

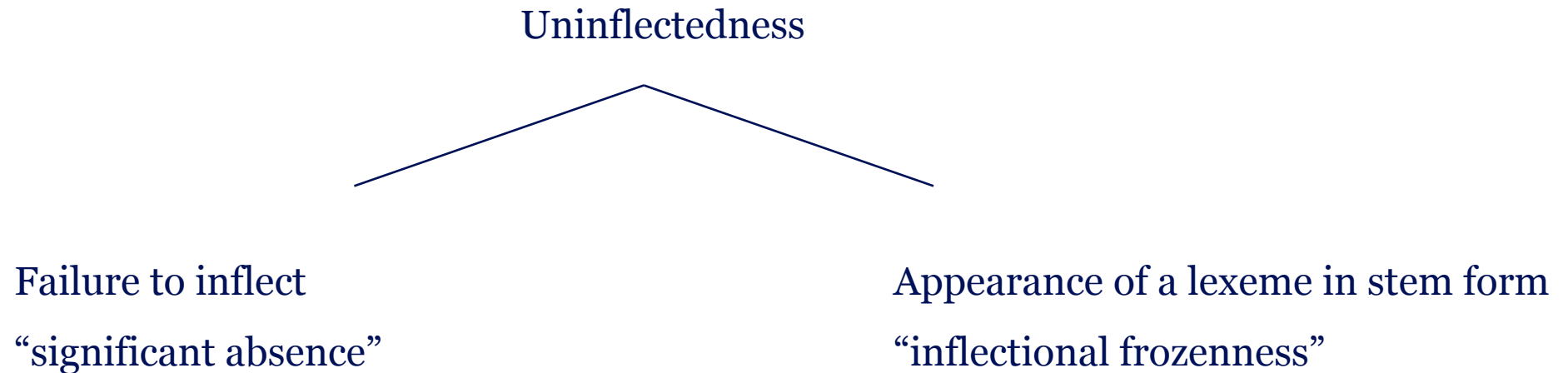
# Situating constructional uninflectedness

