, taking in and understanding something we have just heard, these are mental
processes. Aitchison (2003, 10) looks at how language is stored in the mind: "The human word-store is often referred to as the 'mental dictionary' or, perhaps more commonly, as the mental lexicon, to use the Greek word for 'dictionary'". Earlier we noted how language is a vital part of our lives, we have also seen how language is inside us, in our minds, it is a part of us. In fact, many scholars believe that human beings have an innate ability to learn language. Chomsky (1988, 28) states: "The speed and precision of vocabulary acquisition leaves no real alternative to the conclusion that the child somehow has the concepts available before experience with language and is basically learning labels for concepts that are already part of his or her conceptual apparatus." Karmiloff and Karmiloff-Smith (2001, 219) also note: "If we acknowledge that there are commonalities across human and animal communication, but that human language is also unique, then language acquisition must, at some level, be innately guided." There does appear to be evidence to support this theory. Even a baby, for example, can be seen to make sounds in an attempt to communicate how it feels or what it wants. A baby will need to learn, however, how to communicate using words. Therefore, while we are born with the potential to speak a language, we must actively learn how to do so. This demonstrates how language is so vital to life, that we are even taught to develop our linguistic skills in our infancy.

2.2. Language and words

In the previous section, we discussed how we rely on language in our everyday lives. Let us now consider how words function to allow communication. Saussure states (1959, 67): "Our definition of the linguistic sign poses an important question of terminology. I call the combination of a concept and a sound-image a sign, but in current usage the term generally designates only a sound-image, a word, for example (arbor, etc.)." He proposes retaining the word sign {signe} to designate the whole and to replace concept and sound-image respectively by signified {signifié} and signifier{signifiant}. It could be said that the terms 'signified' and 'signifier' are appropriate as they demonstrate the interdependent relationship shared by the concept and its corresponding sound-image.
The relationship between a word and the concept/object to which it refers is often arbitrary. For example, there is no direct relationship between the German noun 'Schuh' and the object 'shoe'. Onomatopoeic words, however, demonstrate a direct relationship between sound and meaning. For example, the English word 'cuckoo' describes the cuckoo sound made by the bird of the same name.

Words, then, are the basic units of meaning in language, but what exactly is a word? Let us consider the following possibilities provided by Bussmann (1996, 521):

Compare the following suggestions for defining words, listed according to their level of description: (a) phonetic-phonological level: words are the smallest segments of sound that can be theoretically isolated by word accent and boundary markers like pauses, clicks, and the like, and which are further isolated on a (b) orthographic-graphemic level by blank spaces in writing or print; (c) on the morphological level, words are characterized as the basic elements of grammatical paradigms like inflection and are distinguished from the morphologically characterized word forms, cf. write vs writes, wrote, written; they are structurally stable and cannot be divided, and can be described as well by specified rules of word formation; (d) on the lexical-semantic level, words are the smallest, relatively independent carriers of meaning that are codified in the lexicon, and (e) can be described syntactically as the smallest permutable and substitutable units of a sentence.

The possibilities for defining words as set out by Bussmann appear to demonstrate how words operate on different levels. For example, they can be defined from both a phonetic-phonological perspective and also from an orthographic viewpoint. The term 'word' can therefore be used differently depending on the theoretical approach. A word will have both a form and a content level. The form level of a word concerns how it is written or spoken, while its content level concerns its meaning. In the present research, we will be studying the content level of German complex verbs. My study is therefore essentially concerned with meaning rather than form, and this is not so easily identifiable.

At the content level, all words, including complex verbs, must have at least one possible sense. A word that has more than one sense is polysemous, and a word with only one sense is monosemous. Jackson (1988, 5) says: "Polysemy refers to one word having a number of senses or variants of a single meaning." For example, the noun
'Entfernung' is polysemous as it can mean both 'distance' and 'removal'. It could be argued that most superficially polysemous words are monosemous at an abstract level. For example, according to the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* (2001, 231), the complex verb *durcharbeiten* has a number of possible senses, which means that it is polysemous. According to the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*, however, only one of the possible senses of this verb may be used both literally and figuratively: 'work one's way through'. A complex verb can therefore have both literal and figurative senses. Over the course of the research, we will look at how our chosen prefixes may contribute senses which are either literal or figurative. We may also find that a prefix can contribute a particular sense both literally and figuratively. For example, the sense of 'Removal' may be contributed by one of the prefixes in both a literal and a figurative sense. According to Sinclair (2003, 174): "The figurative meaning of a word is one which concerns abstract ideas rather than concrete physical ones, and it is used in contrast to the literal meaning, from which it is often considered to be derived by 'extension'". Sinclair (2003, 177) also states: "Literal meaning is often contrasted with figurative meaning, where the phrase is interpreted as a single unit whose meaning may seem unrelated, or only loosely related, to the words that make it up."

Sinclair's comment shows us how patterns exist in language: the figurative meaning is connected to the literal meaning by means of 'extension'. Mason, Kniseley and Kendall (1979, 51) also look at how words can gain senses by extension of their meaning: "In part, polysemy is an historical accident and, in part, it is an effect of an extension of meaning." Generally speaking, words tend to be polysemous. In the present study, we may find that some of the complex verbs considered are polysemous. This could have implications for the prefixes forming a part of such verbs. For example, prefixes forming a part of polysemous complex verbs might also be found to be polysemous.

Polysemy could be said to be useful in language as it allows for linguistic economy. If one word can be used to express several different meanings, for example, this will have the effect of reducing the total number of words necessary in a language. Polysemy seems to occur naturally through language use. Evidence of this can be seen in the fact that polysemous words tend to have senses which are related and
which consequently seem to be similar / connected to one another. Monosemous words, however, are not used to the same degree in a language, they are very rare.

In order to establish if a word is polysemous, it is necessary to distinguish polysemy from vagueness: how do we know if a word is polysemous, or simply vague? As the word 'good' has many possible meanings in the English language, Kempson (1977, 123) considers the difficulty in distinguishing polysemy from vagueness: "What has to be decided is whether the meaning of good is homogeneous and neutral between all these different specifications, or whether good has different meanings according to its use in describing different things." According to the *Oxford English Dictionary* (2002, 610) the adjective 'good' is listed as having six core senses, each having their own related subsenses. The noun 'good' is listed as having three core senses and its own related subsenses. This shows us that, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the word 'good' is ambiguous and not vague, as it has several distinct senses.

When studying a complex verb for evidence of Gegensinn or 'opposite senses', we will need to ensure the complex verb in question demonstrates polysemy and not vagueness, as Gegensinn is only possible if a verb demonstrates two distinct senses. Lutzeier (1997, 385) also comments that ambiguity differs from vagueness in that it describes a lexical item which has several distinct senses.

### 2.3. Meaning and sense

Now that we have established that all words need to have at least one sense, let us consider how we can establish the various sense(s) of a word. As noted earlier, the sense(s) of a word are the different meanings it can have.

Bussmann (1996, 299) also attempts to define 'meaning':

> Meaning: Central semantic notion defined and used differently depending on the theoretical approach. At least two reasons account for the various uses of the term: on the one hand, meaning is not only a linguistic problem but is also
a central issue in philosophy, psychology, sociology, semiotics, jurisprudence, and theology, among others; on the other hand, the use of other terms (e.g. 'content', 'reference', 'sense', 'signification', 'designation' etc.) coupled with the adoption of some foreign terms (e.g. Ger. Sinn, Bedeutung), has led to numerous overlappings.

Meaning is indeed a central issue in the disciplines mentioned by Bussmann. Lyons (1977, 197) discusses meaning in language and the concept of sense and reference: "It is perhaps helpful to add that 'sense' is the term used by a number of philosophers for what others would describe simply as their meaning, or perhaps more narrowly as their cognitive or descriptive meaning." Lyons notes that the distinction of reference and sense is sometimes formulated as a distinction of reference and meaning. Following Lyons, in the present research, the term 'sense' will be used to refer to the various possible meanings a prefix or a complex / simplex verb can have. For example, according to the Oxford Duden Dictionary, the complex verb abfahren has a number of senses including the following: A) (wegfahren) leave; depart B) (herunterfahren) drive down (Ski-sport) ski or go down; C) (salopp: sich begeistern) auf jmdn./etw. [voll] ~: be mad about sb./sth. By consulting the dictionary in this way, we are able to learn about the possible sense(s) a complex verb can have. This information can also help us to identify the possible sense(s) a prefix can contribute to a complex verb.

Cruse (2004, 103) considers how distinct a meaning needs to be to be called a 'sense':

Suppose we find a perceptible difference in the readings of a word in two contexts. We can first of all ask whether (or to what extent) there is a sharp semantic boundary between the two readings (in our terms, how discrete are they?); a second question is whether they are mutually exclusive (in our terms, are they antagonistic?). Both of these will be taken as aspects of the distinctness of two readings.

The aim of the research is to identify the possible senses of the seven chosen prefixes within the verbs chosen for analysis.
2.4. The semantic composition of sense(s)

In order to identify the sense(s) contributed by prefix to a complex verb, it will be necessary to analyse the semantic composition of the complex verb in question. Fleischer / Barz (1992, 15) consider the possible motivation of signs in language: "Unter morphosemantischer Motivation wird die - mehr oder weniger vollständige - Erschließbarkeit der Bedeutung einer WBK [Wortbildungskonstruktion] aus der Bedeutung ihrer Bestandteile verstanden: In diesem Sinne sind Diskussionsbeitrag durch Diskussion und Beitrag, fehlerlos durch Fehler und -los 'ohne', glatt hobeln durch glatt und hobeln 'motiviert.'" Figures 2.4. and 2.4.1. below demonstrate how the senses of compound nouns such as Tischlampe and Nachttischlampe may be deduced from the senses of their constituent parts:

![Diagram of Tischlampe]

Fig. 2.4.

![Diagram of Nachttischlampe]

Fig. 2.4.1.
As noted in Chapter One, a complex verb is composed of a prefix and a simplex verb. For example, the complex verb *mitessen* can be seen to be composed of the senses of its constituent parts: the prefix 'mit-' and the simplex verb *essen*:

![Diagram showing 'mitessen' composed of 'mit-' and 'essen'.]

Fig. 2.4.2.

The complex verb *besuchen*, however, does not appear to be composed of the senses of its constituent parts: the prefix 'be-' and the simplex verb *suchen*. The prefix 'be-' does not appear to have any sense within this verb, and the simplex verb *suchen* has the sense 'to search'. The sense of the complex verb *besuchen* - 'to visit' is therefore not evident from the senses of its immediate constituents. In the current research, we will break down various complex verbs into their constituent parts, in order to investigate how they are semantically composed.

### 2.5. The Principle of Compositionality

In the previous section, we saw how the meaning of a complex verb can be composed of the meanings of its constituent parts. The Principle of Compositionality is a principle used to describe the way in which we can analyse the meaning of a complex whole, by studying the meanings of its constituent parts. Bussmann (1996, 381) discusses the principle of compositionality: "Principle usually ascribed to G. Frege (1848 – 1925) according to which the whole meaning of a sentence can be described according to the functional interdependency of the meanings of its well-formed parts." We saw in Section 2.4. how the sense of a complex verb can be composed of a senses of its immediate constituents. Bussmann (1996, 381) states, however, that
possible problems with the principle of compositionality may be evident in the case of idioms, metaphors and intensionality. Indeed, the meaning of an idiom cannot be deduced from the meaning of its constituent parts. For example, the idiomatic phrase 'to kick the bucket' means 'to die'. The sense of 'to die', however, is not evident from the senses of the words which make up this phrase: 'to' + 'kick' + 'the' + 'bucket'.

Bussmann notes that the principle of compositionality cannot be applied to metaphors either. She (1996, 304) describes what a metaphor is: "Term taken from ancient rhetoric for a 'figure of speech', such as, for example, 'sea of troubles'. A metaphor will exhibit some similarity or connection between that which it figuratively describes and its meaning. For example, a sea cannot be literally full of troubles, but the metaphor figuratively describes the idea of an abundance of troubles, perhaps enough to fill a sea. Just as a sea is vast and deep, troubles can also appear to be so. This metaphor therefore describes the perceived similarity between the sea, and troubles.

Cruse (1986, 37) discusses idioms which are also not deducible from their constituent parts:

The traditional definition of idiom runs roughly as follows: an idiom is an expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts. Although at first sight straightforward, there is a curious element of circularity in this definition. Does it indicate that the meaning of an idiom cannot be inferred from (or, more precisely, cannot be accounted for as a compositional function of) the meanings the parts carry IN THAT EXPRESSION? Clearly not - so it must be a matter of their meanings in other expressions.

Cruse (1986, 37) continues:

The definition must be understood as stating that an idiom is an expression whose meaning cannot be accounted for as a compositional function of the meanings its parts have when they are not parts of idioms.
Following Cruse, an idiomatic complex verb will be taken to mean one whose meaning cannot be deduced from the meanings of its constituent parts.

Keysar & Henly (1995, 307), however, present a different view regarding the semantic composition of idioms:

Some idioms might be relatively compositional for some people who understand how the domain of the idiom might connect to its meaning, but relatively opaque to others. The emerging compositional positions are of the most important developments in the recent study of idioms, and each contribution makes a compelling case for the plausibility of some version of compositionality. The ultimate test of these theories will be in their future development as not only testable, but in principle refutable.

The view presented by Keysar & Henly could be said to have some merit. For example, the German idiom *Hals über Kopf* means 'to be in a great hurry'. The idiom could be said to figuratively describe the action of forgetting to put one's head on in the right place, (i.e. to forget to attach it to one's neck), as one is in such a great hurry / rush. The meaning of this particular idiom could therefore be said to demonstrate some kind of compositionality, albeit in a figurative sense. Rather than saying that idioms are non-compositional, therefore, perhaps further investigations in the area will indicate that idioms are simply *not as obviously compositional* as non-idiomatic words.

Kaye (1993, 17) looks at how compositional theories of meaning are applied in language use: "In order to explain how we manage to understand infinitely many sentences we must assume that we have a compositional understanding. That is, we are able to understand infinitely many sentences because our understanding of sentences is a matter of our understanding parts of sentences." In the current research, the principle of compositionality will be applied to complex verbs in German with the aim of understanding / examining their composition. As a complex verb is composed of a prefix and a simplex verb, by studying the sense(s) of these components separately, we should be able to identify any sense(s) contributed by the prefix to the complex verb. This will allow us to see how a prefix can differentiate

15
the sense of the complex verb from that of the simplex verb: the differential meaning
the prefix allows. By carrying out this exercise, however, we may also find instances
where the sense of the complex verb does not appear to be composed of a sense of
the simplex verb and a sense of the prefix. Such verbs will be declared idiomatic, as
the sense of the whole, (i.e. the complex verb), will not be deducible from the
sense(s) of the component parts: the prefix and the simplex verb.

2.6. Lexical meaning and contextual meaning

In previous sections, we have considered lexical meaning. Let us now consider how
context influences the lexical meaning indicated by a word. Lyons (1997, 572)
considers context:

Context, it must be emphasized, is a theoretical construct, in the postulation
of which the linguist abstracts from the actual situation and establishes as
contextual all the factors which, by virtue of their influence on the
participants in the language-event, systematically determine the form, the
appropriateness or the meaning of utterances.

The importance of context in the interpretation of meaning can be seen in the way a
word needs to be put into context in order for its meaning to be fully understood. As
we saw earlier, even a complete sentence will need to be put into context for its
meaning to be clear. When words / sentences are taken out of context, they can be
misinterpreted, this is why context is so important in language. Indeed, as anyone
who speaks a language will appreciate, successful communication requires both an
understanding of the senses of words, and an awareness of the contexts in which they
may / may not be used. Lexical meaning and contextual meaning therefore work
together. Firth (1957) observes the importance of contextual meaning, stating that no
study of meaning apart from a complete context can be taken seriously. Jackson
(1988, 65) also discusses how a word gains its full meaning when used in context.
Jackson observes how the meaning of a word as found in a dictionary is simply an
indication of its meaning potential: "only in a linguistic and situational context is the
meaning actualised." This comment would appear to support the belief that a word derives its particular meaning from the *context* in which it is used, with different senses of a word being applicable in different contexts. Let us now investigate how words can exhibit different senses when used in different contexts. The University of Leipzig corpus of German will be used to check the possible senses of the verb *abbinden*. This will be done by entering *abbinden* as a query in to the corpus, so that we can see the examples of usage given for the verb. The following examples were randomly selected from the list generated by the corpus:

**Sentence 1)**
Man hätte das Bein *abbinden* müssen, um die Blutung zu stillen. (*Quelle: Berliner Zeitung* 1999)

**Sentence 2):**
Das Fahrverbot ist notwendig, damit der Beton ungestört *abbinden* kann. (*Quelle: Stuttgarter Zeitung* 1995)

Sentence 1) is describing how a leg is tied up in an attempt to stop the bleeding. In this sentence, the verb *abbinden* is indicating the sense 'to tie'. Sentence 2), however, is describing how traffic is not allowed to pass as cement must be allowed to set. In this sentence, the verb *abbinden* is indicating the sense 'to set'. The verb *abbinden* also has a different collocate in each sentence: in Sentence 1) the noun *Bein* and in Sentence 2) the noun *Beton*. In both sentences, the context in which the verb is found allows us to see which of its senses is being indicated. As we can see, the complex verb *abbinden* is indicating a different sense in each sentence / context. This shows us that the verb *abbinden* is polysemous. Cruse (2004, 264) discusses linguistic context: "Context: (i) linguistic context: This includes previous discourse, i.e. what has been said immediately prior to a given utterance, and a word's immediate linguistic environment (i.e. the phrase or sentence in which it appears)."
A word can also gain *connotations* from the context in which it is used. Lutzeier (1995, 160) provides the following explanation of connotation: "Die mit einem lexikalischen Element beim Produzenten / bei der Produzentin und / oder beim Rezipienten / bei der Rezipientin verbundene Bewertung (olympiasiegerin : positive Einschätzungen, *führer* : negative Einschätzungen). For example, when used in the phrase *ein Stück Schokolade abbeißen*, the verb *abbeißen* does not gain any negative connotations. However, when used in the phrase *den Finger abbeißen*, the verb *abbeißen* does gain negative connotations. This demonstrates how words acquire their full meaning when used with other words *in context*. In Chapter Eleven, when validating the senses found for the prefixes in the dictionary-based study, the University of Leipzig corpus of German will be used to study examples of usage for various complex verbs. By studying the context(s), i.e. sentences or phrases, in which a verb can occur, we will be able to demonstrate how a prefix can contribute a particular sense to the complex verb.

Cruse (1986, 52) also observes:

> There are two fundamental ways in which the effective semantic contribution of a word may vary under the influence of different contexts. First, a single sense can be modified in an unlimited number of ways by different contexts, each context emphasising certain semantic traits, and obscuring or suppressing others; just as a dirty window-pane will allow some parts of the scene beyond it to be seen clearly, and will partially or completely obscure other parts - and a different pane will affect the same scene differently.

In the same way, a prefix can indicate a particular sense depending on the context(s) in which it is used. Cruse (2004, 385) notes the interdependent relationship between lexical and contextual sense: "Normal language is full of potential ambiguities, but these are only rarely noticed, because they are disambiguated by context. This disambiguation process is relevance-driven." This means that we would need to look at the sentence (or context), in which a particular word is found in order to grasp its intended lexical sense. However, Cruse (2004, 107) points out: "A word should be said about cases like *The man entered the room*. In any specific context of use, *the man* and *the room* will designate a particular man and a particular room, and in a
different context, a different man and a different room." Cruse states that this is not usually recognized as a case of ambiguity, rather suggests calling this phenomenon "pragmatic ambiguity" or "open ambiguity", because the number of readings is potentially infinite.

Lyons (1997, 572) claims that many philosophers have said that context is a matter of pragmatics rather than semantics. Pragmatics concerns the study of language in use and meaning that is inferred from the context: the effect of what is said on the interlocutor. The disciplines of semantics and pragmatics could therefore be said to show a considerable degree of overlap as they both consider the context in which a word is uttered, and the effect this has on its received meaning.

2.7. Words and the lexicon

In the previous section, we saw how lexical meaning and contextual meaning work together. In this section, we will consider how lexical meaning is represented in the lexicon. Lutzeier (1995, 166) states that the term 'Lexikon' can be used to describe the following:


Lutzeier (1995, 166)

As Lutzeier notes, the term 'Lexikon' can be used to describe the vocabulary of a language. Languages are constantly evolving, however, and this means that while new words may come into use in a language's vocabulary, existing words may gain additional senses or even become obsolete. The vocabulary of a language is therefore constantly evolving. Changes in a language occur as a result of changes in the way people use it. The speakers of a language, then, are ultimately those who shape it.
According to Munske (1990, 388): "Die Veränderungen im Wortschatz lassen sich drei allgemeinen Kategorien zuordnen: Vermehrung, Abwandlung und Schwund." Indeed, these are three very important processes in the development of a language. Words can come into use in a language at any time. For example, the creation of the internet brought new words to the English language: internet superhighway, webpage, homepage, browser etc. Munske (1990, 395) observes how words may change their possible senses over time: "Beim Wort Vater denken wir heute primär an den biologischen Erzeuger und männlichen Erziehungsberechtigten, er ist nicht mehr der pater (familias) des Altertums." Given the changing nature of language, it is possible that, in the future, the word Vater may gain another, completely unrelated sense. For example, the English word 'wicked' which has the sense 'bad', has in recent years also gained the sense 'good'. This is an example of how a word can develop 'Gegensinn' or 'opposite senses' over time: diachronic Gegensinn. In this study, we will consider the senses of the seven chosen prefixes from a mainly synchronic perspective, with reference to the diachronic perspective where the synchronic data points to significant change.

Let us now consider for a moment how prefixes can change their senses over time. According to Paul's Deutsches Wörterbuch (1992, 578): "Mitfahren: heute nur in der wörtlich. Bed.; früher auch wie schon mhd. >mit jmdm. verfahren< mit Dat.: das war die Mißgeburt, der man so mitgefahren Gellert, gleichwohl fahre man solchen Staatsbürgern so hart mit JPaul; Perf. mit haben: weil ich meinem Sohne so hart mitgefahren habe Le." ¹ By studying this entry, we can see that the verb has had this sense since the Middle High German period. We can therefore see that, while some verbs change their senses over time, others keep the same sense.

Johnson (1984, 107) questions the changing senses of prefixes:

Is it possible to convey to our students a simplified understanding of the content of German's inseparable prefixes? It would be cheating to go far back

into the history of the language and claim that since Old High German times the meanings of the prefixes have developed and changed, and that therefore there is little or no connexion between all the verbs and nouns in, say ver-.

Johnson (1984, 107)

Over the course of the study, we will consider how the sense(s) of a complex verb may change over time. A complex verb can gain / lose senses as a result of language change. If a complex verb gains new senses, it can also mean that the prefix of which it forms a part will gain new senses as well. Johnson (1984, 108) points out how the sense of a prefix is crucial when deducing the sense of a word: "If we conclude that zer- means 'into pieces', we can then ask: 'What is the German for 'to break into pieces'?' Answer: zerbrechen. 'And for 'to break into pieces by treading on': Zertreten." It could therefore be argued that the senses of prefixes should also be learnt when learning the senses of words, as prefixes belong to the basic building blocks out of which we form words.

Lyons (1977, 512) considers words and how they are listed in the dictionary:  
"Conventional dictionaries are essentially lists of what might be called lexical entries. Each of these entries is introduced by a head-word in its standard orthographic representation; and the lexical entries are alphabetized in terms of their head-word." By listing words in alphabetical order, we can see how words sharing a root are related.

The following words, taken from the Oxford Duden Dictionary (2001, 170), illustrate this point:

*bezeichnen* - mark, indicate

*bezeichnend* - characteristic, typical, significant

*bezeichnenderweise* - characteristically, typically
The entries also show us that the dictionary has adopted the semasiological approach. The semasiological approach begins with a form and then gives its meaning. This approach has both advantages and disadvantages. One possible advantage of the semasiological approach could be that semantic information can be masked by alphabetization. Semantic connections such as synonymy, for example, are masked by alphabetization which is based on form. This is because synonymous words are not always similarly spelt: e.g. Sonnabend / Samstag. As noted by Lutzeier (1995, 31), onomasiology is the opposite of semasiology. The onomasiological perspective begins with a meaning, and aims to find its corresponding form(s) in the lexicon. A thesaurus, for example, adopts the onomasiological approach. Lutzeier (1995, 163) explains: "Onomasiologie: Zweig der Linguistik, der sich mit den begrifflichen Vorgaben auf der Inhaltsbene und deren Entsprechungen auf der Formebene beschäftigt; auch Bezeichnungslehre." Phase One of the current research will use a dictionary, a semasiological source, to look at word forms and study their meaning(s). The semasiological approach will be useful to us in Phase One, as the codified sources will provide us with alphabetical lists of verbs featuring the seven chosen prefixes. The sources will also provide additional information regarding the contextual usage of a particular verb e.g. Jägersprache, Kochkunst etc. Such information could prove useful when attempting to analyse the possible senses of a prefix. In Phase Two of the study, we can then look for possible sense relations demonstrated by the senses identified for the prefixes.

In Figure 2.7, below, Lutzeier illustrates the relationship between the internal and external dimensions of lexical meaning:

![Diagram showing the relationship between internal and external dimensions of lexical meaning.]

Fig. 2.7.

Figure 2.7. shows how the words in a language operate on different levels. It shows the relationships that may be demonstrated between words, and also the relationships that may hold between those senses of a single word. In this way, the diagram illustrates how the lexicon operates on both a micro and a macro level. Over the course of the research, we will be looking at both the internal and external dimensions of lexical meaning, as outlined by Lutzeier. For example, by studying the senses of a polysemous complex verb, we will be looking at the internal level of lexical meaning. In Chapter Eleven, however, we will be studying the collocational patterns of complex verbs and how these can affect the sense(s) contributed by a prefix. In this way, the research will examine both the internal and external dimensions of lexical meaning. It could indeed be argued, that these two dimensions work together. The sense indicated by a verb, for example, will be influenced by the
other words which occur with the verb in a particular sentence: its collocates. The internal and external dimensions of lexical meaning therefore co-exist in language, you cannot have one without the other.

As synonymy is a sense relation, it concerns the external dimension of lexical meaning. Lutzeier (1995, 165) provides the following explanation of synonymy: "Sinnrelationale Beziehung zwischen zwei lexikalischen Elementen, die mit ihren relevanten Lesarten in einer gegebenen Situation (mehr oder weniger) denselben Inhalt aufweisen (sonnabend - samstag / ferien - urlaub)." Synonymy therefore also depends on the context in which words are used. In the present research, we may find that prefixes demonstrate synonymy within certain complex verbs.

Over the course of the study, we will also attempt to form hyponymies for the senses identified for the prefixes in Phase One. By establishing a hyponymy, we will be able to identify possible patterns / relationships demonstrated by the senses of a prefix. For example, we will be able to see if one sense identified for a prefix is more specific than another. Cruse (1986, 88) states: "The lexical relation corresponding to the inclusion of one class in another is a hyponymy." Hyponymies, then, are relationships of inclusion. Cruse (1986, 137) says: "Two hyponyms of the same superordinate need not be incompatibles."

