(Un)resolved competition?

Empirical evidence for the resolution of competition in the paradigm of English verbs

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Background
Definition

Competition as:

same base

same semantic category

two or more different affixes

no apparent semantic/distributional differences

e.g. *fluidify* vs *fluidize* ‘make fluid’ (Bauer et al. 2013: 272)

Cluster defined as ‘sets of synonymous derivatives morphologically related by their bases but formed with a different affix that can be grouped into doublets, triplets, etc.’ (Fernández-Alcaina 2017: 168)

Background

Competition between forms with the same base: Previous research

In reference manuals:

Bauer et al. (2013)

In references on verbal formation:

Plag (1999)

Gottfurcht (2008)

No information about resolution

In specialized papers:

Conversion vs *-en* suffixation:	Bauer et al. (2010)
-ify vs *-ize* suffixation:	Lindsay (2012)
	Lindsay & Aronoff (2013)
Conversion vs *-ize* suffixation:	Fernández-Alcaina (2017)
	Fernández-Alcaina & Cermák (2018)

Focus on:

i. Specific patterns

ii. Competitors only

Background

Competition and derivational paradigms: Previous research

i. Competition is '[…] at least partly dependent on relations holding between the complete set of lexemes related to the same base' (Pounder 2000: 83, based on studies on standardization by Mal'ceva 1966, Gawełko 1977 and Schupbach 1984)

ii. A factor to be considered in the competition of doublets (Fradin 2019)

iii. Additional information for the resolution of the competition between conversion and *-ize* suffixation for causative verbs (Fernández-Alcaina & Čermák 2018)

Aims

i. Profile of resolution of competition in verb formation, i.e. resolved, unresolved

ii. Various profiles of unresolved competition based on:

    i. lexicographic and corpus data

    ii. derivational paradigms

Method

i. Data collection

ii. Data processing

Method

Data collection: The *Oxford English Dictionary* and competition

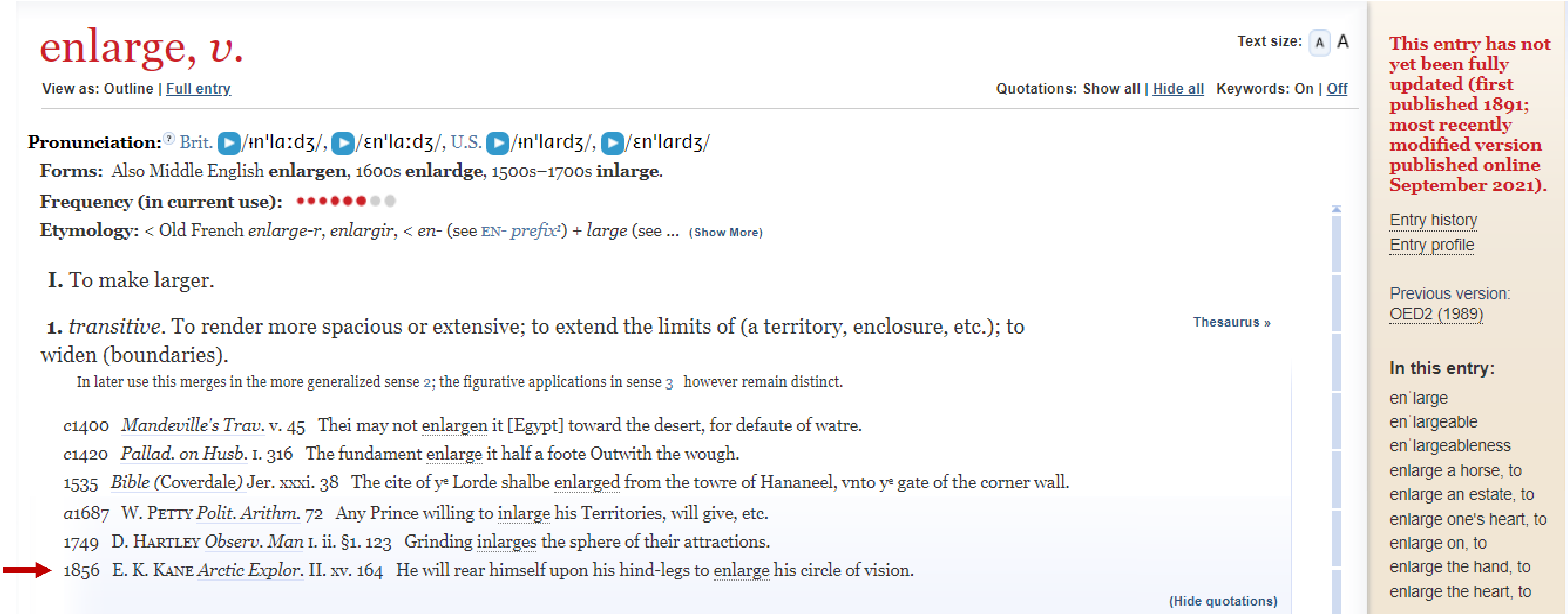
Previous research on competition (e.g. Bauer 2006; Gottfurcht 2008; Díaz-Negrillo 2017; Fernández-Alcaina 2017; Lara-Clares 2017; Smith 2020)

Reliable source for data collection:

i. Extensive resource (600,000 words)
ii. Information regarding:
    a. etymological origin
    b. use (e.g. *obsolete*, *rare*, *archaic*)
    c. distribution (e.g. Mathematics, Medicine)
    d. lifespan of the entries through attestation dates

Method

Data collection: OED2 vs OED3 I


enlarge, *v.*

View as: Outline | Full entry

Text size: A A

Quotations: Show all | Hide all Keywords: On | Off

Pronunciation: Brit. /ᵻnˈlɑːdʒ/, /ɛnˈlɑːdʒ/, U.S. /ᵻnˈlɑrdʒ/, /ɛnˈlɑrdʒ/

Forms: Also Middle English **enlargen**, 1600s **enlardge**, 1500s–1700s **inlarge**.

Frequency (in current use):

Etymology: < Old French *enlarge-r, enlargir*, < *en-* (see EN- *prefix*[1]) + *large* (see ... (Show More)

I. To make larger.

1. *transitive*. To render more spacious or extensive; to extend the limits of (a territory, enclosure, etc.); to widen (boundaries).

