

## PREFACE

The aim of this book is to provide Polish students of English with a concise guide to the basic problems of morphology in general, and to the system of English morphology in particular. In view of the fact that self-contained courses in morphology are being introduced at present in most English Departments throughout the country, the need for a text of this sort is now much greater than ever before. In fact, this need has already been satisfied to a certain extent by the recent publication of several excellent surveys (e.g. Bauer 1983, Scalise 1984, Bybee 1985). I was in the fortunate position of being able to consult, and draw upon, these sources when the writing of this manuscript was still under way. As a result, I could fully appreciate the limitations and shortcomings of my own work. Contrary to what I had planned, limitations of space and time did not allow me to give any detailed presentation of the current situation in the theory of morphology. However, I offer instead a fairly elaborate account of lexical derivation in English where, I hope, some new ideas are proposed, in terms of description and classification. Pedagogically speaking, the quite modest task of description seems, after all, to be vitally important for a handbook of this sort, in particular since such classic works as Marchand (1969) are neither readily available nor accessible to students.

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B.S.

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