Cruse (1986, 137) uses the following example to illustrate this point. The diagram shows how arrows point to hyponyms of the superordinate. As hyponymies demonstrate relationships of inclusion, hyponyms will therefore be more specific than their superordinate(s).

```
  book
 /   \
\   |
\   v
novel paperback
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Fig. 2.7.1.
2.8. Conclusion

In this chapter, we have looked at the workings of language at the macro and micro levels. We have discussed the Principle of compositionality and how it may or may not be applied in language. We have also looked at language and the lexicon. In the next chapter, we will review the literature on prefixes and their role in the German language. In particular, we will look at the senses prefixes can contribute to complex verbs in German. We will consider what has already been learnt about this subject, and will investigate how we may contribute knowledge to this important field of research. It is felt that this is a very worthwhile and important area of investigation.
3.0. Chapter Three: Literature Review

3.1. Affixation

'Affixation' is the collective term used to describe prefixation, suffixation and infixation. Bussmann (1996, 10) examines the nature of affixation:

Process of word formation in which the stem is expanded by the addition of an affix. With regard to placement of the word-forming element on the stem, a distinction is drawn between prefixation (= attachment of the affix before the stem: happy vs unhappy) and suffixation (= attachment of the affix after the stem: happy vs happiness). Infixation (> infix) is found in some languages (e.g. Latin and Greek), though not in English.

Bussmann (1996, 10)

Fleischer / Barz (1992, 33) discuss infixes: "Anders als Interfixe sind Infixe wie Präfixe und Suffixe semantisch relevant, werden aber nicht vor- oder nachgestellt, sondern in die Derivationsbasis eingefügt." Prefixes, suffixes and infixes can indeed be said to influence the meaning of the words of which they form a part, as the examples below illustrate:

.unumkehrbar - irreversible

- the prefix 'un-' provides the sense 'not'
- the suffix 'bar-' provides the sense 'can be'

- the word has the holistic meaning 'can not be reversed'

Kalbsbraten - roast veal

- the interfix 's' serves to provide the sense 'of' - the veal that has been cooked by the process of roasting: the roasting of the veal / the veal that has been roasted
Suffixes can also serve an important syntactic function in language, by changing the class of words. Table 3.1. shows some of the ways in which this may happen:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GLÜCK</td>
<td>GLÜCKLICH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KATHOLIK</td>
<td>KATHOLISCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjective</td>
<td>Noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHÖN</td>
<td>SCHÖNHEIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEMEIN</td>
<td>GEMEINSCHAFT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.1. Examples showing how suffixation can serve a syntactic function

Affixes are bound morphemes which means that they cannot appear on their own, but must be attached to a root or a stem. Bussmann (1996, 410) states: "Root: Synchronically, synonym for 'free' morpheme or base." For example, following Bussmann, the suffix '-bar' can be attached to the root 'heil'. Bussmann also notes (1996, 453): "Stem: Morphemes or morpheme constructions on which inflectional endings can appear. Based on this criterion, base morphemes (easy) as well as derivations (uneasy, easiness) and compounds (easy-going) are considered word stems." Free morphemes differ from prefixes in that they can stand alone as words, for example, the nouns Tisch and Schule. Fleischer / Barz consider the possible function of affixes in language (1992, 26): "Sie können Basiswörter in eine andere Wortart transponieren und / oder deren Bedeutung modifizieren, sind aber selbst nicht basisfähig (Ausnahmen: mißlich, urtümlich)."

Graff (1929, 173) looks at how morphemes are used in language: "A language is considerably more hospitable to words than to morphological parts. If the latter are borrowed at all, they generally forfeit their specific character or they are subjected to the systematic morphological reshaping of the borrowing language." The following example is given: "Thus, when the Germans adopted the French word amus - er, it
became amisier - en, with an entirely different contextual grouping."

Let us now consider the different ways in which affixation may be used in language. Matthews (1974, 38) notes:

According to the most usual division of subjects, the field of morphology in general is divided into two major subfields: one concerned with processes of inflection (for example, the rôle of the English Verbal endings -s or -en), and the other with what are usually referred to as processes of word formation. Matthews (1974, 38)

My study will be concerned with the process of word formation, and the semantic contribution of prefixes to the complex verbs of which they may form a part. Affixation, then, can be used both to inflect existing words, and to create new words. Boase-Beier and Lodge (2003, 55) discuss the morphological process of derivation, stating that it differs from inflection in that it allows the creation of a new word, frequently with a different meaning, rather than merely a different grammatical function, from the base word. For example, the adjective schmutzig is derived from the noun Schmutz.

As we can see, morphemes are both the bricks with which we build words, and the cement which holds them together. For example, the interfix 's' is the cement which holds together the free morphemes Kalb and the stem braten - to roast. Together these free morphemes create the noun Kalbsbraten. In the case of nouns such as Marktplatz, however, the free morphemes Markt and Platz can be joined together without the need for affixation. This process is known as compounding. The German language features many examples of compound nouns. Bound morphemes, such as prefixes, can also join together to create new words and allow more complex meanings. This can be seen in Table 3.1.1. below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENSE OF COMPLEX VERB =</th>
<th>SENSE OF SIMPLEX VERB</th>
<th>+ SENSE OF PREFIX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MITARBEITEN - TO COLLABORATE</td>
<td>SENSE OF 'TO WORK'</td>
<td>SENSE OF 'WITH'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DURCHREISEN - TO TRAVEL THROUGH</td>
<td>SENSE OF 'TO TRAVEL'</td>
<td>SENSE OF 'THROUGH'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSSÄGEN - TO SAW OUT</td>
<td>SENSE OF 'TO SAW'</td>
<td>SENSE OF 'OUT'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.1.1. How a prefix can add meaning to a complex verb

As Table 3.1.1. shows, prefixes can add meaning to words. In the research, we will be looking for patterns / relationships demonstrated by the senses the seven chosen prefixes are found to contribute to complex verbs.

3.2. Prefixes in the German language

Prefixes play an important part in the formation of words in the German language. According to the "Inventar der Affixe" provided by Fleischer / Barz (1992, 36/7), the German language contains thirty-six prefixes which are used in the construction of verbs. Prefixes which occur with nouns and adjectives are also given. A prefix, however, can feature in words belonging to different word classes. Let us consider the following examples using the prefix 'aus-': ausgehen - V. / ausführlich - adj. / Ausforschung - N.
The lists provided by Fleischer / Barz suggest that there are a total of fifty-five prefixes occurring in German nouns, adjectives and complex verbs. A complex verb is composed of a simplex verb and a prefix. For example, 'ab-' (prefix) + gehen (simplex verb) = abgehen (complex verb).

As noted in Chapter Two, a polysemous complex verb is one that has more than one sense. A polysemous prefix is one which has more than one sense. A monosemous prefix, however, is one which only has one sense. In Chapter Nine, we will be investigating the prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-' to see if they demonstrate monosemy. Personal experience of the German language causes me to believe that these two prefixes will be found to demonstrate monosemy. As we study each of the seven prefixes, we will be able to see whether they demonstrate polysemy or monosemy within the complex verbs being examined.

According to Lutzeier (1997, 381), Gegensinn is considered "a specific form of polysemy". The German word Gegensinn means 'opposite sense', and a verb which demonstrates Gegensinn is one which has two opposite senses. For example, the complex verb abdecken, which features the prefix 'ab-', can mean both 'to clear (table), clear away (dishes)' and 'to cover up (trench, grave)'. (The implied sense of the verb will depend on the context in which it is used). As part of the research, we will investigate any of the seven selected prefixes which turn out to be polysemous to see if they can form a part of complex verbs demonstrating Gegensinn.

A prefix, then, can function to allow a complex verb to indicate two opposite senses or Gegensinn. A prefix can also demonstrate synonymy with another prefix / other prefixes. As noted in Chapter Two, synonymy occurs when two or more prefixes can contribute the same sense to a complex verb. The present study assumes that the same explanation of synonymy can be applied to prefixes. In Chapter Eight, we will examine the claim of Fleischer / Barz that the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' can demonstrate synonymy. Personal experience of the German language, however, causes me to believe that the two prefixes will not be found to be synonymous. This is because the prefix 'aus-' can be seen to contribute senses to complex verbs which
the prefix 'er-' does not, e.g. the sense of 'departure' to complex verbs such as *ausreisen* - 'to leave [the country]' and *ausfahren* - '(im Kinderwagen, Rollstuhl - take sb. out for a walk; (im Auto o.Ä) take sb. out for a drive or ride.'

A prefix can therefore be associated with contributing a *particular sense(s)* to a word. The prefix 'un-', for example, often contributes the sense of 'negation', and can negate the sense of the simplex word, e.g. *sicher* - *unsicher*. In this study, we may find that some of our chosen prefixes can contribute the sense of 'negation'. A prefix might also be found to consistently contribute a particular sense to several complex verbs being considered. This would be a pattern which the prefix demonstrates. If two or more prefixes are found to contribute the same sense to several complex verbs in which they each feature, this would be a pattern that these prefixes share. It would also mean that the prefixes are synonymous.

Some prefixes can also be found to be synonymous with their corresponding forms which are free morphemes. In the research, we will see whether any of the senses identified for the seven selected prefixes share similarities with the senses found for their corresponding prepositional forms. For example, the German prefix 'durch-' and the preposition 'durch' can both indicate the sense 'through' as the following example illustrates:

- **durchbeißen** - the prefix 'durch-' contributes the sense 'through' and the simplex verb *beißen* indicates the sense 'to bite'

- **durch die Straßen** - the preposition 'durch' indicates the sense 'through'

Schröder (1992, 11) observes how prefixes, unlike prepositions, can function to allow: "die Bildung neuer Verben aus bereits existierenden Verben, man vgl. gehen - entgehen - ergehen - sich ergehen - vergehen - zergehen". While each of these examples features the addition of a single prefix, German verbs can feature more than
one prefix. The German verb *beaufsichtigen*, for example, contains two prefixes arranged in sequence: 'be-' + 'auf-' + *sichtigen*. Henzen (1957, 108) uses the prefix 'miß-' to discuss how the addition of a second prefix to a verb affects how the verb is said: "Die Verba verlangen eigentlich Stammbetonung: *mißächten, mißlingen*. Nun bekommt aber das Präfix einen stärkeren Ton, wenn es zu einem schon präfigierten Verb tritt: *mißbehagen, -verstehen*, besonders in Partizipien: *mißverstanden, -vergnügt, -gestaltet."

Erben (2006, 80) notes both the semantic and syntactic function of prefixes:

*Zur Ableitung neuer Verben stehen im heutigen Deutsch etwa zwei Dutzend Affixe bereit. Es sind in der überwiegenden Mehrzahl Präfixe und präfixartig gebrauchte, mit Präpositionen oder Adverbien korrespondierende Partikeln, die zur syntaktisch-semantischen Modifizierung des sprachüblichen Verbbestands dienen; nämlich die normalerweise unbetonten be-, ent-, er-, ver-, zer- und miß-; die stets betonten ab-, an-, auf-, aus-, bei-, ein-, nach-, vor-, zu- sowie die gleichermaßen unbetont und betont gebrauchten Präfixe durch-, über-, um-, unter-, wi(e)der.-*

Erben (2006, 80)

In the current research, we will also consider the syntactic effects a prefix can have when forming a part of a complex verb.

**3.3. Particle verbs and prefix verbs**

We saw in the previous section how some prefixes have corresponding forms which are free morphemes. Fleischer / Barz (1992, 29) discuss how it is difficult to classify morphemes which may appear as both affixes (bound morphemes) and as prepositions / adverbs (free morphemes). Fleischer / Barz have used the term 'prefix' and not 'particle' to describe morphemes such as 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' which may also appear as free-standing prepositions. The authors point out that such prefixes have "lautgleiche Grundmorphe (heute meist Präpositionen)." Höhle (1982, 101) describes as "Verbzusätze" (verbal attachments) those prefixes which have
phonologically corresponding free morphemes. In *Partikelverben in der deutschen Gegenwartssprache mit durch-, über-, um-, unter-, ab-, an-* (2003), Rich describes the morphemes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' as 'particles'. In their work *Wortbildung der deutschen Gegenwartssprache* (1992), however, Fleischer / Barz refer to the same morphemes as 'prefixes'.

Polenz (1980, 173) considers the difference between prefixes and particles: "Präfixe und Partikel: Wegen der oft ähnlichen syntakt. -semant. Funktion werden zu den Präfixen oft auch die trennbaren Verbpartikeln gerechnet, die auch paraverbien / Praeverbien / präfixartige Bestimmungsglieder / Präfixoxide / Verbzusätze genannt werden." Polenz (1980, 173) also notes: "In bezug auf Trennbarkeit und Betonung ist jedoch zu unterscheiden zwischen echten Präfixverben wie er+ blühen, hinter+ legen und Partikelverben wie 'auf|blühen, 'hinter|legen." Complex verbs in German can be separable, inseparable or both.

Schmidt (1969, 187) looks at how the separability of German complex verbs might affect their meaning: "In einigen Fällen ist der Bedeutungsunterschied zwischen untrennbaren und trennbaren Zusammensetzungen gering, je nachdem, ob die Handlung oder das durch die Partikel bewirkte Ergebnis stärker betont werden sollen: Die Hausfrau durchlüftet täglich alle Zimmer Die Hausfrau lüftet täglich alle Zimmer durch."

There is little difference between the separable and inseparable senses of the verb.

Let us now consider the separable and inseparable forms of the verb *umfahren*:

a) Er *fährt* die Straßenlampe *um*.

b) Er *umfährt* die Straßenlampe.
We can see how the separable and inseparable forms of the complex verb *umfahren* indicate very different senses. In comparison, we also saw earlier how there appears to be only a slight difference between the separable and inseparable forms of the complex verb *durchlüften*. This shows us how the separable and inseparable forms of a complex verb can have senses which are very different, or senses which are similar.

Whether a complex verb is separable or inseparable, however, is not important for the purpose of the current study, unless the sense(s) contributed by a prefix changes depending on whether the verb is used separably or inseparably. For example, Durrell (2002, 515) states: "durch- always expresses the idea of 'through', whether separable or inseparable." However, this is not the case with all prefixes. Durrell notes (2002, 517) that separable and inseparable verbs featuring the prefix 'um-' have different senses: "*umbauen* (separable) - rebuild / (inseparable) enclose, *umbrechen* (separable) - break up (inseparable) - set (i.e. type)."

The term *Halbpräfix* is sometimes used to describe separable prefixes. The distinctive characteristics of such morphemes are also observed in the *Duden Grammatik* (1998, 683): "Halbpräfix: Wortbildungselement zwischen unselbständigem Präfix und selbständigem Wort." Eichinger (2000, 39) notes: "Partikelverben nennen wir die Verben, die den Akzent auf dem auf ein präpositionales oder adverbiales Lexem zu beziehenden Erstelement tragen, was ein intonatorisches Korrelat für die Trennbarkeit ist." Eichinger (2000, 39) provides the following examples: "Es handelt sich vor allem um Bildungen mit den Erstelementen: ab-, an-, auf-, aus-, bei-, durch-, ein-, mit-, über-, um-, unter-, vor-, zu-.

We can therefore see that there are differences in the composition of prefix verbs and particle verbs. Prefix verbs, for example, are composed of a simplex verb and a prefix which cannot be detached from the simplex verb, e.g. the complex verbs *besuchen, erfahren, verstehen*. Particle verbs, however, contain a simplex verb and a particle which may / may not appear separate from the simplex verb. For example, earlier in this section we considered the separable complex verbs *durchlüften* and *umfahren*. 

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Lüdeling (2001, 1) considers particle verbs: "What are particle verbs? There is no generally agreed definition or even consensus on the notion of particle verbs. Nevertheless most people would probably agree with the following rough approximation: Particle verbs are constructions that consist of a verb and a preverb and that behave like words in some respects and like syntactic constructions in others." The term 'preverb' could be described as appropriate, as it shows how the morpheme is placed before the verb (as denoted by the prefix pre-). The term 'particle' does not carry the same meaning, perhaps because particles can also appear after the simplex verb because they can be separable. It could be argued, however, that even prefix verbs behave like syntactic constructions in some respects. For example, the addition of the prefix 'be-' to the simplex verb atmen, turns the intransitive simplex verb into a transitive complex verb. Furthermore, it could be said that all words, not just particle verbs, are syntactic constructions in that they determine, and are determined by the syntactic properties of the sentence of which they form a part. Šimečková (1995, 97) also discusses the term 'preverb': "Der Terminus 'Präverb' wird hier als übergreifende Bezeichnung für feste Präfixe und abtrennbare Partikeln benutzt." I believe the term 'Präverb' is an appropriate generic term to cover prefixes and particles as whether the morpheme is separable or not, it appears before the simplex verb, at least when the verb is in its infinitive form, for example:

abfahren (infinitive) - er fährt morgen ab (preverb is attached to the simplex in the infinitive, but appears separate from the simplex in the sentence)

besuchen (infinitive) - Gestern habe ich meine Kusine besucht (preverb remains attached to the simplex in the infinitive and in the sentence)
We have seen how various terminology can be used to describe morphemes which may appear as both affixes (bound morphemes) and as prepositions/adverbs (free morphemes). In the present study, however, the term 'prefix' will be used in a generic sense to describe both prefixes and particles. This is because both prefixes and particles are attached to the front of a simplex verb, (i.e. they are prefixed), at least when the complex verb is in the infinitive.

3.4. The prefix as part of a word

Mungan considers how prefixes contribute meaning to words:


Mungan (1986, 25)

As can be seen, Mungan is pointing out how prefixes can contribute various senses to complex verbs. As noted earlier, however, prefixes can also contribute sense(s) to words belonging to other word classes, e.g. nouns or adjectives. According to Barz (1988, 170): "Wie die Suffixe können auch die meisten Präfixe parallel an zwei Wortarten treten, und zwar an Substantiv und Adjektiv". Boase-Beier and Lodge (2003, 56) discuss how a single prefix can be used in the construction of many different words: "The addition of a particular affix is a productive process if it occurs frequently and with few restrictions. Sometimes we also describe the affix in question itself, rather than the process, as productive." The prefix 'un-' could therefore be described as productive as it is known to form a part of many German words. The prefix 'ab-' could also be described as productive, as it can occur in all the following complex verbs: abfahren, abgehen, ablauen, abbauen, abspringen, abschaffen. Over the course of this study, we may find that some / all of the seven
prefixes studied are productive, some more so than others. Johnson (1984, 107) states: "The number of words listed in dictionaries which have one of the inseparable prefixes (be-, ent- and emp-, er-, ver- and zer-) appears to be approximately 0.66 percent of the total German lexis." This percentage does not even take into account words which feature separable prefixes such as 'ab-' and 'durch-'. We can therefore see how prefixes play a significant role in the construction of vocabulary in the German language.

As we can see, prefixation allows the formation of words. Affixes can therefore carry meaning, although they do not have to. The current research will look at how the use of a prefix can differentiate the sense of the complex verb from that of the simplex verb. Meaning can also be created / changed, however, without the use of affixes. For example, conversion, also known as zero affixation, involves creating new words from existing ones, without the use of affixes: e.g. *wurf* / *werfen*. However, a new word can also be created from an existing one without conversion, for example, let us consider the verb *lachen* and the noun *das Lachen*.

Fleischer / Barz (1992, 28) discuss the characteristics of affixes: "Affixe sind reihenbildend." While it may be said this is a characteristic of affixes, German words can be said to have the same quality. We saw earlier, for example, how the German language contains many compound words. We also saw how German verbs are often formed from more than one prefix. According to Kühnhold (1973, 143): "Doch macht Doppelpräfigierung nur wenig mehr als 2% des Gesamtbestands sämtlicher Präfixverben aus, wobei vornehmlich die Abfolge betont + unbetont (auferstehen), seltener die Abfolge unbetont + betont (vergesellschaften) vorkommt." It could be argued, however, that the first prefix in any row is likely to be stressed more than those which follow, as it signals the start of a new word. It could also be said that the meaning of a word can become more complex with the addition of a prefix(es). This is because a prefix can contribute a new sense to a word, e.g.: *singen* - 'to sing' / *mitsingen* - 'to join in {song etc.}', sing *along*.
Fischer (1997, 267) compares the semantic complexity of English and German verbs: "English verbs are often semantically less specific than their German counterparts, and context information is needed for their interpretation. The semantic differentiations of many German verbs reflect different activities with greater precision, albeit with some redundancy: the kind of activity is often obvious from the referents of the verb complements anyway." It could be argued that Fischer makes a valid point here, as the German language contains several verbs which describe very precise actions / activities. For example, the German language features the verb *abbaken* which describes how a bit of water surface may be separated off by using buoys. The following verbs, also taken from the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*, show how German verbs can describe very specific processes: *abisolieren* - 'to strip the insulation off', *abkonterfeiten* - '(jmdn. ~ (zeichnen)) to draw a good likeness of sb.; (fotographieren) - 'take sb's photograph' and *ablerauschen - jmdn. etw. ~: 'learn sth. by listening to sb.' These examples might therefore be considered evidence to support the view of Fischer that the German language contains verbs which describe very specific processes. Of course, it could also be argued that the English language contains semantically specific verbs. The examples taken from the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*, however, did not offer direct German verb to English verb translations for the very specific processes described by the German verbs selected.

As part of the research, we may consider patterns demonstrated by the senses of prefixes occurring in both the English and the German language. For example, let us consider the prefix 'be-' which we will be considering in Chapter Ten of the research. Henzen (1957, 103) comments on the function of this prefix in the German language: "Zu verbalen Präfixbildungen dienen die Vorsilben ge-, be-, er-, ver-, ent- (emp-), zer-, dazu normalerweise miß-. Diese Bildungen erinnern an die lat. -griechischen mit con-, dis-, peri-, pro-, anti-, denen sie teilweise entsprechen." Similarities may be found even today between prefixes appearing in different languages. For example, the German prefix 'miss-', which we will be studying in Chapter Nine, corresponds with several prefixes in English: 'mis-' / 'mal-' / 'dis-' / 'un-'. This can be observed in the following constructions: *missverstehen* - 'to misunderstand', *misshandeln* - 'to mal-treat', *missachten* - 'to disrespects' and *misslingen* - 'to fail; be unsuccessful'. The examples above show how the prefix 'miss-' corresponds with the prefix 'un-' in the
verb *misslingen* - 'to fail; be unsuccessful'. This shows how the prefix 'un-' is an affix which functions to negate a word when it is used in both English and German constructions, for example: *unnötig* - 'unnecessary' / *unnatürlich* - 'unnatural'. We can therefore see how patterns can be seen to exist between prefixes belonging to different languages.

This shows us how it is possible to find English and German prefixes which can indicate the same sense. It would therefore appear that we can translate the sense of a prefix from one language to another. The translation of meaning from one language to another is an important area of study in linguistics. Rogers states (69, 1996): "The foreign or second language learner and the translator have a good deal in common when it comes to dealing with words: each must identify new words, record them, learn them, recall them, work out their relationships with other words and with the real world, and be able to use them appropriately." The comment made by Rogers also shows how language is a living fabric. We can therefore learn a great deal about the words we use today by considering the language we used in the past. The research will consider how complex verbs and the prefixes of which they form a part, can also be seen to develop through use in a language. Erben (1975, 17) considers how vocabulary develops in a language: "Ist es denn für Sprecher einer 'entwickelten' Sprache überhaupt noch erforderlich, neue Wörter zu gewinnen? Spielt die Wortbildung eine so wichtige Rolle, daß sich die wissenschaftliche Beschäftigung mit ihr lohnt? Offensichtlich ja." Erben poses an interesting question: when, if at all, does a so-called 'developed' language stop developing? The answer to that question would seem to be that languages never stop evolving. It could therefore be argued that there will always be a need to study the languages we use. It could also be said that as long as a language exists, so will the need to create new words. As so many words in the German language are created using prefixes, these affixes could be called some of the basic building blocks of words. By allowing the creation of new words, prefixation also allows the expansion of vocabulary in the German language.
As a language develops, however, we can also expect to see changes in the way prefixes are used. Erben (1975, 119) observes:

So findet sich z.B. schon im späten Althochdeutschen (um 1000) die Präfigierung fer-swenden neben swenden (<*swand-jan ‘swinden machen’), ir-blinden neben blinden (‘blind werden’). Räumliche / zeitliches Bezüge und aktionale Abstufung werden früh durch Präfixe verdeutlicht, die freilich nicht einfach die Funktion der abgebauten Suffixe übernehmen, sondern allmählich - z.T. von lateinischen Mustern angeregt (vgl z.B. ahd. for a-wesan prae-esse)- ein sehr viel genaueres System modifizierender Abstufung der Basisverben aufbauen helfen und auch eine semantisch differenzierte Verbalisierung nominaler Basisermöglichen.

Erben (1975, 119)

This quote shows us that even in the Old High German period, we could see evidence of how prefixation was allowing the semantic modification of German words, and was also providing information regarding the Aktionsart of verbs.

3.5. Aktionsarten

As we saw in the previous section, Erben points out how prefixation can be used to indicate Aktionsarten. Aktionsarten are categories which classify verbs according to the nature of the action they describe. The present research will consider how the seven prefixes may form a part of complex verbs which indicate Aktionsarten.

The Duden Grammatik states (1998, 90):

Mit Aktionsarten bezeichnet man die Art und Weise, wie das durch ein Verb bezeichnete Geschehen abläuft (Geschehensweise, Verlaufsweise, Handlungsart). Eindeutige Abgrenzungen sind manchmal nur schwer durchzuführen; am sichersten sind Aktionsarten auszumachen, wenn sie an bestimmte Wortbildungsmittel, vor allem an Präfixe und Suffixe, gebunden sind.
The *Duden Grammatik* (1998, 91) describes *Aktionsarten* which indicate the beginning or end of a process: "Verben, mit denen eine zeitliche Begrenzung ausgedrückt wird, nennt man perfektiv oder terminativ." The authors state (1998, 91): "Die perfektiven Verben werden, je nachdem, ob mit ihnen der Beginn oder das Ende eines Geschehens bezeichnet wird, inchoativ oder ingressiv bzw. resultativ oder egressiv genannt." In my research, the term 'resultative' will be used to describe verbs which indicate the end of an action or process. The term 'inchoative' will be used to describe verbs which indicate the beginning of an action or process.

Lyons describes what a process is (1977, 483):

> There is, unfortunately, no satisfactory term that will cover states, on the one hand, and events, processes and actions, on the other. We will use the term situation for this purpose; and we will draw a high-level distinction between static and dynamic situations. A static situation (or state-of-affairs, or state) is one that is conceived of as existing, rather than happening, and as being homogeneous, continuous and unchanging throughout its duration. A dynamic situation, on the other hand, is something that happens (or occurs, or takes place); it may be momentary or enduring; it is not necessarily either homogeneous or continuous, but may have any of several temporal contours; and, most important of all, it may or may not be under the control of an agent. If a dynamic situation is extended in time, it is a process; if it is momentary, it is an event; and, if it is under the control of an agent, it is an action. Finally, a process that is under the control of an agent is an activity; and an event that is under the control of an agent is an act.

In this research, the term 'process' will be used to describe a dynamic situation which is extended in time. The term 'event' will be used to describe a momentary dynamic situation. As we can see, Lyons draws a distinction between static and dynamic situations. *Aktionsarten* can be used to describe both static and dynamic situations. For example, the durative verb *wissen* describes a static situation, that is to say, one that is unchanging throughout its duration. The inchoative verb *erblühen*, however, indicates a dynamic situation as it describes something that happens or takes place. Lyons states (1977, 706): "As we saw earlier, most verbs, in all languages, are inherently dynamic, in that they normally denote either events (including acts) or processes (including activities), rather than states." The term 'process' is potentially problematic for my study as we will need to differentiate between various stages in a
process. For example, as we have seen, inchoative verbs describe the beginning of an action / process, while terminative verbs describe the end of an action / process.

The *Duden Grammatik* also describes punctual verbs (1998, 91): "Wenn Verben etwas bezeichnen, was ohne zeitliche Ausdehnung punkthaft geschieht, nennt man sie punktuelle oder momentane Verben: erblicken, finden, treffen, ergreifen, erschlagen, fassen." Following Lyons' (1977, 483) explanation of a process as noted above, punctual verbs would therefore refer to 'events' as they describe dynamic situations which are only momentary.

The *Duden Grammatik* continues to discuss other *Aktionsarten* categories, for example, iterative verbs: "Es gibt Verben, mit denen eine stete Wiederholung gleichartiger Vorgänge ausgedrückt wird. Man nennt sie iterativ: flattern, sticheln, krabbeln, grübeln, streicheln u.a." Intensive verbs are also mentioned: "Mit einigen Verben wird ein größerer oder geringerer Grad, die stärkere oder schwächere Intensität eines Vorgangs gekennzeichnet. Man nennt sie intensiv: schnitzen, schluchzen, liebeln, lächeln u.a." Following Lyons (1977, 483), iterative verbs describe processes, as they indicate dynamic situations which are extended in time and may / may not be under the control of an agent. The *Duden Grammatik* (1998, 91) discusses 'durative' or 'imperfective' verbs as follows: "Verben, mit denen etwas als ohne zeitliche Begrenzung ablaufend, als unvollendet, als dauernd gekennzeichnet wird, nennt man imperfektiv oder durativ: blühen, schlafen, wachen, frieren, wohnen, sein, bleiben, andauern." Bussmann (16, 1983) gives arbeiten as an example of a durative verb. Following Lyons (1977, 483), durative verbs also describe processes.

As noted earlier, prefixes can be associated with various *Aktionsarten*. In the present study, the prefixes selected for study will be examined to see whether or not they form a part of complex verbs belonging to particular *Aktionsarten*. Prefixes which indicate *Aktionsarten* will be investigated to see if they demonstrate possible relationships / patterns. For example, we may find that some of the prefixes can change a durative simplex verb into a punctual complex verb. The research may also find that the majority of our seven prefixes form a part of verbs belonging to
particular Aktionsarten.

Bussmann (1996, 39) points out: "Aspect refers to the internal temporal structure of a verb or sentence meaning." Bussmann (1996, 39) observes that Aktionsart and Aspect are closely related: "Many English-speaking linguists do not use the term 'Aktionsart', but subsume the distinctions described above under aspect." Indeed, both Aktionsart and Aspect classify verbs according to the temporal information they provide. The categories also provide information regarding causality / agency, as Bussmann (1996, 39) notes: "Reference to causality is sometimes also related to aspect. Causality distinguishes an action which is caused by an agent (e.g. hit, read) from a state or process (know, blossom)." Cruse (2004, 286) discusses the aspeclual features of events: "Events are held to fall into one of a small number of aspeclual classes, which are defined on the basis of yet more fundamental aspeclual features, themselves values on three basic dimensions: change, boundedness and duration." As we saw earlier, Lyons and Bussmann also draw distinctions between verbs which indicate change, boundedness and duration. These would appear to be important distinctions to make when categorizing verbs according to their semantic features.

3.6. Conclusion

We have seen how prefixes play an integral role in the formation of vocabulary in the German language. The study / analysis of the patterns shared by the seven chosen prefixes in their contribution to complex verbs, however, is currently an under-researched area of investigation. No work has been found which has attempted to establish a characterization for the range of possible senses of these prefixes. The major research questions in this study are therefore as follows:
- 1) What senses do the seven chosen prefixes contribute to the complex verbs being considered?

- 2) Are any patterns / relationships demonstrated by the senses identified for these prefixes?

- 3) Can we establish a characterization for the collective range of senses identified for the seven prefixes?

As we saw earlier, patterns can be observed in the way the German language functions, it can therefore be expected that the seven chosen prefixes will also be found to demonstrate patterns / relationships in their possible senses. However, my review of current literature on the semantics of German prefixes leads me to believe that this is an area that has been studied to a limited extent. No work found, for example, attempted to establish patterns / relationships in the possible senses of the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'er-', 'miss-', 'mit-' and 'be-' which have been chosen for study in this research. It was also noted that not much literature has been published on the patterns / relationships demonstrated by the senses of other German prefixes. It is therefore hoped to contribute new findings to the study of the semantic contribution of German prefixes to complex verbs. As verbs play such an important role in the German language, it is hoped that by learning more about German verbs we will be able to learn more about the German language and how it functions.
4.0. Chapter Four: Methodology

4.1. Aims of the study

The prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'er-', 'miss-', 'mit-' and 'be-' have been selected for study with the aim of identifying the possible senses they can contribute to complex verbs. It is hoped to establish a characterization for the collective range of senses identified for the seven prefixes. In order to identify the semantic contribution of a prefix to a complex verb, we will need to compare the sense(s) of the simplex and complex verb in question.

The named seven prefixes have been chosen for this investigation as they feature in many words in the German language. It was also noted that these prefixes can occur with a number of shared simplex verbs. In my opinion, the fact that the prefixes can occur with a number of shared simplex verbs could suggest that they can form a part of complex verbs which have related senses. For example, the complex verbs \textit{abbacken} and \textit{durchbacken} both feature the simplex verb \textit{backen}, and have senses which describe the baking process. If two or more prefixes can be combined with the same simplex verb, then, perhaps the sense(s) the prefixes can contribute within these complex verbs will be found to be similar. I will therefore be looking for evidence of patterns / relationships demonstrated by the senses of these seven prefixes. Of course, many prefixes share a simplex verb, but it was decided to study these particular prefixes as they are also productive in the German language. For example, with the exception of the prefix 'miss-', all the prefixes can occur with the simplex verb \textit{arbeiten}. It is therefore hoped to learn more about these productive pieces of language.
The research will be conducted in three phases, as outlined below.

4.2. Phase 1: Analysis of the semantic contribution of the prefixes

The contribution of a prefix to a complex verb will be analysed using the following methodology. The *Oxford Duden Dictionary* (2001) and the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* (2001) will be used to identify the possible senses of the complex verbs that have been selected for analysis, and the senses of the simplex verbs which form a part of these complex verbs. By considering the complex verbs and simplex verbs separately in the first instance, it is hoped to determine what input, if any, is contributed to the meaning of the complex verb by the use of the prefix. As noted in Chapter One, it is expected that one of the following outcomes will be established as a result of studying the contribution of a prefix: 1) the prefix is found to be polysemous 2) the prefix is found to be monosemous 3) the prefix is found to be without a sense.

