

AFFIXATION AND WORD-COMPOSITION IN MODERN ENGLISH

Chumak Liudmyla

Abstract

Word-formation concerns the process of creating complex words of the smallest meaningful units. Word-formation can be distributed through affixation, derivation and compounding. Compounding, being the most productive mean of creating new words in English, nowadays more often uses the affixational mechanism in the formation of new words, that is the tendency of enlarging modern English vocabulary with new word-forming elements.

Keywords: *word-formation processes, neologisms, compounding, affixation, word-forming elements.*

АФІКСАЦІЯ ТА СЛОВОСКЛАДАННЯ В СУЧАСНІЙ АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ

Анотація

Словотвір розглядається як процес творення від існуючих у мові слів та їх форм нових слів (похідних та складних). Здебільшого нові слова утворюються за допомогою афіксації, деривації (словотворення від слова-основи) та словоскладання. Словоскладання, як найпродуктивніший спосіб словотвору сучасної англійської мови, все активніше використовує афіксальний механізм творення інновацій, і зумовлює процес поповнення словникового складу новими словотвірними елементами.

Ключові слова: *словотвірні процеси, неологізми, словоскладання, афіксація, словотвірні елементи.*

I. Introduction.

Lexical units constitute the basic word-building base in the word-formation processes. But Modern English has a tendency of new language units functioning in the forms that are not peculiar to them. Such a linguistic phenomenon of transformation is associated with the formation of the variants existing in the language communication units. And it proves the theory of language adaptivity to new life situations.

The focus of our work is to analyze the derivative “new” lexical items, the formation of which reveals the specifics of “internal” aspects of lexical-derivational subsystem study in the general language system.

This paper is organized as following: Section II presents the approach to the problem of morphemization of free forms. Section III gives the analysis of the innovations, the components of which belong to the new affixational elements. Experimental results come after in the following Section. The Summary and the Future Directions are given in the Final Section.

II. The approach to the problem of morphemization of free forms

The language is in constant development. Some of its elements disappear, while others come out as “transformed” components of the compound words into affixes [1 Klymenko, 1984, p. 131]. These transformations are determined by such a language process as morphemization.

In this case, the creation of the neologisms like: *bionomics*, *biotech*, *eco-friendly*, *technospeak*, and so on, is defined in the linguistic literature as the example of the “morphemization of free forms” [2 Zabolotnà, 1989, p.106]. Morphemization acts on a word or its components which have essentially become morphemes. This term describes the process of creating a new morpheme on the base of existing lexical material. Morphemization is distinguished as a “special case of the more general phenomenon by which a morpheme sequence becomes dissociated from its original analytical meaning and is treated as a single morpheme with perhaps shifted meaning” [3].

Equally interesting is an attempt at understanding the mechanisms of affixational elements forming. The frequency of the compositional word-building element within a number of words that is used by analogy to some particular compound word leads to its identification as an affix. At the level of man’s consciousness this constant element is accepted as a morpheme – the unit of the morphological level of the language system. And the lexical units like *friendly*, *speak* and so on go through the process of morphemization.

III. Analysis of innovations of the model AFFIXATIONAL ELEMENT + AFFIXATIONAL ELEMENT

Data analysis examples affirm that the components of the mentioned above neologisms *bio-*, *eco-*, *techno-*, *-nomics*, *-tech*, *-friendly*, *-speak* are the new affixational elements. The activity of lexical units in the function of affixes demonstrates the process of “supplying the morphological level with functional variants of lexemes” [4 Garmash, 2011, p.170]. So the process of word-composing is understood as a mechanism that results in the formation of new derivative elements.

Concerning the composition of the new words like *bionomics*, *Eurospeak* the affixational elements are united together in the prepositive and postpositive position: *bio-* + *-nomics*, *Euro-* + *-speak*: *Based on these observations and analysis of physico-characteristics of water taken from natural habitats, information on the bionomics and tolerance limits of A. dispar was consolidated for future reference.* (Journal of Vector Borne Disease, December 1, 2011); *These thoughts – often presented in soft “Eurospeak” so as not to sound too alarming – seem as if their proponents thought them up long ago and were just waiting for a good opportunity to unveil them as miracle cures for all the financial world’s ills and woes.* (Washington Street Journal, December 3, 2008).