Thesaurus »

In later use this merges in the more generalized sense 2; the figurative applications in sense 3 however remain distinct.

c1400 *Mandeville's Trav.* v. 45 Thei may not enlargen it [Egypt] toward the desert, for defaute of watre.

c1420 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 316 The fundament enlarge it half a foote Outwith the wough.

1535 *Bible (Coverdale)* Jer. xxxi. 38 The cite of yͤ Lorde shalbe enlarged from the towre of Hananeel, vnto yͤ gate of the corner wall.

a1687 W. Petty *Polit. Arithm.* 72 Any Prince willing to inlarge his Territories, will give, etc.

1749 D. Hartley *Observ. Man* I. ii. §1. 123 Grinding inlarges the sphere of their attractions.

1856 E. K. Kane *Arctic Explor.* II. xv. 164 He will rear himself upon his hind-legs to enlarge his circle of vision.

(Hide quotations)

This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1891; most recently modified version published online September 2021).

Entry history

Entry profile

Previous version: OED2 (1989)

In this entry:

enˈlarge

enˈlargeable

enˈlargeableness

enlarge a horse, to

enlarge an estate, to

enlarge one's heart, to

enlarge on, to

enlarge the hand, to

enlarge the heart, to

Figure 1. A screenshot of an OED2 entry (attestation dates not updated)

Method

Data collection: OED2 vs OED3 II

revolutionize, *v.*

View as: Outline | Full entry

Text size: A A

Quotations: Show all | Hide all Keywords: On | Off

Pronunciation: Brit. /ˌrɛvəˈl(j)uːʃn̩ʌɪz/, /ˌrɛvəˈl(j)uːʃənʌɪz/, U.S. /ˌrɛvəˈluʃəˌnaɪz/

Forms: 1700s– **revolutionise**, 1700s– **revolutionize**.

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Formed within English, by derivation. **Etymons:** REVOLUTION *n.*, -IZE *suffix*.

Etymology: < REVOLUTION *n.* + -IZE *suffix*. Compare Dutch *revolutioneeren* ... (Show More)

1.

a. *transitive*. To imbue (a person or thing) with revolutionary principles or ideas; to make revolutionary.

Thesaurus »

1795 tr. F. D'Ivernois *Short Acc. Late Revol. Geneva* 58 They seem determined to sap [Fr. *porter la sappe révolutionnaire*] the very foundation of the Edifice, by revolutionizing the principles of the rising generation.

1827 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 255/2 Officers who had revolutionized their regiments and joined the rebels.

1870 R. Anderson *Hist. Missions Amer. Board* II. xii. 95 A reported threat..that..he would seize the prince and his sister, and revolutionize the government.

1908 G. K. Chesterton *Man who was Thursday* i. 19 You don't expect me..to revolutionise society on this lawn?

1966 V. Vezey tr. M. D. Bonch-Bruevich *Tsarist Gen. to Red Army Commander* iii. 219 The Bolshevik Party's policy of turning the imperialist war into a civil war..had done much to revolutionise the army even before the downfall of the tsarist regime.

2000 L. Schein *Minority Rules* i. 14 The broad dissemination of culture to revolutionize the masses was a hallmark of the Maoist period.

This entry has been updated (OED Third Edition, March 2010; most recently modified version published online June 2021).

Entry history

Entry profile

Previous version: OED2 (1989)

In this entry:

revolutioniˈzation

revoˈlutionized

revolutionizement

revoˈlutionizer

revoˈlutionizing

Figure 2. A screenshot of an OED3 entry (attestation dates updated)

Method

Data processing

Lemma	Sense	Base		Meaning			Senses						Status	Timeline	
		Form	Word class	Semantic category	Definition	Trans./ Intr.	In use	Obs./ Rare	Arch.	Dial.	Reg./ Dom.	Total		*	†
powder	4a	*powder*	N	ORNATIVE	apply cosmetic to skin	trans.	6	4	0	0	0	10	in use	1616	2002
powderize	1	*powder*	N		= *powder* 4a	trans.	1	1	0	0	0	2	obsolete	1800	1800
powder	8a	*powder*	N	RESULTATIVE	reduce to powder	trans.	6	4	0	0	0	10	in use	1400	1991
powderize	2	*powder*	N		reduce to powder	trans.	1	1	0	0	0	2	in use	1903	1998

Table 1. A template for the description of competing verbs based on the information provided by the OED and semantically classified according to Bauer et al. (2013: 282–286)

Method
Data processing: Verbal clusters

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Method
Data processing: Corpora

i. Diachronic corpora

   English Historical Book Collection (EHBC) (1472–1820)

   Corpus of Historical American English (COHA) (1820s–2010s)

ii. Synchronic corpus

   Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) (1990–2019)

iii. Contemporary dictionaries

   Collins

   Merriam-Webster

Method
Data processing: Derivational paradigms

Base	1st Derivative	Word class	Timeline *	†	Meaning	2nd Derivative	Word class	Timeline *	†	Meaning
mongrel	*mongrel*	V	1602	1662	make (mongrel)					
	mongrelize	V	1629	–	make (mongrel)	*mongrelized*	Adj	1857	–	made (mongrel)
						mongrelization	N	1868	–	action of making (mongrel)
						mongrelizing	N	1922	–	action of making (mongrel)

Table 2. A sample of the data file for the processing of derivational paradigms (adapted from Fernández-Alcaina & Čermák 2018)