Jenny Audring | DGfS 2023, *AG8 Uninflectedness*

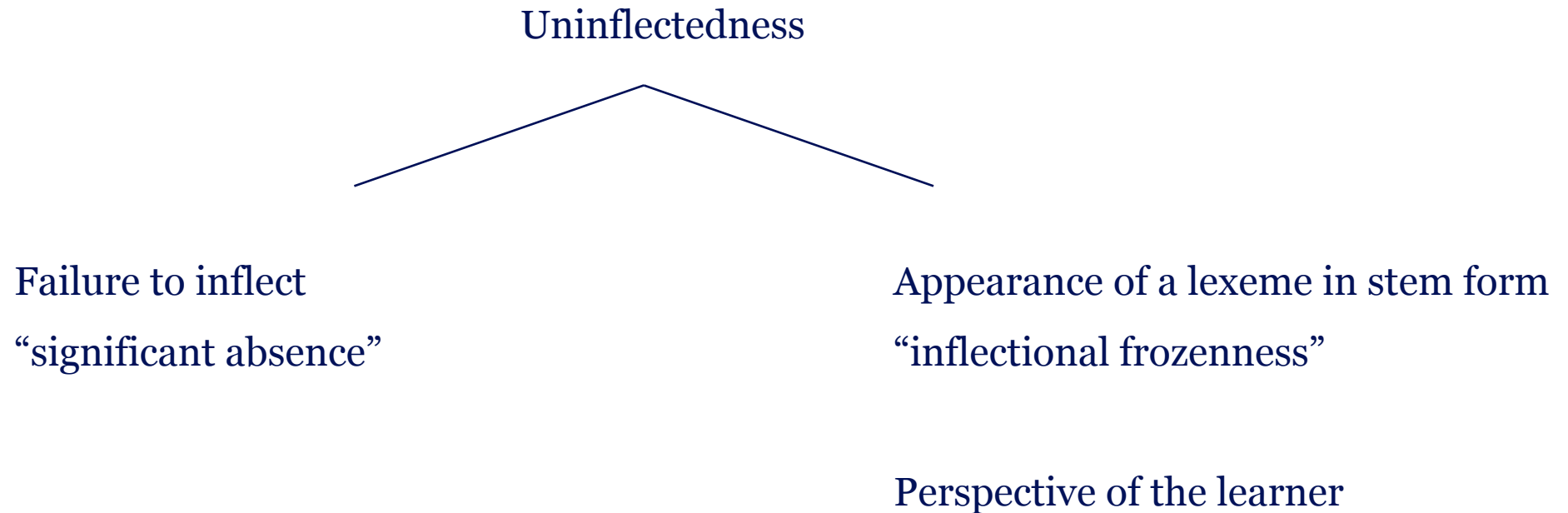


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# Uninflectedness: two perspectives



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Uninflectedness

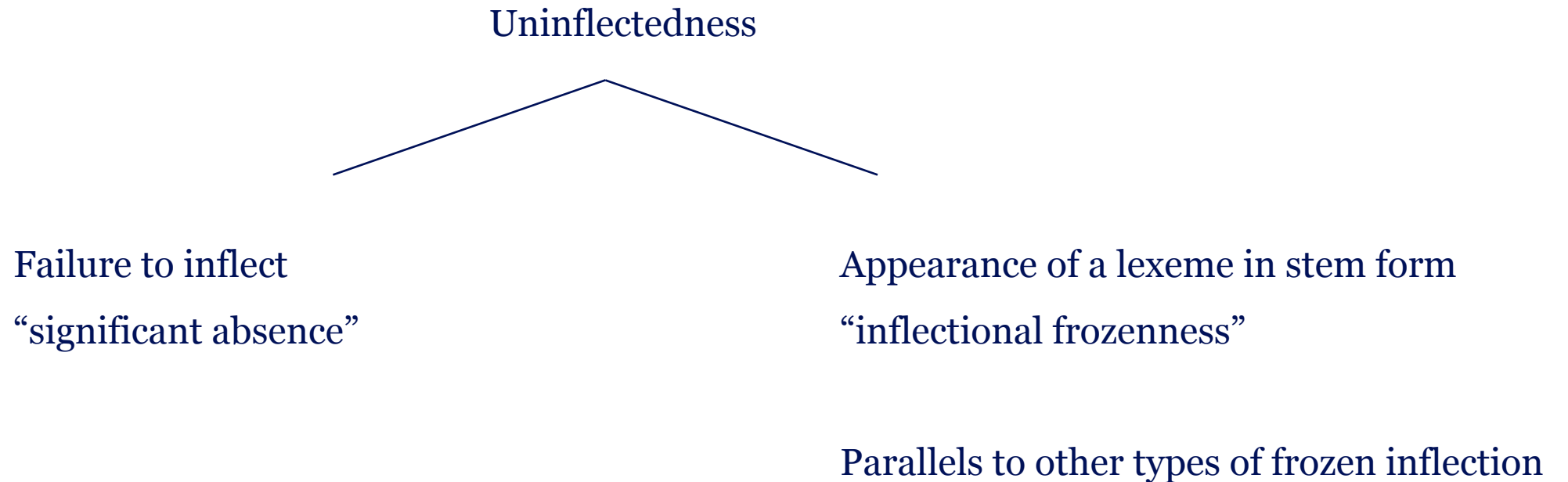
```
graph TD; A[Uninflectedness] --- B[Failure to inflect]; A --- C[Appearance of a lexeme in stem form];
```

Failure to inflect  
“significant absence”

Appearance of a lexeme in stem form  
“inflectional frozenness”

Stem form involves knowledge  
German *hoch* /ho:x/ ‘high’

# Uninflectedness: two perspectives



# Uninflectedness: types

Cutting the cake of uninflectedness (after Spencer 2020)

- (1) By motivation
- (2) By domain
- (3) By systematicity



# Uninflectedness: types

## (1) By motivation

Lexical uninflectedness

Russian *kenguru* ‘cangaroo’

Constructional/contextual uninflectedness

Mixed

Dutch *kwijt* ‘gone’, *onwel* ‘unwell’

# Uninflectedness: types

## (2) By domain

### In morphology

- Compounding
- Derivation
- Conversion
- Other (incorporation, ...)