On a personal level, I have been using the *Oxford Duden* and *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* dictionaries for a number of years as a student of German, and have found them to be very informative and helpful. The following dictionaries may also be consulted over the course of the investigation in order to compare the senses given for a verb in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* and the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch*, with those given for the same verb in another source: the *Deutsches Wörterbuch* by Grimm J. & W, *Duden: das große Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache in zehn Bänden, Langenscheidts Enzyklopädisches Wörterbuch der Englischen und Deutschen Sprache* and the *Cambridge-Eichborn German Dictionary: Economics, Law, Administration, Business, General*. The sources may also be consulted in order to look for evidence of verbs which may not have been listed in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* or the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch*.

It was decided to use codified sources for Phase One of the study as it is felt that these are appropriate and reliable for the purpose of the investigation. For example,
the lexicographers / editors of the dictionaries may have used primary data taken from corpora when compiling the senses of words. Of course, using raw material in this way will have involved compromises and abstractions, but the reliability of using a codified source can be confirmed in Phase Three of the study. In Phase Three, we will use a corpus to validate the findings of the dictionary-based study carried out in Phase One. By doing so, we will be able to see if the senses we identified in Phase One using a secondary source can be validated using a primary source such as a corpus.

Another reason why it was decided to use codified sources for the first phase of the study was that these would list in alphabetical order the complex verbs featuring each of the prefixes. This will be of use in the study as we will be examining the first eleven complex verbs featuring each prefix, as listed alphabetically in the dictionary. The codified sources would also provide additional information regarding the contextual usage of a particular verb e.g. Jägersprache, Kochkunst etc. Information regarding the contextual usage of a verb could prove useful when attempting to analyse the possible senses of a prefix. For example, the prefix 'ab-' could be found to contribute the sense of 'removal' to the complex verbs abäsen and abbalgen, both of which are listed as "hunting language" in the Oxford Duden Dictionary. As both verbs can be used in the same context, this could suggest that the prefix can contribute the sense of 'removal' to several complex verbs which are used in this context. The contextual usage of a verb as given in a dictionary will therefore be taken into consideration when evaluating the sense(s) contributed by a prefix to a complex verb.

Fleischer / Barz will be consulted as part of the study as they have produced much work on the subject of German prefixes, and are a respected authority in the field. As we have seen in Chapter Three, in Wortbildung der deutschen Gegenwartssprache (1992), the authors discuss German prefixes and the various senses they can contribute to words. The study will consider the authors' findings regarding the possible contribution of prefixes to words. As they do not state their methodology, one can assume that the authors examined the use of a prefix within various words, before reaching decisions regarding its possible senses. The work of Lutzeier, a
specialist in the lexical semantics of German, will also be studied, as will Rich and his work *Partikelverben in der deutschen Gegenwartssprache mit durch-, über-, um-, unter-, ab-, an-* (2003). In Chapter Three, we considered the findings of other authors regarding the possible senses of prefixes, we will therefore be able to compare these findings with the results of the dictionary-based analysis to be carried out in Chapters Five to Ten.

In Chapters Five to Ten, when investigating the prefixes for polysemy, synonymy, monosemy or lack of any sense, the analysis will be conducted as follows. For each prefix, the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* will be used to list the simplex verbs which form a part of the eleven complex verbs taken from the dictionary, including examples of their usage as found in the dictionary. If the complex verb features two prefixes, e.g. 'mit-\* ' + 'be-\* ' + *kommen*, the single-prefixed complex verb *bekommen*, will be listed in this section if it can be seen to contribute meaning to the double-prefixed complex verb *mitbekommen*. If not, then the simplex verb *kommen* will be listed. Eleven complex verbs will be studied as this is thought to be a sufficient number of verbs to use when analysing the possible sense(s) of a prefix. This is because eleven could be considered neither too great nor too small a number to allow the evaluation of the possible sense(s) of a prefix. It is also a sufficient number of verbs to allow us to study how a prefix may or may not contribute sense(s) to a complex verb. If a simplex verb is not listed in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*, the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* will be consulted to see if the simplex verb is featured there. If the simplex verb is not listed in the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch*, a third or fourth source will be consulted from the list of dictionaries given earlier. If the simplex verb is not listed in the additional sources consulted, it is possible that the verb does not exist. If no simplex verb exists, the possible input of any related verb / noun or adjective will be considered, as there may be semantic input provided by these to the complex verb. The input of any related verb / noun / adjective forms may also be discussed if there is a simplex verb forming a part of the complex verb in question, if this is thought to be a useful exercise.
If a simplex verb is listed in the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch*, but not in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*, the senses of the simplex verb as found in the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* will be listed and compared with the senses of the complex verb as found in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*. When quoting the possible senses of a complex / simplex verb as given in a dictionary, the complete list of senses will not always be listed. Senses will be listed which are presumed to be the core senses of the word, or those which are considered the most relevant for the purpose of the study. For example, let us compare the senses of the complex verb *misstraumen* with those of the simplex verb *trauen*:

**Misstraumen** - itr. V. *jmdm. / einer Sache* ~: mistrust or distrust sb. / sth.; *sich* (Dat.)

- **selbst ~**: have no confidence in oneself

**Trauen** - 1) itr. V. *jmdm. / einer Sache* ~: trust sb. / sth.; *ich traue dem Braten nicht* (ugs.) I think something’s up (coll.); it seems fishy to me (coll.); 2) refl. V dare; *sich ~, etw. zu tun* dare [to] do sth.; *du traust dich ja nicht!* You haven’t the courage or nerve 3) tr. V. (verheiraten) {vicar, registrar etc.} marry

As we can see, a possible sense of the simplex verb *trauen* is evident in the sense of the complex verb *misstraumen*:

**Trauen** - 1) itr. V. *jmdm. / einer Sache* ~: trust sb. / sth.; *ich traue dem Braten nicht* (ugs.) I think something’s up (coll.); it seems fishy to me (coll.); 2) refl. V dare; *sich ~, etw. zu tun* dare [to] do sth.; *du traust dich ja nicht!* You haven’t the courage or nerve 3) tr. V. (verheiraten) {vicar, registrar etc.} marry

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**Misstrauen** - itr. V. *jmdm. / einer Sache* ~: *mistrust or distrust sb. / sth.; sich* (Dat.)

**selbst** ~: have no confidence in oneself

The simplex verb has the sense 'to trust sb. / sth.' and the complex verb has the opposite sense 'to mistrust or distrust sb./sth.'.

Let us now consider Sense 3) of the simplex verb *trauen*:

**Trauen** - 3) tr. V. (verheiraten) {vicar, registrar etc.} marry

We can see that this sense *does not* appear to be evident in the sense of the complex verb *misstrauen*:

**Misstrauen** - itr. V. *jmdm. / einer Sache* ~: *mistrust or distrust sb. / sth.; sich* (Dat.) **selbst** ~: have no confidence in oneself

Those senses of the simplex verb, then, which are thought to be evident in the sense(s) of the complex verb will be listed, or those which are given as its core senses. This will allow us to see how the simplex verb and the prefix can work together to create the sense of the complex verb. We will therefore be looking at how the prefix can differentiate the sense of the complex verb from that of the simplex verb. As noted in Chapter Two, we will need to consider how the principle of compositionality may be applied to German complex verbs in order to do this.

As the research involves a dictionary-based study, the editorial approach and design principles for dictionary entries will now be explained. Lists of the senses of complex verbs and simplex verbs will be reproduced as given in the dictionaries consulted.
Entries for each verb will include grammatical information, sense categories, translations into English, phrases and examples of usage as found in the dictionary. This information will be used as part of the study to help us to learn more about the complex verbs being examined, and the prefixes of which they are composed. We can then compare the sense(s) of a complex verb and the sense(s) of a simplex verb and evaluate the sense contributed by the prefix to the complex verb. The information will also be used in Chapter Eleven when attempting to validate the senses found in the dictionary-based study.

For each of the eleven complex verbs in the list, the sense(s) of the complex verb and simplex verb will be analysed separately in the first instance, in order to determine any sense(s) contributed by the prefix to the complex verb. The verbs will also be analysed to see if the prefix provides any kind of semantic function within the complex verb. In this work, a semantic function is considered to be any effect the prefix has on the sense(s) of the simplex / complex verb. If a prefix is not found to contribute any sense or provide any semantic function within the complex verb, we will consider the possible syntactic effects of the prefix within the complex verb. For example, does the use of the prefix turn an intransitive simplex verb into a transitive complex verb? Other possible structural effects of the use of the prefix will also be considered: does the prefix function to change a related noun / adjective form into a verb?

Any senses that are found for the prefix will then be put into sets according to shared characteristics in their meaning. For example, if a number of senses found for the prefix describe 'Removal', a set entitled 'Removal' will be established for these senses. (If a prefix is not found to contribute several senses to the complex verb, this section will be omitted as there will be no data for discussion / classification). If the prefix has been found to be polysemous in the previous section, the next stage of the study will involve using the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* to find examples of the polysemous prefix forming a part of complex verbs which demonstrate Gegensinn or lexical senses which are opposites. For example, the complex verb *abdecken* demonstrates the opposite senses of 'to remove' and 'to cover'. Verbs which are found to demonstrate Gegensinn will be listed, together with an explanation of the opposite
senses they describe. Gegensinn verbs will then be put into sets according to shared characteristics in their meaning, as described above for the non-Gegensinn senses. If only one Gegensinn verb is identified, this will be assigned to a set according to the opposite lexical senses it describes. Sets will be established according to the semantic characteristics of the verbs they feature. For example, if two verbs are found to respectively demonstrate the opposite lexical senses of 'to begin sth.' / 'to end sth.' and 'to cover' / 'to remove', a set entitled 'Opposite stages of a process' could be established for these verbs. By assigning the verbs to sets, we will be able to organise and summarise the data collected thus far. We will then be able to proceed to the next section which will discuss the findings to date.

The final section of the chapter will revisit the eleven complex verbs listed in the beginning, and will attempt to identify the contribution of the prefix to a possible sense of each of the complex verbs in the list. (As part of the research, the sense(s) of a complex verb may at times be considered from both a synchronic and a diachronic perspective.) The input of a prefix will be identified by looking at how the sense of a complex verb is achieved. In theory, the sense of a complex verb may be composed in any one of four ways, as shown below (possibilities are discussed in no particular order):
1) P

- input from the prefix, but no input from the simplex verb

2) SV

- input from the simplex verb, but no input from the prefix

3) P & SV

- input from both the prefix and the simplex verb

4) I

-input from neither the prefix nor the simplex verb, i.e. an idiomatic sense of the complex verb

As we study the composition of the chosen complex verbs, we will be able to see how these possibilities can be applied to the semantic composition of German complex verbs in practice. The results of the analysis will show whether or not the prefix has contributed meaning to any, or indeed all, of the complex verbs listed at the beginning of the chapter. By studying the composition of the complex verb in this way, it will be possible to see what role the prefix can play in contributing meaning to a possible sense of the complex verb. The sense of the prefix listed as providing input to a particular sense of the complex verb may be one of a number of senses which the prefix was found to contribute to one / several sense(s) of the complex verb. The sense of a prefix may be influenced by the sense of the simplex verb with
which it occurs. A prefix can therefore indicate a different sense depending on the simplex verb with which it is combined.

As Chapter Eight will be comparing the input of two prefixes, this chapter will have a different structure to that of Chapters Five, Six, Seven, Nine and Ten, as outlined above. Chapter Eight will use the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* to list in pairs a sample of the first seven complex verbs which share a simplex verb and which can occur with either the prefix 'er-' or the prefix 'aus-'. Seven complex verb pairs will be chosen for study as this is thought to be a sufficient number of complex verb pairs for this sample comparative study of the contribution of the prefixes. Once the verbs have been analysed, the contribution of the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' within each pair of complex verbs will be discussed. The findings of the analysis will be used to determine whether or not the prefixes demonstrate synonymy, and if so, to what extent.

4.2.1. Phase 2: Validation of findings in the dictionary-based study

In Chapter Eleven we begin the second phase of the study. In this phase, we will consult the University of Leipzig corpus in an attempt to validate the findings of the dictionary-based analysis carried out in Phase One. A corpus will be used for this exercise as it allows us to see various examples of how the complex verbs are used in the German language. The corpus examples allow us to see the complex verbs in context, i.e. in a sentence, so that we may find evidence to show how the prefix is contributing the sense being validated to the complex verb.

It was decided to use the University of Leipzig corpus of German for the investigation as it contains 35 million sentences and 500 million words in current usage. The corpus contains predominantly newspaper / literary texts. This might affect the data identified as words which predominantly feature in newspaper / literary language are likely to appear more often than words which appear in other genres. The coverage of the corpus is from 1995 onwards, with the most recent
examples being from 2003. The corpus also features listings taken from the Projekt Gutenberg Spiegel.de archives, some of which pre-date 1995.

Eleven senses will be selected for the validation exercise as this is thought to be a sufficient number to demonstrate how the corpus may be used to validate the findings of Phase One. It is also considered to be neither too great nor too small a number, and will therefore allow the validation of a variety of senses. Several senses will be randomly chosen from the collective range of senses identified for the seven prefixes in Phase One. For each sense chosen for validation, the complex verb to which the prefix has been found to contribute the sense will be entered as a query in to the corpus. This will generate a list of examples of the possible uses of the complex verb. Examples that are considered to show the prefix contributing the identified sense to the complex verb will be taken from the complete list of corpus examples, and analysed to discover if they demonstrate the prefix contributing the sense. This will be done by analysing the context (e.g. sentence) in which each complex verb is found for semantic clues which demonstrate how the prefix is contributing the sense being validated. By comparing the simplex verbs listed at the beginning of a chapter with the examples of usage of the complex verb as found in the University of Leipzig corpus, it will be possible to observe how the prefix in question has contributed the sense identified in the dictionary-based study to the complex verb.

A sense that is found to be contributed by a prefix to two complex verbs may also be chosen for the validation exercise in order to show how a single sense can be contributed by a prefix to more than one complex verb. If evidence cannot be found in the corpus of a prefix contributing a particular sense, this could be due to a number of reasons, the most obvious being that there is no relevant example in the corpus of the prefix contributing the particular sense, although it does not mean that the prefix cannot contribute the sense. The fact that a particular sense of the prefix is not found in the corpus could also support the view that it is a sense that is perhaps not as commonly contributed by the prefix to verbs as some other senses might be. This could be because it is a very subtle sense. It is therefore worth considering the possibility that the sense could be more evident when the prefix is used to build nouns or adjectives as opposed to complex verbs. It could also be the case that the
sense is not as obvious to identify within a verb as some other senses might be, due
to the contexts in which it is featured in the corpus. Therefore, if the sense of a prefix
cannot be validated using the corpus, this does not mean that the prefix cannot
contribute the sense to the complex verb. In the same Chapter, we will also use the
corpus to try to find senses of the prefixes that were not identified in the dictionary-
based study. This will be done by consulting the corpus to find examples of usage of
a particular complex verb. The senses of the complex verb found in the corpus will
then be compared with those given in a previous chapter for the simplex verb
forming a part of the complex verb being considered. We will then be able to see
how the prefix differentiates the sense of the complex verb from that of the simplex
verb.

As well as allowing the validation of senses identified for the prefixes in Phase One,
the validation exercise is also important as entries for verbs may not always reflect
real meaning differences. For example, simplex verbs with obvious English
equivalents might have been treated differently from complex verbs with no direct
English equivalent. By consulting the corpus for examples of usage of a verb, the
validation exercise will therefore allow us to properly evaluate the sense(s) a prefix
may have been found to contribute to a verb.

4.2.2. Phase 3: Characterization for the senses of the prefixes

In Chapter Twelve we carry out the third and final phase of the study. We will
attempt to establish a characterization for the complete range of senses that were
identified for the seven prefixes in the dictionary-based study. Such a
characterization would demonstrate how the senses of the prefixes are connected in
their meaning. Chapter Thirteen will then discuss the findings and implications of the
research carried out in the thesis.
PHASE 1 OF THE STUDY:
ANALYSIS OF THE SEMANTIC
CONTRIBUTION OF THE PREFIXES
5.0. Chapter Five: The Prefix 'ab-

In this chapter we will consider the possible senses of the first of our seven chosen prefixes: the prefix 'ab-'. The first eleven complex verbs which feature this prefix, as found in the Oxford Duden Dictionary, are given below.

5.1. Senses of complex verbs

First eleven complex verbs which feature the prefix 'ab-' as listed alphabetically in the Oxford Duden Dictionary:

Abändern - 1) tr. V; alter; change; amend {text}. 2) itr. V. (Biol.) mutate

Abarbeiten - 1) tr. V. A) (abgelten) work for {meal}; work off {debtor, amount}; seine Überfahrt ~ work one's passage B) (abnutzen) wear out [with work]; abgearbeitete Hände work-worn hands; C) (beseitigen) remove; (abfeilen) file off

2) refl. V. slave [away]; work like a slave

Abäsen - tr. V. (Jägerspr.) crop

The Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch (2001) provides further clarification of the sense(s) of this verb:

Abäsen: (Jägerspr.): 1. durch Äsen kahl fressen: das Reh äste die ganze Stelle ab. 2. äsend fressen, abfressen: Blätter a.

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2 The verb abandonnieren - (Rechtsw.) abandon, is listed immediately after the verb abändern in the Oxford Duden Dictionary. According to Der Große Duden Fremdwörterbuch (1960) the verb abandonnieren is derived from the French noun 'abandon'. The verb abandonnieren has not been included in the list of complex verbs as it does not feature the German prefix 'ab'.

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Abasten - refl. V. (ugs.) slave [away]; sich mit etw. ~ : heave sth. around; sich (Dat.) [mit etw.] einen ~ (salopp) slave away [heaving sth. around]

Abätzen - tr. V. A) (reinigen) clean [with corrosive]; B) (entfernen) remove [with corrosive]; (Med.) cauterize

Abbacken - unr. itr. V. mit sein (Kochk.) {dough etc.} come away

Abbaken - tr. V. (Seew.) mark [with buoys]; buoy

Abbalgen - tr. V. (Jägerspr.) skin {animal}

Abbau - 1) tr. V. A) (zerlegen) dismantle; strike {tent, camp}; dismantle, take down {scaffolding}; B) (senken) reduce {wages}; C) (beseitigen) gradually remove; break down {prejudices, inhibitions} etw. planmäßig ~ phase sth. out; D) (verringern) cut back {staff}; prune {jobs}; E) (Chemie, Biol.) break down {carbohydrates, alcohol}; F) (Bergbau) mine {coal, gold}; quarry {stone}; work {seam}

2) itr. V. A) (nachlassen) fade; slow down; kurz vor dem Ziel baute er stark ab - he faded badly just before the finish; körperlich ~ : decay physically; B) (Landw.) {crop variety} decline in yield

Abbedingen - unr. tr. V. (Rechtsspr.) waive

Abbeißen - 1) unr. tr. V. bite off; eine Zigarette ~: bite the end off a cigar. 2) unr. itr. V. have a bite; lass dein Bruder [von der Banane] ~! let your brother have a bite [of the banana]!
5.1.1. Senses of simplex verbs

This section will identify the senses of the simplex verbs which form a part of the complex verbs listed in Section 5.1.

Ändern - 1) tr. V. change; alter; alter {garment}; change {person}; etw. an etw. (Dat.) ~: change or alter sth. in sth.; wenn ich an dem Kleid etwas ~ würde if I was going to change anything about the dress; daran kann man nichts ~ nothing can be done or there’s nothing you / we etc. can do about it; das alles ändert nichts an der Tatsache, dass.....none of that alters the fact that.....

2) refl. V. change; alter; {person, weather} change; daran hat sich nichts geändert nothing about it has changed or altered

Arbeiten - 1) itr. V. A) (Arbeit leisten) work; zu Arbeit haben have work to do; an etw. (Dat.) ~; an sich (Dat.) ~: work to improve one’s abilities; sein Geld ~ lassen (fig.) make one’s money work for one; B) (beruflich tätig sein); work; seine Frau arbeitet his wife has a job or works; C) über jmdn. / etw. ~ (sich befassen mit) work on sb. / sth.; D) (wirksam sein) für / gegen jmdn. / etw. ~: work for / against sb. / sth.; {heart, lungs etc.} E) (funktionieren) work, function {machine} work, operate; F) (ankämpfen) work hard (gegen against) G) (sich verändern) {wood} warp; {must} ferment; {dough} rise; H) (Sport) work (mit with); I) (schneidern) wo / bei wen lassen Sie ~ ? where do you have or get your clothes made? Who makes your clothes?

2) tr. V. A) (herstellen) make; (in Ton, Silber, usw.) work; make; fashion; B) (tun) do; Was ~ Sie? What are you doing?

Äsen - itr. V. (Jägerspr.) browse; (weiden) graze
Asten - No such verb is listed in the Oxford Duden Dictionary. The Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch lists the following senses for the verb asten:


Ätzen - 1) tr. V. A) etch; B) (Med.) cauterize {wound}

2) itr. V. corrode

Backen - 1) unr. itr. V. A) bake; do the baking B) (garen) {cake etc.} bake C) {oven} bake 2) unr. tr. V. A) bake {cakes, bread etc.}; B) (bes. südd.: braten) roast; (in der Bratpfanne) fry ; C) (trocknen) dry {fruit, mushrooms, etc.}; bake {brick}

2) (bes. norddd.) 1) itr. V. {snow, earth}; stick (an +Dat. to). 2) stick (an + Akk. on to)

Baken - no such verb was found. Additional sources also consulted: Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch (2001), Duden: Das große Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache (1999) and Cambridge-Eichborn (1983).

Balgen - refl. V. (ugs.) scrap (coll.); sich um etw. ~: scrap (coll.) over something.; (fig.) fight over something

Bauen - 1) tr. V. A) build, construct {house, road, bridge etc.}; build {nest, liar}; make {burrow} B) (entwickeln, herstellen) build {model, vehicle, aircraft, organ}; make {violin, piano} C) (ugs.) das Abitur / seinen Doktor ~: do one’s Abitur / PhD.; D) (ugs.: verursachen) einen Unfall ~: have an accident; E) (Landw.: an-) grow; F) (veralt.: bestellen) cultivate

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2) itr. V. A) build; **wir wollen** ~: we want to build a house; (~ lassen) we want to have a house built; **an etw.** (Dat.) ~: do building work on sth.; B) (vertrauen) **auf jmdn. / etw.** ~: rely on sb. / sth.

**Bedingungen** - 1) tr. V. A) cause; B) (erfordern) require, demand; (voraussetzen) presuppose; C) (abhängig sein von) **einander** ~: be interdependent or mutually dependent

2) unr. refl. V. (veralt.) **sich** (Dat.) **etw.** ~: stipulate sth.; make sth. a condition

**Beißen** - 1) unr. tr., itr. V. A) bite; **in etw.** (Akk.) ~: bite into sth.; **auf etw.** (Akk.) ~: bite on sth.; B) (bissig sein; auch fig.) bite; C) (ätzken) sting; **in die od. in den Augen** ~: sting one's eyes D) (Angelsport: an~) bite; E) (kauen) **nicht mehr [richtig]** ~ **können** no longer be able to chew things [properly]

2) unr. refl. V. (ugs.) [colours, clothes] clash

5.2. Possible senses of 'ab-'

This section identifies the possible senses of the prefix 'ab-' after studying separately the senses of the complex verbs and simplex verbs listed in Sections 5.1. and 5.1.1. respectively. Senses of the prefix 'ab-' have been listed below according to the number of complex verbs to which they were found to be contributed. This will allow us to see the distribution of the various senses identified for the prefix.
Senses contributed by the prefix 'ab-' to two or more complex verbs:

'Removal': Contributed by the prefix to the verbs *abarbeiten, abäsen, abätzen* ('to remove with corrosive'), *abbacken* (dough coming away from the sides of baking tin during the cooking process), *abbalgen* ('to skin' - removal from the surface area), *abbauen* ('to dismantle, take down' {scaffolding} - removal of a part from the whole), *abbedingen* ('to waive' - removal in a figurative sense), *abbeißen* ('to bite off sth.' - removal of a part from the whole)

'Doing something in stages / following a process': Contributed by the prefix to the verbs *abbacken, abbauen*. The first verb: *abbacken*, deals with dividing into stages in the temporal sense (e.g. the stage at which dough comes away from the sides of the baking tin as part of the cooking process). The second verb, *abbauen*, describes the idea of dividing into stages / sections in the spatial domain as part of a process: (zerlegen) to dismantle, or take apart one piece at a time. The verb also has figurative senses: C) (beseitigen) gradually remove; break down {prejudices, inhibitions} etw. planmäßig ~ phase sth. out; D) (verringern) cut back {staff}; prune {jobs}³

'Opposite sense of simplex verb': Contributed by the prefix to the verbs *abbauen* and *abbedingen*

(Verbs which feature the prefix 'ab-' and which demonstrate opposite lexical senses will be discussed in Section 5.3)

³ The complex verb *abbauen* is durative, so is the simplex verb *bauen*. However, the entry for the complex verb mentions 'gradually' and 'planmäßig' while the entry for the simplex verb does not. This indicates that the prefix contributes the sense of 'Doing something in stages / following a process' to this complex verb. It would appear that the prefix 'ab-' acquired this sense as a result of combination with durative verbs. This shows us how the sense of the simplex verb can influence the sense of the prefix with which it occurs.
Senses contributed by the prefix to only one complex verb:

'Until separate from the tin': abbacken

'Working through sth. with endurance towards achieving an aim': abarbeiten

'An ongoing, strenuous activity': abasten

'Change (revision / improvement) to a certain point or extent': abändern

'Improvement': abätzen

5.2.1. Sets for the senses of the prefix 'ab-

The senses of the prefix 'ab-' as identified in Section 5.2. will now be put into sets according to shared characteristics. The sets are arranged according to the number of senses they encompass. The set which encompasses the greatest number of senses has been listed first, and the set which encompasses the fewest number of senses has been listed last. This will allow us to see which characteristics are shared by the greatest number of senses identified for the prefix in Section 5.2. (Senses within each set are arranged in no particular order as they were not found to form any order / sequence).

Set One:

Identifying points / stages within a process: 'Doing something in stages / following a process' (describes how all stages in the process are worked through - from the beginning to the end), 'Until separate from the tin' (describes the point in the baking process at which the dough etc. comes away from the sides of the baking tin), 'Working through sth. with endurance towards achieving an aim' (describes how all
stages in the process are worked through - from the beginning to the end), 'Change (revision / improvement) to a certain point or extent', 'An ongoing, strenuous activity' (if the activity is ongoing, the current stage is being emphasised and worked through - possibly with difficulty, in order to get to the final stage of the process), 'Improvement': the process of change can bring / result in improvement at some point

Set Two:

Removal: 'Removal' in a figurative sense, (e.g. to remove prejudices / inhibitions etc.), and also in a literal sense describing the removal of a part from the whole or from the surface area (e.g. to remove a piece from the whole cake or to remove the skin from an apple)

Set Three:

Negation: 'Opposite sense of simplex verb'

5.3. 'Ab-' verbs demonstrating opposite lexical senses

In Section 5.2., it was found that the prefix 'ab-' could contribute a number of possible senses to the complex verb, meaning that it is polysemous. Lutzeier states that Gegensinn is considered to be a "specific form of polysemy" (1997, 381). In this section, the Oxford Duden Dictionary will be used to search for examples of verbs featuring the prefix 'ab-', which demonstrate Gegensinn or 'opposite senses', (no examples of verbs demonstrating Gegensinn were found in Section 5.1.). Verbs which are found to demonstrate Gegensinn will be listed in alphabetical order, along with an explanation of their opposite senses.
Verb 1)

ab|decken 1): a) (abräumen) clear; {table}; clear away {dishes}

b) (zudecken) cover [up] {trench, grave}

Opposite senses of removing a layer, and adding a layer, to the surface area. 4

Verb 2)

ab|laden: a) unload, offload {case, sack, barrel, goods, vehicle}; dump, unload {gravel, sand, rubble}

b) (Seew.: beladen) load {ship}

Opposite senses of loading and unloading. 5

4 The simplex verb decken has the sense 'to cover', the prefix 'ab-' allows the complex verb to demonstrate the opposite sense of 'to clear away' (remove). The prefix 'ab-' is therefore indicating the sense of 'separation or distance' (occurring as a result of 'removal') which is also described by the preposition 'ab'. The following example also shows how the whole verb has a different past participle: Der Tisch war noch nicht abgedeckt.

5 The simplex verb laden has the sense 'to load', the prefix 'ab-' allows the complex verb abladen to indicate the opposite sense to the simplex verb laden. The prefix 'ab-' can be seen to indicate the sense of 'separation or distance' (occurring as a result of 'removal') which is also indicated by the preposition 'ab-'. The whole verb has a different past participle, as the following example shows: Der Wagen wurde abgeladen.
5.3.1. Sets for Gegensinn senses found for the 'ab-' prefix

The senses of the prefix 'ab-' that were identified in Section 5.3. will now be put into sets according to shared characteristics. This will allow us to see which characteristics are shared by the greatest number of Gegensinn verbs identified for the prefix in Section 5.3..

**Set One:**

**Opposite stages of a process / exchange:** abdecken, abladen

5.4. Discussion of findings

It was found that the sense 'Removal' (in a figurative sense, and in a literal sense: of a part from the whole, or from the surface area) was contributed by the prefix 'ab-' to the greatest number of complex verbs listed in Section 5.1. Rich (2003, 168) discusses how the prefix 'ab-' can describe the removal of a part from the whole:

"Die Partikelverben bezeichnen [the author includes the verb abbeißen as an example], dass etw. als Nahrung vom Ganzen abgetrennt wird, um es zu genießen od. wegzuschaffen. Die Partikel ab- bezeichnet, dass etw. von etw./als Teil/abgetrennt, weggenommen wird."

The prefix 'ab-' was found to contribute senses which describe working through a process, for example: 'Doing sth. in stages / following a process', 'Working through sth. with endurance towards achieving an aim' and 'An ongoing, strenuous activity'. It was also noted that Rich does not cite 'Improvement' and 'Opposite sense of simplex verb' as possible senses of 'ab-'. These senses of the prefix 'ab-', however, were identified in Section 5.2. Rich (2003, 161), however, does provide the following as an example of how the prefix 'ab-' can contribute the sense of the end of a process:

Fleischer / Barz (1992, 329) state that the sense of *separation of one part from the whole* is a possible sense of the prefix *'ab'-* in the following verbs: *abbrechen, abbeißen, abhacken, abhauen and abschneiden*. This sense identified for the prefix describes the idea of creating *separation / distance* between objects. The *Kluge Etymologisches Wörterbuch* (2002, 3) states that the preposition / adverb *'ab'* also denotes the sense of separation and distance. This shows us that there are possible patterns / similarities to be found in the sense(s) of prefixes and their corresponding prepositions. As noted in Chapter Three, the present research will consider prefixes which have corresponding prepositional / adverbial forms, in order to search for evidence of patterns / similarities.

Johnson (1984, 108) notes that the prefix *'ab'-* has the sense 'removal off and downwards': c) they [separable prefixes such as *'ab'-*] are relatively unambiguous in their meanings (ab = 'removal off and downwards' as in 'Der König wurde während der Revolution abgesetzt' (=deposed), and 'Darf ich das Bett schon abziehen?' (=strip)." The sense of 'downwards' as indicated by the prefix *'ab'-* can be contrasted with the sense of 'upwards' as indicated by the preposition *'ab'* as the following example shows: *ab 16 Jahre alt* - from the age of 16 and upwards (i.e. from the age of 16 and above). This shows us that opposite senses can also be demonstrated when comparing the sense of a prefix and its corresponding preposition.

To sum up, the prefix *'ab'-* was found to contribute eight senses to the complex verbs listed in Section 5.1. None of the complex verbs listed in Section 5.1. were found to demonstrate Gegensinn. Two *'ab'-* verbs demonstrating Gegensinn, however, were found in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*. It was also noted that Fleischer / Barz do not cite any of the senses of the prefix *'ab'-* that were identified in Section 5.2. Rich does not cite any of the senses identified for the prefix in this chapter either. However, it was noted that Rich (2002, 247) cites the following sense of the prefix: "A ändert, stuft B ab. B - etwas; ab- ein wenig, leicht." This sense is similar to the sense of
'Change (revision / improvement) to a certain point or extent' as identified for the prefix in Section 5.2. This shows us how the dictionary-based study has identified senses of the prefix 'ab-' which were not given in the literature consulted.

5.5. Input of 'ab-' within the complex verb

This section will attempt to identify the contribution of the prefix 'ab-' to a possible sense of each of the complex verbs listed in Section 5.1. This will be done by using the information obtained in Sections 5.1. and 5.1.1. where the simplex verbs and the complex verbs were studied separately. By examining the senses of the complex verb and the simplex verb, it will be possible to see how the prefix can contribute a particular sense to the complex verb. The sense of the prefix listed as providing input to the complex verb may be one of a number of senses which the prefix was found to contribute to one / several sense(s) of the complex verb. The full range of senses the prefix was found to provide to various complex verbs is given in Section 5.2. The analysis will show how the sense of a prefix can determine the sense of a complex verb.

Abändern:

According to Fleischer / Barz (330, 1992), the prefix 'ab-' is 'redundant' in the verb abändern, thereby contributing no sense to the complex verb. I would like to examine the possibility that the prefix 'ab-' can contribute sense to the sense(s) of the complex verb abändern.

To recap, according to the Oxford Duden Dictionary, the senses of the simplex verb and the complex verb are as follows:
Abändern - 1) tr.V; alter; change; amend (text). 2) itr. V. (Biol.) mutate

Ändern - 1) tr. V. change; alter; alter {garment}; change {person}; etw. an etw. (Dat.) ~: change or alter sth. in sth.; 2) refl. V. change; alter; {person, weather} change; daran hat sich nichts geändert nothing about it has changed or altered

The primary sense of abändern is given as 'to alter', suggesting something like a garment is being changed, and only minor changes or alterations are being made. The primary sense of ändern is given as 'to change', describing more the general concept of change which would include the initial or most significant / drastic change, rather than any subsequent minor alterations. It was noted that although the two verbs are similar in their possible senses, abändern has the additional sense 'to amend' (text), possibly denoting the idea of correction or improvement.

It can be seen that both the verbs ändern and abändern indicate change. It was found that the main difference between the two verbs concerns the extent and nature of the change involved. Abändern is used for changes where correction or revision is implied, (perhaps as a result of the addition or deletion of information), whereas ändern describes more a complete or drastic change. Latzel (1979, 21) also observes how the verb abändern usually indicates correction and describes change to a lesser extent than ändern: "Abändern stellt eine Subklasse von ändern dar. Während dort primär galt, "etwas neu festsetzen", wobei offen ist, zu welchem Zweck, gilt für abändern spezifischer: "Etwas zum Zwecke einer Korrektur neu festsetzen". Dort, wo abgeändert wird, wird also in der Regel korrigiert, und zwar betrifft dies normalerweise Einzelheiten eines größeren Ganzen." Latzel (1979, 22) can also be seen to compare the sense of abändern with that of umändern: "umändern - Bei umändern ist auch in der Regel das Moment der Korrektur mitgesetzt. Es geht dabei allerdings nicht so wie bei abändern um eine Detailkorrektur, sondern um eine Gesamtkorrektur.". This shows us how the verbs ändern and umändern appear to describe a more general change to the verb abändern.