Results

Profile of competition: Number of competitors

Sample size: 351 clusters (i.e. 562 verbs) extracted from the OED3:

i. Two members: 320 clusters, i.e. 91.2%

ii. Three members: 30 clusters, i.e. 8.5%

iii. Four members: 1 cluster, i.e. 0.3%

Results
Profile of competition: Patterns

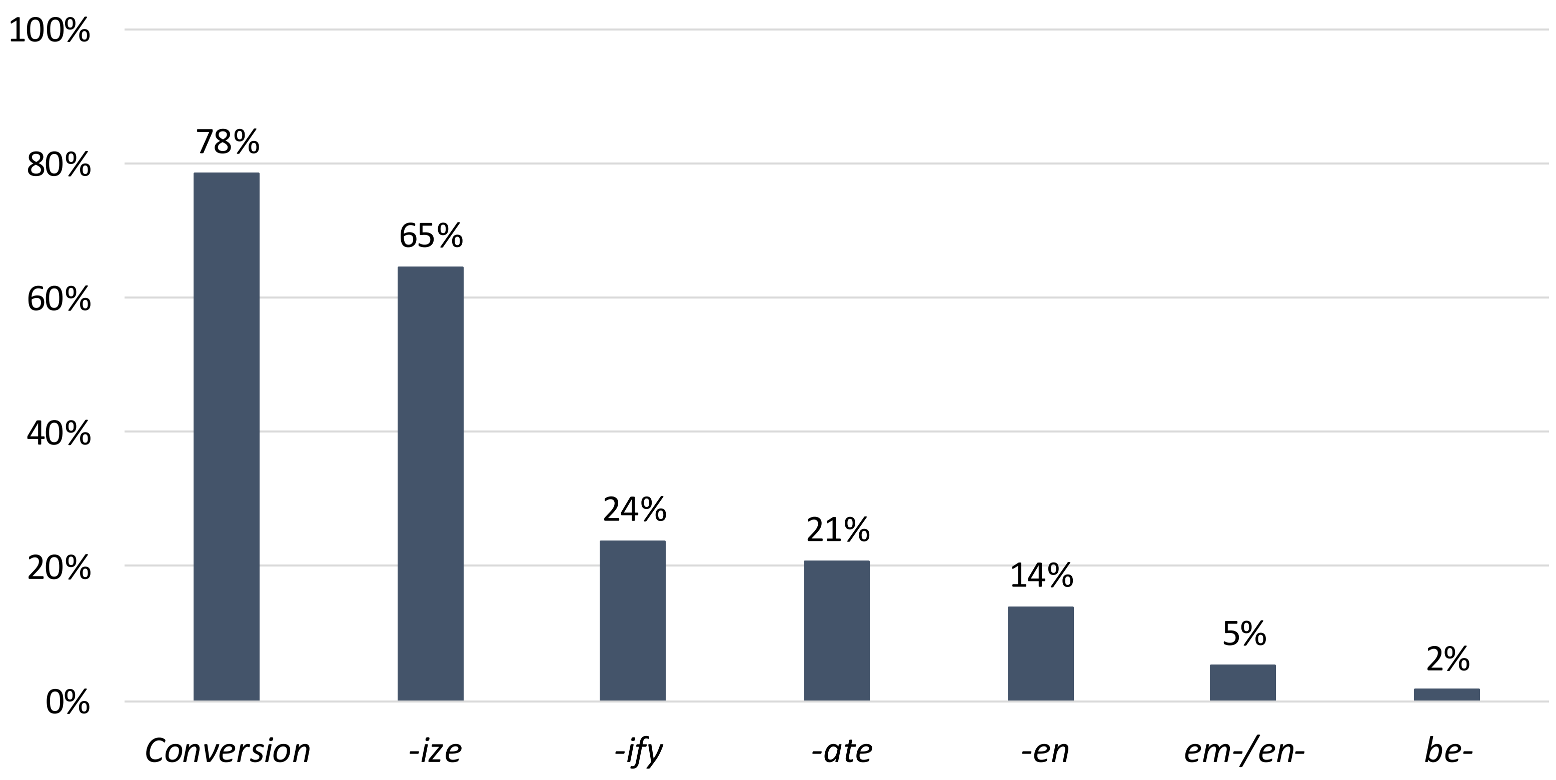

Figure 3. Patterns identified ordered by the number of clusters in which they appear