The mentioned above neologisms *bionomics*, *Eurospeak*, etc., are compoundings. Bauer’s definition of a compounding that is the “formation of a new lexeme by adjoining two or more lexemes” [5 Bauer, 2003, p. 40], “encompasses different kinds of affixation” [6 Lieber, 2014, p. 3]. The components of the analyzed compounds *bio-* + *-nomics*, *Euro-* + *-speak* are affixes. Like free morphemes with a kind of characteristic regularity they are being used in some word-formation models of present-day English. These components become to be treated as bound morphemes or word-forming elements that take part in the process of word-formation.

In this case the scientists speak about recursive word composition that is represented in the morphological forms. Recursion comes to coincide with

embedding and structural complexity as recursive compounding means that compound becomes a base of further compounding.

And thus, a new word is created according to the model AFFIX + AFFIX = WORD. So, according to the origin the constituents of the mentioned model belong to the units of the morphological level. Such derivative morphemes as affixational elements like *bio-*, *Euro-*, *-nomics*, *-speak* become the base for new language units.

IV. Experimental results

The word-forming (affixational) element is considered to be a derivational one, when a permanent component of a particular word-building model has transformed into a formant and acquired the potential to perform affixational functions in the process of new unit formation. The affixational elements, for example, *bio-*, *burger-*, *cran-*, *Compu-*, *cyber-*, *docu-*, *eco-*, *ego-*, *enro-*, *Euro-*, *-free-*, *google-*, *hyper-*, *info-*, *mega-*, *techno-*, *spam-*, *surgi-*, *web-*, *-crat*, *-friendly*, *-gate*, *-gram*, *-holic*, *-mail*, *-nomics*, *-preneur*, *-speak*, *-zine* are formed as the result of “secondary function” of blending mechanism. In this case the language unit acquires a generalized meaning and is used by analogy in the identical situations while representing the reality as the world of things and thoughts.

The following elements have lost the possibility to perform the role of separate lexemes thanks to the so-called “damaged” forms. These forms are perceived as affixes that can be added to either a root word or to another analogous element [7; 8 Yenikieieva, 1998, p. 46; 2006, p. 95]. As soon as the fragment of the blend word shows consistency in the series of derivatives because of its form and meaning, this element obtains word-building qualities. That is the blend-words become a base of further word-building process. And in this case, it gives good grounds for the assertion of the role of blending in the creation of word-forming elements with the affixational status.

The combination of an affixational element in the prepositive position with a similar one in postpositive position has activated the process of producing the

neologisms in Modern English. The combination of the newly derived affixational elements results from two mechanisms – blend derivation and its composition.

These affixational elements are characterized by the reduced, the so-called “fragmented” structure. They are the part of the morphological level of the language system. And it is considered that of all lexeme meanings can be concentrated in these fragments. This fact explains the process of production of structurally identical innovations. And such affixational elements can not exactly coincide with (primary) lexical units. They can be perceived in the minds of speakers as some structural elements, though with particular functions and semantic peculiarities, but on the whole with a generalized meaning.

Modern English vocabulary has recently been enriched with a number of neologisms that were produced on the basis of the combining model $AFFIX + AFFIX = WORD$. In most cases these innovations denote different scientific and technical terms of modern world: *bionomics*, *biopreneur*, *biotech*, *burgernomics*, *cranburger*, *CompuCom*, *cyberholic*, *cybernaut*, *cyberpreneur*, *eco-friendly*, *ecotech*, *edubabble*, *enronomics*, *Eurocrat*, *Eurospeak*, *InfoCom*, *infoganda*, *infoholic*, *infonaut*, *infonomics*, *intrapreneur*, *megazine*, *technomania*, *technopreneur*, *technospeak*, *technozine*, *surgiholic*, *videophilia*, *webaholic*.