German *Weißwein* ‘white wine’

German *weißlich* ‘whitish’

Dutch *lach* ‘laughter’

German *radfahren* ‘to bike’, *saubermachen* ‘to clean’

### In syntax

- Verbal syntagms
- Other types

coverbs in light verb constructions

predicative adjectives



# Uninflectedness: types

## (3) By systematicity

Systematic/productive

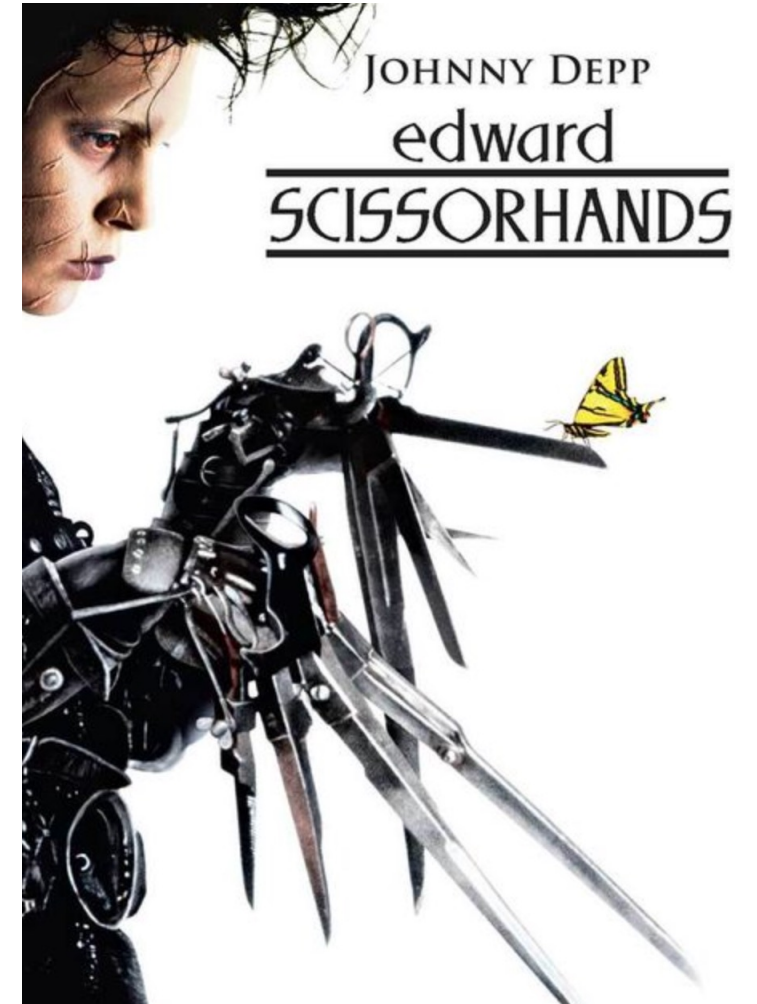
compounds  $[[X_{stem}][Y]]_Y$

Group-forming

Incidental

Lexicalized

Unique



# Uninflectedness: types

## (3) By systematicity

Systematic/productive

compounds  $[[X_{\text{stem}}][Y]]_Y$

Group-forming

Russian uninflected nouns

Incidental

Lexicalized

Dutch *met X aan de haal gaan* 'to run away with X'

Unique

*reckless, werewolf*

# Frozen inflection

- Uninflectability as construction-dependent morphology (“frozen inflection”)
- Parallels to other types?
  