To sum up, there is input from the prefix 'ab-' and the simplex verb *ändern* to the complex verb *abändern*.

**Abarbeiten** - A sense of the simplex verb *arbeiten* is 'to work'. The complex verb *abarbeiten* has several possible senses including 'to work off (debt, amount)'. It was also noted that this appears to be a long established sense of the complex verb. For example, according to Paul's Deutsches Wörterbuch (1992, 2): "abarbeiten 1.1. > (z.B. eine Schuld) durch Arbeit tilgen< (1407; DWb), seit ca. 1500)."

The prefix appears to contribute the sense of 'Working through sth. with endurance towards achieving an aim' to this sense of the complex verb. These findings show that there is input from both the prefix 'ab-' and the simplex verb *arbeiten* to the complex verb *abarbeiten*.

**Abäsen** - 'to crop'

*OED* (2002) - to crop (of an animal) bite off and eat the tops of {plants}


The simplex verb *äsen* has the following sense: 'to browse / graze (animals)'

The complex verb has the sense 'to crop'. The *Oxford English Dictionary* lists the following as one of the senses of the verb 'to crop': '(of an animal) to bite the tops of {plants}'. As we can see, the complex verb and simplex verb both describe the consumption of crops by animals.

According to the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch*, the complex verb describes how animals eat from something until it is left bare. The sense of 'to crop' as given for the complex verb in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*, however, describes simply how the animals eat the tops of plants. As we can see, the two sources have interpreted the sense of this verb differently. This could be due to the evidence the lexicographers had available to them. It is felt, however, based on personal experience of the language, that the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* has offered a more specific description of the sense of the complex verb. This is because...
it describes not only how something, (e.g. the tops of the plants) are eaten, but how they are eaten *bare*. The prefix *'ab-'* therefore contributes the sense of 'removal' to the complex verb, in this case the *complete* removal of sth., (e.g. the tops of the plants etc.). There is input from the simplex verb and *'ab-'* to the sense of the complex verb.

**Abasten** - The *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* was consulted when no evidence of the simplex verb *asten* was found in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*. The senses of the simplex verb *asten* as found in the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* will now be compared with those of the complex verb *abasten* as found in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*:

*Abasten* - refl. V. (ugs.) slave [away]; *sich mit etw. ~* : heave sth. around; *sich* (Dat.) [mit etw.] *einen ~* (salopp) slave away [heaving sth. around]


As can be seen, the simplex verb *asten* has the sense 'to exert oneself; make an effort'. The complex verb *abasten* has the sense 'to slave away'. The sense of the simplex verb, 'to exert oneself; make an effort', does not refer to an *ongoing* activity, e.g. one which describes how time is elapsing as the activity is in progress. The prefix *'ab-'* therefore appears to contribute the sense of 'an ongoing, strenuous activity' to the complex verb *abasten* which has the sense 'to slave away', indicating that a person is continuing work for a *prolonged period*. The passing of time is stressed by the use of the adverb 'away' in the English translation of the verb *abasten* - 'to slave away'. There is also possible input from the noun *der Ast* - (Landsch.) (Rücken) as a person normally heaves something around on their back. There is input from both the simplex verb and the prefix to the complex verb.
**Abätzen** - The simplex verb *ätzen* has the following senses: 'to etch', 'to cauterize (wound)', 'to corrode'. The complex verb has several senses including 'to clean with corrosive' and 'to remove (with corrosive)'. The prefix 'ab-' contributes the sense of 'improvement' to the complex verb, as it describes a positive action in a negative situation: to *clean or remove* with corrosive when material is *corroded*. Corrosion is the process by which metal or other hard material is *destroyed or damaged* slowly by chemical action *(The Oxford English Dictionary: 320, 2002)*. There is input from the simplex verb and 'ab-' to the complex verb.

**Abbacken** - The simplex verb *backen* has several senses, including 'to bake'. The complex verb has the following sense: 'to come away', in other words bake *until separate from the tin*. The prefix 'ab-' therefore contributes the sense of 'Until separate from the tin' to the complex verb. Input was found from both the simplex verb and the prefix 'ab-'.

**Abbaken** - The complex verb has the following sense: 'to mark (with buoys)'. The word *baken* was not found in the four sources consulted. The meaning of the complex verb appears to be idiomatic.

**Abbalgen** - The simplex verb *balgen* has the sense 'to scrap'; 'scrap (coll.); sich um etw. -ː scrap (coll.) over something ; (fig.) fight over something'. The complex verb has the following sense: 'to skin (animal)'. The prefix 'ab-' can be seen to contribute the sense of 'removal' to the complex verb. The simplex verb *balgen* does not appear to contribute any sense to the complex verb, although there could be said to be input from the related noun form 'Balg' which has the sense '(von Tieren) pelt, skin; (eines Vogels) skin'.

**Abbauen** - One sense of the simplex verb *bauen* is 'to build'. A sense of the complex verb is 'to dismantle / take down'. The prefix 'ab-' functions to allow the complex verb to have the opposite sense of the simplex verb. In this case, there is evidence of input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the complex verb.
Abbedingen - The simplex verb has several possible senses, including 'to require, demand'. The complex verb has the following sense: 'to waive'. The prefix 'ab-' contributes the sense of 'removal' (of requirements / conditions etc.) to the complex verb. This shows that there is input from both the simplex verb and the prefix 'ab-' to the complex verb.

Abbeißen - The simplex verb bijzen has a number of possible senses, including 'to bite'. The complex verb has the sense 'to bite off'. The prefix 'ab-' contributes the sense of 'removal of a part from the whole' to the complex verb, as the complex verb describes taking sth. away by biting it off. There is input from both the prefix 'ab-' and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

5.6. Conclusion

The analysis of the possible semantic input of the prefix 'ab-' showed that the eleven complex verbs listed in Section 5.1. could be classified according to their possible sources of input as follows: ten complex verbs were found to gain input from both the prefix and the simplex verb or related noun forms. One of the eleven complex verbs was declared idiomatic. This demonstrates how the prefix 'ab-' can contribute various senses to the complex verb which means that it is polysemous.

In the next chapter, we will examine the contribution of the prefix 'aus-' within the complex verb to see if it is found to be polysemous, monosemous or without a sense.
6.0. Chapter Six: The Prefix 'aus'-

This chapter will consider the possible senses of the prefix 'aus'-.

6.1. Senses of complex verbs

First eleven complex verbs which feature the prefix 'aus'- as listed alphabetically in the Oxford Duden Dictionary:

**Ausarbeiten** - 1) tr. V. A) (erstellen) work out, develop {guidelines, system, method}; prepare, draw up {agenda, draft, regulations, contract}; prepare {leaflet} B) (vollenden) work out the details of {plan, proposal, list, lecture etc.}; elaborate the details of {picture, drawing}

2) refl. V. (durch Sport, körperliche Anstrengung) work out; have a workout

**Ausarten** - itr. V.; mit sein A) degenerate (in+Akk, zu into); B) (sich schlecht benennen) become unruly

**Ausatmen** - itr., tr. V. breathe out; exhale

**Ausbacken** - regelm. (auch unreg.) tr. V. (Kochk.) A) (in Fett) fry; B) (fertigbacken) etw. ~: bake sth. till it is done

**Ausbaden** - tr. V. (ugs.) carry or take the can for (Brit. coll.); take the rap for (coll.)

**Ausbaggern** - tr. V. A) excavate {hole, basement, ditch, etc.}; B) (säubern) dredge {channel, river bed, etc.}; C) (herausholen) dredge up {mud, detritus, etc.}

**Ausbalancieren** - 1) tr. V. (auch fig.) balance
2) refl. V. balance; (fig.) balance out

Ausbaldowern - tr. V. (ugs.) spy out

Ausbauen - tr. V. A (entfernen) remove (aus from); B (erweitern) extend; (fig.) build up, cultivate {friendship, relationship}; expand {theory, knowledge, market}; eine Fachhochschule zu einer Universität ~: expand or enlarge a college into a university; eine Straße ~: improve a road; seinen Vorsprung weiter ~: (fig.) extend one’s lead; seine Position ~ (fig.) consolidate or strengthen one’s position; ein Gebäude zu einem od. als Theater ~: to convert a building into a theatre or use as a theatre

Ausbedingen - unr. refl. V. sich (Dat.) etw. ~ (etw. verlangen) insist on sth.; (etw. zur Bedingung machen) make sth. a condition; sich (Dat.) das Recht / die Freiheit ~, etw. zu tun reserve the right / freedom to do sth.

Ausbeißen - unr. refl. V. sich (Dat.) einen Zahn ~: break a tooth (an + Dat. on); sich (Dat.) an einem Problem die Zähne ~ (fig.) sweat over a problem

6.1.1. Senses of simplex verbs

Arbeiten - 1) itr. V. A) (Arbeit leisten) work; zu ~ haben have work to do; an etw. (Dat.) ~: work on sth.; an sich (Dat.) work to improve one’s abilities; B) (beruflich tätig sein) work; C) über jmdn. / etw. ~ (sich befassen mit) work on sb. / sth.; D) (wirksam sein) für / gegen jmd. etw. ~: work for / against sb. / sth.; E) (funktionieren) {heart, lungs, etc.} work, function; {machine} work, operate; F) (ankämpfen) work hard (gegen against) G) (sich verändern) {wood} warp; {must} ferment; {dough} rise; H) (Sport) work (mit with); I) (schneidern) wo / bei wem lassen Sie ~? where do you have or get your clothes made? Who makes your clothes?
2) tr.V. A) (herstellen) make; (in Ton, Silber, usw.) work; make; fashion; B) (tun) do; **Was ~ Sie?** What are you doing?

**Arten** - The simplex verb is not listed in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*. The *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* lists the following sense for the verb *arten*:

arten: nach jmdm. geraten, jmdm. ähnlich werden: nach der Mutter a.

**Atmen** - 1) itr. V. breathe; (Physiol., Bot.) respire

2) tr. V. (geh. auch fig.: erfüllt sein von) breathe

**Backen** - 1) unr. itr. V. A) bake; do the baking B) (garen) {cake etc.} bake C) (oven) bake 2) unr. tr. V. A) bake {cakes, bread etc.} B) (bes. stüdd.: braten) roast; (in der Bratpfanne) fry; C) (trocknen) dry {fruit, mushrooms, etc.}; bake {brick}

2) (bes. norddd.) 1) itr. V. {snow, earth}; stick (*an* + Dat. to). 2) stick (*an* + Akk. on to)

**Baden** - 1) itr. V. A) (in der Wanne) have or take a bath; B) (schwimmen) bathe; swim ~ **gehen** go for a bathe or a swim; go bathing or swimming

2) tr. V. bath {child, patient, etc}; bathe {wound, face, eye, etc.}

**Baggern** - itr. V. 1) A) excavate; (mit dem Schwimmbagger) dredge; B) (Volleyball) dig the ball

2) tr. V. A) excavate; (mit dem Schwimmbagger) dredge; B) (Volleyball) dig {ball}
**Balancieren** - 1) itr. V.; mit sein (auch fig.) balance; über etw. (Akk.) ~: pick one’s way precariously across sth.

2) tr. V. balance

**Baldowern** - (ugs.) 1) tr. V. check out 2) itr. V. check everything out

**Bauen** - 1) tr. V. A) build, construct {house, road, bridge etc.}; build {nest, liar}; make {burrow} B) (entwickeln, herstellen) build {model, vehicle, aircraft, organ}; make {violin, piano} C) (ugs.) das Abitur / seinen Doktor ~: do one’s Abitur / PhD.; D) (ugs.: verursachen) einen Unfall ~: have an accident; E) (Landw.: an~) grow; F) (veralt.: bestellen) cultivate

2) itr. V. A) build; wir wollen ~: we want to build a house; (~ lassen) we want to have a house built; an etw. (Dat.) ~: do building work on sth.; B) (vertrauen) auf jmdn. / etw. ~: rely on sb. / sth.

**Bedingen** - 1) tr. V. A) cause; B) (erfordern) require, demand; (voraussetzen) presuppose; C) (abhängig sein von) einander ~: be interdependent or mutually dependent

2) unr. refl. V. (veralt.) sich (Dat.) etw. ~: stipulate sth.; make sth. a condition

**Beißen** - 1) unr. tr., itr. V. A) bite; in etw. (Akk.) ~: bite into sth.; auf etw. (Akk.) ~: bite on sth.; B) (bissig sein; auch fig.) bite; C) (ätzen) sting; in die od. in den Augen ~: sting one’s eyes D) (Angelsport: an~) bite; E) (kauen) nicht mehr [richtig] ~ können no longer be able to chew things [properly]

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6 Unlike the other verbs in this section, the verb *bedingen* is not a simplex verb, as it has a prefix: 'be-' + *dingen*. The complex verb *ausbedingen* therefore features two prefixes: '*aus-' + 'be-' + *dingen*. As noted in Chapter Four, if a complex verb features two prefixes, e.g. '*aus-' + 'be-' + *dingen*, the single-prefixed complex verb, e.g. *bedingen*, will be listed in this section if it can be seen to contribute meaning to the double-prefixed complex verb *ausbedingen*. If not, then the simplex verb *bedingen* will be listed and analysed for possible input to the complex verb *ausbedingen*.  

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2) unr. refl. V. (ugs.) {colours, clothes}clash

6.2. Possible senses of 'aus-

This section identifies the possible senses of the prefix 'aus-' after studying separately the senses of the complex and simplex verbs listed in Sections 6.1. and 6.1.1. respectively.

i) Senses contributed by the prefix to two or more complex verbs:

'Removal': Contributed by the prefix to the following complex verbs: ausatmen (the action of removing air from the lungs by way of exhalation), ausbauen, ausbeißen (to break a tooth)

'Development (with the aim of improvement)': As contributed by the prefix to the following verbs: ausarbeiten, ausbaggern, ausbauen

'Opposite sense of simplex verb': ausarten (opposite sense of related noun and adjective forms), ausbauen (bauen - to build, construct; ausbauen - to dismantle, take down)

(Verbs featuring the prefix 'aus-' and which demonstrate opposite senses will be discussed in Section 6.3.)

'Completeness / thoroughness': ausarbeiten, ausbacken

'Crossing a figurative boundary': ausarten, ausbauen

'Working with attention to detail': ausarbeiten, ausbaldowern

'Conversion from present state into into something different': ausbacken, ausbauen
ii) Senses contributed by the prefix to only one complex verb:

'Searching for something': ausbaldowern

'Expansion': ausbauen

'Bringing something up to the surface level': ausbaggern

'Until ready / done (temporal factor)': ausbacken

'Suffering the consequences of something': ausbaden

'Escalation into a negative situation': ausarten

'Aim of recovery / preservation': ausbaggern

'Use of numerical data': ausbalancieren

6.2.1. Sets for the senses of the prefix 'aus-

Set 1:

Description of a process / stages within a process: 'Development (with the aim of improvement)': as contributed by the prefix to the verbs ausarbeiten, ausbaggern and ausbauen: all three verbs describe the aim of improvement through the process of development. As noted in Chapter Three, in the current research, the term 'process' will be used to describe a dynamic situation that is extended in time, 'Completeness or thoroughness' (as contributed by the prefix to the verbs ausarbeiten and ausbacken, which both describe processes, and completeness / thoroughness which is achieved as a part of the process / at a certain point or stage in the process: ausarbeiten - the work process, ausbacken - the cooking process: the point or stage in the process at which the food is completely / thoroughly cooked), 'Expansion'
(process of expansion / increase), 'Working with attention to detail' (the process of working through something), 'Conversion from present stage into something different' (describes the process of change), 'Searching for sth.' (describes the process of searching), 'Bringing sth. up to surface level' (the process of moving sth. up to the surface area), 'Until ready / done (temporal factor)', 'Using numerical data' (the process of working with / using numbers with the aim of balancing them out)

Set 2:

**Development into / tackling a negative or difficult situation:** 'Crossing a figurative boundary', 'Suffering the consequences of sth.', 'Escalation into a negative situation'

Set 3:

**Removal:** 'Removal', 'Aim of recovery / preservation': the action of recovery will involve the removal of the item from its current position

Set 4:

**Negation:** 'Opposite sense of simplex verb'
6.3. 'Aus-' verbs demonstrating opposite lexical senses

Verb 1)

auskosten: a) (genießen) etwas--; enjoy sth. to the full: sense of happiness

b) (erleiden) to suffer: sense of sadness

Opposite senses of happiness and sadness

6.3.1. Sets for the Gegensinn senses identified for the prefix 'aus-'

Only one Gegensinn verb featuring the prefix 'aus-' was identified in Section 6.3., this verb will now be assigned to a set which reflects the opposite senses it describes:

Set 1:

Positive and Negative: auskosten (opposite senses of happiness and sadness)

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7 The simplex verb kosten has the sense 'to taste / try'. The sense of the complex verb appears to be partially idiomatic.

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6.4. Discussion of findings

The study of the eleven complex verbs found that the two most often contributed senses of the prefix 'aus'- were the following: 'Removal' and 'Development (with the aim of improvement)'. The prefix was also found to contribute the sense 'Opposite sense of simplex verb' to the verbs ausarten (opposite sense of related noun and adjective forms) and ausbauen (bauen - to build, construct; ausbauen - to dismantle, take down). In Chapter Five, the prefix 'ab-' was found to contribute the same sense to the verbs abbauen and abbedingen. This shows how the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-' demonstrate synonymy in the verbs abbauen, abbedingen and ausarten, ausbauen.

Fleischer / Barz (1992, 335) state that the prefix 'aus-' can be used to contribute the sense of crossing boundaries, the verbs aussteigen (aus dem Zug) and ausreisen are included as examples. This sense of the prefix can also be observed in the following complex verbs which were considered in this chapter: ausarten ('to become unruly': in a figurative sense, the person has crossed the boundaries of good behaviour and is now acting in an unruly fashion) and ausbauen (e.g. figurative boundaries demarcating current size of building being crossed and therefore redrawn as a result of the expansion of the building). According to the Oxford Duden Dictionary (2001), the preposition 'aus' can also describe the idea of crossing boundaries, as the following example shows: A) (räumlich: ~ dem Inneren von) out of; ~ dem Bett steigen get out of bed. The person who has got out of bed has crossed the figurative boundaries demarcating the area covered by the bed. From this we can see that the prefix 'aus-' and the preposition 'aus' can both describe the same sense of crossing boundaries. In Chapter Five, we also saw how the prefix 'ab-' and the preposition 'ab' can describe the same sense of separation / distance. In the following chapter, we will be able to see if the prefix 'durch-' has the same sense as the preposition 'durch'.

In this chapter, it was found that the prefix 'aus-' can contribute the sense of 'Bringing something up to the surface level'. This is the opposite sense to a possible sense of the prefix 'ab-'. For example, according to Durrell (2002, 511): "ab' = 'down' absteigen get down, absetzen put, set down." We can therefore see that within the complex verbs ausbaggern, absteigen and absetzen, the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-'.

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could be said to indicate the opposite senses of 'bringing sth. up' and 'putting something down'.

It was found that the sense of the 'end of an event' may be contributed by the prefix 'aus-' to the following verbs: *ausatmen* (exhalation *final part* of respiratory cycle, e.g. inhale / exhale), *ausbacken* (cook until ready, e.g. until the cooking process is complete), *ausbaden* (at the end of the event the problems remain to be dealt with), *ausbauen* (the end of a period of time can be signified by the start of a new period marked by renovation / conversion) and *ausarbeiten* (work on to completion stage). Fleischer / Barz (1992, 336) also note that the 'end of an event' is a possible sense of the prefix 'aus-' in the verbs *auslernen* and *austrocknen*.

We also saw in this chapter how another possible function of the prefix 'aus-' is to describe the developmental stages of a process (working out the details of sth. / preparation) as in the complex verb *ausarbeiten*. In his work on prefixes, Günther (1974, 240) observes that verbs which feature the prefix 'aus-' can describe a process. In Chapter Five, we saw how the prefix 'ab-', like the prefix 'aus-', can contribute senses which describe working through processes.

It was observed that none of the complex verbs listed in Section 6.1. were found to demonstrate Gegensinn, although one 'aus-' verb demonstrating Gegensinn was found in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*. Some senses identified for the prefix 'aus-' in Section 6.2. however, were found to contribute the opposite senses of 'the improvement of a situation' and 'the deterioration of a situation'. This is shown in Table 6.4. below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improvement of situation - prefix 'aus-' contributes sense of 'Development (with aim of improvement)' to the verbs below:</th>
<th>Deterioration of situation - prefix 'aus-' contributes the sense of 'Develop or escalate into a negative situation' to the verbs below:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ausarbeiten</td>
<td>ausarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ausbaggern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ausbauen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6.4. How the prefix 'aus-' may indicate the opposite senses of 'the improvement' and 'the deterioration' of a situation

It was also noted that in their work, Fleischer / Barz (1992) do not cite any of the fifteen senses of the prefix 'aus-' that were identified in this study. As noted in Chapter Five, we can therefore see how the dictionary-based analysis can identify senses of a prefix that had not been found in other literature consulted on the subject.

6.5. Input of 'aus-' within the complex verb

This section will attempt to identify the possible contribution of the prefix to a possible sense of the complex verbs listed in Section 6.1. This will be done by using the information obtained in Sections 6.1. and 6.1.1. where the simplex verbs and complex verbs were studied separately.
**Ausarbeiten** - a sense of the simplex verb *arbeiten* is 'to work'. A possible sense of the complex verb is 'to work out, develop, prepare'. The prefix contributes the sense of 'development' (the preparation of a plan), to this sense of the complex verb. There is therefore input from both the prefix *'aus'-* and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

**Ausarten** - to recap, the senses of the complex verb *ausarten* as found in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* will now be compared with the senses of the simplex verb *arten*, as found in the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch*:

*Ausarten* - itr. V.; mit sein A) degenerate (in +Akk, zu into); B) (sich schlecht benehmen) become unruly

arten: nach jmdm. geraten, jmdm. ähnlich werden: nach der Mutter a.

As can be seen, the verb *arten* does not appear to contribute any sense to the complex verb as the verb describes resembling / taking after someone, e.g. a relative. There could be said to be input from the following related words, however, the nouns: *die Art* - (gutes Benehmen) behaviour, *die Artigkeit* - courteousness, pleasantness, and the adjective: *artig* meaning well-behaved, good. The use of the prefix *'aus'-* has allowed the opposite sense of these related noun and adjective forms. In this case, there is input from *'aus'-* and the related noun and adjective forms to the complex verb.

**Ausatmen** - The simplex verb *atmen* means to breathe or respire: a physiological process made up of inhalation (*einfathmen*) and exhalation (*ausatmen*). The complex verb has the sense 'to breathe out, exhale'. The prefix *'aus'-* provides the sense of the 'removal' of air from the body as part of the ongoing respiratory process. There is input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the sense of the complex verb.

**Ausbacken** - A possible sense of the simplex verb *backen* is 'to bake'. The complex verb has the sense 'to bake sth. till it's done'. The prefix *'aus'-* contributes the sense of 'completeness / thoroughness' to this sense of the complex verb, as it describes
baking sth. until it is completely / thoroughly cooked (e.g. done), and is therefore ready for consumption. There is input from 'aus-' and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

**Ausbaden** - The complex verb has the sense 'carry or take the can for; (Brit. coll.) take the rap for (coll.)'. The simplex verb *baden* has several possible senses, including 'to have or take a bath', 'to bathe' or 'to go swimming'. *Baden* can also be used in a negative sense: *Damit kannst du baden gehen* - 'to go wrong' and the Austrian phrase *'Geh' baden'* which means 'go away'. There appears to be input from the prefix and possible input from the simplex verb *baden* when it is used in this negative sense.

**Ausbaggern** - Possible senses of the simplex verb *baggern* include 'to excavate, dredge'. The complex verb has several possible senses, including: 'to excavate' and 'to dredge (up)'. The prefix appears to contribute the sense of getting sth. out from somewhere, and *bringing it to the surface level* to this complex verb. This is because the simplex verb 'to dredge' describes only the cleaning / removal of mud or debris from a harbour basin, river bed etc., whereas the complex verb describes *'bringing sth. up to the surface level'*: (herausholen) 'to dredge up'. There is input from the simplex verb and the prefix to the complex verb.

**Ausbalancieren** - The simplex verb *balancieren* has the sense 'to balance'. The complex verb *ausbalancieren* has several possible senses, including: 'to balance (out)'. The action of 'balancing out' can be used to refer to keeping accounts and balancing figures. In this context, by comparing the sense of the simplex verb 'to balance', and that of the complex verb 'to balance out', it can be seen that the prefix contributes the sense of 'the use of numerical data' to the complex verb. This is because the simplex verb does not specify balancing *numerical data*, but the complex verb does specify *balancing numerical data* which is the same as / implies using *numerical data* (e.g. the use of numerical data). The action of 'balancing out' describes working with numbers / figures to see how they balance out, in order to determine if there is profit / loss. There is input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the complex verb.
Ausbalderwern - Possible senses of the simplex verb baldowern include: 'to check (everything) out'. The complex verb has the sense: 'to spy out': OED (phrase) - 'to spy out the land' - to collect information about a situation before deciding how to act. The prefix provides the sense of 'Working through sth. with careful attention to detail' as information is gathered and assessed before deciding how to act. There is input from both 'aus-' and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

Ausbaufen - A possible sense of the simplex verb bauen is 'to build'. Possible senses of the complex verb include: 'to expand' and 'to convert'. The prefix 'aus-' contributes the sense of 'development' to these senses of the complex verb. There is input from both the simplex verb and the prefix 'aus-' to the complex verb.

Ausbedeingen - The complex verb ausbedeingen has the sense 'to insist on sth., make sth. a condition'; sich das Recht / die Freiheit ~ etw. zu tun. The complex verb bedeingen has a number of senses: 1 A) cause B) require; demand; (voraussetzen) presuppose C) (abhängig sein von) einander ~: be interdependent or mutually dependent 2. stipulate sth.; make sth. a condition. The prefix 'aus-' cannot therefore be said to contribute any sense to the complex verb bedeingen, as both complex verbs can demonstrate the same sense of 'making sth. a condition'. This suggests that the prefix 'aus-' functions to isolate / focus attention on one of the possible senses of the polysemous complex verb bedeingen: 'to make sth. a condition', and is doing so without contributing any sense to the complex verb ausbedeingen.

Ausbeiben - The simplex verb beißen has the sense of 'to bite'. The complex verb has the sense 'to break a tooth'. The prefix 'aus-' therefore contributes the sense of 'removal' to the sense of the verb 'to break a tooth'. There is input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

Let us now consider the sense of this complex verb from a diachronic perspective. Paul's Deutsches Wörterbuch offers the following entry for the verb ausbeißen:
We can therefore observe how the original sense and usage of this complex verb is different to the sense that it can now indicate. This is also the same sense that is found for the verb in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* (2002):

**Ausbeißen** - unr. refl. V. sich (Dat.) einen Zahn ~: break a tooth (an + Dat. on); sich (Dat.) an einem Problem die Zähne ~ (fig.) sweat over a problem

This shows us how verbs can change their senses over time, a new sense of the complex verb can also bring with it a new sense of the prefix.

**6.6. Conclusion**

The analysis of the possible input of the prefix 'aus-' showed that the eleven complex verbs could be classified according to their possible sources of input, as follows: nine of the eleven verbs gained input to the meaning of the complex verb from the prefix 'aus-' and the simplex verb. The complex verb ausarten was the only verb to gain input from related noun and adjective forms. We also saw how, within the complex verb ausbedingen, the prefix 'aus-' can function to isolate / focus attention on one of the possible senses of the polysemous complex verb bedingen. This shows us how the sense of a complex verb can be composed in a number of different ways.
In Chapter Five, we saw how the prefix 'ab-' was polysemous. In this chapter, we have seen how the prefix 'aus-' is also polysemous. In the next chapter we will investigate the possible senses of the prefix 'durch-' to see if it is polysemous, monosemous or without a sense.
7.0. Chapter Seven: The Prefix 'durch-'

This chapter will consider the possible senses of the prefix 'durch-' within the first eleven complex verbs which feature this prefix, as found in the Oxford Duden Dictionary.

7.1. Senses of complex verbs

First eleven complex verbs which feature the prefix 'durch-' as listed alphabetically in the Oxford Duden Dictionary:

**Durchackern** - (ugs.) 1) tr. V. plough through. 2) refl. V. sich durch etw. ~: plough [one’s way] through sth.

**Durcharbeiten** - 1) tr. V. A) die Nacht / Pause usw. ~: work through the night / break etc.; B) (lesen und auswerten) work or go through {book, article}; C) (ausarbeiten) work out {speech, essay}; D) (durchkneten) work or knead thoroughly {dough}; massage or knead thoroughly {muscles}

2) refl. V. (auch fig.) work one’s way through

**Durchatmen** - itr. V. take a deep breath / deep breaths; breathe deeply

**Durchbacken** - 1) itr. V. bake through 2) tr. V. etw. richtig ~: bake sth. right the way through

**Durchbeißen** - 1) unr. tr. V. bite through 2) unr. refl. V. (ugs.) [manage to] struggle through

**Durchbeißen** - unr. tr. V. bite through; jmdm. die Kehle ~: tear or rip sb.’s throat open
**Durchbekommen** - unr. tr. V. *etw. ~*: get sth. through; (zerlegen) get or cut through sth.

**Durchbetteln** - refl. V. *sich überall ~*: beg one’s way through life

**Durchbiegen** - 1) unr. tr. V. *etw. ~*: bend sth. as far as possible; seinen Rücken / sein Kreuz ~*: straighten one’s back

2) unr. refl. V. *sag*

**Durchblasen** - 1) unr. tr. V. A) (durch Hindurchblasen reinigen) *etw. ~*: clear sth. by blowing through it; B) (treiben) *etw. durch etw. ~*: blow sth. through sth.; C) (durchdringen) {wind} blow right through {person}

2) unr. itr. V. *~ durch* {wind} blow through {cracks, thin coat etc.}

**Durchblättern 1, Durchblättern 2** - tr. V. leaf through {book, file etc.}

**Durchbläuen, Durchbleuen** - tr. V. (ugs.) *jmdn. ~*: give sb. a good hiding (coll.) or thrashing

**7.1.1. Senses of simplex verbs**

**Ackern** - itr. V. (salopp) A) (schwer arbeiten) slog one’s guts out (coll.); B) (put one’s back into it (coll.); C) (veralt.: pflügen) plough

**Arbeiten** - 1) itr. V. A) (Arbeit leisten) work; *zu haben* have work to do; *an etw. (Dat.) ~*: work on sth.; *an sich* (Dat.) work to improve one’s abilities; B) (beruflich tätig sein) work; C) *über jmdn. / etw. ~*: (sich befassen mit) work on sb. / sth.; D) (wirksam sein) *für / gegen jmd. etw. ~*: work for / against sb. / sth.; E) funktionieren
{heart, lungs, etc.} work; function; {machine} work, operate; F) (ankämpfen) work hard (gegen against) G) (sich verändern) {wood} warp; {must} ferment; {dough} rise; H) (Sport) work (mit with); I) (schneidern) wo / bei wem lassen Sie ~ ? where do you have or get your clothes made? Who makes your clothes?

2) tr. V. A) (herstellen) make; (in Ton, Silber, usw.) work; make; fashion; B) (tun) do; Was ~ Sie? What are you doing?

Atmen - 1) itr. V. breathe; (Physiol., Bot.) respire

Backen - 1) unr. itr. V. A) bake; do the baking B) (garen) {cake etc.} bake C) {oven} bake. 2) unr. tr. V. A) bake {cakes, bread etc.}, B) (bes. südd.: braten) roast; (in der Bratpfanne) fry ; C) (trocknen) dry {fruit, mushrooms, etc.}; bake {brick}

2) (bes. nordd.) 1) itr. V. {snow, earth}; stick (an +Dat. to). 2) stick (an + Akk. on to)

Beießen - 1) unr. tr., itr. V. A) bite; in etw. (Akk.)~: bite into sth.; auf etw. (Akk.)~: bite on sth.; B) (bissig sein; auch fig.) bite; C) (itzen) sting; in die od. in den Augen~: sting one’s eyes D) (Angelsport: an~) bite; E) (kauen) nicht mehr [richtig] ~ können no longer be able to chew things [properly]

2) unr. refl. V. (ugs.) {colours, clothes} clash

Bekommen 8- unr. tr. V. A) (erhalten) get; get, receive {money, letter, reply, news, orders} B) (finden, erlangen) get; obtain; catch {train, bus, flight} C) (ein bestimmtes Ziel erreichen) get; etw. durch die Tür / in den Kofferraum ~: get sth. through the door / into the boot (Brit.) or (Amer.) trunk; F) + 2. Part. get; etw. geschenkt ~: get [given] sth. or be given sth. as a present

8 As noted in Chapter Four, if a complex verb features two prefixes, e.g. 'durch-' + 'be-' + kommen, the single-prefixed complex verb bekommen will be listed in this section if it can be seen to contribute meaning to the double-prefixed complex verb durchbekommen. If not, then the simplex verb kommen will be listed and analysed for possible input to the complex verb durchbekommen.
**Betteln** - itr. V. beg (um for) bei jmdm. um etw. ~: beg sb. for sth.

**Biegen** - 1) unr. tr. V. bend; incline {head}

2) unr. refl. V. bend (nachgeben) give; sag der Tisch bog sich unter der Last der Speisen the table sagged or groaned under the weight of the food

3) unr. itr. V.; mit sein A) turn um die Ecke ~: turn the corner; {car} take the corner B) auf Biegen oder od. und Brechen (ugs.) at all costs; by hook or by crook; es geht auf Biegen oder od. und Brechen (ugs.) it has come to the crunch or (Amer.) showdown

**Blasen** - 1) unr. itr. V. A) blow B) (ein Blasinstrument spielen) play; auf dem Klamm ~: play the comb C) zum Angriff / Rückzug / Aufbruch ~: sound the charge / retreat / departure; D) (wehen) {wind} blow; E) (bes. südd. österr.: kühlen) in die Suppe / auf eine Brandwunde ~: blow on one’s soup / a burn

2) unr. tr. V. A) blow; B) (spielen) play {musical instrument, tune, melody, etc.}; C) (wehen) {wind} blow; D) (formen) blow {bottle, glass, etc.}

**Blättern** - 1) itr. V. A) in einem Buch ~: leaf through a book; B) mit sein (zerfallen) flake; C) mit sein (sich ablösen) {paint, plaster etc.} flake off

2) tr. V. put down [one by one]; er blätterte mir 50 Mark auf den Tisch he counted me out 50 marks in notes on the table

**Bläuen** - tr. V. A) (färben) dye{material, clothes etc.} blue; turn {litmus paper} blue; B) (aufhellen) blue
7.2. Possible senses of 'durch-

i) Senses contributed to more than one complex verb:

'Completeness or thoroughness': durchackern, durcharbeiten, durchatmen, durchbacken, durchbeißen, durchbiegen, durchbläuen

'Creating space / an access': durchackern, durcharbeiten, durchbekommen, durchblasen

'A continuous process': durcharbeiten and durchbeteln

As we can see, no senses were contributed by the prefix 'durch-' to only one complex verb. In Chapters Five and Six, however, the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-' were found to have senses that were contributed to only one complex verb. This shows us that there are differences were found in the distribution of the senses of the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' to those complex verbs studied.

7.2.1. Sets for the senses of the prefix 'durch-

The senses of the prefix 'durch-' as identified in Section 7.2. will now be put into sets according to shared characteristics. (Senses within each set are arranged in no particular order as they were not found to form any kind of order / sequence). The sets are listed according to the number of senses they contain.
Set 1:

Following a process / Identifying stages in a process: 'Completeness or thoroughness' (describes the cooking process and the point / stage in the process at which the food is completely / thoroughly cooked), 'A continuous process'

Set 2:

Creating an access through something / working a way through sth. (in a literal and a figurative sense): 'Creating space / an access'

7.3. 'Durch-' verbs demonstrating opposite lexical senses

The Oxford Duden Dictionary will now be used to search for examples of verbs featuring the prefix 'durch-', which demonstrate 'opposite senses' or Gegensinn, (no examples of verbs contributing Gegensinn were found in Section 7.2.).

Verb 1

durchbrennen: a) (heating coil, light bulb) burn out; {fuse} blow
c) (glühren) {coals, logs} glow

Opposite senses of flame / light going out and flame / light staying on.
Verb 2

durchführen: a) (verwirklichen) carry out {intention}; put into effect, implement {plan}; put into practice {idea}

d) (zu Ende führen) complete, finish {task}; carry through {method, system}; maintain, keep up {role}

Opposite senses of **beginning work on sth.** and **completing work on sth.**

Verb 3

durchglühen: a) (entzweigehen) {heating coil, light bulb} burn out; {fuse} blow

b) (vollständig glühen) {coals, log} glow right through

Opposite senses of being **completely on** and being **completely off**.

Let us now consider the use of the prefix 'durch-' within these verbs. We will begin by constructing test sentence frames to observe examples of usage for each verb:

Test Sentence Frame 1: the verb **durchbrennen**:

1) *Sie haben gewartet, bis die Kohle richtig durchgebrannt war.*
Test Sentence Frame 2: the verb *durchführen*:

2) *Untersuchungen werden* **durchgeführt**.

Test Sentence Frame 3: the verb *durchglühen*:

3) *Warten Sie, bis die Kohle gut* **durchgeglührt ist**.

In Test Sentences 1 - 3, it can be seen that the inseparable prefix *'durch-'* is contributing the sense of 'through' to the complex verbs *durchbrennen, durchführen* and *durchglühen*. For example, Test Sentence Frame 1) describes how the coal is glowing **right through: completely / thoroughly**. Test Sentence Frame 2) describes the completeness / thoroughness of investigations carried out to their completion: (ODD. - *durchführen* - (zu Ende führen) complete, finish {task}). Test Sentence Frame 3) describes how coal is glowing right through i.e. glowing **completely / thoroughly**. The adverb *'durch'* has the sense 'through'. Therefore the adverbial meaning of *'durch'* can be seen in the sense of these complex verbs.

7.3.1. Sets for Gegensinn senses found for the prefix *'durch-'*