The peculiar feature of new lexical units structure, formed by means of the combining model $AFFIX + AFFIX$ is affixational elements composition. These elements, being the elements of the blend words, have lost their formal correlation with notional significant words. And hence, they are used only as prefixes or suffixes that are analogous to the clipped form. Affixational elements are splinter formations by origin, the creation of which is caused by the functioning of word-building and cognitive mechanisms.

The peculiarity of such a word-forming element is in its frequency and the abstract meaning the split up element acquires in comparison with its source word. The analysis of the affixational innovations with the constant constituent either in the prepositive or postpositive position enables to determine the general categorical meaning of the derivative words.

New words development is the process that illustrates the communicative challenges of modern life. Different areas of human activity are the sources of new words forming. But modern English vocabulary researchers specify Economics and business as one of the main spheres that supply modern English lexical system with neologisms [9 Zatsnyi, 2008, pp. 16-17]. In this case, for example, the affixational element *-nomics* combining with some other affixational elements in prepositive position like *bio-*, *burger-*, *cyber-*, *ecolo-*, *enro-*, *free-*, *info-* displays high level of word-forming activity:

The Index is based on the theory that in the long run exchange rates should adjust to equal the price of specific goods in different countries - in this case a Big Mac. Known as "burgernomics", the index was devised in a widely-cited paper by Pam Woodall and has been running since 1986. (The Huffington Post, January 18, 2012); In 1982, with his wife and some friends, he founded an organization called Love Is Feeding Everyone, which fed more than 100,000 people in Los Angeles each week. In 1993, he and his wife founded a nonprofit group called the Institute of Ecolonomics – a word Mr. Weaver coined from combining ecology and economics – to find solutions to environmental problems. (The New York Times, February 28, 2006); International contributors address current issues and technologies in infonomics, the economics of information, in light of the transformation from closed hierarchical organizations to organizations connected together in open networks and in extended enterprises. (Reference & Research Book News, February 1, 2010); Cybernomics is an environmentally friendly IT Services Firm based in Toronto that has provided North American businesses and organizations with Professional Green IT Consulting, Management, and Infrastructure/Internet Publishing Services since 1993. Cybernomics has been a leader in Green IT in North America since 2005 and is committed to making Green IT the cost-effective and business-smart answer – for the overall benefit of your business and the environment. (PR Newswire, September 19, 2008).

The second conceptual field producing a large quantity of modern English lexical innovations is connected with the computer technologies and the

“Internetization” of the society. So, this phenomenon is described with the help the following neologisms: *CompuCom*, *cybernaut*, *Infocom*, *webaholic* and so on.

*The damage could have been much worse were it not for the employee of an outside company called **CompuCom** who was in the process of providing backup and disaster recovery services. (The Register, May 1, 2009); The US attorney general, John Ashcroft, also hinted at links yesterday claiming that the Holy Land Foundation shared offices and staff with an internet company, **Infocom**, based in the same industrial estate in Richardson, Texas. **Infocom** was raided six days before the September 11 attacks accused of illegally sending computer technology to Libya and Sudan. (The Guardian, December 5, 2001); Teacher Lara Savory is a self confessed **webaholic**. Her collection of practical curriculum links is idiosyncratic and fun. (The Guardian, 2011); “What is this Doomsday Clock 2013 I just saw on top of Yahoo news?” one concerned **cybernaut** asked on Yahoo! (The Huffington Post, January 18, 2013).*

Different kinds of society and nature interaction and the complexity of the related processes are concerned with the production of new lexical units in modern English, coined by means of the combining model AFFIX + AFFIX. It should be marked that in this case an AFFIX is a fragment of a blend word, for example, *bio-*, *eco-*, *enviro-*, *techno-*, *-free-*, *-friendly*, *-tech*:

*Antonio Di Oronzo, principal of bluarch architecture, has designed the Greenhouse in New York City, which is the first L.E.E.D. registered, **eco-friendly** nightclub in the United States. (Contemporist, March 13, 2009) He’s also pushed hard for stem cell research, so California can lead the way in **biotech** and biomedicine, and for high-speed rail. (The Huffington Post, September 27, 2010); Their gamble is that our thirst for gas savings and **eco-tech** will outweigh a considerable downside: When the Leaf is out of juice, you’re out of options. (The Washington Post, January 30, 2011).*

The process of coining new words on the bases of the fragments of existing in the language communication units that undergo the process of compounding without any linking elements seem to be on the rise in Modern English. The

production and active functioning of new lexemes in English is the way, the means of derivational morphological compounding are realized.

V. Conclusion

Our conclusion from the above analysis is that the ways, a human represents the reality by means of language, are interacted. As one of the forms of human's conscious activity, the language uses the most effective mechanisms and techniques of representing the world. So the human creates and accepts such lexical units that are connected with the acquired knowledge, experience on the basis of some structurally designed model. Thus, the process of emergency and active functioning of new English words, coined by means of affixational elements compounding, is the form of morphological composition in the derivational system of the English language.

In the act of new lexical units' formation by means of affixational elements composition, can be the result of either the process of free form morphemization, or morpheme lexicalization (the process in which a bound morpheme acquires the status of a lexeme[10 Brinton Laurel J., 2005, p. 60]).

The research data, described above, indicate that the process of word-building, known as affixation or derivation, results in the production of innovations, the constituents of which can belong not only to the morphological level but also to some different levels of the language system.

Opportunities for further work in this area include collecting more examples from periodicals in order to particularize the potential of the language system adaptivity.

References

- [1] Klymenko N.F., *Slovotvorcha struktura i semantyka skladnykh slov u suchasniy ukrainskiy movi* (The word-building structure and semantics of complex words in the modern Ukrainian language). K.: Naukova dumka, 1984. – 252 p.
- [2] Zabotkina V.I., *Novaya leksika sovremennogo angliyskogo yazyka* (The new vocabulary of Modern English). M.: Vysshya shkola, 1989. – 126 p.

- [3] Nevin Bruce E., 1992 *Linguist List* 3.899 November 1992. Available at: <http://linguistlist.org/issues/25/25-1992.html>.
- [4] Garmash O.L., *Lingvosenergetychnyi aspekt rozvytku slovnykovogo fondu anhliyskoyi movy* (Lingua-synergetic aspect of the development of the vocabulary of the English language). Zaporizhzhia: ZNU, 2011. – 324 p.
- [5] Bauer L. *Introducing Linguistic Morphology* / L. Bauer. – (2nd edn.) Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press and Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2003. – 366 p.
- [6] Lieber R., Štekauer P., *The Oxford Handbook of Derivational Morphology* Oxford University Press, 2014. – 960 p.
- [7] Yenikieieva S.M., *Teleskopiia yak osnova utvorennia novykh deryvatsiynykh zasobiv anhliyskoyi movy* (Blending as the basis of the formation of new derivational means of English). Zaporizhzhia, 1998. – № 1. – pp. 46-48.
- [8] Yenikieieva S.M., *Systemnists i rozvytok slovotvoru suchasnoyi anhliyskoyi movy* (Systemness and the development of modern English word-formation). Zaporizhzhia: ZNU, 2006. – 303 p.
- [9] Zatsnyi Yu.A., Yankov A.V., *Innovatsiyyi u slovnykovomu skladi anhliyskoyi movy pochatku XXI stolittya: anhlo-ukrayinsky slovnyk* (Innovations in the English vocabulary of early 21-st century: English-Ukrainian dictionary). Vinnytsia: Nova Knyha, 2008. – 360 p.
- [10] Brinton Laurel J., Traugott Elizabeth, Closs *Lexicalization and Language Change, Research Surveys in Linguistics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. – 207 p.