

KEY WORD FORMATION PROCESSES IN ENGLISH

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Abstract. *This paper explores the main processes of word formation in the English language. It focuses on various methods such as affixation, compounding, blending, clipping, and the creation of acronyms. Each process is analyzed with examples to show how new words are developed and integrated into everyday language. The study highlights the importance of word formation in the growth of the English vocabulary and illustrates the dynamic and creative nature of linguistic evolution.*

Keywords: *Word formation, Affixation, Compounding, Blending, Clipping, Acronym, Conversion.*

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ ПРОЦЕССЫ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ СЛОВ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

Аннотация. *В этой статье рассматриваются основные процессы словообразования в английском языке. Основное внимание уделяется различным методам, таким как аффиксация, словосложение, смешивание, вырезание и создание аббревиатур. Каждый процесс анализируется с примерами, чтобы показать, как новые слова развиваются и интегрируются в повседневный язык. Исследование подчеркивает важность словообразования в росте английского словарного запаса и иллюстрирует динамичную и творческую природу лингвистической эволюции.*

Ключевые слова: *Словообразование, аффиксация, словосложение, смешивание, вырезание, акроним, конверсия.*

Introduction

Language is a dynamic and ever-evolving system, constantly adapting to the needs of its speakers. One of the most fascinating aspects of this evolution is the formation of new words. In English, word formation processes play a vital role in enriching the vocabulary and keeping the language vibrant and responsive to change. These processes include a variety of methods such as compounding, affixation, blending, clipping, acronyms, and others.

Understanding how new words are created not only deepens our appreciation of the language but also highlights the creativity and flexibility inherent in human communication. This paper explores the major word formation processes in English, illustrating how they contribute to the development of modern vocabulary.

Literature review and method

Nowadays, the term 'word formation' does not have a clear cut, universally accepted usage.

It is sometimes referred to all processes connected with changing the form of the word by, for example, affixation, which is a matter of morphology. In its wider sense word formation denotes the processes of creation of new lexical units. Although it seems that the difference between morphological change of a word and creation of a new term is quite easy to perceive, there is sometimes a dispute as to whether blending is still a morphological change or making a new word.

There are, of course, numerous word formation processes that do not arouse any controversies and are very similar in the majority of languages.

One of the distinctive properties of human language is creativity, by which we mean the ability of native speakers of a language to produce and understand new forms in their language.

Even though creativity is most apparent when it comes to sentence formation, it is also manifest in our lexical knowledge, where new words are added to our mental lexicon regularly. In this paper the most comprehensive expositions of word formation processes that speakers of a language use regularly (and unconsciously too) to create new words in their language are presented.¹

Clipping is the word formation process which consists in the reduction of a word to one of its parts (Marchand: 1969). Clippings are, also, known as "shortenings." Clipping mainly consists of the following types:

Back clipping

Back clipping or apocopation is the most common type, in which the beginning is retained.

The unclipped original may be either a simple or a composite. Examples are: ad (advertisement), cable (cablegram), doc (doctor), exam (examination), gas (gasoline), math (mathematics), memo (memorandum), gym (gymnastics, gymnasium) mutt (muttonhead), pub (public house), pop (popular concert), trad (traditional jazz), fax (facsimile).

Fore-clipping

Fore-clipping or aphaeresis retains the final part. Examples are: phone (telephone), varsity (university), chute (parachute), coon (raccoon), gator (alligator), pike (turnpike).

Middle clipping

¹ Qodiriy, A. (2014). O'tkan kunlar. Tashkent: Yangi Asr Avlodi

In middle clipping or syncope, the middle of the word is retained. Examples are: flu (influenza), tec (detective), polly (apollinaris), jams (pyjamas), shrink (head-shrinker).

Complex clipping

Clipped forms are also used in compounds. One part of the original compound most often remains intact. Examples are: cablegram (cable telegram), op art (optical art), org-man (organization man), linocut (linoleum cut). Sometimes both halves of a compound are clipped as in navicert (navigation certificate). In these cases it is difficult to know whether the resulting formation should be treated as a clipping or as a blend, for the border between the two types is not always clear.

According to Bauer (1993), the easiest way to draw the distinction is to say that those forms which retain compound stress are clipped compounds, whereas those that take simple word stress are not. By this criterion bodbiz, Chicom, Comsymp, Intelsat, midcult, pro-am, scifi, and sitcom are all compounds made of clippings.

According to Marchand (1969), clippings are not coined as words belonging to the standard vocabulary of a language. They originate as terms of a special group like schools, army, police, the medical profession, etc., in the intimacy of a milieu where a hint is sufficient to indicate the whole.

For example, in school slang originated exam, math, lab, and spec(ulation), tick(et = credit) originated in stock-exchange slang, whereas vet(eran), cap(tain), are army slang. While clipping terms of some influential groups can pass into common usage, becoming part of Standard English, clippings of a socially unimportant class or group will remain groap slang.

Conclusion

In conclusion, word formation processes are fundamental to the growth and adaptability of the English language. They allow speakers to create new expressions to meet the demands of an ever-changing world. Methods such as compounding, affixation, blending, clipping, and the creation of acronyms not only expand the lexicon but also reflect social, technological, and cultural developments. By studying these processes, we gain valuable insight into how language evolves and adapts over time. Ultimately, word formation is not just a linguistic necessity but also a testament to human creativity and innovation in communication.

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