- Specific inflected form
- Infinitive or participle



# Frozen inflection: types

Cutting the cake of frozen inflection

(1) By motivation

(2) By domain

(3) By systematicity



# Frozen inflection

## (1) By motivation

### Lexical frozenness

#### Pseudo-participles

German *angeboren* ‘innate’, *entlegen* ‘remote’, *zerknirscht* ‘remorseful’  
(Fleischer, Barz & Schröder 2012: 378)

#### [[N][V]]<sub>v</sub>

Dutch *buikspreken* ‘to ventriloquize’, German *bergsteigen* ‘to mountain-climb’

Dutch *hersenspoelen/ gehersenspoeld* ‘to brainwash/brainwashed’  
(Booij to appear)

### Constructional frozenness

# Frozen inflection

## (2) By domain

### In morphology

- Compounding *broad-shouldered, bad-mannered*
- Derivation German *Gefangenschaft* ‘imprisonment’, *Bekanntschaft* ‘acquaintance’, *Wissenschaft* ‘science’, *Leidenschaft* ‘passion’
- Conversion German *das Lachen* ‘the laughter’, *der Angestellte* ‘the employee’
- Imperatives German *Aufpassen/Aufgepasst* ‘Attention’

### In syntax

# Frozen inflection

## (2) By domain

### In syntax

#### - Verbal syntagms

Periphrastic constructions with **Ptcp** or **Inf**

Dutch *komen aan-X<sub>Inf/Ptcp</sub>* ‘to come X-ing’ (Booij & Audring 2007)

#### - Other types

English *all X-ed out* (Hugou 2013)

Dutch prohibitive infinitives: *Niet uit het raam leunen* ‘Don’t lean out of the window’ (van Olmen 2010)

# Frozen inflection

## (3) By systematicity

Systematic/productive

Inf > N conversion (*das Lachen* ‘the laughter’)

Group-forming

Pseudo-participles (*angeboren* ‘innate’)

Incidental

Lexicalized

*sich gebauchpinselt fühlen* ‘to feel flattered’, *writ large*

Unique

*flabbergasted*



# Parallels

- Parallel types

Motivation

Domain

Systematicity

- Specific parallels

Periphrasis

Conversion

Imperatives

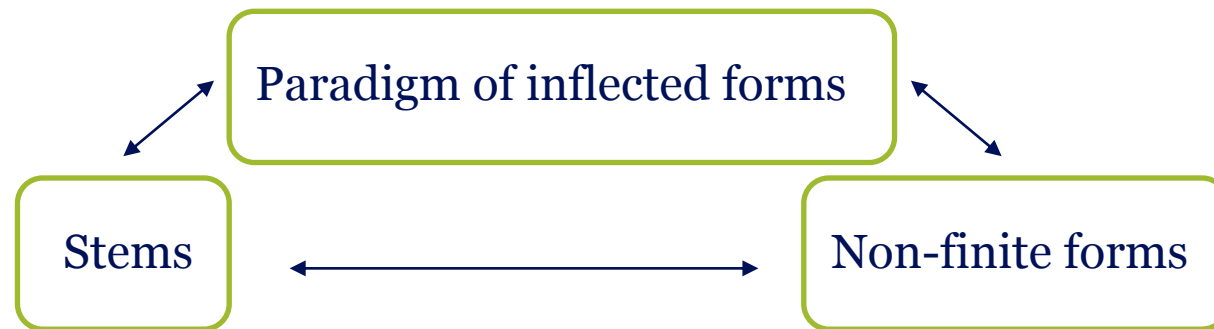


# Parallels

- Periphrasis: stems (Japanese LVCs), infinitives (German future) or participles (German perfect)
- Conversion: stems (Dutch *de lach*), infinitives (German *das Lachen*) or participles (German *der Angestellte*)
- Imperatives: stems (*Pass auf!*), infinitives (*Aufpassen!*) or participles (*Aufgepasst!*)

# Conclusions

- Uninflectedness as construction-dependent morphology (“frozen inflection”)
- Shifted focus from the absence of inflection to the presence of a stem
- Procedural > declarative perspective
- Interesting parallels
- Questions



# References

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# Vielen Dank!



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