

## DERIVATIONAL PARADIGM OF THE ADJECTIVE *ZELEN* IN SERBIAN

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**Abstract.** *The paper discusses lexemes obtained by different word formation processes from the adjective green, represented in a dictionary sample. This analysis indicates a tendency for the semantic content of the base to prevail in the derivatives. The structure of derivational paradigms shows regularities in the organization of the derivational processes of lexico-semantic groups, which produces regularities in the derivational system of the language.*

**Key words:** *zelen, derivational paradigm, derivation, Serbian*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Traditional approach to word formation requires that this research domain be considered a part of morphology, and that it focus on formal aspects of word structure. The approach involves the classifications of derivational models within the same word class. Semantic issues related to word formation are also considered, but are secondary, while preference is given to the processes of obtaining derivational bases, and citing prefix and suffix classes.

#### 1.1 Theoretical background

At the very end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was a change regarding word formation in the studies of the Serbian language represented by the following authors: Matijašević (1987), who discussed semantic derivation, Gortan-Premk (1997), who discussed semantic variation, Šipka (1998), who discussed the autonomy of word formation as a linguistic discipline, and Grickat (1995), who was involved in a very precise and detailed semantic classification of diminutive nouns, adjectives and verbs. These authors, some of whom

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worked independently, while some were under the influence of the studies in other languages, made a significant change in word formation studies. They provided it with an independent status and assigned importance to the semantic dimension of word formation.

Gortan-Premk (1997) states that the ability of a word to relate semantically to other units of the lexical system is in direct proportion to its semantic content, as the fullness of its content induces all, or many, semantic relations, while the poverty of semantic content also entails the poverty of semantic relations and asemanticity excludes semantic relations."

With regard to derived adjectives which denote human characteristics in Serbian, Dragičević (1999) claims that the examination of the status of a specific meaning of a lexeme within the polysemantic structure to which that meaning belongs is evaluated on the basis of the productivity of that meaning."

Recently, semantically oriented derivation studies has emphasized the need for research into derivational paradigms. Derivational paradigms include such sets of lexemes in which the presence of semantic content of the base into derivatives can be traced. The analysis of different derivational paradigms has indicated that not all semantic components of the base are equally productive. For example, Đurović (2010: 87) explains that only one part of the polysemantic structure of the lexeme *кyĥa* is productive, namely the following meanings:

- a) a building in which one lives;
- b) a household;
- c) people who live in the house or were born in it;
- d) an institution: the building in which the institution is located;
- e) the piece of land on which the speaker's house is located.

It is interesting that the semantic components related to the appearance of the house are excluded, although they are based on the image of the building, which is frequently dominant.

Premk (2006) holds that word formation should be examined systemically and within the system, which means that lexical categories should be examined as well as individual lexemes within the categories. This examination would have to include various procedures, some of which concern the base; others involve the derivational formant, while some others involve the derivatives of the target lexeme. Examining derivational paradigms would indicate which part of the content is activated in the derivatives. Derivational examinations of lexico-semantic groups would exhibit regularities and a certain kind of systematic derivational behavior of lexemes of similar content.

## 2. THE SAMPLE

Our analysis of the derivatives of the adjective *зелен* (Eng. *green*) includes a dictionary sample of 59 lexical units. There are 69 lexical meanings in total. Groups of lexemes consist of lexemes obtained by different types of word formation.

The derivational paradigm consists mostly of nouns, followed by verbs, adjectives and some other types of words. The sample was manually excerpted from the six-volume dictionary published by Matica Srpska. The sample consists of the following units:

**I Nouns:**

A) Of green color; greenery, green foliage and plants; grass and trees;

*зеленило*

1. *Најлешни и највеселији булевар то је Сена, са зеленилом њене воде.* (RMS II, 296);

*зеленица*

2. *Primili se gori zelenici.* (RMS II, 296);

*зелен*

3. *Рашта није (нова година) с почетком пролећа... кад се земља обуче зелењу?*
4. *Дуго жуђена зелен никну на дрвећу загребачког горја.* (RMS II, 295);
5. *На једној зелени, крај чесме, сјдело је десетак оружаних Турака.* (RMS II, 295);

*зеленило*

6. *И нађемо се на сунцу, на отоку мира, у зеленилу лаком на ливади Раковице.* (RMS II, 296);

*зелениш*

7. *Лугови мирисали на дивљину, пооране њиве на зелениш који међама иштркљао.* (RMS II, 296);

(Adjectival bases and the *-iš* suffix form nouns with an archaic overtone, such as *стариш* (old man), *спориш* (plant), *мекиш* (something soft), etc. Some of these nouns are still commonly used today, e.g. *слаткиш* (something sweet), *густкиш* (thicket, something thick).