The senses of the prefix *'durch-'* as identified in Section 7.3. will now be put into sets according to shared characteristics. The sets will be listed according to the number of verbs they contain, with the set containing the greatest number of verbs listed first.
Set 1:

The Beginning / continuance and the End / discontinuance of something: *durchbrennen, durchglühen*

Set 2:

Opposite ends of a process / action: *durchführen*

7.4. Discussion of findings

Rich (2003, 24) identifies the sense of 'movement downwards' for the prefix 'durch-': "A hängt, fällt durch L nach unten. Beispiele: Unter der Last der Bücher biegen sich die Regale langsam durch (sich zur Mitte hin nach unten biegen)." In Chapters Five and Six, the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-' were also found to indicate spatial senses. Figure 7.4. below illustrates the spatial senses indicated by the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' in Chapters Five, Six and Seven, and how they are interconnected:
Prefix 'aus-' sense of *upwards*

Prefix 'durch-' sense of *through*

Prefix 'ab-' and Prefix 'durch-' sense of *downwards*

Fig. 7.4. Diagram showing the spatial senses indicated by the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-.'
As Fig. 7.4. shows, the prefix 'durch-' can indicate the literal sense of movement 'downwards'. The sense of movement downwards can also be seen to be indicated by the prefix in a figurative sense within the verb durchfallen. For example, Rich (2003, 25) says: "A hat keinen Erfolg, besteht etw. nicht." In the English language, when something fails, it can be described as having 'fallen through', e.g. movement downwards, falling to the ground (in a figurative sense). Similarly, 'to reach new heights' is an idiomatic phrase in English which describes reaching new levels of success. When used figuratively, then the notions of movement upwards and movement downwards can therefore be seen to respectively describe either success or failure.

It was found that 'Completeness or thoroughness' was the sense most often contributed by the prefix 'durch-' to the complex verbs listed in Section 7.1. As we saw in Chapter Six, this sense was also contributed by the prefix 'aus-' to the verbs ausarbeiten and ausbacken. This shows us that the prefixes 'aus-' and 'durch-' can demonstrate synonymy. Several other senses of the prefix 'durch-' were also found, relating mostly to processes involved in working through something, possibly with difficulty, and sometimes continuously, e.g. 'A continuous process' as contributed to the verbs durcharbeiten and durchbetten. As noted in Chapters Five and Six, the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-' were also found to have senses which describe processes.

According to Fleischer / Barz (1992, 343), the prefix 'durch-' provides the sense of 'going in something and out again' thereby describing a movement, when forming a part of separable verbs, the following examples are given: durchkriechen, -laufen, -marschieren, and -reisen. Rich (2003, 9) states that the prefix can have the sense: "A bewegt sich durch eine Öffnung, einen Durchgang usw.". I found a similar sense in my study: 'Creating space or an access', although the sense I found describes how space / access is created, and not simply moved across / through. The Oxford Duden Dictionary (2001) states that the preposition 'durch' can describe movement through something: A (räumlich) through; ~ die Straßen / die Stade bummeln stroll through the streets / the town. The prefix 'durch-' can therefore describe the same sense as the preposition 'durch'. As we saw in Chapters Five and Six, the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-' could also have the same sense as the prepositions 'ab' and 'aus'. This could therefore
be described as a pattern / relationship the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' share.

Schröder also observes the possible patterns / relationships that can be shared by prefixes their corresponding prepositions:

Die Präfixverben bedürfen einer Beschreibung, ist doch die Eigenbedeutung der eigentlichen Präfixe in der Gegenwart in unterschiedlichem Maße, aber generell doch so verblaßt oder, anders gesagt, mehrdeutig geworden, daß sie nicht mehr aus sich selbst heraus beschreibbar erscheint, während beispielsweise bei durch und über, die sowohl in festen als auch in unfesten Bildungen auftreten, Assoziationen zu den präpositionalen Entsprechungen (Wörtern) zumindest im lokalen Bereich möglich sind.

Schröder (1992, 10)

Fleischer / Barz (1992, 343) state that inseparable verbs using the 'durch-' prefix are transitive and stress that the object concerned is completely affected / involved in the action described by the verb. They also note (1992, 344) that the prefix provides the sense of something 'perfective' or 'resultative', (applying to both separable and inseparable verbs), thereby indicating carrying out an action to its completion. Fleischer / Barz continue to observe how the prefix 'durch-' contributes the sense of a 'thorough action' in the verbs durchatmen, etw. -braten, and -diskutieren. It was found in Section 7.2. that the prefix contributed the sense of 'Completeness or thoroughness' to the following verbs: durcharbeiten, durchatmen, durchbacken, durchbeißen, durchbiegen, and durchblüten.

The authors (1992, 344) mention the sense of something durative (without interruption / intense) as another sense of the prefix 'durch-'. In this category, the authors observe that the separable verbs appear more to describe the duration of the action, while the inseparable verbs emphasise more the completion of the action, for example: etw. durchleben, -dulden (inseparable), as opposed to (die Nacht) durcharbeiten, -feiern, -schlafen (separable). It was found that the sense of 'A continuous process' was contributed by the prefix to the verb durcharbeiten. Rich (2003, 8) notes a similar sense for the prefix: "A macht etw. (B) durch. B – ein Zeitabschnitt; durch – ohne Unterbrechung. Beispiele: 1. Heute machen wir (A)
keine Mittagspause (B), wir (A) arbeiten durch. 2. Der Patient (A) hat die ganze Nacht (B) durchgeschlafen". The author includes the verb *durcharbeiten* as an example of a verb to which the prefix *'durch-'* contributes this sense, but not the verb *durchbetteilen*. It was found in my study, however, that the prefix could contribute this sense to both the verbs *durcharbeiten* and *durchbetteilen*.

Rich (2003, 16) gives the following sense for the prefix *'durch-'* within the verb *durchbeißen*: "A bricht, dringt usw. B durch (verletzt die Ganzheit von B)" for the verb *durchbeißen*, and offers the following example: "1. Der Hund (A) hat dem Huhn die Kehle (B) durchgebissen (entzweieißen). Der Hund (A) durchbiss ihm die Kehle (B) (beißend durchdringen)." This sense was not identified in the present chapter, however, the prefix *'durch-'* was found to indicate the sense of breaking through something that is complete, for example, the sense of 'Creating space or an access' indicates movement through something with the result that it no longer has the completeness it once had. The sense of 'Removal' as identified for the prefixes *'ab-'* and *'aus-'* in Chapters Five and Six could also be said to indicate the sense of *changing / destroying the completeness* something once had.

Rich (2003, 20) also notes a similar sense to that of 'Completeness / thoroughness' for the prefix *'durch-'* within the verb *durchatmen*: "A erfüllt B mit Licht, Schall, Geruch usw. A - eine Naturerscheinung u. a.; B - ein Raum, in dem sich Lichtstrahlen, Schallwellen usw. verbreiten." The sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' is described by the way the prefix indicates how 'A erfüllt B'. The sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' is also indicated by another sense identified by Rich (2003, 21): "A erfasst B vollständig, von Anfang bis Ende, ganz mit einer Handlung." The following examples for this sense are given: "1. Ein wissenschaftliches Werk (B) durcharbeiten (vollständig, gründlich lesen und auswerten). 2. Der Kuchen (B) ist nicht richtig durchgebacken (durch Backen völlig gar machen, zu Ende backen)." In this chapter, it was noted that the prefix *'durch-'* can contribute the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' to the verbs *durcharbeiten* and *durchbacken*.
To sum up, it was found that neither Fleischer / Barz nor Rich cite 'Creating space / an access' as a possible sense of the prefix 'durch-'. This sense was identified for the prefix, however, in Section 7.2. It was also observed that three 'durch-verbs demonstrating Gegensinn were found in the Oxford Duden Dictionary, but no such examples were found in the list of eleven complex verbs given at the beginning of the chapter.

7.5. Input of 'durch-' within the complex verb

This section will attempt to identify the contribution of the prefix to a possible sense of the complex verbs listed in Section 7.1. As we have seen in Chapters Five and Six, this will be done by using the information obtained when the complex and simplex verbs were studied separately. The sense of the prefix listed as providing input to the complex verb may be one of a number of senses which the prefix was found to contribute to one / several sense(s) of the complex verb.

**Durchackern** - A possible sense of the simplex verb is 'to plough'. The complex verb has the sense 'to plough through'. (According to the University of Leipzig corpus of German, the verb can be used to describe *ploughing through* written material). The prefix 'durch-' therefore contributes the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' to the complex verb. There is input from both 'durch-' and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

**Durcharbeiten** - A sense of the simplex verb is 'to work'. The complex verb can have the following senses: 'work or go through {book, article}', 'work out {speech, essay}' and '(durchkneten) work or knead thoroughly {dough}'. The senses of the complex verb show evidence that the prefix has contributed the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' to the complex verb.
The prefix 'durchn-' is therefore indicating a durative sense within this verb. The simplex verb arbeiten is also durative. As we have seen in previous chapters, the sense of the prefix and that of the simplex verb can work together to create the sense of the complex verb. If a simplex verb is durative, then, it can also mean that the prefix with which it occurs will demonstrate a durative sense. There is input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

Durchatmen - The simplex verb has the sense 'to breathe; respire'. The complex verb has the sense 'to take a deep breath(s); breathe deeply'. The prefix is therefore contributing the sense of breathing 'completely and thoroughly' by taking deep breaths. We can deduce from this that there is input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

Durchbacken - A possible sense of the simplex verb is 'to bake'. Possible senses of the complex verb include 'to bake through' and 'bake sth. right the way through'. The difference in the sense of the simplex verb and complex verb demonstrate how the prefix has contributed the sense of baking something 'completely / thoroughly'. There is input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

Durchbeißen - A sense of the simplex verb is 'to bite'. A sense of the complex verb is 'to bite through'. The prefix has therefore contributed the sense of 'completeness / thoroughness' to the complex verb, as the sense 'to bite through' describes biting all the way through something. There is input from both 'durchn-' and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

Durchbekommen - A possible sense of the complex verb bekommen is 'to get sth. (ein bestimmtes Ziel erreichen)'. Senses of the complex verb durchbekommen include 'to get sth. through, get or cut through sth.'. The sense of 'Creating space or an access' has therefore been contributed to the complex verb by the prefix. There is input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the complex verb.
**Durchbettein** - A sense of the simplex verb is 'to beg'. A sense of the complex verb is 'to beg one's way through life'. The prefix has therefore contributed the sense of 'throughout (continuance)' to the complex verb. There is input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the complex verb.

**Durchbiegen** - A sense of the simplex verb is 'to bend'. The complex verb has the sense 'to bend sth. as far as possible'. The prefix can therefore be said to contribute the sense of 'completeness / thoroughness', as the complex verb describes bending sth. as far as it can be pushed / extended in the opposite direction. The sense of 'sagging' is also contributed by the prefix as the complex verb can mean 'to sag', which is usually what happens to sth. if it has been stretched / bent as far as it will go (e.g. it has been stretched or bent completely / thoroughly). These results show that there is input from both the simplex verb and the prefix to the complex verb.

**Durchblasen** - A sense of the simplex verb is 'to blow'. The complex verb has the following senses: 'clear sth. by blowing through it' and 'blow sth. through sth.' The prefix can be seen to contribute the sense 'Creating space / an access', as the complex verb describes blowing through sth. thereby creating an access / space for sth. to pass, e.g. the air that is being blown through. There is input from the prefix and the simplex verb to these senses of the complex verb.

**Durchblättern** - As noted in Sections 6.1. and 6.1.1., the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* gives the following senses for the complex and simplex verbs:

**Durchblättern 1, Durchblättern 2** - tr. V. leaf through {book, file etc.}

**Blättern** - 1 itr. V. A) *in einem Buch* ∼: leaf through a book; B) mit sein (zerfallen) flake; C) mit sein (sich ablösen) {paint, plaster etc.} flake off
Test Sentence frames will now be constructed in order to consider further the sense of the simplex verb and the complex verb:

**Sentence A):**

*Die Studentin hat in dem Buch geblättert.*

**Sentence B):**

*Die Studentin hat das Buch durchgeblättert.*

In Sentence B), the complex verb describes leafing through a book till you get to the end of it. In Sentence A), however, the simplex verb describes simply leafing through a book. There is no input from the prefix to the complex verb.

**Durchbläuen** - Senses of the simplex verb include 'to dye {material, clothes etc.} blue' and 'to turn {litmus paper} blue'. The complex verb has the sense 'to give sb. a good hiding or thrashing'. The prefix can therefore be said to contribute the sense of 'completeness and thoroughness' to the complex verb. It is possible that there is figurative input from the simplex verb in the sense that when someone has received a good hiding or thrashing, their skin is likely to have turned blue from the resulting bruising. This can be seen in the idiomatic phrase used in the English language: 'to beat black and blue'. There is input from both the prefix and the simplex verb to the complex verb.
7.6. Conclusion

The analysis of the possible input of the prefix ‘*durch-*’ showed that the eleven complex verbs could be classified according to their possible sources of input as follows: ten verbs gained input from both the prefix ‘*durch-*’ and the simplex verb to the meaning of the complex verb. The prefix ‘*durch-*’ was found to be polysemous, as were the prefixes ‘*ab-*’ and ‘*aus-*’ in Chapters Five and Six.

The following chapter will investigate the possible synonymy of the prefixes ‘*er-*’ and ‘*aus-*’.
8.0. CHAPTER EIGHT: A COMPARISON OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PREFIXES 'ER-' AND 'AUS-' TO THE COMPLEX VERB

In Chapters Five, Six and Seven, we saw how the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' are polysemous. The same prefixes were also found to demonstrate synonymy. For example, as we saw, the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-' were both found to contribute the sense 'Opposite sense of simplex verb' to the complex verbs *abbauen, abbedingen, ausarten* (opposite sense of related noun and adjective forms) and *ausbauen*. The prefixes 'aus-' and 'durch-' were also found to demonstrate synonymy as they both contributed the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' to the complex verbs *ausarbeiten, ausbacken, durcharbeiten, durchatmen, durchbacken, durchbeissen, durchbiegen* and *durchblühen*. Evidence of synonymy, however, was not found in all senses of these verbs. Furthermore, if we consider the verbs *ausarbeiten* and *durcharbeiten*, the verb *ausarbeiten* is effective, while the verb *durcharbeiten* is affective. This means that the verb *ausarbeiten* has an effect on the direct object of the verb, while the verb *durcharbeiten* does not involve an effect on the direct object of the verb, although the object of the verb may be affected by the action or process described by the verb.

In this chapter, I would like to test the claim of Fleischer / Barz (1992, 336) that the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' can demonstrate synonymy. While it is true that a number of verbs which take the 'er-' prefix may also take the 'aus-' prefix, personal experience of the German language causes me to believe that these two prefixes in fact contribute different senses to the complex verb. Lutzeier (1995, 165) succinctly describes synonymy as follows: "Sinnrelationale Beziehung zwischen zwei lexikalischen Elementen, die mit ihren relevanten Lasarten in einer gegebenen Situation (mehr oder weniger) denselben Inhalt aufweisen (sonnabend - samstag / ferien - urlaub)." The criteria set by Lutzeier (1995, 165) will be used to determine whether or not the prefixes can demonstrate synonymy.
The investigation will be carried out as follows: the *Oxford Duden Dictionary* will be used to list, in pairs alphabetically, a sample of the first seven complex verbs which share a simplex verb and which can occur with either the 'er-' or the 'aus-' prefix. Seven pairs of complex verbs will be chosen for analysis as this is considered to be an appropriate number of complex verb pairs for the purpose of this sample study. Where necessary, additional senses of the verbs as found in the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* (monolingual German dictionary) will also be listed. As the simplex verb will be the same in each pair of 'er-' and 'aus-' complex verbs, the difference in the possible senses demonstrated by a pair of complex verbs will be attributed to the different senses contributed by each of the prefixes. Therefore, a pair of complex verbs will demonstrate synonymy if the sense contributed by both the 'er-' and the 'aus-' prefix is the same.

In order to determine if the verb pairs are synonymous, I will construct a test sentence frame to see if any two senses in a pair of 'er-' and 'aus-' complex verbs can be exchanged without involving a change to the meaning of the sentence. If the verbs are interchangeable without involving a change to the meaning of the sentence, this indicates the verbs are synonymous, in which case the prefixes can also be said to be so. The level of synonymy demonstrated by the verbs will then be considered: whether they are completely synonymous, e.g. all senses of the two verbs are synonymous, or if they demonstrate partial synonymy, e.g. only some senses of the two verbs are synonymous. The results of this exercise will show whether or not the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' demonstrate synonymy, and if so, to what extent. Test sentences will first be analysed using my own knowledge and experience of the German language. Native speakers will then also be asked their opinions of my findings. My final decisions regarding possible differences between the verbs will be made after considering both my impressions and those of the native speakers consulted.
8.1. 'Er-' and 'Aus-' complex verbs which share a simplex verb

1)

Erarbeiten - tr. V. A) (erwerben) work for; [sich (Dat.)] ein Vermögen ~: make
[oneself] a fortune; B) (zu eigen machen) work on; study; [sich (Dat.)] einen Text ~:
understand a text by working on it; C) (erstellen) work out {plan, programme, etc.}

Ausarbeiten - 1) tr. V. A) (erstellen) work out, develop {guidelines, system,
method}; prepare, draw up {agenda, draft, regulations, contract}; prepare {leaflet} B)
vollenden) work out the details of {plan, proposal, list, lecture etc.}; elaborate the
details of {picture, drawing}

2) refl. V. (durch Sport, körperliche Anstrengung) work out; have a workout

Erarbeiten refers more to the efforts of the individual (e.g. zu eigen machen; work
on; study), and their achievements as a result of work (e.g. make [oneself] a fortune),
as opposed to the more general processes involved in work, as indicated by the verb
ausarbeiten (e.g. to work out details of, prepare etc.).

Test sentence frames for erarbeiten and ausarbeiten:

a) Der Plan wurde erarbeitet.

b) Der Plan wurde ausgearbeitet.

Erarbeiten has the sense 'to work out, develop, prepare'. To 'work out, develop,
prepare' something involves gathering ideas and making preliminary plans before
starting work on a project. The TU Chemnitz German - English online dictionary

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states that the verb *erarbeiten* can have the following senses: 'to compile, to develop, to acquire.' The initial stage in a work process usually involves compiling information before starting work on a project. Künnhold (1973, 148), however, also comments on the verb *erarbeiten*: "Signalisiert wird: Erfolgreicher Abschluß."

According to Künnhold and the TU Chemnitz online dictionary, therefore, the verb *erarbeiten* can describe both the beginning of something, as well as the successful completion of something, depending presumably on the context in which it is used. For example, the following sentence shows us how the verb does not need to indicate the successful completion of something: *Das Kind erarbeitete das Projekt, aber kam nicht zu Ende.* This shows us that the verb *erarbeiten* can be regarded as both inchoative and resultative, as it can describe both the *beginning* and the *end* of an action / process.

*Ausarbeiten*, however, refers more to the subsequent *developmental* or *final* stages of the process of working something out. This would include working out or clarifying the finer points or details of a project, etc. This can be observed in the possible senses of the verb: A) develop {guidelines, system, method}: describes the developmental / intermediate stages of the working out process, B) (vollenden) work out *the details* of {plan, proposal, list, lecture etc}: describes the *final* stage of the working out process, and *elaborate* the details of {picture, drawing}*: describes the *intermediate / developmental* stages of the process of working something out. We also saw earlier how the TU Chemnitz online dictionary states that the verb *erarbeiten* can also mean 'to develop'.

The verbs *erarbeiten* and *ausarbeiten* could therefore be described as synonyms as they can both mean 'to develop' or 'to complete' something.
Erbauen - 1) tr. V. A) build; B) (geh.; erheben) uplift, edify; wir waren von seinen Plänen wenig erbaut we were not exactly delighted about his plans

2) refl. V. (geh.: sich erfreuen) sich an etw. (Dat.) ~: be uplifted or edified by sth.

Ausbauen - tr. V. A) (entfernen) remove (aus from); B) (erweitem) extend; (fig.) build up, cultivate {friendship, relationship}; expand {theory, knowledge, market}; eine Fachhochschule zu einer Universität ~: expand or enlarge a college into a university; eine Straße ~: improve a road; seinen Vorsprung weiter ~: (fig.) extend one's lead; seine Position ~ (fig.) consolidate or strengthen one's position; ein Gebäude zu einem od. als Theater ~: to convert a building into a theatre or use as a theatre

Both verbs can be used to describe the building process. Differences can be found in the possible senses and contexts of use for each verb, but both verbs can be seen to describe the idea of change with the result of improvement.

Test sentence frames for erbauen and ausbauen:

a) Die Kirche wurde im 17. Jh. erbaut.

b) Die Kirche wurde im 17. Jh. ausgebaut.

etwas erbaut sein."

In the second sentence, however, ausbau en denotes more the idea of the redevelopment / extension of the existing building. These verbs are not synonyms as each sentence has a different meaning.

3)

Erbeuten - tr. V. carry off, get away with {valuables, prey, etc.}; capture {enemy plane, tank etc.}

Ausbeuten - tr. V. (auch abwertend) exploit

*Erbeuten* has the sense of someone taking away from someone else by dishonest means, something that does not belong to them. As the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* specifies: in times of war, robbery or looting. *Ausbeuten* also has negative connotations. The *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* describes how the verb can mean to use unscrupulously for oneself, as in a workforce, or to take advantage of someone else’s ignorance or good nature. From this we can see that both verbs are similar in that they have negative connotations and describe taking advantage of a person or situation.

**Test sentence frames for erbeuten and ausbeuten:**

a) Sie haben die Bodenschätze *erbeuten*.

b) Sie haben die Bodenschätze *ausbeuten*.
Sentence a) does not make sense, as it is not possible 'to carry off, get away with; capture' mineral resources. Sentence b), however, does make sense, as it is possible 'to exploit' mineral resources. As we can see, the fact that the two verbs have different senses and contextual usages means that they cannot be synonyms.

4)

Erbitten - 1) unr. tr. V. (geh.) request; "baldige Anwort erbeten" 'early response appreciated'

2) unr. refl. V. (veralt.) sich ~ lassen, etw. zu tun be prevailed upon to do sth.

The *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* includes the senses: asking for something politely for oneself (advice), and being prepared to do something for someone else.

Ausbitten - unr. refl. V. A) (geh.: erbitten) sich (Dat.) von jmdm. etw. ~: request sth. from sb.; ask sb. for sth.; B) (verlangen) sich (Dat.) etw. ~: demand sth.; ich bitte mir Ruhe / mehr Sorgfalt aus I must insist on silence / that you take more care

The *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* includes the sense: 'to demand something vigorously or forcefully' (verlangen, mit Nachdruck fordern). Both verbs may be said to be used for the communication of one’s wishes, although *erbitten* might be considered slightly more forceful than *ausbitten*, as it could be seen to imply 'the right to request'.

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Test sentence frames for *erbitten* and *ausbitten*:

a) Ich *erbitte* mir Hilfe bei der Gartenarbeit.

b) Ich *bitte* mir Hilfe bei der Gartenarbeit *aus*.

The verbs are synonyms as the two sentences have the same meaning. The verbs are demonstrating partial synonymy, but not complete synonymy, as all senses of the two verbs are not the same. According to the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*, however, the verb *erbitten* is more elevated or formal than *ausbitten*. The *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* (2001, 477) gives the following example of usage which demonstrates how *erbitten* is favourable to *ausbitten* in the formal, written context cited: "baldige Antwort erbeten".

5)

*Erblassen* - itr. V.; mit sein (geh.) go or turn pale; blanch (literary); auch *Neid vor ~ erblassen*; turn or go green with envy

The *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* notes that the verb can be used in poetic language to mean 'to die' (*sterben*).

According to the dict.cc online English - German dictionary, the verb *erblassen* can also be used as follows: *vor Angst erblassen* - to pale with fear.
**Auslassen** - itr. V.; mit sein (geh.) fade

The *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* features the following entry for the verb *auslassen*:

*auslassen* - (geh.): völlig verblassen, die Farbe fast ganz verlieren: die Tapete ist ganz ausgeblasst; ausgeblasste Vorhänge

It was decided to consult the University of Leipzig corpus of German in an attempt to learn more about the possible senses of these verbs. By consulting the corpus, it was found that the majority of entries for the verb *erlassen* refer prototypically to people. The corpus did not feature any listings for the verb *auslassen*. The verb was also not listed in either the Spiegel.de archives or the dict.cc online English - German dictionary. This could suggest that it is a verb that is not very commonly found in the German language.

**Test sentence frames for erlassen and auslassen:**

a) "Das Leder ist *ausgeblasst*" sagte Fräulein Schmidt.

b) "Das Leder ist *erblasst*" sagte Fräulein Schmidt.

These verbs do not appear to be synonyms. For example, sentence a) describes how the leather is faded, while sentence b) describes how the leather is pale; blanched. As could be seen by studying the University of Leipzig corpus, the verb *erlassen* differs from the verb *auslassen* in that it prototypically refers to people. For example:
Sie ist vor Neid erblasst. Sentence b) does not therefore appear to make sense, which means that the verbs are not synonyms.

6)

Erbleichen - itr. V.; mit sein (geh.) go or turn pale; blanch (literary)

Ausbleichen - 1) unr. itr. V.; mit sein fade; ausgebleichte Gebeine / Haare bleached bones / hair

2) tr. V. bleach; {light, sun} fade {material, curtains, etc.}

The Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch also states that ausbleichen means to fade, or to cause something to loose its colour and turn pale.

These verbs demonstrate similar senses to the previous ones: ausblassen - 'to fade', and erblassen - 'to go or turn pale'. The differences lie in the fact that the verb erbleichen describes the process of turning pale, while erblassen deals more with the cause of the fading, e.g. turning pale as a reaction to some external stimulus. It can also be seen that erbleichen is used more in a literary context than ausbleichen, which is being used to describe the bleaching of human hair / bones etc.

Test sentence frames for erbleichen and ausbleichen:

a) Das rote Kleid ist durch das Waschen erbleicht.

b) Das rote Kleid ist durch das Waschen ausgebleicht.
By studying the two verbs, it was found that each verb describes the loss of colour with different possible results: *erbleichen* implies the idea of the dress losing its colour completely as a result of washing, thereby *fading to white or pale*, while *ausbleichen* describes how the colour did not fade to white or pale, but simply faded to a *lighter shade* of its original colour. The prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' do not therefore demonstrate synonymy in these complex verbs.

7)

**Erblicken** - tr. V. (geh.) A) catch sight of; see; B) (fig.) see; **sie erblickte in mir eine Konkurrentin** she saw me as a rival; she saw a rival in me

**Ausblicken** - itr. V. (geh.) **nach jmdm. / etw. ~**: look out for sb. / sth.

The *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* includes the following senses: looking out for someone you are waiting for / searching for / worried or concerned about. It can also be used when describing furtive glances.

Both verbs deal with the concept / action of 'seeing'. *Ausblicken* describes seeing in the sense of physically looking out for / searching for someone in order to protect them. *Erblicken*, however, can describe both literally catching sight of / seeing someone, as well as figuratively seeing / perceiving to be a certain way, e.g. she saw (perceived / considered / regarded) me as a rival. It was found that *ausblicken* may be said to have more positive connotations than *erblicken*, although it can also be used to describe furtive (sly) glances.
Test sentence frames for *erblicken* and *ausblicken*:

a) Sie hat eine Zeitung *erblickt*.

b) Sie hat nach einer Zeitung *ausgeblickt*.

These verbs are not synonyms as they each have different senses. Sentence a) describes how someone happened to catch sight of a newspaper, while Sentence b) describes how the person was consciously / deliberately looking for one. As can be seen from the entries for the verbs given in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*, the verbs are also not synonyms as the verb *ausblicken* occurs with the preposition 'nach': nach jmdm. / etw. ~: look out for sb. / sth. The verb *erblicken*, however, can be used without a preposition: compare nach einer Zeitung *ausblicken* and eine Zeitung *erblicken*.

8.2. Discussion of findings

It was found that five of the seven 'er-' and 'aus-' verb pairs studied were not synonyms. Differences could be observed in the possible senses of the 'er-' and the 'aus-' verbs, as was initially believed to be the case based on personal experience of the language. The verbs *erbitten* and *ausbitten* did demonstrate synonymy, although not complete synonymy, e.g. all senses of both verbs were not the same. Fleischer / Barz (1992, 336) state that verbs including er- / ausbitten and er- / ausarbeiten are synonyms. The findings of this investigation support the view of Fleischer / Barz that the verb pairs *erbitten / ausbitten* and *erarbeiten* and *ausarbeiten* demonstrate synonymy.

It was observed in the sample study of the seven complex verbs that only one verb pair was synonymous: *erbitten* and *ausbitten*. This suggests that the majority of 'er-' and 'aus-' complex verbs which share a simplex verb do not demonstrate synonymy.
8.2.1. Differences in the contribution of the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-

Having established that the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' are not always synonymous, the differences between the senses of the two prefixes will now be considered. The analysis carried out in this chapter indicates that within the complex verb erarbeiten, a function of the prefix 'er-' is to signal the idea of striving towards the achievement of something. This was also found to be a function of the prefix 'aus-' in the complex verb ausarbeiten. Fleischer / Barz also note that the main function of the 'er-' prefix is to signal the idea of striving towards the achievement of something. Johnson (1984, 109) notes: "Er- can best be seen as expressing 'acquisition by'. It tends to stress the destination or purpose achieved by the simplex verb." In this chapter, we saw how the prefix 'er-' can indicate the sense of working in order to acquire something for oneself, as the following example shows:

Erarbeiten - tr. V. A) (erwerben) work for; [sich (Dat.)] ein Vermögen ~: make [oneself] a fortune; B) (zu eigen machen) work on; study; [sich (Dat.)] einen Text ~: understand a text by working on it; C) (erstellen) work out {plan, programme, etc.}

As the seven complex verb pairs were analysed, it was observed that verbs using the 'er-' prefix could describe the beginning, development or end of a process, while those using the 'aus-' prefix could describe the developmental or final stages of a process. This can be seen in the following verb pair: erarbeiten and ausarbeiten. The verbs were said to demonstrate synonymy as they could both mean 'to develop' or 'to complete' something. In the verb pair erbleichen and ausbleichen, however, the verb erbleichen could describe the entire process of something going pale, while the verb ausbleichen simply describes the various stages involved in the colour fading process.
It was also found that in the verb pair erblicken and ausblicken, the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' could be said to have the following characteristics: the prefix 'aus-' describes something less complete / total than the prefix 'er-. For example, the verb erblicken is used to describe only the point or moment in time when someone first catches a glimpse of someone else, while ausblicken is used to describe the ongoing process of continuing to look out for someone.

To sum up, in Chapters Five, Six and Seven, we saw how three of the seven prefixes selected for study can demonstrate polysemy. In this chapter, we have tested the claim of Fleischer / Barz that two of the seven prefixes demonstrate synonymy. It was found that the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' demonstrate synonymy in some, though not all, of the seven verb pairs studied. The prefixes were not found to demonstrate complete synonymy in any verb pairs. As noted earlier, this could indicate that the majority of verbs featuring the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' do not demonstrate either partial or total synonymy.

In the next chapter, we will consider the possible senses of another two of our seven prefixes: 'miss-' and 'mit-. By analysing the contribution of these two prefixes, it will be possible to find out if they are polysemous, monosemous or without sense. It is also possible that the prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-' will be found to demonstrate synonymy as the prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-' were in this chapter.
9.0. Chapter Nine: The Prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-

This chapter will investigate the possible senses of the prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-. Fleischer / Barz (1992, 324) state: "Miß- drückt die Negation der durch die Basis bezeichneten Handlung aus". It was noted that the authors do not cite as wide a range of possible senses for the prefix 'miss-' as they provide for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-'. The authors do not discuss the senses of the prefix 'mit-'. Personal experience of the German language causes me to believe that the prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-' will be found to demonstrate monosemy.

9.1. The prefix 'miss-': Senses of complex verbs

First eleven complex verbs which feature the prefix 'miss-' as listed alphabetically in the Oxford Duden Dictionary:

Missachten - tr. V. A) (ignorieren) disregard; ignore; B) (gering schätzen) disdain; be contemptuous of; sich missachtet fühlen feel scorned

Missbilligen - tr. V. disapprove of

Missbrauchen - tr. V. A) abuse; misuse; abuse {trust}; jmdn. für od. zu etw. ~: use sb. for sth.; B) (übermäßig gebrauchen) misuse {drugs, medicines}; C) (geh.:vergewaltigen) rape

Missdeuten - tr. V. misinterpret

Missfallen - unr. itr. V.; etw. missfällt jmdm. sb. dislikes or does not like sth.

Missglücken - itr. V. mit sein; fail; be unsuccessful

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Missgönne - tr. V. jmdm. etw. ~: begrudge sb. sth.

Misshandeln - tr. V. mal-treat; ill-treat

Misslingen - unr. tr. V.; mit sein fail; be unsuccessful; be a failure

Missraten - unr. itr. V.; mit sein {cake, photo, etc} turn out badly

Misstrauen - itr. V. jmdm. / einer Sache ~: mistrust or distrust sb. / sth.; sich (Dat.) selbst ~: have no confidence in oneself

9.1.1. Senses of simplex verbs

Using the Oxford Duden Dictionary, this section will list the senses of the simplex verbs which form a part of the complex verbs listed in Section 9.1.

Achten - 1) tr. V. respect; observe, respect {laws, commandments} 2) itr. V. A) auf etw. (Akk.) /nicht/ ~ (/nicht/ auf etw. aufpassen) [not] mind or look after sth.

Billigen - tr. V. approve

Brauchen - tr. V. 1) A) (benötigen) need B) (aufwenden müssen) mit dem Fahrrad / Auto braucht er nur zehn Minuten it only takes him ten minutes on his bicycle / by car C) (benutzen, verwenden, ver~) use

Deuten - 1) itr. V. A) point; [mit dem Finger] auf jmdn. / etw. ~: point [one’s finger] at sb. / sth. B) (hinweisen) auf etw. (Akk.) ~: point to or indicate sth;

2) tr. V. interpret; die Zukunft ~: read the future; etw. falsch ~: misinterpret sth.
Fallen - fallen - 'to fall', no input from this verb to the complex verb. However, there could be said to be input from the complex verb gefallen - which has the following sense according to the Oxford Duden Dictionary: A) das gefällt mir – I like it

Glücken - tr. V.; mit sein succeed; be successful; etw. glückt jmdm. sb. is successful with sth.; ein gegläckter Versuch a successful attempt; die Flucht ist nicht gegläcket the escape [attempt] failed; es glückt jmdm., etw. zu tun sb. manages to do sth.

Gönne - tr. V. A) (zugestehen) jmdm. etw. ~: not begrudge sb. sth.; ich gönne ihm diesen Erfolg von ganzem Herzen I’m delighted or very pleased for him that he has had this success; jmdm. den Misserfolg ~ (iron.) delight in sb.’s misfortune

Handeln - itr. V. E) (sich verhalten) behave; gut / schlecht an jmdm. od. gegen jmdn. ~: behave well / badly towards sb.

Lingen - obs. 9

Raten - unr. itr. V. A) (einen Rat, Ratschläge geben) jmdm. ~: advise sb.; lass dir von einem Freund ~: take the advice of a friend B) (schätzen) guess; richtig / falsch ~: guess right / wrong

