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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Acknowledgements -- Contents -- Abbreviations -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Syntheticity and analyticity in the lexicon -- 3. The framework: Suffixation and conceptual categories -- 4. The corpus & methodology -- 5. Category 1: Person -- 6. Category 2: Object -- 7. Category 3: Location -- 8. Category 4: Action -- 9. Category 5: Abstract -- 10. The development of Old English noun suffixes -- 11. The typological change of English word-formation -- 12. Derivation and inflection: A typological perspective -- 13. Noun formation after the early ME period -- 14. Conclusion -- Notes -- References -- Subject index
Sommario/riassunto	This is the first study of the typological change of English from a synthetic towards an analytic language that focuses exclusively on the lexical domain of the language. It presents an innovative approach to linguistic typology by focusing on the different encoding techniques used in the lexicon, providing a theoretical framework for the description of structural types (synthetic, analytic) and encoding techniques (fusional, isolating, agglutinative, incorporating) found in the lexicon of a language. It is argued that, in the case of English, the change from syntheticity to analyticity did not only affect its inflectional system and the encoding of grammatical information, but also the

derivational component. Based on a cognitive approach to derivation, the book provides empirical evidence for a considerable decline in the use of synthetic structures and a trend towards higher degrees of analyticity in a specific lexical domain of English, the formation of nouns by means of derivation. The full extent of this change surfaced during the transition from Old English to early Middle English, but it was later partly reversed through influence from French. The typological shift was thus the result of a global structural reorganization of the language that resulted in a fundamental change of the structure of words. The book also presents a comprehensive account of the historical development of nominal derivation from the beginnings of Old English until the end of the early Middle English period. Based on empirical data from written sources the study documents the frequency of use of all Germanic-based derivational morphemes for nominalizations over different subperiods and discusses their origin as well as important changes of their semantic and morphological properties.

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