Results
Resolution of competition

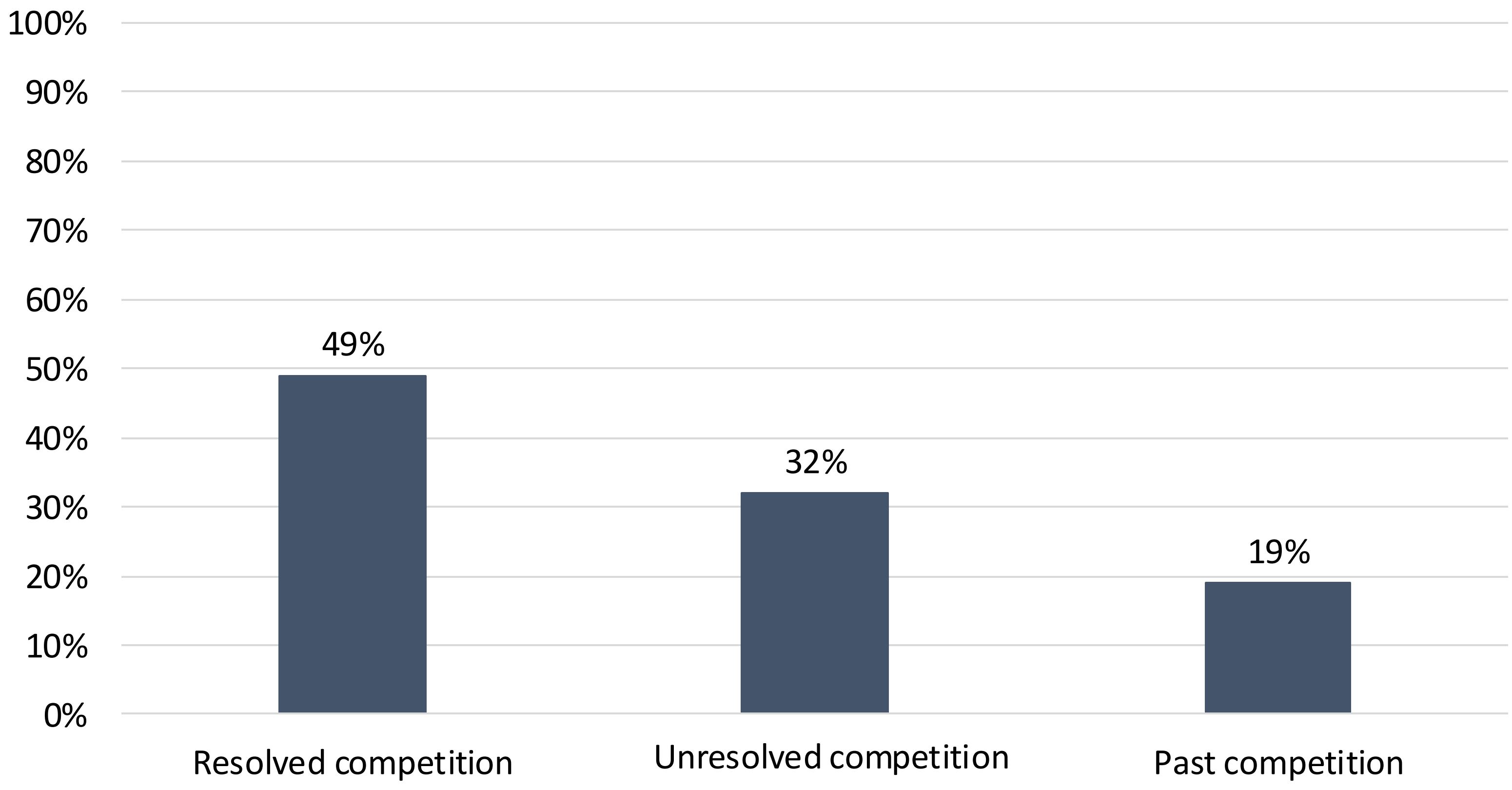

Figure 4. Clusters classified by the outcome of resolution

Results
Resolution of competition

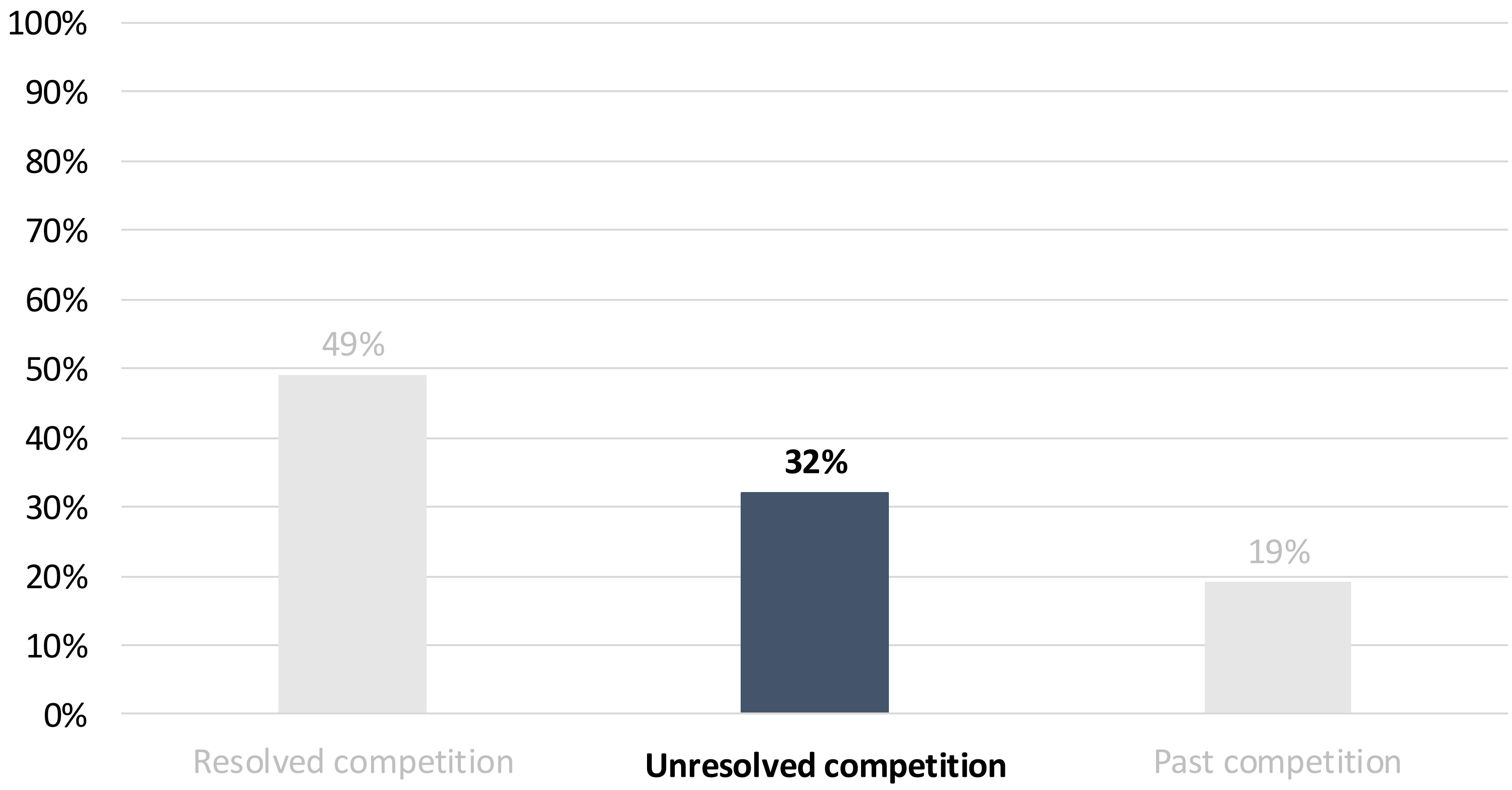

Figure 4. Clusters classified by the outcome of resolution

Results
Unresolved competition

i. Resolution (?):
   i. Conversion prevails (e.g. *pillory*/*pillorize*)
   ii. Affixation prevails (e.g. *revolution*/*revolutionize*)
ii. Semantic specialization (?) (e.g. *pressure*/*pressurize*)
iii. No resolution (?) (e.g. *patine*/*patinate*/*patinize*)

