



WORD FORMATION IN ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: *In this article, the word structure in English linguistics, Grammatical formation and types of word formation are discussed.*

Keywords: *word formation, types of word-formation process, affixation, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, conversion, back formation, acronyms.*

The English language is known for its wonderful quality of way in which words and sentences are formed and used. Making of new words from an existing root word by adding a syllable or another word is the general process; however, there are several ways in which it can be done. word formation, according to Hans Marchand, is the branch of linguistics that studies patterns that form new lexical units, words. Word formation can only be related to formally and semantically analyzed compositions.

As for Crystal, word formation is, in a more practical way, considered as «the process of creating words out of sequences of morphemes.» In the process of word-formation, there are generally known at least eight broad ways how English words are formed affixation, conversion, compounding, reduplication, neologisms, clipping, blending, and acronym.

1. Affixation. Adding prefix or suffix or both into the Root Word is called Affixation. For instance,

Un (prefix)- Unemployed;

Sub (prefix)- Subheading;

Cy (Suffix)- Vacancy;

Less (Suffix)- careless.

Prefixes and suffixes

Looking more closely at the previous group of words, we can see that some affixes have to be added to the beginning of the word (e.g. un-, mis-). These are called **prefixes**. Other affixes have to be added to the end of the word (e.g. -less, -ish) and are called **suffixes**. All English words formed by this original process have either prefixes or suffixes, or both. Thus, ‘overwork’ has a prefix, ‘unacceptable’ has both a prefix and a suffix, and ‘carelessly’ has two suffixes.

Prefixes

| Prefix | meaning | example |
|--------|----------------|------------|
| Anti- | against | Antisocial |
| Bi- | two | Bilingual |
| Co- | With, together | Co-driver |



| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Counter- | Opposing or reacting to sth | Counterproductive |
| Ex- | previous | Ex-husband |
| Inter- | Between | International |
| Mis- | Done wrongly or badly | Misunderstand |
| Mono- | One | Monorail |
| Non- | Not | Non-smoker |
| Out- | Do/be more than | Outnumber |
| Post- | After | Postwar |
| Tri- | Three | Triangle |
| Uni- | One | Unicycle |
| Re- | Again | Redecorate |

Suffixes

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| -er/-or/-ar | Verb+ -er/-or/-ar | Painter/inventor/liar |
| -ist | Noun/verb/adjective+ -ist | Novelist/typist/realist |
| -ant/-ent | Verb+ -ant/-ent | Participant/student |
| -ian | Noun+ -ian | Librarian |

2. Conversion. Conversion happens when a word changes from one word to another. For example, the verb ‘to name’ is formed from the noun ‘name’; or the verb ‘to slow’ is formed from the adjective ‘slow’. For instance:

He named his dog. (*named* is a verb formed from the noun *name*).

Maria slowed the car. (*slowed* is a verb formed from the adjective *slow*).

Conversion is the derivational process in which an item changes its word-group without the adding of an affix. It is an efficient way of creating of new English words because there are no morphological restrictions on the forms that can be converted .

Conversion seems to be able to produce words of almost any form class (i.e.noun, verb, adjective, adverb). The main types of conversion are:

noun+ verb (a telephone for to telephone),

verb + noun (to attack + attack) and

adjective + verb (slow+ to slow).

3. Compounding. A compound is a unit consisting of two or more bases. But this definition is not quite sufficient, because derivational processes can sometimes be applied to forms combining more than one base (e.g. super-high-way) : In such cases, it is said that the base of the derivational process is a compound but not that the whole lexeme is a compound. A compound, Bauer (1973) suggests, may therefore be more fully defined as a lexeme containing two or more potential stems that has not undergone a subsequent process of derivation. In English four major types of compounds are generally distinguished.

A) compound Nouns: ice cream, lunchtime, firefighter, seafood, heartache.

B) compound Verb: sky-dive, freeze-dry, soft-land, over-look, bad mouth, breath test.

C) compound Adverbs.

The most common way of forming these is by the suffixation of -ly to a compound adjective.



D) compound Adjectives: space-born, fail-safe, turn-key, bitter-sweet.

4. Reduplication. It is a special type of compounding. Reduplication is a morphological process in which the root or stem of a word or part of it is repeated with an obvious or a minor change. It is used to show majority, distribution, repetition, routine activity, increase of size, added intensity, continuance etc.

It is found in many languages, although its level of linguistic productivity varies from language to language. This is a process of repeating a syllable or the word as a whole (sometimes with a vowel change) and putting it together to form a new word. For example: *bye bye* (**exact reduplication**), *easy-peasy* (**rhyming reduplication**) or hokey-pokey, razzle-dazzle, zigzag, tick-tock, super-duper.

5. Neologisms. A neologism refers to any new word, identifying a new concept. In the 1980s, English neologisms included *yuppie*, *pocket phone*, and user *friendly*; in the 1990s, *Internet* neologisms, such as *spam* and *texting* were common; and in the 2000s, Internet neologisms related to *blogging*, such as *videoblog* and *blogosphere* became widespread (Cambridge Encyclopedia).

Neologisms are very effective in English. They are very few and some of them are borrowed in Arabic.

6. Clipping. It refers to cut off the beginning or the end of a word, or both, leaving a part to stand for a whole. For examples: **lab**, **dorm**, **prof**, **exam**, **math** and others.

7. Blending. it is a combination of two words, usually the first part of one word with the part of another as in **gasohol** , from **gasoline** and **alcohol** .
The resulting fusion has both original meanings .

8. Acronyms. They are words formed from the initial letters of several words . They are usually pronounced as the spelling indicates: **IELTS** (International English Language Testing System), **NATO** (for North Atlantic Treaty Organization), **AIDS** (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

To sum up, there is most of possibilities speakers of a language have at their disposal (or in the past, when the words were first coined) to create new words on the basis of existing ones, including the phonetic addition and subtraction (or orthographic) material. The study of word-formation can be defined as the study of the ways how to form new complex words on the basis of other words or morphemes.



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