Trauen - 1) itr. V. jmdm. / einer Sache ~: trust sb. / sth.; ich trau dem Braten nicht (ugs.) I think something’s up (coll.); it seems fishy to me (coll.); 2) refl. V dare; sich ~, etw. zu tun dare [to] do sth.; du trau dich ja nicht! You haven’t the courage or nerve 3) tr. V. (verheiraten) {vicar, registrar etc.} marry

9 The deutsches Wörterbuch Jacob Grimm / Wilhelm Grimm Bd. 12 (1885 / 1984, 1039). The simplex verb lingen is now obsolete, but was in use in the 16th Century. It had two possible senses: 1) to move forwards, strive for 2) be successful, flourish, yield. Evidence of its sense 'to be successful, flourish, yield' can be seen in the present day sense of the complex verb misslingen: the simplex verb has the sense 'to succeed' e.g. to be successful, and the complex verb has the opposite sense 'to fail; be unsuccessful'.
9.2. Input of prefix within the complex verb

In Sections 9.1. and 9.1.1., the complex verbs and simplex verbs were studied separately. This section will attempt to identify the contribution of the prefix 'miss-' to a possible sense of the complex verbs listed in Section 9.1.

**Missachten** - a possible sense of the complex verb is 'to disregard; ignore'
A possible sense of the simplex verb is 'to respect, observe'. The use of the prefix negates this sense, thereby creating a complex verb which has the opposite sense to the simplex verb: a possible sense of the complex verb is 'to disregard or ignore', which is a sign of a lack of respect.

**Missbilligen** - the complex verb has the sense 'to disapprove of'
The simplex verb *billigen* has only one sense 'to approve'. The prefix 'miss-', by functioning to negate the sense of the simplex verb, has created a complex verb with the opposite sense to the simplex verb: 'to disapprove'.

**Missbrauchen** - a possible sense of the complex verb is 'to abuse; misuse'
A possible sense of the simplex verb is 'to use'. The prefix negates this sense of the simplex verb, and in doing so creates a complex verb which has the opposite sense of the simplex verb: 'to abuse; misuse'.

**Missdeuten** - a sense of the complex verb is 'to misinterpret'
The simplex verb *deuten* has the sense 'to point to or indicate sth'. The prefix 'miss-' contributes the sense of wrongly or mistakenly interpreting / understanding what is being indicated or communicated: 'to misinterpret'.

**Missfallen** - a sense of the complex verb is 'to dislike'
There is no input from the simplex verb *fallen* - 'to fall', but the prefix contributes the sense of something negative. It can also be seen that there is possible input from the complex verb *gefallen* which has the sense 'to like'. In this case, the prefix 'miss-' could be seen to provide the sense of the opposite sense of the complex verb
fallen. For example: *gefallen* – 'to like' \(\rightarrow\) *missfallen* – 'to dislike' (opposite sense of 'to like').

**Missglücken** - the complex verb has the sense 'to fail; be unsuccessful'

The simplex verb has the sense 'to succeed; be successful', while the complex verb has the opposite sense: 'to be unsuccessful; to fail'. It can therefore be observed how the prefix *'miss-'*, by functioning to negate the sense of the simplex verb, has created a complex verb with the opposite sense to that of the simplex verb.

**Missgönnen** - the complex verb has the sense 'to begrudge sb. sth.'

The simplex verb *gönne* means 'to not begrudge sb. sth.'. The addition of the prefix has negated the sense of the simplex verb, with the result that the complex verb has the opposite sense to that of the simplex verb: 'to begrudge sb. sth.'

**Misshandeln** - the complex verb has the sense 'to mal–treat; to ill–treat'

The simplex verb is used when describing *behaviour* toward others, and the prefix contributes a negative sense to this usage as it describes *behaving badly* / in a *wrong way* towards others: 'to mal–treat / ill–treat'.

**Misslingen** - a sense of the complex verb is 'to fail; be unsuccessful; be a failure'

The simplex verb *lingen* has the sense 'to be successful, flourish, yield'. The use of the prefix has negated the sense of the simplex verb, as 'to fail' means to *not flourish / yield* results: be *unsuccessful*. According to Paul's *Deutsches Wörterbuch* (1992, 575): "Mißlingen mhd. misseligen, Ggs. von gelingen, intr. wenn der Guß mißlang? (Schi., Glocke); unpers.seh.. zu, dasz er dir nicht miszling (Opitz; DWb), seit dem 19. Jh. auch subst. N." We can therefore see that this sense of the complex verb is long established, as it has been in use since the 19th century. As noted in Chapter Two, in the present study, we will be considering the senses of verbs and their prefixes from both a synchronic and a diachronic perspective.
Missraten - the complex verb has the sense 'to turn out badly {cake, photo etc.}'. The simplex verb provides no input to the complex verb, but there is input from the prefix 'miss-', which contributes the sense of misfortune / a negative event or occurrence. It can also be observed that there is possible input from the verb geraten, which has the following sense: B) (gelingen) turn out well. The prefix 'miss-' can therefore be seen to allow the opposite sense to that of the verb geraten. For example: geraten – 'to turn out well' \(\rightarrow\) missraten – 'to turn out badly'.

Misstrauen - The simplex verb has the sense 'to trust sb. / sth.', the use of the prefix functions to negate the sense of the simplex verb: 'to distrust sb. / sth.'.

9.3. Discussion of findings

As noted earlier, Fleischer / Barz (324, 1992) believe that the use of the prefix 'miß-' allows the negation of the simplex verb. The authors give the following examples: jmdn. / etw. mißachten, -billigen, -glücken, jmdm. etw. mißgönne. Von Polenz (1980, 176) considers verbs featuring the prefix 'miss-' to be verbs of negation, and includes the following examples of such verbs: mißgönne 'nicht gönne', mißtrauen 'nicht trauen'.

The analysis of the eleven complex verbs in Section 9.1. showed that the main function of the prefix 'miss-' is to provide the sense of 'negation', with the result that the complex verb has the opposite sense to that of the simplex verb. This was found to be the function of the prefix in the following complex verbs: missachten, missbilligen, missbrauchen, missglücken, missgönne, misslingen and misstrauen. For example, the simplex verb billigen has the sense 'to approve', and the complex verb missbilligen has the sense 'to disapprove of'. The use of the prefix 'miss-' has therefore allowed the opposite sense of the simplex verb billigen. We also saw how neither the verb missfallen nor the verb missraten featured a simplex verb. These verbs, however, were found to gain input from related verbs, e.g. the verb missfallen
gained input from the verb *gefallen*, and the verb *missraten* gained input from the verb *geraten*.

To sum up, the investigation found that the prefix 'miss-' was monosemous in the eleven complex verbs studied, providing the sense of something 'negative (wrong or bad)'. This often had the result of allowing the negation of the simplex verb, thereby creating a complex verb which has the opposite sense to that of the simplex verb. Fleischer / Barz (1992, 324) state that the prefix is used when describing something "falsch, schlimm". The authors cite the following as examples of such verbs: *mißbrauchen, -deuten, -handeln, -verstehen, -leiten*.

In the next section, we will consider whether or not the prefix 'mit-' is monosemous.

9.4. The prefix 'mit-': Senses of complex verbs

First eleven complex verbs which feature the prefix 'mit-' as listed alphabetically in the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*:

*Mitarbeiten* - itr. V. A) (mithelfen) bei *einem Projekt / an einem Buch* ~: collaborate on a project / book; *im elterlichen Geschäft* ~: work in one’s parents’ shop  B) (sich beteiligen) participate *(in + Dat. in)*; *im Unterricht besser* ~: take a more active part in lessons;  C) (ugs.: auch arbeiten) *seine Frau arbeitet mit* his wife works too

*Mitbekommen* - unr. tr. V. A) *etw.* ~: be given or get sth. to take with one; *(fig.)* inherit sth.  B) (wahrnehmen) be aware of; *(durch Hören, Sehen)* hear / see; *es war so laut, dass ich nur die Hälfte mitbekam* it was so noisy that I only caught half of it; *hast du es ~* *(ugs.)* did you know?;  C) *(miterleben)* *etw.* ~: manage to hear / see sth.; *etwas von etw.* ~: hear / see something of sth.;  D) *(verstehen)* *ich war so*
müde, dass ich nicht viel ~ habe I was so tired that I did not grasp very much; ich habe gar nicht ~, wie er das meinte I did not realize at all how he meant it

Mitbenutzen - (bes. südd.) mitbenützen tr. V. share; have the use of

Mitbestimmen - 1) itr. V. have a say (in + Dat. in); mehr ~ können od dürfen have a greater say. 2) tr. V. have an influence on; etw. maßgeblich ~: have a determining influence on

Mitbringen - unr. tr. V. A) etw. ~: bring sth. with one; etw. aus der Stadt / dem Urlaub / von dem Markt / der Reise ~: bring sth. back from town / holiday / the market / one’s trip; jmdm. / sich etw. ~: bring sth. with one for sb. / bring sth. back for oneself; Gäste ~ bring guests home B) (einarbeiten) have, possess {ability, gift, etc.} (für for): genügend Zeit ~: come with enough time at one’s disposal

Mitdenken - unr. itr. V. follow [the argument / explanation / what is being said etc.]; ein Schüler, der mitdenkt a pupil who follows the lesson; die Fähigkeit zum M ~: the ability to think for oneself

Mitdürfen - unr. itr. V. (ugs.) (mitkommen dürfen) be allowed to come along or too; (mitgehen, mitfahren dürfen) be allowed to go along or too

Mitempfinden - 1) unr. tr. V. jmds. Schmerz / Leid ~: know the pain / sorrow sb. is / was feeling. 2) unr. itr. V. mit jmdm. ~: sympathize with sb.

Miterleben - tr. V. A) (dabei sein bei) witness {events etc.}; sie hat das Unglück miterlebt she was involved in the accident; eine Premiere ~: be present at a première; B) (mitmachen) be alive during

Mitessen - 1) unr. tr. V. eat {skin etc.} as well; bei dem Apfel habe ich einen Wurm mitgegessen I’ve swallowed a grub along with the apple. 2) unr. itr. V. jmdn. einladen mitzuessen invite sb. to eat with one or have a meal; bei jmdm. ~:
eat or have a meal with sb.

Mitfahren - unr. itr. V.; mit sein bei jmdn. [im Auto] ~: go with sb. [in his / her car]; (auf einer Reise) travel with sb. [in his / her car]; (mitgenommen werden) get or have a lift with sb. [in his / her car]; jmdn. ~ lassen let sb. go; (jmdn. mitnehmen) give sb. a lift

9.4.1. Senses of simplex verbs

Arbeiten - itr. V. A) (Arbeit leisten) work; zu Arbeit haben have work to do; an etw. (Dat.) ~; an sich (Dat.) ~: work to improve one’s abilities; sein Geld ~ lassen (fig.) make one’s money work for one; B) (beruflich tätig sein); work; seine Frau arbeitet his wife has a job or works; C) über jmdn. / etw. ~ (sich befassen mit) work on sb. / sth.; D) (wirksam sein) für / gegen jmdn. / etw. ~: work for / against sb. / sth.; E) (funktionieren) {heart, lungs etc} work, function {machine} work, operate; F) (ankämpfen) work hard (gegen against) G) (sich verändern){wood} warp; {must} ferment; {dough} rise; H) (Sport) work (mit with); I) (schneidern) wo / bei wem lassen Sie ~ ? where do you have or get your clothes made? Who makes your clothes?

Bekommen - unr. tr. V. A) (erhalten) get; get, receive {money, letter, reply, news, orders} B) (finden, erlangen) get; obtain; catch {train, bus, flight} C) (einen bestimmten Ziel erreichen) get; etw. durch die Tür / in den Kofferraum ~: get sth. through the door / into the boot (Brit.) or (Amer.) trunk; F) + 2. Part. get; etw. geschenkt ~: get [given] sth. or be given sth. as a present

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10 As noted in Chapter Four, if a complex verb features two prefixes, e.g. ‘mit-’ + ‘be-’ + kommen, the single-prefixed complex verb, e.g. bekommen, will be listed in this section if it can be seen to contribute meaning to the double-prefixed complex verb durchbekommen. If not, then the simplex verb kommen will be listed and analysed for possible input to the complex verb mitbekommen.
Benutzen - (bes. stüdd.) benützen tr. V. use (für for); take, use {car, lift}; take {train, taxi}; use, consult {reference book}

Bestimmen - 1) tr. V. A) (festsetzen) decide on; fix {price, time, etc.} das Gesetz bestimmt, dass... the law provides that ...; nichts zu ~ haben have no say D) (prägen) determine the character of; give {landscape, townscape} its character; unser Leben ~: play a dominant or decisive role in our lives

2) itr. V. A) make the decisions; hier bestimme ich I'm in charge or the boss here; my word goes around here

Bringen - unr. tr. V. A) (her~) bring; (hin~) take; sie brachte mir / ich brachte ihr ein Geschenk she brought me / I took her a present B) (begleiten) take; jmdn. nach Hause / zum Bahnhof ~: take sb. home / to the station

Denken - 1) unr. itr. V. think (an od. [stüdd., österr.] auf + Akk. of, über + Akk. about); kleinlich / liberal / edel ~: be pettyminded / liberal-minded / nobel-minded wie denkst du darüber? what do you think about it?; what's your opinion of it?

Dürfen - 1) unr. Modalverb; 2 Part. dürfen: A) (Erlaubnis haben zu) etw. tun ~: be allowed or permitted to do sth.

Empfinden - unr. tr. V. A) (wahrnehmen) feel {pain, pleasure, bitterness, etc.}; etwas / nichts für jmdn. ~: feel something / nothing for sb. B) (auffassen) etw. als Beleidigung ~: feel sth. to be an insult

Erleben - tr. V. experience; etwas Schönes / Schreckliches ~: have a pleasant / terrible experience er hat viel erlebt he has seen a lot of life; große Abenteuer ~: have great adventures
Essen - unrl. tr., itr. V. eat; eat, drink {soup}

Fahren - unrl. itr. V.; mit sein A) (als Fahrzeuglenker) drive (mit dem Fahrrad, Motorrad usw.) ride **mit dem Auto** ~: drive

9.5. Input of prefix within the complex verb

This section will attempt to identify the contribution of the prefix to a possible sense of each of the complex verbs listed in Section 9.4.

**Mitarbeiten** - senses of the complex verb include: 'to collaborate on a project / book', 'to participate in sth.'. A sense of the simplex verb is 'to work', the prefix contributes the sense of 'inclusion / being a part of sth.' to the complex verb. Durrell (2002, 512) also considers the verb **mitarbeiten**, and states that the prefix 'mit-' can indicate the following sense to both the verbs **mitarbeiten** and **mitgehen**: "accompanying or cooperating: mitarbeiten cooperate  **mitgehen** go with sb."

**Mitbekommen** - senses of the complex verb **mitbekommen** include: 'to be given or get sth. to take with one', 'grasp (understand) sth.'. The complex verb **bekommen** has the sense 'to get; receive'. The sense of 'participation' is indicated by the prefix 'mit-' as the complex verb **mitbekommen** describes how each of the members of a group is given a gift to take home as they were a member of the party of guests (**participation, inclusion**). The prefix also indicates this sense by describing how someone can follow along with others / with what is being said, by **participating** as a listener.

**Mitbenutzen** - the complex verb **mitbenutzen** has the sense 'to share; have the use of'. The complex verb **benutzen** has the sense 'to use'. The prefix 'mit-' allows the sense of being allowed to make use / take advantage of something on offer, which is also being used by others. The sense of 'involvement / inclusion' is contributed by the prefix 'mit-' to the complex verb **mitbenutzen**.

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Mitbestimmen - the complex verb *mitbestimmen* has the following senses: 'to have a say in', 'have an influence on'. The complex verb *bestimmen* has the sense: 'to decide on; fix'. The prefix 'mit-' therefore contributes the sense of 'participation / involvement' by *taking part* and *having a say in a matter*.

Mitbringen - the complex verb has the following senses: 'bring sth. with one'; 'have, possess (ability, gift. etc.)'. The simplex verb has the sense 'to bring'. The prefix therefore contributes the sense of 'participation' as you are one of the group of guests who is bringing something along with you, and the sense of 'inclusion' as you have certain abilities or gifts which you can *include* or *count* as qualities of yours.

Mitdenken - the complex verb has the sense 'to follow [the argument / explanation / what is being said etc.]'. The simplex verb has the sense 'to think'. The prefix provides the sense of 'participation and involvement', as you are *following along* with what is being said by trying to *understand* what the speaker is saying: (the argument, explanation etc.). Understanding is a mental process which requires thought (the simplex verb has the sense 'to think').

Mitdürfen - the complex verb has the sense 'to be allowed to come along *too*, be allowed to go along *too*'. The simplex verb has the sense 'to be allowed or permitted to do sth.'. The sense of 'inclusion' is contributed to the complex by the use of the prefix, as the complex verb describes being allowed to come along / to go along *too*.

Mitempfinden - the complex verb *mitempfinden* has the following senses: 'to know the pain / sorrow sb. is / was feeling'; 'to sympathize with sb.'. The complex verb *empfinden* has the sense 'to feel'. The prefix 'mit-' can be seen to contribute the sense of feeling the same as someone else, or feeling it *with* them (compassion): there is *involvement* on an emotional level with their suffering / pain etc.

Miterleben - the complex verb has the following senses: 'to witness {events etc.}'; 'to be present at sth.'; 'to be alive during'. The verb *erleben* means 'to experience'. The prefix provides the sense of 'being present / being a part of sth.' (inclusion), so as to be able to experience or witness an event etc. / to be *with* the others present.
Mitessen - the complex verb has the sense 'to eat as well, to eat with sb.' The simplex verb has the sense 'to eat'. The prefix contributes the sense of 'involvement and participation' with others when eating.

Mitfahren - the complex verb has the following senses: 'to go with sb.'; 'to travel with sb.'; 'to get or have a lift with sb.'; 'to give sb. a lift'. The simplex verb has the sense 'to drive'. The prefix was found to contribute the sense of 'participation / being included in sth.' as the complex verb describes driving with others: 'to get or have a lift with sb.'; 'to give sb. a lift'.

9.6. Discussion of findings

In all the complex verbs studied, the prefix 'mit-' was found to contribute the sense of 'inclusion in sth.', thereby describing activities which denote participation or involvement of some kind. The prefix 'mit-' was therefore shown to be monosemous in the complex verbs studied.

If we now consider the preposition 'mit', it can be observed that this also has the sense 'with' as it describes inclusion, e.g. Schokoladetorte mit Sahne. We saw in previous chapters how the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' had the same sense as the prepositions 'ab', 'aus' and 'durch'. These prefixes and prepositions therefore share a pattern / relationship in their possible sense(s). This also suggests that the sense of a prefix can often coincide with the sense of its corresponding preposition.

In conclusion, the investigation carried out in this chapter indicates that the prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-' are monosemous, as they were each found to provide one constant sense to those complex verbs studied. In the next chapter, we will consider the possible senses of the prefix 'be-' to see if it is polysemous, monosemous or without a sense.
10.0. Chapter Ten: The Prefix 'be-

Polenz (1980, 176) believes that the prefix 'be-' contributes only vague semantic effects to some simplex verbs. This chapter will investigate the possible senses of the prefix 'be-'.

10.1. Senses of complex verbs

First eleven complex verbs which feature the prefix 'be-' as listed alphabetically in the Oxford Duden Dictionary:

**Beabsichtigen** - tr. V. intend; ~, etw. zu tun intend or mean to do sth.; das war nicht beabsichtigt it wasn’t intentional or deliberate

**Beachten** - tr. V. A) observe, follow {rule, regulation}; follow {instruction}; heed, follow {advice}; obey {traffic signs} B) (berücksichtigen) etw. ~: take account of sth.; (Aufmerksamkeit schenken) pay attention to or take notice of sth. C) (beobachten) notice; jmdn. nicht ~: ignore sb.

**Beackern** - tr. V. A) (ugs.: bearbeiten) go over {subject}; plough through {literature, regulations}; B) (ugs.: überreden) jmdn. ~: work on sb. (coll.); C) (bebauen) cultivate

**Beängstigen** - tr. V. (veralt.) alarm

**Beanspruchen** - tr. V. A) claim; etw. ~ können be entitled to expect sth.; B) (ausnützen) make use of {person, equipment}; take advantage of {hospitality, offer of help, services}; C) (abverlangen) demand {energy, attention, stamina}; das beansprucht ihn sehr / wenig that demands a lot / doesn’t demand much of him; D) (benötigen) take up {time, space etc.}
Beanstanden - (österr. auch) beanstanden tr. V. object to; take exception to; (sich beklagen über) complain about; an der Arbeit ist nichts / allerlei zu ~: there is nothing / there is all sorts of things wrong with the work

Beantragen - tr. V. A) apply for; B) (fordern) call for; demand; C) (vorschlagen) propose; ~, etw. zu tun propose doing sth.

Beantworten - tr. V. answer; reply to, answer {letter}; respond to {insult}; return {greeting}

Bearbeiten - tr. V. A) deal with; work on, handle {case}; B) (adaptieren) adapt (für for); ein Buch völlig neu ~: revise a book completely C) (behandeln) treat (mit with); work {wood, metal, leather, etc.}; D) (cultivate) {field, land}; F) (untersuchen) treat, examine {subject, aspect}; G) (ugs.:überreden) work on; jmdn. ~, dass er etw. macht work on sb. to get him to do sth.

Beargwöhnen - tr. V. jmdn. / etw.~: be suspicious of sb. / sth.; regard sb. / sth. with suspicion


10.1.1. Senses of simplex verbs

Absichtigen - no such verb was found, but related noun and adjective forms will be studied for possible input to the meaning of the complex verb:

die Absicht (n) - 'intention'

absichtlich (adj.) - 'intentional, deliberate'
Achten - 1) tr. V. respect; observe, respect {laws, commandments} 2) itr. V. A) auf etw. (Akk.) [nicht] ~ ([nicht] auf etw. aufpassen) [not] mind or look after sth.

Ackern - itr. V (salopp) A) (schwer arbeiten) slog one’s guts out (coll.); B) (put one’s back into it (coll.); C) (veralt.: pflügen) plough

Ängstigen - 1) tr. V. frighten; scare; (beunruhigen) worry. 2) refl. V. be frightened or afraid; (sich sorgen); worry

Anspruchen - no such verb was found, but related noun form found:

der Anspruch: A) claim (Forderung) demand; B) (bes. Rechtsspr.: Anrecht) claim; [einen] ~ / keinen ~ auf etw. (Akk.) haben be / not be entitled to sth.; auf etw. (Akk.) ~ erheben assert one’s entitlement to sth.

Anstanden - no such verb was found, but related noun and adjective forms found:

der Anstand - 1) (Jägerspr.) hide (Brit.); blind (Amer.); (Hochsitz) raised hide (Brit.) or (Amer.) blind; B) (österr.: Haus) residence

der Anstand - 2) A) (Schicklichkeit) decency; keinen ~ haben have no sense of decency; B) (veralt.: Benehmen) good manners pl.; C) (südd., österr.: Ärger) trouble [keinen ] ~ an etw. (Dat.) nehmen [not] object to sth.

Anständig - A) (sittlich einwandfrei, rücksichtsvoll) decent; decent, clean {joke}; (ehrbar) respectable
**Antragen** - unr. tr. V. (geh.) offer; **jmdm. ~ etw. zu tun** put it to sb. that he / she should do sth.

(Unlike the other verbs in this section, this is a complex verb: 'an-' + tragen. The complex verb *beantragen* therefore features two prefixes: 'be-' + 'an-' + tragen.).

**Antworten** - itr. V. A) (erwidern) answer; reply **auf etw.** (Akk.) ~: answer sth.; reply to sth.; B) (reagieren) respond (**auf** +Akk. to)

**Arbeiten** - itr. V. A) (Arbeit leisten) work; **zu Arbeit haben** have work to do; **an etw.** (Dat.) ~; **an sich** (Dat.) ~: work to improve one’s abilities; **sein Geld ~ lassen** (fig.) make one’s money work for one; B) (beruflich tätig sein); work; **seine Frau arbeitet** his wife has a job or works; C) **über jmdn. / etw.~ (sich befassen mit)** work on sb. / sth.; D) (wirksam sein) **für / gegen jmdn. / etw.~** : work for / against sb. / sth.; E) (funktionieren) {heart, lungs etc.} work, function; {machine} work, operate; F) (ankämpfen) work hard **(gegen against)** G) (sich verändern) {wood} warp; {must} ferment; {dough} rise; H) (Sport) work **(mit with)**; I) (schneiden) wo / bei wem **lassen Sie ~ ?** where do you have or get your clothes made? Who makes your clothes?

2) tr.V. A) (herstellen) make; (in Ton, Silber, usw.) work; make; fashion; B) (tun) do; **Was ~ Sie?** What are you doing?

**Argwöhnen** - tr. V. (geh.) suspect; **sie argwöhnten einen Verräter in ihm** they suspected him of being a traitor

**Atmen** - 1) itr. V. breathe; (Physiol., Bot.) respire
10.2. Possible senses of 'be-

No senses were identified for the prefix 'be-'.

10.3. Input of 'be-' within the complex verb

This section will attempt to identify the contribution of the prefix to a possible sense of each of the complex verbs listed in Section 10.1. This will be done by studying a sense of the complex verb and a sense of the simplex verb, as in previous chapters. By examining the sense of the complex and the simplex verb (or related noun / adjective forms), it will be possible to see whether or not the prefix can contribute a particular sense to the complex verb.

Beabsichtigen - The verb absichtigen was not found in any of the three dictionaries consulted (Oxford Duden, Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch and the Cambridge-Eichborn). There is input from the related noun and adjective forms: die Absicht - 'intention', absichtlich - 'intentional, deliberate'. The prefix 'be-' (together with the verbal suffix '-en') has converted the noun / adjective forms into a verb.

Beachten - The simplex verb has the sense 'to observe', the complex verb also has the sense 'to observe'. The prefix 'be-' can therefore be seen to isolate / focus on a possible sense of the simplex verb.

Beackern - The prefix 'be-' concentrates on Sense A of the simplex verb ackern: A) (schwer arbeiten) slog one's guts out (coll.).

Beängstigen - The simplex verb has the sense 'to frighten; scare', the complex verb has the sense 'to alarm'. The prefix 'be-' can therefore be seen to intensify the sense of the simplex verb.
Beanspruchen - No simplex verb was found for this complex verb. There is input from the noun *der Anspruch* - 'claim; demand'. The prefix has functioned to turn the noun into a verb.

Beanstanden - No simplex verb was found, but there is input from the related noun form: *der Anstand* (2) – C 'to object to sth.' – **Anstand an etw. nehmen**. The use of the prefix has changed the noun form into a verb. By consulting Paul's *Deutsches Wörterbuch* (1992, 97), we can also see that the verb used to have different senses to those it has now: "Beanstanden 19. Jh.urspr.>aufschieben<, dann >tadeln<: eine .. Rebhuhnpastete werden die Leckermäuler nicht b."

Beantragen - This complex verb features two prefixes: 'be-' and 'an-'. The complex verb *antragen* has the sense 'to offer': jmdm. ~ **etw. zu tun** put it to sb. that he / she should do sth.' The complex verb *beantragen* has the sense '(vorschlagen) propose' ~ **etw. zu tun** propose doing sth.' The two verbs have basically the same sense, as they each mean to offer / propose a suggestion of doing sth. This can further be seen in the fact that the *Concise Oxford Thesaurus* (2002, 599), lists the verb 'to propose' as a possible synonym of the verb 'to offer'. We saw in Chapter Eight how synonyms are words which have (more or less) the same sense. As the complex verbs *beantragen* and *antragen* have more or less the same meaning, there is no input from the prefix 'be-' to the complex verb *beantragen*, although the syntax is different in the verbs *antragen* and *beantragen*.

Let us now consider the other two senses of the complex verb *beantragen* : A) apply for; B) (fordern) call for; demand. The prefix 'be-' does not appear to have contributed any sense to these senses of the complex verb either.

Beantworten - The simplex verb has the sense 'to answer sth.; reply', the complex verb also has the sense 'to answer; reply to'. The prefix 'be-' does not therefore contribute any sense to the complex verb, but was found to serve a syntactic function by changing the intransitive simplex verb into a transitive complex verb.
**Bearbeiten** - The complex verb has the sense 'deal with, work on {case}', and the simplex verb has the sense 'work on sb. / sth.' (Sense C of the simplex verb). The prefix 'be-' therefore appears to focus on Sense C of the simplex verb *arbeiten*.

**Beargwöhn**en - The simplex verb has the sense 'to suspect'. The complex verb has the sense 'to be suspicious of sb. / sth.; regard sb. / with suspicion'. The prefix 'be-' was not found to contribute any sense to the complex verb.

**Beatmen** - The simplex verb has the sense 'to breathe'. The complex verb has the sense 'to administer artificial respiration to sb.; (während einer Operation) ventilate sb.'. The prefix 'be-' has not contributed any sense to the complex verb, but the prefix has served a syntactic function by turning the intransitive simplex verb into a transitive complex verb. The complex verb *beatmen* is causative as it describes a caused action: someone is causing someone else to breathe by administering artificial respiration. The complex verb *beatmen* could therefore be described as a causative 'be-' contributed construction.

### 10.4. Discussion of findings

The analysis carried out in Section 10.3. found that most of the verbs in Section 10.1. received little or no semantic input from the use of the prefix 'be-'. For example, the complex verbs *beabsichtigen, beachten, beängstigen, beanspruchen, beanstanden, beantragen, beantworten, bearbeiten, beargwöhnen* and *beatmen* gained no sense from the use of the prefix 'be-'. As noted earlier, Polenz (1980, 176) believes that the prefix 'be-' contributes vague semantic effects to some simplex verbs. The results of this study do not support the view of Polenz. This is because the prefix could be seen to provide *clear* and *important semantic functions* to some of the complex verbs considered, and not simply vague semantic effects as stated by Polenz. As noted in Chapter Four, a *semantic function* is considered to be *any effect* the prefix has on the sense(s) of the simplex / complex verb. In this study, therefore, *semantic input* (i.e. the sense contributed by a prefix) has been differentiated from *any semantic*
function(s) a prefix might be found to have. The prefix 'be-', for example, was found to serve an important semantic function within the verbs beachten, beackern and bearbeiten, as it narrowed down the sense of the simplex verb. The prefix was also found to provide semantic input to the complex verb beängstigen by intensifying the sense of the simplex verb ängstigen. Fleischer / Barz (1992, 321) note that the prefix can contribute the sense of intensification to simplex verbs such as befragen and sich bemühen.

The authors stress, however, that the sense of intensification is not that apparent and so the use of the prefix may appear to be unnecessary. Šimečková (1995, 96) also considers prefixes which do not semantically modify the sense of a verb: "Keine modifizierende Funktion im semantischen Sinn haben heute die Präfixe emp- und ge- in den meisten Fällen sind die Verben, in denen sie vorkommen, lexikalisiert." However, according to the German.about.com website (http://german.about.com/library/verbs/blverb_pre01.htm), the prefix 'emp-' has the following meaning: 'sense, receive' - empfangen - to receive, empfehlen - to recommend, empfinden - to feel." This could suggest that senses appear to be attributed to the majority of prefixes that are productive in the German language. It also indicates that authors can interpret the sense(s) prefixes in different ways. One author, for example, may find that a particular prefix has a sense, while another may find the same prefix does not.

According to Günther (1974, 147), the prefix 'be-' forms a part of resultative verbs, for example, etw. besteigen, and punctual verbs, e.g. etw. betreten. As discussed in Chapter Three, such categories, known as Aktionsarten, classify verbs according to the manner of the action they describe. The verb etw. betreten, for example, refers to the precise moment in time (punctual), when a person enters a room, while etw. besteigen describes the end result (resultative) of the process of mounting a horse. The author (1974, 6) also points out that verbs featuring the prefix 'be-' are almost always transitive. Indeed, we saw earlier in the chapter how the prefix 'be-' can function to change intransitive simplex verbs into transitive complex verbs. The prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-', however, can also be seen to perform this function,
as shown in Figure 10.4. below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The prefix 'ab-'</th>
<th>äsen (intrans. SV.)</th>
<th>abäsen (trans. CV.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The prefix 'aus-'</td>
<td>backen - Sense 1. A. in ODD. - 'to bake' (intrans. SV.)</td>
<td>ausbacken (trans. CV.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The prefix 'durch-'</td>
<td>blasen - Sense 1. A. in ODD. - 'to blow' (intrans. SV.)</td>
<td>durchblasen - Sense 1 A. in ODD. - 'clear sth. by blowing through it' (trans. CV.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 10.4. How the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' can function to change an intransitive simplex verb into a transitive complex verb**

As we can see, the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-' and 'be-' can all function to change an intransitive simplex verb into a transitive complex verb. The prefix 'be-' is the only prefix of the four, however, to be found to contribute no sense to those complex verbs considered. Furthermore, we have seen that the prefix 'be-' is the only prefix of the seven chosen for study to have made no semantic contribution to any of the complex verbs considered. This does not mean, however, that the prefix could not be found to contribute sense(s) to other complex verbs. Johnson (1984, 109), for example, considers the changing senses of the prefix 'be-': "Similarly, many be-prefixed words show a considerable departure from 'to cover with', eg. 'ein Fest begehen' = 'to celebrate' (where the meaning today is an extension of the earlier 'to attend to')."
Johnson (1984, 108) discusses possible functions of the prefix: "Be- is also relatively straightforward, but care is needed because of its use in making verbs out of adjectives (be - ruhig - en, be - kräftig - en) and of its narrowing or strengthening the meaning of the simplex (be - arbeiten, be - lehren)." It is unclear what exactly Johnson means by the "narrowing of the meaning of the simplex", but in the current research, it was found that the prefix 'be-' can focus on a possible sense of the simplex verb.

As discussed in Chapter Three, some German prefixes correspond to prefixes in the English language, for example, the prefixes 'mis-' and 'un-' in the following verbs: missverstehen - 'to misunderstand' / unnatürlich - 'unnatural'. In Chapter Nine, we saw how the German prefix 'miss-' was found to correspond with the English prefix 'un-' in the verbs missglücken and misslingen which both mean 'to fail; be unsuccessful'. After studying the input of the prefix 'be-' within those complex verbs listed in Section 10.1., the English prefix 'be-' may be said to correspond with the German prefix 'be-' as both prefixes can function to change nouns into verbs, for example: der Anspruch (German noun) - beansprüchen (German verb) and 'friend' (English noun) - 'to befriend' (English verb). The findings of this chapter also show that the prefix 'be-' can convert nouns and adjectives into verbs, for example: die Absicht (noun), absichtlich (adjective) and beabsichtigen (verb). For this reason, the German prefix 'be-' may also be said to correspond with the English prefixes 'en-' and 'em-', as the following examples taken from the Oxford English Dictionary (2002, 464/5) illustrate: 'embolden' 2. (of typeface) make bold' - the adjective 'bold' has been converted into a verb by the use of the prefix 'em-', and 'to encircle' - 'to form a circle around, surround' - the noun 'circle' has been converted into a verb by the use of the prefix 'en-'.

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10.5. Conclusion

We have now studied all seven prefixes. As noted in Chapter One, my hypothesis was that one of the following would be established as a result of studying the contribution of a prefix:

1) the prefix is polysemous

2) the prefix is monosemous

3) the prefix is without a sense

In Chapter Eight, we also tested two of the seven prefixes for synonymy.

To sum up, the seven prefixes were found to demonstrate polysemy, monosemy and synonymy. The prefix 'be-' was the only prefix of the seven that was found to contribute no sense to those complex verbs selected. It is possible that, if more prefixes were chosen for analysis, examples could be found of additional prefixes which do not contribute sense to the meaning of complex verbs. The findings of the present research indicate, however, that it would be unlikely to find a prefix which provides no semantic or syntactic function within a word. For example, while the prefix 'be-' did not contribute any sense to the complex verbs studied, it was found to perform semantic / syntactic functions within the verbs considered. It would therefore appear that a prefix must perform some function in language.

In the next chapter, we will recap the list of senses that were found for the seven prefixes studied in Chapters Five to Ten. We will then use the University of Leipzig corpus in an attempt to validate a selection of senses that were identified for the prefixes in the dictionary-based study.
PHASE 2 OF THE STUDY: VALIDATION OF SENSES FOUND IN PHASE 1
11.0. Chapter Eleven: Validation of senses found in Phase 1

The aim of this chapter is to use the University of Leipzig corpus in an attempt to validate the senses found for the prefixes in Phase 1. The chapter is structured as follows: Table 1 below shows the complete range of senses that were identified for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'miss-', 'mit-' and 'be-' in the dictionary-based study. The senses found for a prefix have been listed in the order in which they were given in the relevant chapter, e.g. the senses found for the prefix 'ab-' have been listed as they were given in Chapter Five when the prefix 'ab-' was studied. An overview of Table 11.0 is given in Section 11.1. We will then attempt to establish hyponymies for the senses of the prefixes given in Table 11.0. Section 11.2. will discuss the hyponymies that are established for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-'. In Section 11.3., the methodology for the validation exercise is explained. In Section 11.4., the corpus will be used in an attempt to validate a selection of senses found for the prefixes in Phase 1. Section 11.5. will try to use the corpus to find evidence of senses of the prefixes that were not identified in the dictionary-based study. Section 11.6. will summarise the findings for the chapter. Finally, Section 11.7. concludes the chapter.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The prefix ('ab-')</th>
<th>The prefix ('aus-') continued:</th>
<th>The prefix ('durch-')</th>
<th>The prefix ('miss-')</th>
<th>The prefix ('be-')</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 senses found</td>
<td>'Until ready / done (temporal factor)'</td>
<td>3 senses found</td>
<td>1 sense found</td>
<td>No senses found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Removal'</td>
<td>'Development (with the aim of improvement)'</td>
<td>'Completeness or thoroughness'</td>
<td>Sense of sth. 'negative (wrong or bad)', often allowing the negation of the simplex verb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Doing sth. in stages / following a process'</td>
<td>'Opposite sense of simplex verb'</td>
<td>'Suffering the consequences of sth.'</td>
<td>'Creating space / an access'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Opposite sense of simplex verb'</td>
<td>'Completeens or thoroughness'</td>
<td>'Escalation into a negative situation'</td>
<td>'A continuous process'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Working through sth. with endurance towards achieving an aim'</td>
<td>'Crossing a figurative boundary'</td>
<td>'Aim of recovery / preservation'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'An ongoing, strenuous activity'</td>
<td>'Working with attention to detail'</td>
<td>'Use of numerical data'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Change (revision / improvement) to a certain point or extent'</td>