Results

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Results

Conversion prevails: *pillory* vs *pillorize*

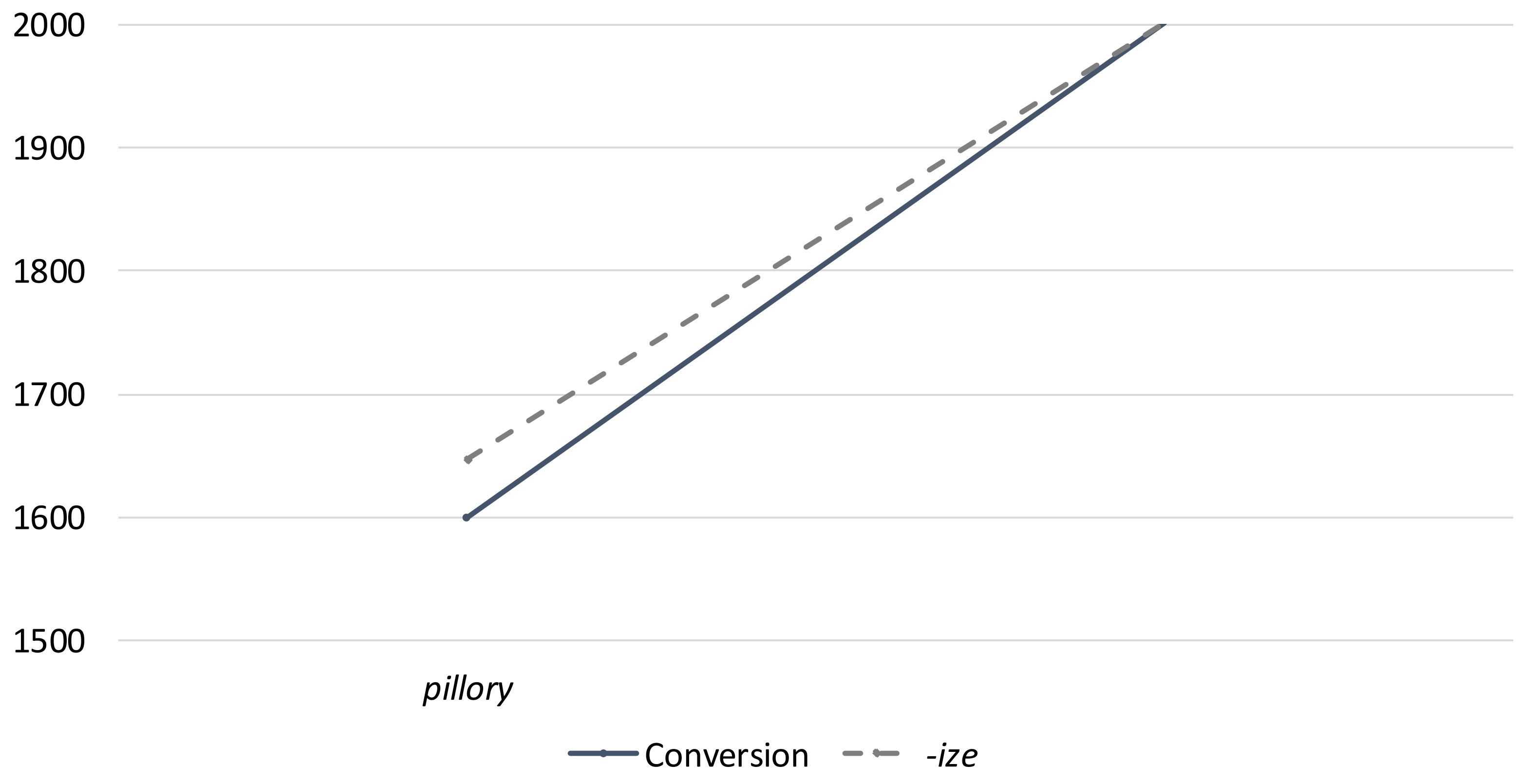

Figure 5. Timeline for *pillory*/*pillorize*

Results

Conversion prevails: *pillory* vs *pillorize*

	EHCB		**COHA**		**COCA**	
pillory	64	0.06	140	0.35	376	0.38
pillorize	3	>0.01	-	-	-	-

Table 3. Corpus data for *pillory/pillorize*

	Collins Cobuild	***Merriam-Webster***
pillory	expose to public ridicule; punish by putting in a pillory	set in a pillory as punishment; expose to public ridicule
pillorize	archaic: to pillory	: pillory

Table 4. Lexicographic information for *pillory/pillorize*

Results

Conversion prevails: *pillory* vs *pillorize*

1st Derivative	*	†	Definition	2nd Derivative	*	†	Definition
pillory1A	1600	1994	put a person in a pillory	*pilloried*	1671	-	placed in a pillory
				pillorying	1653	-	act of punishing a person in a pillory
pillory1B	1816	1863	constrict (a person) in a pillory				
pillory2	1699	-	ridicule a person or thing	*pilloried*	1671	-	subjected to public ridicule
				pillorying	1653	-	act of exposing a person to public abuse
pillorize	1647	-	= *pillory* (v)	*pillorization*	1688/ 1998	**1668/ 1998**	punishment in a pillory
				pillorized	1656	**1656**	punished in a pillory
				pillorizing	1720	**1891**	= *pillorying*
				pillorizing	1890	**1890**	abusive, defamatory

