

Lecture 5.

Word-formation

Lexicology

Outline of the lecture:

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

1. Word-Formation

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

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:

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

semi-affixes

- 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

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:

- 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*,

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:

- 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)

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:

- 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

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

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*).