

# **Lecture 5.**

# **Word-formation**

Lexicology

# Outline of the lecture:

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- 1. Definition of the word-formation**
- 2. Affixation**
- 3. Conversion**
- 4. Composition**
- 5. Shortening (clipping, abbreviation, blending)**

# 1. Word-Formation

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is the system of derivative types of words and the process of creating new words from the material available in the language after certain structural and semantic formulas and patterns.

## 2. Affixation

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is the productive process of forming a new word by adding a derivational affix to the root stem of a word

*(ex., object - objection).*

- Derivative: *(ex., dis+continue)*
- Compound derivative: *(ex., un+selfconscious)*

# Affixes can be added to the following types of stems:

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- root-stems (unkind, hopeful)
- derived (childishly)
- compound (nightmarish)
- compound-derived (absentmindedness)
- abbreviated (hubby = husband - муженек)
- phrase stems (out-of-towner)

# semi-affixes

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- Such affixes of the English vocabulary occurring as independent words (man, berry, like, proof, land) have been very frequently used as second elements of words.

“man”

(ex., gentleman, seaman, fireman)

### 3. Conversion

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is a productive way of coining a new word by changing the paradigm and distribution of the original word without transforming its morphemic shape.

# Verbs can have different meanings:

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- a) verbs have *instrumental meaning* if they are formed from nouns denoting parts of a human body (e.g. *to eye, to finger, to shoulder*), from nouns denoting tools, machines, instruments, weapons, (e.g. *to hammer, to machine-gun, to nail*),
- b) verbs can denote *an action characteristic of the living being*, e.g. *to crowd, to wolf*,



c) verbs can denote *acquisition, addition or deprivation,*

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*e.g. to fish, to dust, to peel, to paper,*

d) verbs can denote *an action performed at the place,*

*e.g. to park, to garage, to bottle, to corner, to pocket,*

e) verbs can denote *an action performed at the time,*

*e.g. to winter, to week-end.*

# Converted nouns can denote:

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- a) **instant of an action**, *e.g. a jump, a move,*
- b) **process or state**, *e.g. sleep, walk,*
- c) **agent of the action**, *e.g. a help, a flirt, a scold,*
- d) **object or result of the action**, *e.g. a burn, a find, a purchase,*
- e) **place of the action**, *e.g. a drive, a stop, a walk.*

# 4. Composition (compounding)

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is the way of word building when a word is formed by joining two or more stems to form one word.

## CLASSIFICATIONS OF ENGLISH COMPOUNDS

1. *According to the way components are joined together compounds are divided into:*
  - a) **neutral**, e.g. ball-point, to windowshop,
  - b) **morphological**, e.g. («astrospace», «handicraft», «sportsman»),
  - c) **syntactical**, e.g. here-and-now, free-for-all., do-or-die.

*According to their structure compounds are subdivided into:*

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- a) **compound words proper**, e.g. *to job-hunt, train-sick, go-go, tip-top,*
- b) **derivational compounds**, e.g. *ear-minded, hydro-skimmer,*
- c) **compound words**, e.g. *cornflower-blue, eggshell-thin, singer-songwriter,*
- d) **compound-shortened words**, e.g. *boatel, tourmobile, VJ-day, motocross, intervision, Eurodollar, Camford.*

# 5. Shortening

## Clipping

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is the reduction of a word to one or several syllables as a result of which the new form acquires some linguistic value of its own.

**According to whether it is initial, middle or final part of the word that is cut off we distinguish:**

- **initial clipping or aphaeresis**

*(phone – telephone, cello from violoncello)*

- **medial clipping or syncope**

*(maths from mathematics, specs from spectacles)*

- **final clipping or apocope**

*(ad from advertisement, coke from Coca-cola)*

- **words that have been clipped both at the beginning and at the end** *(flu from influenza, fridge from refrigerator).*

# Abbreviation

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is the process and the result of forming a word out of the initial elements of a word-combination.

Types:

- ✓ **acronyms** (*ex., laser - light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation*),
- ✓ **initial abbreviation** (*ex., SOS – save our souls, BBC – British Broadcast Corporation*),
- ✓ **a shortened form of a written word** (*ex., smth, sb, adj.*),
- ✓ **Latin abbreviations** (*a.m. – lat. Ante Meridiem, до полудня, i.e. – lat. Id est – that is*),
- ✓ **initial abbreviation combined with a whole word** (*ex., A-bomb – atomic bomb*).

# Blending

is the method of merging parts of words into one new word.

types of blends:

- **additive blend** which is transformable into a phrase consisting of the respective non-clipped stems combined by the conjunction “and” (ex., *brunch – breakfast and lunch, smaze – smoke and haze*),
- **restrictive blend** which is transformable into an attributive phrase with the 1st element serving as modifier of the second (ex., *telecast – television broadcast*).

Blends may be formed by:

- **combining non-clipped stems** (ex., *cinemactress: cinema + actress*),
- **combining clipped stems** (ex., *spam: spiced ham*),
- **overlapping clipped stems** (ex., *smog: smoke + fog*).