*зелење*

8. *Оде он у поље, у зелење.*
9. *Плетемо гриву китећи је тратинчицама и врбовим зелењем.* (RMS II, 297);

*зеленац*

10. *Не дај ми, драги боже, да се ја нешто оклизнем па стрмекнем у онај зеленац.*
11. *Струје мисли као вир зеленаца.* (RMS II, 295);

(The suffix *-(a)c* forms a relatively semantically homogeneous group with adjectival bases, because all derivatives can be defined as [HAVING A PROPERTY DESIGNATED BY AN ADJECTIVE], such as *белац* (a white person), *кривац* (a guilty person), *странац* (a foreigner), *самац* (a person not in a relationship), etc. This formula also refers to the example of *зеленац* because it signifies something green, such as the color of water, the color of stone, or the greenish-gray color of a horse.

B) a person wearing a green uniform:

*зелембаћ*

12. *Још сам био у Ријечи кад ти се она три зелембаћа окомише на мене.* (RMS II, 295);

*зеленокадраш* [A MEMBER OF THE GREEN CADRES]

13. *Ми овамо тучмо . . . све ове легије усташке и њемачке пукове, а већ домобрани и милицајци зеленокадраши предају се и без пушке.* (RMS II, 296);

*зеленаш* [A MEMBER OF THE GREEN CADRES]

14. *Бојао се: смуцају се по граду и околишу којекакви елементи, немирњаџи, зеленаши.* (RMS II, 295);

*зеленаш* [A MEMBER OF THE MOVEMENT WHICH OPPOSED THE UNIFICATION OF MONTENEGRO WITH SERBIA AFTER WORLD WAR I] (RMS II, 295);

C) greengrocer: *zelenar* (RMS II, 295);

D) usurer; usury:

*зеленаш*

15. Доцније се као као зеленаш и берзанска хијена дочепао блага и бароније. (RMS II, 295);

*зеленокадераш*

16. Он (је)... устријелио... она четири... дебела, зеленокадераша. Подвизи... су се... приписивали зеленокадерашима из деветстоосамнаесте (RMS II, 296);

*зеленаштво*

17. У овом граду (су)... наизменице владале две помађарене породице, обogaђене зеленаштвом. (RMS II, 296);

*зеленашлук*

18. Каишарлуци и зеленашлук почеше се нагло по народу ширити. (RMS II, 296);

E) Immature person:

*зелениш*

19. Овакав један зелениш балави... он ће њему да пркоси. (RMS II, 296);

F) Animal names:

*зеленко, зеленац* [A HORSE OF GRAY COLOR]

20. Два лијена зеленка закасаше. (RMS II, 296);

*зељуг* [A HOG WITH GREENISH HAIRS] (RMS II, 297);

*зељуга* [A SOW WITH GREENISH HAIRS] (RMS II, 297);

*зелентарка* [A SPECIES OF YELLOW-GREEN SONGBIRD *CHLORIS CHLORIS*] (RMS II, 297);

*зеленка zelentarka* (RMS II, 296);

*зелембаћ* [LIZARD *LACERTA VIRIDIS*] (RMS II, 295);

G) Plant names:

*зелен* [VEGETABLES, ESPECIALLY CARROT, PARSLEY, PARSNIP, ETC.]

21. Стане живети ... као башчован, носећи зелен у град. (RMS II, 295);

*зелениш* [GREEN VEGETABLES]

22. Што се јела тиче, сме да једе само и искључиво зелениш. (RMS II, 296);

*зелење*

23. Освједочио сам да је то најздравија храна: крух, сочиво и зелење. (RMS II, 297);

*зеленарка* [VARIOUS EVERGREEN PLANTS, BOXWOOD, BUTCHER'S-BROOM, SPURGES, ETC.] (RMS II, 296);

*зеленика* [A PLANT WITH A GREEN FRUIT (USUALLY APPLE)]

24. *Јабуко зеленико, што с' толико род родила? Моје ноге... се не држе равно, као да сам се добро напио вина зеленике.* (RMS II, 296);

*зеленика* [GRAPES] (RMS II, 296);

*зеленка* [TYPE OF FIG (TREE AND FRUIT)] (RMS II, 296);

*зеленгаћа* [COSTMARY *TANACETUM BALSAMITA*] (RMS II, 296);

*зеленкада* [DAFFODIL *NARCISSUS PSEUDONARCISSUS*] (RMS II, 296);

*зеленик* [EVERGREEN SPINDLE *EUONYMUS JAPONICUS*] (RMS II, 296);

*зеленгора* [COMMON IVY] (RMS II, 296);

*зелениш* [UNRIPE FRUIT] (RMS II, 296);

*зеленика* [TYPE OF WINE]

25. *Моје ноге... се не држе равно, као да сам се добро напио вина зеленике.* (RMS II, 296);

H) Other:

*зеленац* [A GREEN ROCK] (RMS II, 295);

*зеленко* [(ZELENKO) NAME FOR A CANNON IN A FOLK POETRY]

26. *Запалићу тридесет топова, па запалит' Крња и Зеленка* (RMS II, 296).