Table 5. Paradigm for the cluster *pillory*/*pillorize*

Results
Affixation prevails: *revolution* vs *revolutionize*

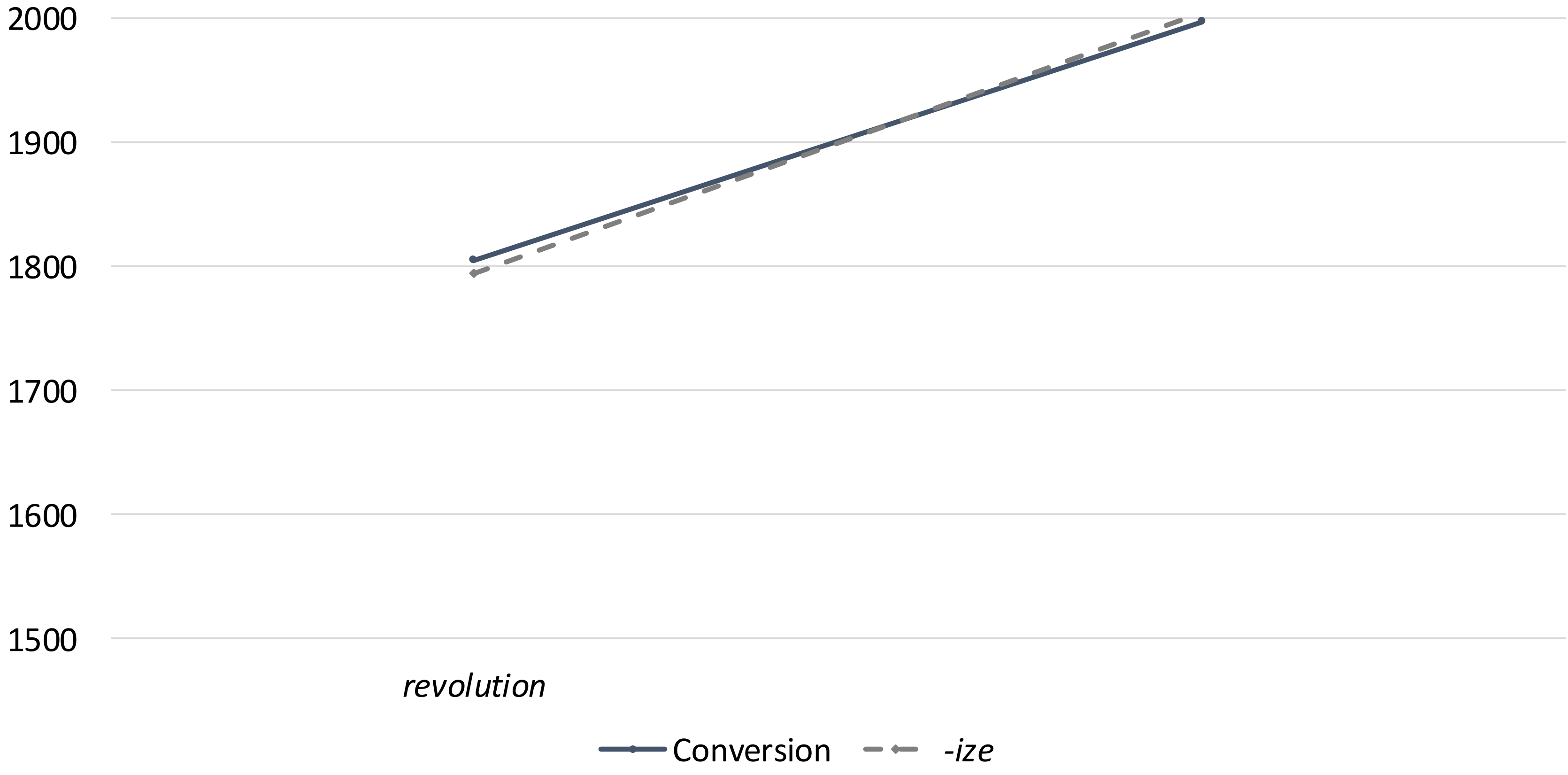

Figure 6. Timeline for *revolution*/*revolutionize*

Results

Affixation prevails: *revolution* vs *revolutionize*

	EHCB		COHA		COCA		iWeb
revolution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
revolutionize	44	0.04	968	2.39	2654	2.67	45980

Table 6. Corpus data for *revolution/revolutionize*

	Collins	***Merriam-Webster***
revolution	-	-
revolutionize	bring about a revolutionary change; inspire with revolutionary ideas	imbue with revolutionary doctrines; change fundamentally

Table 7. Lexicographic information for *revolution/revolutionize*

Results

Affixation prevails: *revolution* vs *revolutionize*

1st Derivative	*	†	Definition	2nd Derivative	*	†	Definition
revolution	1805	-	= *revolutionize*				
*revolutionize*1A	1795	-	make revolutionary	*re-revolutionize*	1803	-	revolutionize again
				revolutionized	1798	-	-
				revolutionizing	1797	-	-
				revolutionizing	1797	-	-
				revolutionizement	1820	1820	-
				revolutionizer	1798	-	-
*revolutionize*1B	1796	-	bring a country under a revolutionary form of government				
*revolutionize*1C	1817	1874	engage in revolutionary activity				
*revolutionize*2	1798	-	change a thing completely	*revolutionization*	1871	-	-

Table 8. Paradigm for *revolution*/*revolutionize*

Results
Unresolved competition

i. Resolution (?):
   i. Conversion prevails (e.g. *pillory*/*pillorize*)
   ii. Affixation prevails (e.g. *revolution*/*revolutionize*)
ii. Semantic specialization (?) (e.g. *pressure*/*pressurize*)
iii. No resolution (?) (e.g. *patine*/*patinate*/*patinize*)