<td>'Conversion from present state into sth. different'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Improvement'</td>
<td>'Searching for sth.'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Until separate from the tin'</td>
<td>'Expansion'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'Bringing sth. up to the surface level'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11.0. The complete range of senses identified for the prefixes \('ab-'\), \('aus-'\), \('durch-'\), \('miss-'\), \('mit-'\) and \('be-'\) in the dictionary-based study
11.1. Overview of Table 11.0.

Table 11.0. above shows us the complete range of senses identified for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'miss-', 'mit-' and 'be-' in the dictionary-based study. The table shows us that some of the polysemous prefixes were found to contribute more senses than others. For example, the table shows that the prefix 'aus-' was found to be more polysemous than the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-', as it contributed a total of fifteen senses to the eleven complex verbs studied. The prefix 'durch-' was found to be the least polysemous of the three prefixes, as it was found to contribute three senses to those complex verbs studied.

Using the information presented in Table 1, we will now attempt to establish hyponymies for the senses identified for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' in Phase One. By establishing a hyponymy for the senses identified for each prefix, we will be able to see evidence of any patterns / relationships demonstrated by the senses of the prefix. We can then use the findings of this section to understand more about the senses of these prefixes, and how they may demonstrate possible patterns / relationships. This will help us in Chapter Twelve when we attempt to establish a characterization for the collective range of senses identified for the prefixes.
Fig. 11.1. HYPONYMY FOR THE SENSES OF THE PREFIX 'AB-' (arrows point to hyponyms of superordinate)
Fig. 11.1.1. HYPONYMY FOR THE SENSES OF THE PREFIX 'AUS.' (arrows point to hyponyms of superordinate)
Fig. 11.1.2. HYPONYMY FOR THE SENSES OF THE PREFIX ‘DURCH-‘ (arrows point to hyponyms of superordinate)
11.2. Discussion of 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' hyponymies

We can see that it was possible to establish hyponymies for the senses identified for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus' and 'durch' in Phase One. Let us now consider the hyponymies that were established for the prefixes. As noted in Chapter Two, hyponymies are relationships of inclusion, and a hyponym will be more specific than its superordinate. The hyponymy established for the senses of the prefix 'ab-', for example, demonstrates how the sense of 'Doing something in stages / following a process' can include the more specific senses of 'Change (revision/improvement) to a certain point / extent' and 'Removal' (the process of removal of something from somewhere). The hyponymy established for the senses of the prefix 'aus-' also shows us how some senses identified for the prefix are more specific than others. For example, the sense of 'Crossing a figurative boundary' can cover / include the more specific senses of 'Escalation into a negative situation' (the figurative boundary that is crossed when something becomes a negative situation), 'Completeness / thoroughness' (crossing a figurative line from being incomplete to demonstrating completeness / thoroughness) and 'Suffering the consequences of something' (when a figurative line is crossed, people sometimes have to suffer the consequences of a negative / destructive action). As noted in Chapter Seven, three senses were identified for the prefix 'durch-' in the dictionary-based study. This number is not as great as that identified for the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-. However, the three senses found for the prefix 'durch-' were still found to form a hyponymy. As we saw, for example, the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' is the superordinate of the sense of 'Creating space / an access' (the complete absence of any obstruction) and the sense of 'A continuous process' (the completeness / thoroughness of a process).

By establishing hyponymies for the senses of the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' we are able to see how these senses are connected. Some senses were more specific than others, but all senses identified for each prefix were found to form a part of a hyponymy. This indicates that the senses identified for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' in the dictionary-based study demonstrate patterns / relationships.
In the next section, we will use the University of Leipzig corpus of German in an attempt to validate a selection of these senses that were identified in Phase One of the study.
11.3. Methodology for the validation exercise

The validation exercise will be conducted as follows: approximately three to four senses of each of the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' will be chosen for validation from the list of senses of the prefixes given in Table 1. The Gegensinn senses of the prefixes have not been included in Table 1 as complex verbs demonstrating Gegensinn were not investigated in the same way as the sets of eleven complex verbs featuring the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-'.

A total of eleven senses will be validated, covering a range of senses of the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-'. By validating several senses contributed by each of the three prefixes, we will be able to observe how the prefixes can contribute various senses to complex verbs. We will also validate a single sense that was found to be contributed by a prefix to more than one complex verb. In this way, we will be able to observe how various senses or indeed a single sense, can be contributed by a prefix to different complex verbs.

The monosemous prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-' will not be included as part of the study as it is not felt any meaningful linguistic / collocational patterns will be evident for these prefixes as they are each only contributing one constant sense to the complex verbs of which they form a part. (The linguistic / collocational patterns of a complex verb will need to be examined as part of the validation exercise). The prefix 'er-' will also not be selected as the range of senses for this prefix within various complex verbs was not examined in the same way as for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-'. The prefix 'be-' will not be included in the validation exercise as it was not found to contribute any sense(s) to those complex verbs studied in Chapter Ten. The prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-', however, were found to contribute several senses to those complex verbs studied.

As noted in Chapter Four, the University of Leipzig corpus will be used for the validation exercise as it contains 35 million sentences and 500 million words in current use in the German language. For each sense selected for validation, the
University of Leipzig corpus will be consulted to find evidence of the prefix contributing to the complex verb, the sense identified in the dictionary-based study. Between one and five examples which are thought to show the prefix contributing the sense will be chosen from the list generated by the corpus. A maximum of five examples will be chosen for each sense as this is considered to be an appropriate number for the purpose of the study. Analysis of the examples will involve looking for collocational patterns, shared semantic fields or typical objects / subjects of the verb. Such patterns could support the view that the prefix is contributing the particular sense to the complex verb. If only one example of the prefix contributing a particular sense is found, this single example will still be analysed.

11.4. Validation of senses using the corpus

**Validation of senses found for the prefix 'ab-':**

1) The sense of 'Working through sth. with endurance towards achieving an aim' as contributed by the prefix 'ab-' to the complex verb *abarbeiten*

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix 'ab-' may contribute the sense of 'Working through sth. with endurance towards achieving an aim' to the complex verb *abarbeiten*.

a) France Télécom selbst muss einen Schuldenberg von 65 Mrd. Euro *abarbeiten* und will sein Engagement bei Mobilcom so schnell wie möglich beenden. (Quelle: *Die Welt Online*)
b) "Nächste Woche bekomme ich meine Aufenthaltserlaubnis und dann werde ich meine Schulden **abarbeiten**", sagt Paez, "wir sind noch einmal davongekommen." *(Quelle: Die Welt Online)*

c) **Arrondissement zwischen dem Boulevard Masséna und den Avenue Choisy und Ivry**, der trifft immer wieder auf Chinesen, die mit Aushilfsjobs ihre Schulden **abarbeiten**. *(Quelle: DIE WELT 2001)*

d) Bernstein: Dann hätten wir einen Weg gefunden, **wie er diese Schulden abarbeiten** kann. *(Quelle: Die Welt 2001)*

e) **Frische Fische auf der Straße, moderne Sklaven, die in Keller-Nähereien ihre Schulden bei ihrem Schleuser abarbeiten**, smarte Mafiosi mit Handys, die alles unter Kontrolle haben. *(Quelle: Junge Welt 1999)*

The examples above are all concerned with the semantic field of 'finance'. In each of the sentences, the verb **abarbeiten** may be seen to take either the noun **Schulden** or the noun **Schuldenberg** as a direct object. The noun **Schulden** has the sense 'debt', and the noun **Schuldenberg** means 'pile of debts'. In each of these sentences, the verb **abarbeiten** is describing the aim of clearing such debts, by **working through them** with endurance / perseverance. Once debts have accumulated, endurance will be required in order to remove them. In some of the sentences, the sense of working through **hardship** in order to remove the debt is also indicated by the use of the following words: Sentence c): **Chinesen, die mit Aushilfsjobs ihre Schulden abarbeiten**, Sentence d) **einen Weg gefunden, wie er diese Schulden abarbeiten kann**. Sentence d) is describing how a way (in the sense of a solution) has been found to clear the debt, and therefore escape the hardship of being in debt. The sense of working through hardship is also described in Sentence e): **moderne Sklaven, die in Keller-Nähereien ihre Schulden bei ihrem Schleuser abarbeiten**. The words **moderne Sklaven**, **Keller-Nähereien** and **Schleuser** all describe the sense of hardship and working in difficult conditions at the mercy of someone.
As identified in Chapter Five, the simplex verb *arbeiten* has the sense 'to work'. The above examples taken from the corpus demonstrate how, within the complex verb *abarbeiten*, the prefix 'ab-' can contribute the sense of 'working through sth. (e.g. the hardship of being in debt) with endurance with the aim of clearing / removing the debt'.

Rich (2003, 165) also notes how the prefix 'ab-' can demonstrate the sense of working through something with difficulty:

A müht, quält sich ab (bis zur Erschöpfung) A - Person; Man. - durch Anstrengung; t2 - längere Zeit; ab- im Übermaß (herunter). Beispiele: 1. Ich (A) arbeite mich ab, und du schaust zu (längere Zeit in Übermaß arbeiten, sich abplagen). 2. Ich (A) astete mich mit dem Koffer ab (sich längere Zeit hindurch mit etw. abplagen. Er hat ganz schön asten müssen (sich sehr anstrengen).

Rich (2003, 165)

2) The sense of 'Until separate from the tin' as contributed by the prefix 'ab-' to the complex verb *abbaken*

The following example has been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not it demonstrates how the prefix 'ab-' may contribute the sense of 'Until separate from the tin' to the complex verb *abbaken.*

*a) Eine marokkanische Hausfrau, die etwas auf sich hält, bereitet den Brotteig selbst zu und läßt ihn nur abbaken.* (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 1996)

It was noted in Chapter Five that the simplex verb *backen* has the sense 'to bake'. In Chapter Five, it was also found that the prefix 'ab-' contributed the sense of 'Until separate from the tin' to the complex verb *abbaken*. The example taken from the
corpus describes how someone is leaving the bread dough to 'bake' (the sense provided by the simplex verb *baken*), until the bread *comes away from the sides of the baking tin*. By comparing the sense of the simplex verb *backen* with that of the complex verb *abbacken*, it can therefore be seen that the prefix 'ab-' is contributing the sense of 'Until separate from the tin' to the complex verb *abbacken*.

3) The sense of 'Removal' as contributed by the prefix 'ab-' to the complex verb *abbeißen*

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix 'ab-' may contribute the sense of 'Removal' to the complex verb *abbeißen*.

a) *Sollte der jährzornige Schwergewichtler wieder mal ein Stück Ohr abbeißen, statt zu boxen — wie 1997 beim WM–Kampf gegen Evander Holyfield —, kann der Geschädigte bald auf medizinische Hilfe aus dem Reagenzglas zählen. (Quelle: Die Zeit 1999)*

b) *Boxer sind keine brutalen Naturen, auch wenn sie zwischendurch ein Ohrläppchen abbeißen. (Quelle: FREITAG 2000)*

c) *"Ich gehe nicht so weit, daß ich Ralf ein Ohr abbeißen würde", sagte der WM–Favorit über die familiäre Konkurrenz in Anspielung auf die Beißattacken des Skandal–Boxers Mike Tyson. (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 1997)*

d) *Giuliani sei eben die verbissen kämpfende Bulldogge, der seinem Gegner auch schon Mal das Ohr abbeißen würde. (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 1999)*
All four sentences share the semantic field of 'sport (boxing)'. As can be seen, in Sentences a) - d) the nouns *Ohr / Ohrläppchen* are direct objects of the verb *abbeißen*. All of the sentences describe the action of the *removal* of an ear / earlobe as a result of foul play in the boxing ring. The sense of violence in the boxing ring is also conveyed by the use of the following words in Sentences a) - d): Sentence a) *der Geschädigte*, Sentence b) *brutalen Naturen*, Sentence c) (*in Anspielung auf*) *die Beißattacken des Skandal-Boxers Mike Tyson* and Sentence d) *kämpfende Bulldogge*.

As noted in Chapter Two, Jackson (1988, 65) observes how the meaning of a word as given in a dictionary provides only an indication of its meaning potential: "only in a linguistic and situational context is the meaning actualised". This comment describes how the full meaning of a word, including any connotations it may have, can only be seen when the word is used in context. For example, the complex verb *abbeißen* could be said to gain negative connotations when used with the direct object *Ohr / Ohrläppchen*. In contrast, when used in the phrase *den Käse abbeißen*, the complex verb *abbeißen* does not appear to gain any negative connotations.

To sum up, as noted in Chapter Five, a sense of the simplex verb *beißen* is 'to bite' and the complex verb *abbeißen* has the sense 'to bite off'. The above examples taken from the corpus show how the prefix 'ab-' has contributed the sense of 'Removal' to the complex verb *abbeißen* which describes *removing sth.* by way of *biting it off*. The sense of 'removal' can be seen in the way a part of the ear / earlobe is being removed from the ear as a whole (e.g. the hearing organ consisting of an inner, middle and outer part), or in the way the ear / earlobe is being removed from the (in this case human) body as a whole.
Validation of senses found for the prefix 'aus-':

1) The sense of 'Escalation into a negative situation' as contributed by the prefix 'aus-' to the complex verb ausarten

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix 'aus-' may contribute the sense of 'Escalation into a negative situation' to the complex verb ausarten.

a) Konfliktlotsen können als schlichtende Dritte bei Streitigkeiten hinzugerufen werden, Ziel ist die Verhinderung einer Eskalation, die in Gewalt ausarten würde. (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 2001)

b) Mit dieser Formel werden nur Stimmungen erzeugt, die früher oder später nicht mehr durchschaubar sind und letztlich immer in Gewalt ausarten werden. (Quelle: Junge Freiheit 2000)

c) Gerner: Sie haben keinerlei Sorge, dass es an der einen oder anderen Stelle in Gewalt ausarten könnte? (Quelle: Die Zeit 2002)

The above examples taken from the corpus show how the complex verb ausarten occurs with the prepositional object in Gewalt. Sentence a) describes how it is hoped that violence will be avoided, Sentences b) and c) express the fear that violence could be inevitable. As noted in Chapter Six, there is no input from the simplex verb arten to the complex verb ausarten, but there is possible input from the related noun and adjective forms: the noun die Artigkeit meaning 'courteousness, pleasantness' and the adjective artig meaning 'well-behaved, good'. As the complex verb ausarten has the sense 'to degenerate; become unruly', the prefix 'aus-' is contributing the sense of the deterioration / worsening of the present 'good behaviour' as indicated by the adjective artig, causing the current situation to escalate into a negative one.
The above examples therefore show how the prefix 'aus-' can contribute the sense of 'Escalation into a negative situation' to the complex verb *ausarten* when used with the prepositional object *Gewalt*.

Durrell (2002, 428) note a possible sense of the preposition 'aus': "aus most commonly denotes direction 'out of' or 'from' a place". The findings of this chapter suggest that the prefix 'aus-' can be said to demonstrate the sense of 'out of' in a figurative sense: to act *out of* the figurative boundaries of what is considered good / reasonable behaviour, with the result that the current situation escalates into a negative one.

2) The sense of 'Removal' as contributed by the prefix 'aus-' to the complex verb *ausatmen*

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix 'aus-' may contribute the sense of 'Removal' to the complex verb *ausatmen*.

a) *Dann mitzählen, wie oft sie in einer Minute ein- und ausatmen.* (Quelle: *BILD* 2000)

b) *Einatmen, ausatmen.* (Quelle: *Süddeutsche Online*)

c) *Wenn Sie immer nach drei Schritten ein- und nach drei weiteren ausatmen,* bleiben Sie automatisch langsam, und die Fettverbrennung fängt gleich an. (Quelle: *Die Zeit* 2001)

d) *Wenn man eingeatmet hat, muss man auch wieder ausatmen:* Wer lange am Stück hat arbeiten müssen, muss das natürlich durch Ruhe und Erholung kompensieren. (Quelle: *Die Welt* 2002)
It was noted in Chapter Six that the simplex verb *atmen* describes the process of respiration made up of inhalation (*einatmen*) and exhalation (*ausatmen*). The prefix 'aus-' was found to contribute the sense of the completion of this ongoing cycle, marked by the removal of air from the body. In Sentences a) - e), the verb *ausatmen* occurs with the verb *einatmen* as a collocate. The verbs *ein-* and *ausatmen* describe two actions which normally occur together: *inhalation*, which, if life is to be sustained, must be followed by *exhalation*. This is even explicitly stated in Sentence d): *Wenn man eingeatmet hat, muss man auch wieder ausatmen.*

The verb *ausatmen* is intransitive and describes part of the respiration process. It can be seen that Sentences a) - e) each describe a living person / creature. It is presumed that Sentences c) and d) are describing exhalation as carried out by human beings. For example, Sentence c) describes engaging in physical exercise for the purpose of fat reduction, which is an activity that is normally carried out by human beings, and Sentence d) uses the pronoun (*wenn*) *man*. Sentence e) is the only sentence which is clearly describing how animals (chimpanzees) breathe.

It can therefore be concluded from the above examples taken from the corpus, that the co-occurrence of the verb *ausatmen* with the verb *einatmen* as a collocate indicates the actions of *inhalation* and *exhalation* as part of the ongoing respiration process / cycle.

3) The sense of 'Suffering the consequences of sth.' as contributed by the prefix 'aus-' to the complex verb *ausbaden*

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix 'aus-' may contribute the sense of 'Suffering the consequences of sth.' to the complex verb *ausbaden.*
a) "Die Krankenversicherung finanziert keine Vorsorge, weil sie die Folgen nicht ausbaden muss. (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 2000)

b) Ein Sprecher von "Pro Famillia": "Frauen müssen die Folgen dieser Unsicherheit ausbaden. (Quelle: BILD 1999)

c) Die Länder müssten die Folgen aus einer verfehlten Sanierungspolitik der Bahn ausbaden, sagte er. (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 2001)

d) In Alvin Rakoffs Feuer-Thriller müssen prominente Mimen (Henry Fonda, Ava Gardner) die Folgen ausbaden. (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 1997)

e) "Die Folgen des Crashkurses muß der nächste Senat ausbaden." (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 1998)

It was noted in Chapter Six that the simplex verb baden has the following senses: 1 A) 'have or take a bath', B) 'bathe; swim', 2) 'bath {child, patient}; bathe {wound, face, eye etc.}'. The prefix 'aus-' was found to contribute the sense of 'Suffering the consequences of sth.' to the complex verb ausbaden.

In all of the five sentences, the direct object of the verb ausbaden is the noun Folgen. The sentences describe a negative situation / circumstance and how it now has to be dealt with: ausbaden - 'to take the rap for (coll.)', e.g. to take responsibility for dealing with the damage / harm caused and left behind by someone else. For example, Sentence b) describes "die Folgen dieser Unsicherheit". Sentence c) describes how the consequences of a "verfehlten Sanierungspolitik der Bahn" must now be dealt with. Similarly, Sentence e) discusses how the Senate must deal with the consequences of a crash course. The term 'crash course' could have negative implications as it implies that the course was done rapidly and as a result may not have been properly / efficiently designed or carried out. This has therefore led to consequences which must now be dealt with. It can be seen that Sentence a) also describes a negative situation to be dealt with, as it describes how the health
insurance company does not finance any provisions, as it is not liable in the event of a claim. It was observed that in all sentences, the verb *ausbaden* was found to occur with the modal verb *müssen*. This is because the verb *ausbaden* describes something that someone *has to / must* take responsibility for or bear the consequences of.

Eichinger (2000, 236) also considers the complex verb *ausbaden*: "Beim Neutratyp wird ein Abschluß, ein Ergebnis genannt, das exteriorisierte Folge der Basishandlung ist. Es geht hier um Verben wie die folgenden: resultativer Neutratyp: ausbaden, ausbezahlten, ausdauern, ausheilen, auslernen, austrocknen." The prefix *'aus-'* is therefore forming a part of the resultative verb *ausbaden*. Indeed, it is at the end of an action / event that the consequences *remain to be dealt with*.

To recap, it can be seen from the examples taken from the corpus that the verb *ausbaden* is found to occur with the noun *Folgen*. In such cases, the verb *ausbaden* was often found to describe the process of dealing with the consequences of an action.

4) The sense of 'Development (with the aim of improvement)' as contributed by the prefix *'aus-'* to the complex verb *ausbaggern*

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix *'aus-'* may contribute the sense of 'Development (with the aim of improvement)' to the complex verb *ausbaggern*.

a) "Wir wollen in diesem Jahr das alte Hafenbecken *ausbaggern*, damit die Fischtrawler im nächsten Winter dort liegen", berichtet Secander. (Quelle: DIE WELT 2000)

b) *Kanäle ausbaggern*. (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 1998)
c) Das Grünflächenamt läßt in den kommenden Wochen das Wasser auspumpen und den Schlamm ausbaggern, der den Teich fast bis zum Rand füllt. (Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 1999)

d) Kubikmeter dieses Problemschlamms müssen die Hafenbehörden jährlich ausbaggern, um den Schiffsbetrieb aufrecht erhalten zu können. (Quelle: TAZ 1987)

The four examples taken from the corpus share the semantic field of 'water'. For example, Sentence a) features the nouns Hafenbecken / Fischtrawler, Sentence b): the noun Kanäle, Sentence c): the nouns das Wasser / den Teich and Sentence d): Hafenbehörden. Sentences c) and d) also feature the noun (Problem) Schlamm. It can also be seen that only Sentence d) mentions the concept of space: Kubikmeter, while Sentences a), c) and d) all mention the concept of 'time' when referring to the action described by the complex verb ausbaggern, for example, Sentence a): in diesem Jahr, Sentence c): in den kommenden Wochen and Sentence d): jährlich.

As the simplex verb baggern has the sense 'to excavate; dredge', the prefix 'aus-' can be seen in the above examples to contribute the sense of 'Development (with the aim of improvement)' to the following senses of the complex verb: B) (säubern) dredge {channel, river bed etc.}; C) (herausholen) dredge up {mud, detritus, etc.}. For example, Sentence a) describes how the harbour basin is to be dredged so that the trawlers can tie up there the following winter. Sentence d) also describes how the harbour authorities need, on an annual basis, to dredge some cubic meters of problem mud (Problemschlamm) so that the ships can safely berth.
Validation of senses found for the prefix 'durch-':

1) The sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' as contributed by the prefix 'durch-' to the complex verb durchackern

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix 'durch-' may contribute the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' to the complex verb durchackern.

a) 'Wir müssen das ganze Vertragswerk genau durchackern und abwarten, ob Franchise wirklich das richtige ist.' (Quelle: Süddeutsche Zeitung 1995)

The above example taken from the corpus has the semantic field of 'business'. In Sentences a) the noun Vertragswerk is a direct object of the verb durchackern. The sentences describe how the material contained in the treaty / agreement must be completely / thoroughly read through.

The simplex verb ackern has the sense 'to work hard / slog one’s guts out'. The prefix 'durch-' contributes the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' to the complex verb which describes working hard by ploughing through / going through sth., in this case the written material contained in the contract / treaty. Durrell (2002, 515) also notes: "Durch- always expresses the idea of 'through', whether separable or inseparable."

Indeed, we saw in Chapter Seven how the prefix 'durch-' can contribute a number of senses including the sense of 'completeness / thoroughness'. For example, if a verb indicates the sense of moving / passing 'through' something else, it is describing completely / thoroughly passing through it.
2) The sense of 'A continuous process' as contributed by the prefix 'durch-' to the complex verb *durcharbeiten*

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix 'durch-' may contribute the sense of 'A continuous process' to the complex verb *durcharbeiten*.

a) "Wir werden notfalls heute Nacht *durcharbeiten*, kündigte der Minister an. (Quelle: Die Welt Online)

b) "Dass manche aber nachts *durcharbeiten* müssen, um ihre Systeme auf Euro umzustellen, sehe ich schon." (Quelle: DIE WELT 2001)

c) Selbst ohne Unfall müssen wir Tag und Nacht *durcharbeiten*, um alles pünktlich verpackt zu haben." (Quelle: DIE WELT 2001)

d) So kann der Roboter Tag und Nacht *durcharbeiten* und das mit einer Putzgeschwindigkeit von bis zu 120 Quadratmeter pro Stunde. (Quelle: DIE WELT 2000)

e) 'Das hat mir damals besonders Spaß gemacht, obwohl wir Tage und Nächte *durcharbeiten* mußten.' (Quelle: Süddeutsche Zeitung 1995)

It can be seen from the above sentences that all examples taken from the corpus share the concept of 'time' as a semantic field. The sentences each describe *working continuously* throughout the day and / or night to achieve sth. For example, Sentences c), d) and e) have the phrase "Tag und Nacht / Tage und Nächte" (indicating duration) as an immediate collocate of the verb *durcharbeiten*, and Sentences a) and b) have the adverb "nacht / nachts" as an immediate collocate. It can therefore be
seen that the simplex verb *arbeiten* is providing the sense of 'working' and the prefix *durch-'* is contributing the sense of 'throughout / continuously' to the complex verb *durcharbeiten*, for example: *nachts durcharbeiten / Tag und Nacht durcharbeiten.*

3) The sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' as contributed by the prefix *'durch-'* to the complex verb *durchatmen*

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix *'durch-'* may contribute the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' to the complex verb *durchatmen.*

a) *Luft holen, durchatmen.* (Quelle: DIE WELT 2001)

b) *Noch einmal richtig Luft holen und durchatmen für den Endspurt in der Vorbereitung hieß die Devise.* (Quelle: Schweriner Volkszeitung Online)

It was noted in Chapter Seven that the simplex verb *atmen* has the sense 'to breathe'. The complex verb *durchatmen* was found to have the sense 'to take a deep breath; breathe deeply'. The prefix *'durch-'* was therefore found to contribute the sense of 'completeness / thoroughness' to the complex verb *durchatmen.*

The two examples above show how the verb *durchatmen* can occur with the verb phrase "*Luft holen"*. In both examples, the sentences describe the inhalation of air for the purpose that oxygen would then be circulated throughout the body which would require *deep breathing: durchatmen* - 'to take a deep breath / breathe deeply'. For example, Sentence b) describes the respiration cycle and how breath is drawn before being circulated throughout the body. The next stage in the sequence would be the exhalation of air as part of the ongoing breathing process. In the complex verb *durchatmen*, the prefix *'durch-'* is describing breathing deeply / allowing oxygen to circulate *throughout* the body. The prefix is therefore contributing the sense of
'completeness / thoroughness' to this verb.

4) The sense of 'Creating space / an access' as contributed by the prefix 'durch-' to the complex verb durchblasen

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix 'durch-' may contribute the sense of 'Creating space / an access' to the complex verb durchblasen.

a) "Das ist dafür da, dass der Wind durchblasen kann", erklärt ein Ordner, "nur dann lässt sich die Fahne doch erst richtig schwenken. (Quelle: Die Welt 2002)

b) Die See riechen, fühlen, schmecken, das Hirn durchblasen und die Seele baumeln lassen bis zu den Kniekehlen, trunken vom Feuer der Karibik und der Leichtigkeit des Seins, vogelfrei in der blauen Endlosigkeit zwischen Meer und Himmel. (Quelle: DIE WELT 2001)

It can be observed that in Sentence a), the subject of the verb durchblasen is the noun Wind. The same noun was given as an example of a subject of the verb durchblasen in Chapter Six when the senses of the verb as found in the Oxford Duden Dictionary were discussed: durchblasen - C) (durchdringen) {wind} blow right through {person}. Sentence a) describes how the flag features a device which allows it to properly flap around in the wind: Das ist dafür da, dass der Wind durchblasen kann. In this sentence, the verb durchblasen can be seen to describe how the wind literally blows through something: the material fibres of the flag, thereby causing it to flap around. In Sentence b), the verb durchblasen is being used in a figurative sense: Die See riechen, fühlen, schmecken, das Hirn durchblasen (the sea is creating a figurative path / access as it blows figuratively speaking through someone’s mind, making way for the ideas / thoughts that it brings with it as it creates a figurative train of thought).
The two examples therefore show how the sense of 'Creating space / an access' is contributed by the prefix 'durch-' in both a literal and a figurative sense to the complex verb durchblasen.

11.5. Senses of the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' identified by using the corpus

The senses of the complex verbs that were validated in Section 11.4. will now be revisited to find evidence of any senses that were not identified for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-' in the dictionary-based study. For each prefix, one complex verb will be randomly selected from the complex verbs studied in Chapters Five to Ten. The University of Leipzig corpus will then be consulted to try to find evidence of at least one previously unidentified sense of the prefix. The aim of the exercise is to try to see if the corpus can be used to find evidence of senses of the prefixes that were not identified in the dictionary-based study.

As in the previous section, between one and five examples of the prefix contributing a sense to a complex verb will be provided. This is thought to be a sufficient number of examples for analysis as it is neither too small nor too large a number. Examples will be selected which appear to demonstrate a particular linguistic / collocational pattern. Such patterns may support the view that the prefix is contributing the particular sense to the verb.
1) Sense found for the prefix 'ab-

'Doing sth. in stages / following a process' as contributed by the prefix 'ab-' to the complex verb arbeiten

The following examples taken from the corpus will be analysed to see whether or not they show how the prefix 'ab-' may contribute the sense of 'Doing sth. in stages / following a process' to the complex verb arbeiten:

a) Er meint: "Jeder Jumbo-Pilot muss doch vor dem Start eine Checkliste arbeiten." (Quelle: Süddeutsche Online)

b) Nun will Sinner die Prioritätenliste der Bürger Schritt für Schritt arbeiten. (Quelle: Süddeutsche Online)

c) "Unsere Forscher sollen keine Liste arbeiten, sondern überlegen, welche Lösungen man auf der Basis der vorhandenen Plattformen entwickeln könnte", sagt Klingn. (Quelle: Süddeutsche Online)

d) Die Jury muß noch eine lange Kandidatenliste arbeiten. (Quelle: BILD 1999)

e) Das KVR konnte deshalb nicht die komplette Wellen-Liste arbeiten. (Quelle: Süddeutsche Online)

All five examples feature the noun (Check / Prioritäten / Kandidaten / Wellen) Liste as a direct object of the verb arbeiten. The sense of 'Working through sth. / following a process' can also be seen in the other words used in the sentences, for example: Sentence b) Schritt für Schritt arbeiten, Sentence d) lange Kandidatenliste arbeiten and Sentence e) die komplette Wellen–Liste arbeiten.
As noted in Chapter Five, the simplex verb *arbeiten* has the sense 'to work', the prefix *'ab'* was therefore found to contribute the sense of 'Doing sth. in stages / following a process' to this complex verb. The above examples taken from the corpus show how the prefix *'ab'* can describe working through a process. According to Durrell (2002, 211), the prefix *'ab'* can also demonstrate the sense of completion: "ab- (iii) completing an action *ab*dr"ehren switch off *abl"auen wear out (i.e. shoes)."

2) Sense found for the prefix *'aus'*

'Expulsion of negative emotions from the body' as contributed by the prefix *'aus'* to the complex verb *ausatmen*.

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix *'aus'* can contribute the sense of the 'Expulsion of negative emotions from the body' to the complex verb *ausatmen*:

a) "*Stelle Dir vor, beim Einatmen, 'stark-, beim Ausatmen 'frei- zu sein- frei von allem, was belastet.*" (Quelle: TAZ 1995)

b) "*Bei Anspannung ausatmen, bei Entspannung einatmen*, befohl sie, und ich gehorchte ihr, so gut ich konnte. (Quelle: Die Welt 2001)

c) "*Beim Belasten ausatmen, beim Entlasten einatmen*, mahnt Diplomsportlehrer Jürgen beim Probetraining. (Quelle: Stuttgarter Zeitung 1995)
The simplex verb *atmen* has the sense 'to breathe; respire'. Sentences a) to c) all describe the expulsion from the body of negative emotions felt as a result of emotional or physical stress/pressure. The negative emotions are expelled from the body by breathing out. Sentence a), for example, describes how breathing out gets rid of emotional strain/distress: "beim Ausatmen 'frei- zu sein- frei von allem, was belastet." Sentence b) also describes breathing out when put under strain, presumably so as to help get rid of the feelings of stress/pressure one is feeling. Sentence c) describes the opposite actions of *breathing out* when something is weighing on one's mind / there is a burden to deal with, and *breathing in* when experiencing some kind of relief. The prefix 'aus-' can therefore be seen to contribute the sense of the 'Explosion of negative emotions from the body' to the simplex verb *atmen*.

3) Sense found for the prefix 'durch-'

'With relief' as contributed by the prefix 'durch-' to the complex verb *durchatmen*

The following examples have been taken from the corpus in order to investigate whether or not they demonstrate how the prefix 'durch-' can contribute the sense 'With relief' to the complex verb *durchatmen*:

a) *Wenn die Agenda 2000 geschafft ist, kann Schröder erst einmal durchatmen.* *(Quelle: Berliner Zeitung 1998)*

b) *Nach diesem wichtigen Sieg können wir erst einmal durchatmen.* *(Quelle: Der Spiegel ONLINE)*
These examples both show how the complex verb *durchatmen* can have the sense of 'breathing with relief', e.g. after something is achieved. The semantic field for each sentence is not clear, although it is presumed that Sentence a) concerns politics. Sentence b) could also concern politics / business. The sense of relief after achieving something important / perhaps difficult to attain can be seen in the words used in each sentence, e.g. Sentence a): *wenn die Agenda 2000 geschafft ist* (there is a risk that it might not be achieved, therefore it might be something that is difficult to attain), Sentence b) *nach diesem wichtigen Sieg*. In both sentences, the verb *durchatmen* occurs with the phrase "*erst einmal*" as a left collocate. This indicates a linguistic pattern as both sentences describe starting to be at ease, and being able to breathe with relief for the first time / to first of all start to breathe with relief after something is achieved: *erst einmal durchatmen*.

As noted in Chapter Seven, according to the Oxford Duden Dictionary, the simplex verb *atmen* has the sense 'to breathe'. The examples taken from the corpus show how the prefix 'durch-' can contribute the sense of 'With relief' to the complex verb *durchatmen* which can indicate the sense 'to breathe with relief'.

11.6. Discussion of findings

The dictionary-based analysis of Phase 1, and the corpus-based validation of Phase Two in this chapter were both valuable. The dictionary-based study, for example, allowed the use of analysis in determining the senses of a prefix. The corpus exercise was also useful as it allowed us to examine numerous examples of usage of a complex verb as it occurs in the German language. By studying the complete sentence, e.g. *context*, in which a complex verb is found, we could show how the prefix contributes a particular sense to the complex verb in question. We were also able to find examples of senses of the prefixes that had not been identified in Phase 1 of the study. This was because the corpus allowed us to study the use of the complex verbs in *context*. By doing this, it was possible to look for *contextual clues* as to the possible sense(s) of the prefix. A prefix can indicate a particular sense depending on the context, i.e. sentence, in which it is used. We could therefore validate the sense of
a prefix by looking at the context in which the complex verb featuring the prefix was found.

Let us now consider how we may find a unified meaning at an abstract level (potential) for all the senses identified for the prefixes thus far:

At an abstract level:

- The senses of the prefixes describe the idea of movement / progression in either a literal or a figurative sense.

For example:

in a figurative sense - progression onwards / forwards

- e.g. the sense of 'An ongoing, strenuous activity' as contributed by the prefix 'ab-' to the complex verb *abasten*

in a literal sense

- e.g. movement forwards, backwards, up, down, sideways. For example, the sense of 'Creating space / an access' as contributed by the prefix 'durch-' to complex verbs such as *durchbekommen*.

- the senses could also be said to describe either a 'positive' or a 'negative' situation / outcome. For example, the sense of 'Improvement' as contributed by the prefix 'ab-' to the complex verb *abätzen*, (positive outcome), as compared with the sense of
'Escalation into a negative situation' as contributed by the prefix 'aus-' to the complex verb ausbaden, (negative outcome).