## II Adjectives:

A) a pale shade of the base color:

*зеленкаст*

27. *Очи су му изразите, иако су мало зеленкасте; Киша је шибала у мала зеленкаста стакла на прозорчићима.* (RMS II, 296);

*зеленаст*

28. *Мјестимице је (брдо) седласто и драгасто... од половице све није раније лозом зеленасто.* (RMS II, 295);

B) having green eyes:

*зеленоок* (RMS II, 297);

C) greenish, unripe:

*зеленичав*

29. *Споро (је) и пажљиво притискивао зеленичав дуван сађаник.* (RMS II, 296).

**III Verbs:**

A) becoming green:

*зеленити*30. *Нећу више смети ни у пролеће кад трава зелени... доћи ти сутоном.* (RMS II, 296);

B) standing out because of green color:

*зеленети се*31. *Ходник се зелењеше у модром виновом лишћу од лозе. Небо се зелењело као травна ливада.* (RMS II, 296);*зеленити се*32. *Још ће нам се гране зеленити.* (RMS II, 296);

C) make/color something green:

*зеленити*33. *Сад олујина... лије ко из кабла, мочи и зелени запрашена стакла.* (RMS II, 296);*зазеленети* (RMSJ, 392);*зазеленити* (RMSJ, 392);*оззеленети (се)* (RMSJ, 866);

D) become covered in leaves (of branches, trees, etc.):

*оззеленети (се)* (RMSJ, 866);*оззеленити*34. *Трава оззеленила земљу.* (RMSJ, 866);*оззеленити (се)*35. *Озеленили смо 20 хектара голети.* (RMSJ, 866);

E) become green;

*поззеленети* (RMSJ, 957);*поззеленити* (RMSJ, 957);

F) become sick with envy:

*зеленети*36. *Зелене му због клијентеле другови и адвокати.* (RMS II, 296);*зеленети се*37. *Зеленио се од . . . зависти.* (RMS II, 296).

**IV Adverbs:**

*зелено* [DONE IN A GREEN COLOR, LIKE GREEN: COLOR ~, SHINE ~, LOOK ~]

38. *Кад би га (његов поетски израз)... бојом требало протумачити, он би изгледао зелено.*

[IMMATURELY]

39. *Ја сам невриједник, без срца! – узе он блиједо, жуто и зелено бенетати.* (RMS II, 296);

*зеленкасто* [WITH A GREENISH SHINE]

40. *Зеленкасто се пресијава маст на студену челику.* (RMS II, 296);

*зеленашки* [WITH USURY-TYPE INTEREST]

41. *(Сељаци) су се већ отпочели били зеленашки задуживати.* (RMS II, 296).

**3. DISCUSSION**

Adjectives for colors are very common in naming animate and inanimate entities and phenomena. However, unlike some other lexemes which, similarly to the adjectives of basic colors, belong to the Slavic part of and the core segment of the Serbian lexicon, these derivatives have a rather simple semantic structure.

The analysis of the derivatives of the adjective *zelen* has suggested that speakers use them to a) organize the elements of a category set by the color; b) denote different aspects of life and c) designate something either as favorable or unfavorable. The dominant semantic component, which concerns the visual chromatic image of a certain type, concerns the identification of color, as well as the very chromatic impression, on the basis of which the nomination and differentiation of beings, objects and concepts is performed.

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**DERIVACIONO GNEZDO PRIDEVA ZELEN<sup>i</sup>**

*U radu se na rečničkoj građi analiziraju lekseme dobijene različitim tvorbenim procesa od prideva zelen. Ovakve vrste analiza pokazuju tendenciju preliivanja semantičkog sadržaja motivne, proste reči u njene derivate. Organizacije derivacionih gneza pokazuju pravilnosti u organizovanju derivacionih procesa leksičko-semantičkih grupa što umnogome olakšava i spoznaju pravilnosti u obrazovanju derivacionog sistema jednog jezika.*

*Ključne reči: zelen, derivaciono gnezdo, derivacija, srpski jezik*

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<sup>i</sup> I dedicate this paper to a colleague we lost too soon. I will remember her as curious, full of energy and love of life. The green color, associated with life and liveliness, is reminiscent of her.