Results

Specialization: *pressure* vs *pressurize*

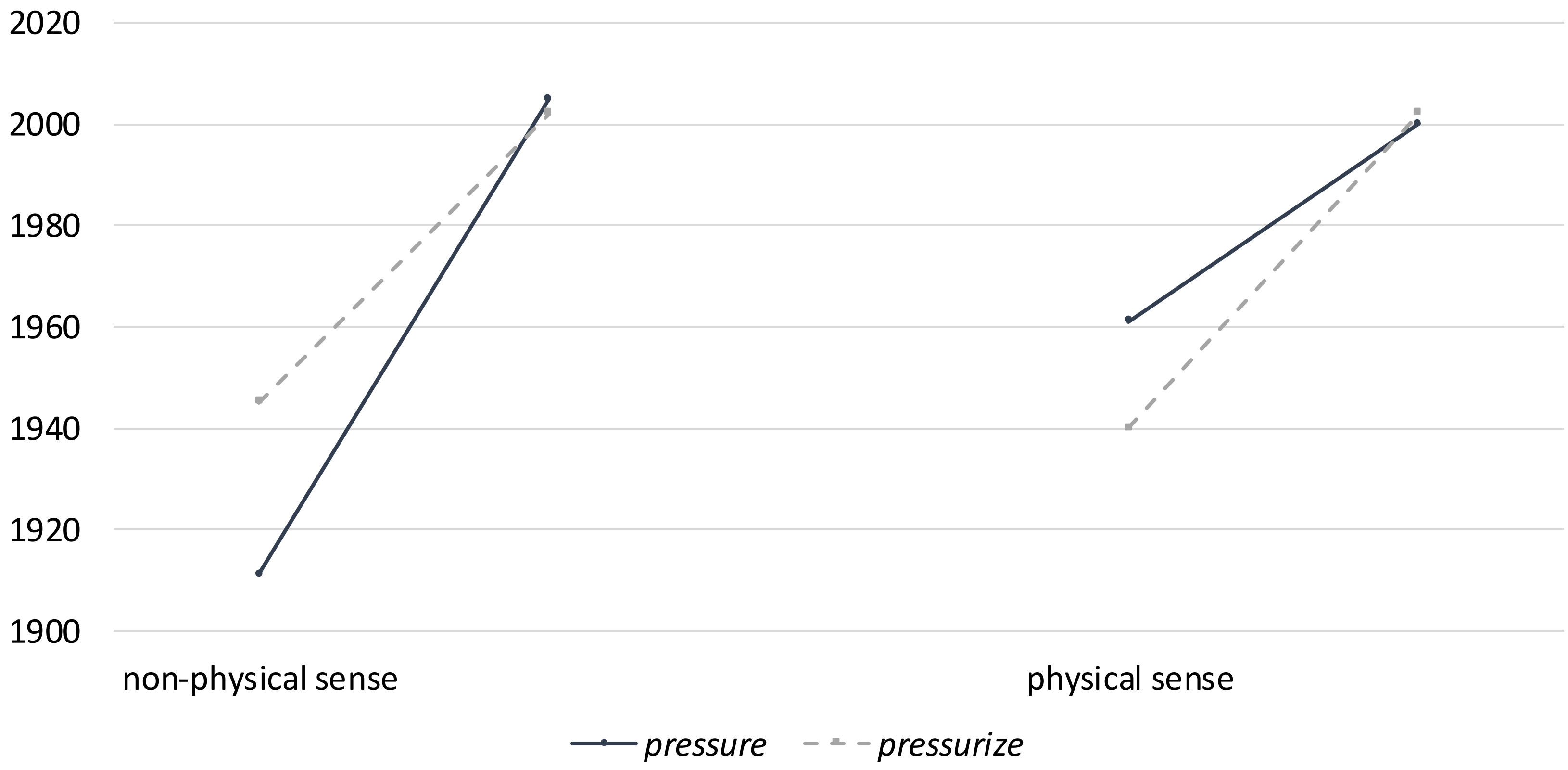

Figure 7. Timelines for the physical and non-physical sense of *pressure*/*pressurize* in the OED
(minimum Y-axis value is set at 1900 for easier reading)

Results

Specialization: *pressure* vs *pressurize*

	Collins Cobuild	***Merriam-Webster***
pressure	8. to constrain by the application of moral force	1. to apply pressure to
	9. another word for *pressurize*	2. *pressurize*
pressurize	1. to increase the pressure in order to maintain atmospheric pressure	1. to confine the contents of under a pressure greater than that of the outside atmosphere
	3. to make insistent demands of (someone)	2. to apply pressure to

Table 9. The doublet *pressure* and *pressurize* in contemporary dictionaries

Results

Specialization: *pressure* vs *pressurize*

	EHCB		COHA		COCA	
pressure	33	0.03	640	1.58	5846	5.89
pressurize	0	0	72	0.18	497	0.5

Table 10. Corpus data for *pressure* and *pressurize*

Results

Specialization: *pressure* vs *pressurize*

Word	***pressure***	***pressurize***	***pressure/pressurize***	**Score**
FELT	**170**	0	340.0	28.9
PRESIDENT	**147**	0	294.0	25.0
ME	**292**	1	292.0	24.8
HIM	**468**	2	234.0	19.9
NEVER	**85**	0	170.0	14.5
CONGRESS	**79**	0	158.0	13.4
STATES	**76**	0	152.0	12.9
SHOULD	**73**	0	146.0	12.4
STOP	**70**	0	140.0	11.9
ISRAEL	**68**	0	136.0	11.6
SEX	**66**	0	132.0	11.2
PARENTS	**65**	0	130.0	11.1
FEELING	**64**	0	128.0	10.9
COMPANIES	**62**	0	124.0	10.5
CHANGE	**61**	0	122.0	10.4
U.S.	**61**	0	122.0	10.4
ADMINISTRATION	**60**	0	120.0	10.2

Table 11. Comparison of the collocates in the COCA
for *pressure* and *pressurize*

Results

Specialization: *pressure* vs *pressurize*

Word	*pressurize*	*pressure*	*pressurize/pressure*	Score
GAS	**19**	0	38.0	447.0
FUEL	**17**	0	34.0	399.9
WATER	**32**	1	32.0	376.4
CABIN	**21**	1	21.0	247.0
TANKS	**21**	1	21.0	247.0
SUIT	**18**	1	18.0	211.7
CAPSULE	**8**	0	16.0	188.2
HEATED	**8**	0	16.0	188.2
POUNDS	**8**	0	16.0	188.2
PSI	**8**	0	16.0	188.2
PUMP	**14**	1	14.0	164.7
GASES	**7**	0	14.0	164.7
LIQUID	**7**	0	14.0	164.7
FLUID	**6**	0	12.0	141.2
TUNNEL	**6**	0	12.0	141.2
TANK	**11**	1	11.0	129.4
REACTOR	**5**	0	10.0	117.6

Table 12. Comparison of the collocates in the COCA for *pressurize* and *pressure*

Results
Unresolved competition

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   i. Conversion prevails (e.g. *pillory*/*pillorize*)
   ii. Affixation prevails (e.g. *revolution*/*revolutionize)*
ii. Semantic specialization (?) (e.g. *pressure*/*pressurize*)
iii. No resolution (?) (e.g. *patine*/*patinate*/*patinize*)