These findings show how the senses of a prefix can be induced by the context in which a complex verb is found. We have also seen how it is possible to find a more unified meaning for the senses of the prefixes at an abstract level (potential) that is then realised in different ways in context.

11.7. Conclusion

This chapter has shown how the corpus may be used to validate the findings of the dictionary-based study. It has also been possible to see how the corpus may be used to find evidence of previously unidentified senses of the prefixes. We noted earlier how the validation exercise allows us to find evidence of the possible senses contributed by a prefix by observing the context in which the complex verb featuring the prefix is found. By studying the context in which a complex verb is found, we can learn more about the sense contributed by the prefix to the word. Patterns such as a particular direct object or semantic field, for example, could be used to identify a particular sense that the prefix is contributing to the complex verb. For example, just as the implied sense of a polysemous word may be identified by looking at the collocational patterns of the word within the sentence, the sense of the prefix may be identified by looking at the various linguistic / collocational patterns within the sentence of which it forms a part. This is also a useful exercise as many prefixes, including the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-' and 'durch-', are highly polysemous, though some more so than others. As noted earlier, for example, the prefix 'aus-' was found to have more senses than were found for the prefixes 'ab-' and 'durch-' in Chapters Five and Seven.

As pointed out in Chapter Two, the research also aimed to investigate whether or not it is possible for a prefix to contribute a particular sense to both the literal and figurative sense(s) of the complex verb of which it forms a part. We saw that this was
possible, for example, in the case of the prefix 'durch-' contributing the sense of 'Creating space / an access' in both a literal and a figurative sense to the literal and figurative senses of the complex verb _durchblasen_.

In this chapter, we have been able to examine the findings of Phase 1 of the study. It is possible that, if additional prefixes and complex verbs were studied in a dictionary-based analysis such as that carried out in Phase 1, we could also validate the senses found for these prefixes using a corpus. This chapter has therefore shown us how it is possible to use a corpus to validate the senses found for a prefix in a dictionary-based study.

The following chapter will analyse the findings of the research carried out in the thesis.
PHASE 3 OF THE STUDY:
ESTABLISHING A CHARACTERIZATION
FOR THE RANGE OF SENSES IDENTIFIED
FOR THE SEVEN PREFIXES
12.0. Chapter Twelve: Discussion and analysis of findings

In Chapter Eleven we saw how the corpus could be used to validate senses found for the prefixes in the dictionary-based study. The present chapter will discuss the findings of Chapters Five to Eleven, and will attempt to establish a characterization for the complete range of senses identified for the seven prefixes in Phase One. By establishing a characterization, we would demonstrate how the senses identified for the prefixes show patterns and relationships.

The chapter will be structured as follows: Section 12.1. will discuss the senses of the seven prefixes within complex verbs sharing a simplex verb. This will allow us to compare the contribution of each prefix to each complex verb in a series of complex verbs sharing a simplex verb. Section 12.1.1. will study simplex verbs that were found to occur with more than one of the seven prefixes, with the aim of finding patterns demonstrated by the senses of the different prefixes. Section 12.2. will discuss the findings of the preceding sections. Section 12.3. will discuss the synonymy of the seven prefixes. In Section 12.4. we consider the seven prefixes and the Aktionsarten verbs of which they may form a part. Section 12.5. will establish a characterization for the complete range of senses found for the seven prefixes. Section 12.6. concludes the chapter.

12.1. Senses of the prefixes within complex verbs sharing a simplex verb

It can be observed that the nominal, adjectival and verbal forms of words in the German language often derive from a common root, for example: Erzähler (n.) / erzählenswert (adj.) / erzählen (v.). We can therefore see how roots can be used to build a variety of words with similar senses, but which belong to different word classes. An understanding of this process can allow a better comprehension of how the sense of a word is achieved. As noted in Chapter Three, affixation plays an important part in the construction of vocabulary in the German language. The addition of an affix can contribute a sense to a simplex verb, and thus create a
complex verb with a variant sense. As previously noted, a complex verb may have a number of possible senses.

This section will consider the simplex verbs that were found to occur with more than one of the seven prefixes studied in Chapters Five to Ten. Questions such as the following will be asked: What prefixes were found to occur with this simplex verb and how are the various prefix / verb combinations similar / connected? How do they differ? Do the complex verbs sharing a simplex verb form a sequence of some kind? How does the use of a prefix contribute to the possible sense(s) of each complex verb in a series?

12.1.1. Simplex verbs which were found to occur with more than one of the seven prefixes (as found in the main list of eleven verbs to be treated in Chapters Five to Ten)

Simplex verbs which were found to occur with more than one of the seven prefixes are listed below in alphabetical order:

ackern, arbeiten, atmen, backen, bauen, beißen, bekommen

Simplex verbs and the various prefixes with which they may occur:

i) backern, durchackern

As noted in Chapters Seven and Ten, both these verbs have the sense 'to plough through'. Durchackern was found to have the sense 'to plough through sth.', while backern specified ploughing through literature or regulations. The simplex verb ackern has the senses 'to slog one’s guts out / put one’s back into it / plough'. Within the complex verb backern, the prefix 'be-' was found to concentrate on a possible sense of the simplex verb ackern. The prefix 'durch-', however, was found to contribute the following senses to the complex verb durchackern: 'Completeness /
thoroughness' and 'Creating space / an access'. The prefixes 'be-' and 'durch-'
therefore perform different functions within the complex verbs because the complex
verbs have different senses.

ii) missachten, beachten

The simplex verb achten has the sense 'to respect, observe', the use of the 'miss-
prefix creates a complex verb that has the opposite sense to that of the simplex verb.
In the complex verb beachten, it was found that the prefix 'be-' acts to isolate / focus
on a particular sense of the simplex verb: 'to observe sth.'

iii) abarbeiten, ausarbeiten, bearbeiten, durcharbeiten, erarbeiten, mitarbeiten

The sense of the simplex verb arbeiten - 'to work', may be observed in the various
senses of this group of complex verbs, e.g. abarbeiten, ausarbeiten, bearbeiten,
durcharbeiten, erarbeiten, mitarbeiten. With the exception of the prefix 'be-' in the
verb bearbeiten, each prefix was found to contribute a sense to the sense described
by the simplex verb. For example, abarbeiten describes 'working through sth.' while
erarbeiten denotes more 'starting work on sth.' In some cases, there may be more
than one complex verb which highlights a particular stage / point relating to the
action or process described by the simplex verb. In Chapters Six and Seven, for
example, we saw how both the verbs ausarbeiten and durcharbeiten describe the
subsequent working out stage of the work process described by the simplex verb
arbeiten.

The complex verbs in this series, however, can be seen to form a sequence, with each
verb referring to a different stage involved in the process described by the simplex
verb. As noted in Chapter Three, the term 'process' will be used to describe a
dynamic situation which is extended in time. This series of complex verbs can
therefore be arranged into the following temporal sequence shown in Figure 12.1.1.
below, where the initial, intermediate and final stages of a process are described by

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the complex verbs *erarbeiten*, *ausarbeiten* and *durcharbeiten*. As noted in Chapter Six, the prefix 'aus-' was found to describe both the intermediate and final stages of a process. In Chapter Eight, we saw how the prefix 'er-' can describe the initial and the final stages of the process. The verbs *abarbeiten*, *mitarbeiten* and *bearbeiten* are not included in Figure 12.1.1. as these verbs were not found to provide temporal information as to the nature of the process they describe, unlike the verbs *erarbeiten*, *ausarbeiten* and *durcharbeiten*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage one</th>
<th>Stage two</th>
<th>Stage three</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Initial)</td>
<td>(Developmental)</td>
<td>(Final)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>erarbeiten</em></td>
<td><em>ausarbeiten</em></td>
<td><em>erarbeiten</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>durcharbeiten</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fig. 12.1.1. Temporal characteristics of the complex verbs *ausarbeiten*, *durcharbeiten* and *erarbeiten**

It can be seen that the verb *ausarbeiten* is given as a sense indicator for one of the senses of the verb *durcharbeiten*, but not vice versa. It was also noted that the verb *durcharbeiten* appears to concentrate on the working out process *in general*, while *ausarbeiten* describes the more *specific* processes of preparation / working out the details of sth. etc., which are necessary stages involved in the overall / general process of working something out. Personal experience of the German language also causes me to believe that the verb *durcharbeiten* describes the work process in general, while *ausarbeiten* describes the more specific stages involved in the work process, as indicated by the *Oxford Duden Dictionary*. 
iii) *einatmen, durchatmen, ausatmen, beatmen*

When seen in a sequence, this series of complex verbs describes various actions relating to the process of breathing: inhalation, circulation of oxygen by deep breathing, exhalation and administering this process artificially to someone. There is some overlap in the senses provided by the verbs, for example, *durchatmen* and *ausatmen* both describe the sense of 'completeness / thoroughness'. In the case of the verb *durchatmen*, the sense of the 'completeness / thoroughness' of the circulation of oxygen is implied, and in the case of the verb *ausatmen*, the sense of the 'completeness / thoroughness' of the breathing cycle / process is implied. The sense of 'completely or thoroughly' is also contributed by the prefixes *'aus-'* and *'durch-'* in the verbs *ausarbeiten* and *durcharbeiten*. These affixes are therefore demonstrating synonymy within these complex verbs.

iv) *abbacken, ausbacken, durchbacken*

As with the other verbs studied thus far, a possible sense of the simplex verb is constant in each of the complex verbs in the series, in this case the sense 'to bake' as provided by the simplex verb *backen*. *Abbacken* describes the way in which the dough comes away from the sides of the baking tin during the cooking process, while *ausbacken* and *durchbacken* can both mean 'to bake something thoroughly until it's done'. From this it can be observed that both the prefixes *'aus-'* and *'durch-'* have contributed the sense of 'completely / thoroughly' to the complex verb. The prefixes were also found to contribute the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' when combined with the simplex verb *arbeiten*. Similarly, the verbs *aus- / durchatmen* both denoted the sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' when describing the breathing process. This sense therefore appears to be contributed by both these prefixes.
v) abbeißen, ausbeißen, durchbeißen

These verbs form a sequence as they all describe the action of biting. The complex verb abbeißen describes the action of 'removal' (in a literal sense), and the verb ausbeißen also describes the action of 'removal' in a literal sense: einen Zahn ausbeißen - 'to break a tooth'. Durchbeißen can describe 'biting through sth.' (in a literal sense). The verbs abbeißen and ausbeißen can therefore both be said to describe the sense of 'removal' (in the literal sense), either by way of biting: abbeißen - 'to bite off', or as a result of the action of biting: ausbeißen - einen Zahn ausbeißen - 'to break a tooth'. Durchbeißen describes biting through sth., but does not specify removing something as the two verbs do.

vi) durchbekommen, mitbekommen

As noted in Chapter Seven, the simplex verb bekommen has the following possible senses: '(erhalten) to get, receive {money, letter, reply, news, orders}' and '(ein bestimmtes Ziel erreichen) get; etw. durch die Tür / in den Kofferraum ~: get sth. through the door / into the boot (Brit.) or (Amer.) trunk.'. These senses of the simplex verb bekommen are evident in the possible senses of the complex verbs durchbekommen and mitbekommen. In both complex verbs, the addition of the prefix has contributed a sense to the sense described by the simplex verb. For example, one of the senses of the verb mitbekommen is 'to be given sth. / get sth. to take with one', and the verb durchbekommen has the sense 'to get sth. through' in the literal sense, e.g. etw.~ get sth. through; (zerlegen) get or cut through something. The two prefixes respectively contribute the sense of 'with / too' and 'through', the same senses described by their corresponding prepositions, for example: mit Frühstück (with breakfast) / durch den Wald (through the wood / forest).
viii) abbauen, ausbauen

Both the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-' describe similar senses of 'removal' and 'reduction' when used with the simplex verb bauen, although only the verb ausbauen can also describe the sense of 'enlargement / extension', thereby demonstrating Gegensinn.

12.2. Discussion of findings

In Section 12.1.1. we were able to compare the senses contributed by various prefixes to series of complex verbs sharing a simplex verb. As we saw, the complex verbs in those series considered gained semantic input from a possible sense of the simplex verb. The addition of a prefix was in each case found to contribute a sense to the sense described by the simplex verb, thereby creating a complex verb with a different sense to that of the simplex verb. In some cases, a particular sense was demonstrated by more than one complex verb in a series. For example when used with the simplex verb bauen, the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-' were both found to contribute the sense of 'removal'. This shows that the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-' can demonstrate synonymy.

It was noted that opposite senses were indicated by the prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-' for the verbs investigated: the prefix 'mit-' was found to contribute the sense of the 'addition of sth.', and the prefix 'miss-' was found to contribute the sense of the 'subtraction or lack of sth.'. This shows that these prefixes can contribute the opposite senses of 'addition of sth.' and 'subtraction or lack of sth.'. The opposite senses of these prefixes can be seen in the senses of the complex verbs of which they may form a part:
Missachten - 'to disregard; ignore'. The simplex verb achten means 'to respect, observe', the use of the prefix 'miss-' has allowed the complex verb to describe the sense of a lack of respect.

Mitbenutzen - 'to share, have the use of'. In this complex verb, the prefix 'mit-' contributes the sense of making use / taking advantage of something on offer, which is also being used by others, e.g. the addition of a member to an existing group of people making use of something. The prefix contributes the sense of 'involvement / inclusion'.

To sum up, in this section we have seen how series of complex verbs which share a simplex verb often indicate similar senses. This is because those series of complex verbs considered were found to gain input from a particular sense of the simplex verb, as well as a sense of the prefix. For example, the complex verbs abbacken, ausbacken and durchbacken were all found to gain input from a sense of the simplex verb backen - 'to bake'. As the sense of a complex verb is often (though not always), composed of a sense of the prefix and a sense of the simplex verb, the difference in the senses of complex verbs gaining input from the same sense of a shared simplex verb can be attributed to the sense contributed by the prefix in question.

12.3. Synonymy of the prefixes

Table 12.3. below shows us which senses were found to be contributed by two or more prefixes:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Removal</th>
<th>Opposite Sense of Simplex Verb</th>
<th>Complete -ness/Thorough -ness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The prefix 'ab-'</td>
<td>Removal</td>
<td>Opposite sense of simplex verb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The prefix 'aus-'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete -ness/through -ness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The prefix 'durch-'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The prefixes 'er-' and 'aus-'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-'</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prefix 'miss-' can allow opposite sense of SV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The prefix 'be-'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12.3. Senses found to be shared by two or more of the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'er-', 'miss-', 'mit-' and 'be-' in Phase One
Table 12.3. shows us how the senses of 'Removal', 'Opposite sense of simplex verb' and 'Completeness / thoroughness' were found to be contributed by at least two of the seven prefixes chosen for study. The prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-' and 'miss-' therefore demonstrate synonymy within these verbs. Furthermore, this could indicate that these senses are commonly found to be contributed by the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-' and 'miss-' to various complex verbs. As we saw in Table 11.0. in Chapter Eleven, a total of twenty-eight senses were identified for the seven prefixes in Phase One. Only three of these senses, however, were found to be contributed by more than two prefixes. This indicates that, in the majority of cases, synonymy was not demonstrated by the senses of the prefixes. Indeed, this could be seen by the fact that the majority of senses in Table 11.0. only occurred once.

12.4. The seven prefixes and Aktionsarten

As noted in Chapter Three, prefixes can contribute senses to verbs belonging to categories of Aktionsarten. This section will consider what has been learnt in previous chapters regarding the semantic input of the seven prefixes to categories of Aktionsarten. This will make it possible to identify any relationships / patterns the seven prefixes can demonstrate within such verbs.

It was found that the prefixes 'durch-' and 'be-' were associated with verbs belonging to particular categories of Aktionsarten. As noted in Chapter Seven, Fleischer / Barz (1992, 344) state that the prefix 'durch-' provides the sense of something perfective or resultative, indicating carrying out an action to the completion stage. As noted in Chapter Ten, the prefix 'be-' can occur with resultative verbs, for example, the verb besteigen describes the end result of the process of mounting a horse. It was noted how the same prefix can also form a part of punctual verbs, e.g. besteigen / etwas betreten. The prefix 'er-' was another prefix that was found to form a part of punctual verbs. The Duden Grammatik (1998, 91) includes the following examples of punctual verbs which feature the prefix 'er-': erblicken, ergreifen and erschlagen. In Chapter Three we saw how the prefix 'er-' can also form a part of perfective verbs, e.g. erklingen. It can therefore be seen that both the prefixes 'er-' and 'be-' were found
to form a part of perfective and punctual verbs. This could be considered a pattern / relationship that these prefixes share.

The *Duden Grammatik* includes the verbs *durchschneiden* and *ausklingen* when discussing resultative verbs. Fleischer / Barz (1992, 346) also give the following examples of perfective verbs which feature the prefix 'durch-': *durchatmen, etw. durchbraten, durchdiskutieren*. From this it can be seen that the prefixes 'er-', 'aus-', 'be-' and 'durch-' can all form a part of perfective verbs. (The prefix 'ab-' was not found to form a part of any perfective verbs selected for this study). However, according to Rich (2003, 226): "2. Die Partikel ab- hebt den terminativ-perfektiven Aspekt der verbalen Handlung hervor. In dieser Funktion hebt sie die Bedeutung des einfachen Verbs, bzw. der Basis im Sinne des Endergebnisses hervor." This shows us that the prefix 'ab-' can also be used to form perfective verbs.

As pointed out in Chapter Three, the *Duden Grammatik* states that the following verbs featuring the prefix 'er-' are inchoative: *erblühen, erblasen* and *erklingen*. We saw in Chapter Eight how verbs which feature the 'er-' prefix were often found to describe both the *beginning* and the *end* of a process. For example, the verb *erbauen* can describe the *beginning* of a process: (*erbauen* - the beginning / start of the process of building / constructing something), while the verb *erbleichen* describes the *final / end* stage of the process of a colour fading, where the colour has faded completely. As discussed in Chapter Eight, the prefix 'er-' could therefore be said to demonstrate the opposite senses of the *beginning of sth.* and the *end of sth.*

Eichinger (2000, 223) also discusses the prefix 'er-':

> Prädixbildung haben ihre zentrale Funktion im Bereich grammatischer Kategorisierungen: dass damit typische semantische Effekte verbunden sind, ergibt sich sozusagen nebenher. Dabei stehen die verschiedenen Präfixe und die mit ihnen gebildeten Verben nicht äquidistant nebeneinander, es gibt vielmehr funktionale Gruppen. Es gibt zum ersten die Gruppe der (I) **Objektfokussierung** mit den Präfixen *be- und ent-*. Die Gruppe der (II) **Aspektorientierung** machen die Präfixe *er-, ver- und zer-* aus. Allein steht die (III) **Negationsbildung** mit miss-.

Eichinger (2000, 223)
To sum up, five of the seven studied prefixes can be seen to contribute to the *Aktionsart* of verbs: 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'er-' and 'be-'. The prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-' were not found to contribute to the *Aktionsart* of verbs. This could therefore be said to be a pattern that the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'er-' and 'be-' share.

12.5. Characterization for senses found for the seven prefixes

The findings of Chapters Five to Ten make it possible to establish the following characterization for the senses identified for the prefixes 'ab-', 'aus-', 'durch-', 'er-', 'miss-', 'mit-' and 'be-' in the dictionary-based study:

All senses of prefixes describe either a durative or a terminative (resultative) process

As noted in Chapter Three, according to the *Duden Grammatik* (1998, 91): "Verben, mit denen eine zeitliche Begrenzung ausgedrückt wird, nennt man perfektiv oder terminativ." The authors state (1998, 91): "Die perfektiven Verben werden, je nachdem, ob mit ihnen der Beginn oder das Ende eines Geschehens bezeichnet wird, inchoativ oder ingressiv bzw. resultativ oder egressiv genannt."

The characterization found for the senses is explained in detail below, with reference to each of the senses identified for the seven prefixes in Phase One. Senses which are durative are indicated by (D), and senses which are resultative are indicated by (R).
The prefix 'ab-':

- 'Removal': As demonstrated by the prefixes 'ab-' and 'aus-': Removal (of a part from the whole or from surface area) removing: the process of removal. (D)

- 'Doing sth. in stages / following a process'. (D)

- 'Working through sth. with endurance towards achieving an aim': the process of working through sth. (D)

- 'Change (revision / improvement) to a certain point or extent': the process of change. (D)

- 'An ongoing, strenuous activity': describes the work process. (D)

- 'Opposite sense of simplex verb': the process of complete change results in a complex verb which has the opposite sense to that described by the simplex verb. For example, the simplex verb bauen has the sense 'to build', the complex verb abbaufen has the sense 'to dismantle' which is the opposite action to that described by the simplex verb. The process of complete change results in a sense which describes the opposite sense to the original sense of the verb. (R)

- 'Improvement': the process of change can bring improvement. (D)

- 'Until separate from the tin': the point in the baking process at which the dough separates from the tin. This marks the final stage in / the end result of the baking process when the food is (almost) ready. (R)
The prefix 'aus-':

- 'Removal': the process of removal. (D)

- 'Development (with the aim of improvement)': describes the process of development. (D)

- 'Crossing a figurative boundary': with reference to the complex verb *ausarten*, describes the process of *changing* behaviour, from behaviour which is acceptable to behaviour which is not. (D)

- 'Working with attention to detail': the work process. (D)

- 'Conversion from present state into sth. different': the process of change. (D)

- 'Searching for sth.': the action of searching for something will involve events which will make up a process. (D)

- 'Bringing sth. up to surface level': the process of moving something from one place to another. (D)

- 'Suffering the consequences of something': at the end of an event, the steps / actions taken to resolve the current negative situation will constitute events which will make up a process. (D)

- 'Escalation into a negative situation': the process of change for the worse not for the better, e.g. deterioration into a negative situation. (D)

- 'Aim of recovery / preservation': the process of recovery will be made up of a series of events. (D)
• 'Until ready / done (temporal factor)': the end result of the cooking process: the stage at which the food is completely cooked and ready for consumption. (R)

• 'Use of numerical data': the process of working with numbers / figures. (D)

• 'Opposite sense of simplex verb': the end result of the process of complete change is a complex verb that has the opposite sense to that of the simplex verb e.g. bauen - 'to build, construct', ausbauen - 'to dismantle, take down'. (R)

• 'Completeness / thoroughness': describes the cooking process and how food is cooked completely / thoroughly as a part of this process. At the end of the cooking process, the food is completely/thoroughly cooked. This is therefore the end result of the cooking process. (R)

• 'Expansion': (identified as an additional sense of the prefix 'aus-' in the corpus investigation carried out in Section 11.5), describes the process of expansion / increase (in a literal and a figurative sense). (D)

The prefix 'durch-':

• 'Creating space / an access': the process of moving items / moving out of the way (e.g. persons), so as to create space for something to pass. (D)

• 'A continuous process': describes a continuous process. (D)
• 'With relief': (the additional sense found for the prefix 'durch-' in Section 11.5.): the breathing process: breathing with relief as opposed to simply breathing. This change in the breathing usually marks the end of a period of tension or distress. (R)

• 'Completeness / thoroughness': describes the cooking (baking) process and how something is baked completely / thoroughly as a part of this process: 'to bake through; bake sth. right the way through'. This is usually the final stage in / the end result of the cooking process. (R)

The prefix 'er-':

In Chapter Eight, we saw how the prefix 'er-' can contribute the sense of the beginning of a process. We also saw how, according to Kühnhold (1973, 148), and the TU Chemnitz online German - English dictionary, the verb erarbeiten can describe the initial, developmental or final stages of a process (R). The verb erbauen, in comparison, was found to describe only the beginning of a process (the construction / building process). The prefix was found to contribute the sense of the completion / end result of a process within the verb erbleichen - the end result of the colour fading process whereby the colour has faded completely to white / pale (R). The prefix was not found to contribute any sense to the verbs erbeuten, erbitten and erblicken.

The prefix 'miss-':

The sense found for the prefix 'miss-' describes the process of change and what it has resulted in, e.g. change for the worse, as it describes how something that was not negative has now become negative: 'Sense of sth. negative (wrong or bad)' often
allowing the negation of the simplex verb. The sense describes *end result* of the process of *change for the worse and not for the better*. (R)

The prefix 'mit-':

The sense found for the prefix 'mit-' describes the *process* of inclusion whereby sb. / sth. that was not included is *now to be included*. (D)

The prefix 'be-':

The prefix 'be-' was not found to contribute any sense to the complex verbs tested.

12.6. Conclusion

We can therefore see how the senses identified for the seven prefixes in the dictionary-based study can be assigned to a characterization based on their shared semantic contribution: all senses describe either a durative or terminative (resultative) process. This is therefore a characteristic that the senses of these prefixes share.

The next and final chapter will discuss the implications of these findings and will consider future areas of investigation.
13.0. Chapter Thirteen: Conclusion

13.1. Prefixes in language

As noted in Chapter One, it was expected that one of the following logical possibilities would obtain as a result of studying the contribution of a prefix:

1) the prefix is found to be polysemous

2) the prefix is found to be monosemous

3) the prefix is found to be without a sense

Chapter Eight also tested two of the seven prefixes for synonymy. Over the course of the study, we therefore saw how the prefixes could demonstrate synonymy, polysemy or monosemy. Some prefixes were found to demonstrate both polysemy and synonymy, for example, the prefixes 'aus-' and 'durch-' were polysemous, and were also found to demonstrate synonymy by contributing the same sense of 'Completeness / thoroughness' to the complex verbs ausbacken and durchbacken. The monosemous prefixes 'miss-' and 'mit-', however, were not found to demonstrate synonymy. The prefix 'be-' was the only prefix of the seven which was found to contribute no sense to any of the complex verbs studied. This does not mean, however, that the prefix could not be found to contribute sense(s) to other complex verbs. As we have also learnt over the course of the present study, language is open to interpretation, and therefore one author may interpret the sense(s) of a prefix in a different way to another.
We also saw how the senses that were found to be contributed by the seven chosen prefixes could all be assigned to one characterization: all senses of the seven prefixes describe either a durative or a terminative (resultative) process. This shows us the similarities and patterns the prefixes demonstrate in the senses they can contribute to complex verbs.

13.2. What has been learnt over the course of the present study?

In Chapters Five to Twelve we saw how the studied prefixes could change the sense of those complex verbs considered. This was found to occur in a number of possible ways, in most cases, by building on a possible sense of the simplex verb: in some cases by negating this sense, in other cases by adding a sense to it. For example: 

*bauen* - 'to build' / *abauen* - 'to dismantle, take down' (opposite sense of 'to build'),
and *betteln* - 'to beg' / *durchbetteln* - 'to beg one's way through life' (prefix is adding a sense to the sense described by the simplex verb *betteln*). Some of the prefixes were also found to function to isolate / focus on a possible sense of the simplex verb (e.g. the prefixes *aus-* and *be-* in the verbs *ausbedingen, beachten, beachern* and *bearbeiten*). Although the prefix *ab-* was not found to provide this function in Chapter Five, it is possible that the prefix *ab-* could be found to serve this function if additional complex verbs were studied. The prefixes *miss-* and *mit-* were also not found to provide this function, as these prefixes were each found to contribute only one constant sense to those complex verbs studied, proving they are monosemous. In Chapter Eight, we saw how the prefix *er-* was not found to provide this function either. This suggests that this is not a common function of the seven studied prefixes.

In Chapter Twelve, we also saw how the seven prefixes could each contribute various senses to complex verbs sharing a simplex verb. This showed us how the sense contributed by a prefix to a complex verb is vital as it can determine the sense of the complex verb. We also saw how complex verbs sharing a simplex verb can have very different senses due to the contribution of the different prefixes, e.g. *abbeiß*, *abbeißt* - 'to bite off' and *durchbeiß*, *durchbeißt* - 'to bite through'. The sense of 'to bite' is still present in
the sense of these complex verbs sharing the simplex verb *beißen*, but the contribution of the prefixes *'ab-'* and *'durch-'* has allowed two complex verbs with different possible senses. Of the sixty-six complex verbs studied in the research, only one verb, *abbaken*, were found to be idiomatic as its meaning was not composed of that of its constituent parts. This could suggest that the majority of complex verbs *are composed* of the meanings of their constituent parts. This was also demonstrated by the fact that all complex verbs were found to be composed in one of the following ways, as outlined in Chapter Four:

1) **P**

- input from the prefix, but no input from the simplex verb

2) **SV**

- input from the simplex verb, but no input from the prefix

3) **P & SV**

- input from both the prefix and the simplex verb

4) **I**

- input from *neither the prefix nor the simplex verb*, i.e. an idiomatic sense of the complex verb
To sum up, the aim of the research was to look for patterns and relationships between the prefixes and the senses they can contribute to the complex verbs studied. In Chapter Twelve we saw how the senses of all seven prefixes could be assigned to one characterization. The characterization is significant, as it shows us how the complete range of senses of the seven prefixes are connected in their meaning.

13.3. The implications of the research findings and possible areas of future study

By studying the input of the seven prefixes within various complex verbs, it has been possible to gain an understanding of what senses seem to be commonly contributed by a particular prefix. In the same way, it has become possible to know more about what senses are not likely to be contributed by a particular prefix. For example, by observing the contribution of the prefixes 'durch-', 'mit-' and 'er-' within various complex verbs, one can assume that it is not likely that any of these prefixes will function to negate the sense of a simplex verb, unlike the prefix 'miss-' which was found to perform this function in Chapter Nine. Similarly, the research carried out in Chapters Nine and Ten leads us to believe that it is unlikely that the prefixes 'miss-', 'mit-' and 'be-' will provide the sense of 'Searching for sth.' to a complex verb. However, as noted in Chapter Six, this sense was found to be contributed by the prefix 'aus-' to the complex verb ausbaggern. The findings of the study can therefore be seen to help us gain a greater understanding as to what senses we can expect to be contributed / not contributed by the prefixes studied.

The research has considered the semantic contribution of the seven prefixes within complex verbs from an original perspective. The methodology formulated for the research, for example, was original, none of the authors cited have said that they used the same / a similar methodology in their work. By consulting other literature in the field, it was also found that the seven prefixes have not been studied before for patterns / similarities in their possible input to complex verbs. Furthermore, it was noted that the use of analysis in the dictionary-based part of the study uncovered a range of senses of the prefixes that had not been identified in any literature consulted.
Over the course of the research, it was found that a possible function of several of the prefixes was to 'isolate / focus on a possible sense of the simplex verb'. This was not given as a possible function of prefixes in any of the literature consulted. A characterization for the senses of the seven prefixes was also not provided in any literature consulted.

As in all research undertakings, the work has possible strengths / weaknesses. Strengths of the research lie in the fact that the senses identified for the prefixes could be validated using a corpus. In this way, it was possible to see clear evidence of the prefix contributing the sense identified in the dictionary-based study to the complex verb. I also feel I have been able to draw on the sensitivity / experience I have acquired as a student of German as a second language. I have done this by drawing on observations I made when I first started studying the language. For example, I would often compare the uses / possible senses of prefixes in the German language with those of prefixes in the English language. This is a perspective from which native speakers of German would not be able to benefit, as any comparisons they would make with prefixes in the English language would be from the perspective of a second language learner of English. Possible weaknesses in the work could concern the fact that coverage of the University of Leipzig corpus was from 1995 onwards, with the most recent examples being from 2003. Some corpus listings, however, such as those taken from the Projekt Gutenberg Spiegel.de archives, pre-date 1995. As the most recent examples were from 2003, this limited the number of more recent (i.e. post 2003) corpus listings available for analysis in the validation exercise carried out in Phase Two.

Areas of future research could concern studying a greater number of complex verbs and seeing if the prefixes were found to contribute the same / a different range of senses within these additional verbs. It might also be interesting to consider the input of the seven prefixes within different word classes, for example, nouns or adjectives, and see if the senses they can contribute to these words are the same as those they were found to contribute to the complex verbs studied in this research. It might also be worthwhile to consider the semantic input of another group of prefixes and to see if any patterns / relationships can be found in the possible senses they can contribute
to complex verbs.

As noted in Chapter Two, it could be argued that the senses of German prefixes should be taught / learnt when learning the senses of German words, as prefixes are the basic building blocks out of which we form words. It is intended that the findings of the research will prove useful in many ways. For example, we can use them to learn more about how language works and how words / meanings are composed. The study of word formation, or Wortbildung, after all, is central to the study of the German language itself.

In conclusion, we have seen how the complete range of senses identified for the seven prefixes can be assigned to one characterization. This finding demonstrates how there are intricate patterns / relationships shared by these seven prefixes and their collective senses. It is hoped that the findings of the research will prove interesting and useful to anyone who studies the German language, or who has an interest in the various ways in which prefixes can give meaning to words. It is also hoped that the work will lead to further study. For example, further research into how a knowledge of the senses of these prefixes can help us break down and learn the meanings of various complex words. This would, for example, be of obvious benefit in the areas of language teaching and learning. The findings of the research will also allow us to learn more about prefixes in the German language and how they function.
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