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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PREFIX USAGE IN WORD FORMATION IN MODERN GERMAN AND ENGLISH

The social consciousness of people at the present stage of development can be studied by studying the development of the vocabulary of the language. This is an effective research method since language has the property of reflecting all the shifts and transformations in the life of society. The main way of vocabulary development is word formation. In modern German and English, due to interaction with changes in the meaning of words and borrowings, word formation plays a major role in replenishing the dictionary with new words. This ensures communication processes at different stages of social development. Therefore, the purpose of the presented study is a comparative analysis of prefixal word formation in modern German and English. By analyzing related scientific studies, it was found that prefixation is very productive for both German and English. Prefixation permanently replenishes the class of words. Prefixes actively form new vocabulary based on the main vocabulary - both verbs and nouns.

Scientists distinguish functional, structural, and extravalent patterns in the word formation of both languages. The conditions for the formation and use of affixal subderivatives in German compared to English are more systematic and productive, which is due to the morphological structure of the German language. German has a richer set of word-forming affixes, which clearly determine the part-language affiliation and semantic shades of derived words. In English, on the other hand, the derivation process is less formalized, and a significant part of new words is formed through borrowing, conversion, and composition, which makes the system of affixal word formation less productive compared to German. In German, word-forming constructions are formed from directly compounded rows, divided principles that can be generalized since word-forming models operate for various specific lexical elements. These principles regulate the nature of the chain of word formations. In English, the semantic relations between formants and those linguistic units that enter word-forming relations are usually closer.

Thus, word formation, morphological, lexical, and semantic models in both languages are determined by structural schemes, according to which a number of lexical units have similar structures. This is also due to belonging to the same language group. The generalized semantic connection between formants and interventions is word-formation meaning. The very concept of a word-formation model refers to the synthetic or procedural aspect of word formation [1, p. 17]. The most essential characteristic of the concept of word formation is the model and its constructive productivity. Word-formation models can be productive and unproductive. Elements of the first category serve to form new words, which replenishes the lexical composition

of the language. Elements of the second category are revealed into words, but new words are not formed from them [2]. The prefix model of a verb is an interesting category in the perspective of a comparative analysis of two root languages. Formally, the prefix model is characterized by the fact that the associated word-formation morpheme precedes the generating base. The semantic essence of the prefix model is to give a word a certain categorical feature. Verbs with prefixes are widely represented in German and English [3]. Although, along with prefix models in the Old and Middle High German period, one can find a number of verbs that are characterized by semi-prefix models. German verbs are formed from verb prefixes with different word-forming activity – be-, er-, ver-, zer-. Among fixed verb derivatives, the structure prefix + primary stem is distinguished according to the model: derivatives with the prefix be-: sich bedudeln, befunken, beklatschen, derivatives with the prefix er-ersaufen, ergattern, ereseln, derivatives with the prefix ver-: verbimsen, verbläuen, sich verbohren, derivatives with the prefix zer-: zerbleuen, zerkrachen, zermatschen.

Analysis of the relevant literature demonstrates a tendency to a decrease in the activity of prefix word-formation among verbs, which can be explained by their limited semantic productivity [4, p. 419]. The prefixes be- and ver- are used most actively in this process.

In colloquial speech, semi-prefixes are found much more often than in the literary version. At the same time, dictionaries do not contain compound verbs with the semi-prefixes bei-, durch-, ein-, entgegen-, entlang-, gegenüber-, hinter-, mit-, nach-, ob-, über-, um-, unter-, vor-, wider-, zu-. The most productive ones are ab-, an-, auf-, aus-, ein-, which form verbs based on nouns. Many of these verbs require context to reveal their meaning, since even native speakers cannot always intuitively determine their semantics. Some formations arise by analogy, for example, abmessern (to cut with a knife) and absäbeln (to cut off with a saber) have the common meaning of "separation with a sharp object". The most common ones still remain be-, er-, ver-, ab-, an-, auf-, aus-, while other prefixes and semi-prefixes have a significantly lower frequency. Semi-prefixes carry a much higher informational and semantic load compared to prefixes.

In English, there are also prefix models from which verbs are formed. Most prefixes in English do not have transposing power. However, some of them are still able to change the part-of-speech belonging of a word, transforming, for example, nouns or adjectives into verbs. These include the prefixes en-, be-, de-, mis-, which are actively used in word formation. For example, enable (make possible) is formed from the adjective able, and befriend (become a friend) is formed from the noun friend. At the same time, most English prefixes perform a modifying function, changing only the meaning of the word without transferring it to another part of speech. This distinguishes the English prefix system from the German one, where the transposing role of prefixes is more pronounced [5, c. 31]. The most common prefixes that form verbs in English are the following: a, be, circum, co, contra, de, dis, en, fore, in, inter, mis, out, over, pre, re, sub, super, sur, trans, un, under, up.

The proposed prefixes stimulate the formation of new parts of speech. In modern English, there is a shift from prefixation to postfixation. The relationship between the verb and the additional element has weakened since this element has retained its

separate position and stress, which allows it to partially retain both formal similarity and a certain semantic meaning. The adverb, which is the basis of this element, has integrated with the verb, forming a single lexical unit. This method of word formation in English is extremely productive. Linguistic studies clearly demonstrate that at the current stage of the development of the English language, phrasal verbs occupy leading positions in its verb system. If we analyze literary works of the early 20th century, such verbs are mainly found in dialogues and colloquial speech. However, since the middle of the 20th century, a tendency has emerged and consolidated to use them in narrative and descriptive language and to express the emotions of characters. This indicates the growing role of phrasal verbs in modern English vocabulary. Previously, they were considered to be exclusively a colloquial feature, but at the present stage, their use has significantly gone beyond these limits. It is also worth considering the developed inter-linguistic homonymy in English when the same unit can function as an adverb, preposition, prefix, or suffix.

The comparative analysis of the use of prefixes in word formation in modern German and English showed that the most common in English are postfixes: about, after, along, around, aside, away, back, down, in, off, out, over, though, up (upgrow, grow up, download, load down. Of the nine prefixes of German verbs, only four – be-, er-, ver-, zer- – have varying degrees of word-forming activity. In the colloquial version of German, semi-prefix word formation is much wider, but only five semi-prefixes are the most productive: ab-, an-, auf-, aus-, ein-. Unlike German, in English most prefixes are able to change the participle of a word. Not all English prefixes have a transpositional function. In English, there is also a tendency to replace prefixation with postfixation. A characteristic feature of colloquial English is inter-participle homonymy and a large number of suffixes.

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