Results

No resolution: *patine/patinate/patinize*

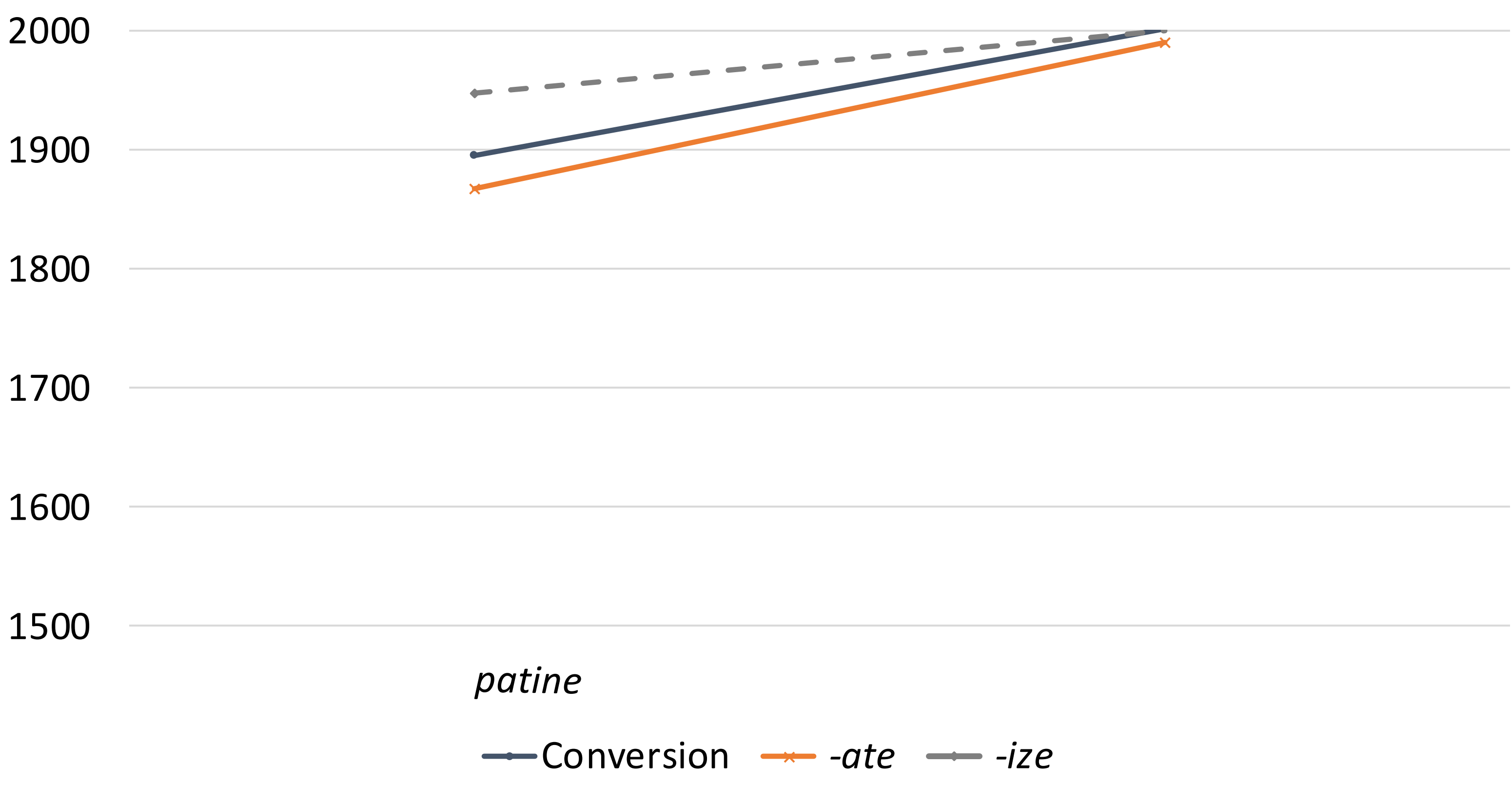

Figure 8. Timeline for *patine/patinate/patinize*

Results

No resolution: *patine/patinate/patinize*

	EHCB		COHA		COCA	
patine	-	-	-	-	-	-
patinate	-	-	2	0	8	0.01
patinize	na	-	-	-	-	-

Table 13. Corpus data for *patine/patinate/patinize*

	Collins	***Merriam-Webster***
patine	-	cover with a patina
patinate	coat the surface (of a metal)	give a patina to
patinize	coat with a patina	= *patinate*

Table 14. Lexicographic information for *patine/patinate/patinize*

Results

No resolution: *patine/patinate/patinize*

1st Derivative	*	†	Definition	2nd Derivative	*	†	Definition
patine	1896	-	= *patinate*	***patining***	1939	-	**= *patinating***
patinate	1867	-	cover with a patina	*patinated*	1893	-	covered with a patina
				patinating	1914	-	**process of covering with a patina**
patination	1888	-	the condition of having a patina				
patinize	1948	-	cover with a patina; = *patinate*	***patinizing***	1904	-	**= *patinating***

Table 15. Derivational paradigm for the triplet *patine/patinate/patinize*

Conclusion

i. The assessment at the level of senses is crucial because of:
   a. Different semantic classification
   b. Different stages of resolution
ii. The study of competition demands the combination of various resources
iii. Various profiles → demand individual analysis
iv. Real competition or overrepresentation in the OED?

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(Un)resolved competition?

Empirical evidence for the resolution of competition in the paradigm of English verbs

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Appendix I

	Conversion	***-ize***	***-ate***	***-ify***	***-en***	***en-***	***be-***
ORNATIVE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
RESULTATIVE	+	+	+	+	+	+	
INSTRUMENT	+	+	+		+	+	
PERFORMATIVE	+	+	+	+			
SIMILATIVE	+	+	+	+		+	
CAUSATIVE	+	+	+	+			
INCHOATIVE	+	+	+	+	+		
STATIVE	+	+				+	+
LOCATIVE	+					+	
PRIVATIVE	+						

Semantic categories classified by pattern in denominal clusters
(Fernández-Alcaina forthcoming)

Appendix II

	Conversion	***-ate***	***-en***	***-ify***	***-ize***	***be-***	***en-***
CAUSATIVE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
INCHOATIVE	+		+	+	+		+
INSTRUMENT	+	+			+		
ORNATIVE	+		+	+	+		
SIMILATIVE	+				+		
STATIVE	+		+				

Semantic categories classified by pattern in deadjectival clusters
(Fernández-Alcaina forthcoming)