



Word formation Process

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P2009Me1088

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- How new words are being formed in the language.
 - Word formation is of great interest for linguists as it sheds light on other aspects of language.

Why are new words needed?

- Because of new inventions and changes
- Language is dynamic
- vast amount of new inventions made in the 20th and 21st
- One of the distinctive properties of human language is creativity

Entry Of a Word in a language

etymology: studies of the history of words, their origin, and how their form and meaning changed over time

Etymology: English "Alleviate"

- It is a combination of Latin levis means light and the prefix ad- means 'to' (ad- changes to al-before a root starting from l-)
- Words derived from it (levis)
 - relieve- re (again) + levis
 - elevate (to raise up)- e-(out) +levis
 - levitation- process of object apparently rise in the air as if floating
 - levity- lightness in sense of frivolity means lack of seriousness.

English word formation

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. coinage | 2. Borrowing, |
| 3. Calque | 4. Compound |
| 5. Derivation | 6. Blending |
| 7. Backformation | 8. Conversion |
| 9. Acronym | 10. Initialism |
| 11. Onomatopoeia | 12. Clipping |



1. Coinage

- the word formation process of inventing entirely new words
- Ex: robotics (1941), genocide (1943), black hole (1968), blog, internet, google, Aspirine.

Some more examples

- **e-cruitment**-online recruitment of employees; online submission of resumes and cover letters
- **netbook**-small laptop computer which weighs less than 3 pounds and has a 7 to 10 inch screen
- **notspot**-an area where there is slow internet access or no connection at all
- **slumdog**-very poor, underprivileged person who lives in an overcrowded a slum

2. Borrowing

- Borrowing is the process of actually borrowing words from foreign languages.
- The English language has been borrowing words from "nearly a hundred languages in the last hundred years"
- The other way round, many countries also have taken many English words into their dictionaries, such as the well-known "*OK or internet*"
- most of the loan words are nouns, only some of them are verbs or adjectives.

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- Latin: interim, memorandum, agenda, p.m. and a.m., sponsor.
 - Greek : pneumonia, panorama, psychoanalysis, psychology, python
 - French: bureau, café, chauffeur, abattoir, attaché, á la carte
 - Sanskrit: chakra, mahatma, nirvana, musk
 - Hindi -avatar, bungalow, jungle, pajamas, verandah, shampoo, yoga, pundit, cheetah

3. Calque

- Direct translation of the element of a word into the borrowing language.
- word-for-word translation of a phrase borrowed from another language.
- Ex: Spanish from English
perros calientes –dog hot =
hot dog

4. Compounding

- Compounding is the process of putting words together to build a new one that "does not denote two things, but one" and that is "pronounced as one unit"
- Ex: -handbag=hand + bag;
-wallpaper=wall + paper;
-fingerprint=finger + print;
-sunburn=sun + burn,

5. Derivation

- Derivation, as "the most common word formation process", builds new words by adding morphemes
- word formation by affixes
- By prefixes: un-usual , mis-pronounce
mis-lead, dis-respect
- By suffixes: care-less, child-ish
faith-ful
- prefix and suffix: dis-loyal-ty
un-erring-ly

6. Blending

- A blending is a combination of two or more words to create a new one, usually by taking the beginning of the other word and the end of the other one
- Ex: brunch = breakfast + lunch
motel = motor + hotel
smog = smoke + fog
transistor = transfer + resistor
emoticon = emotion + icon
webinar = web + seminar

Some more example

- Sitcom= situation + comedy; television series based on humorous everyday situations
- Netiquette=network + etiquette
- Netizen = internet+ citizen