AFFIXATION AND NOUN-FORMING MODELS

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Affixation is the formation of words by adding derivational affixes to different types of bases. An affix is not a root or a bound morpheme that modifies the meaning and/or syntactic category of the stem in some way. Affixes are classified into prefixes and suffixes. **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. **An affix** is a grammatical element that is combined with a word, stem, or phrase to produce derived or inflected forms. There are three main types of affixes: prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. A prefix occurs at the beginning of a word or stem (*submit*, *pre*-determine, *un*-willing); a suffix at the end (wonderful, depend-*ent*, act-*ion*); and an infix occurs in the middle. English has no infixes, but they are found in American Indian languages, Greek, Tagalog, and elsewhere. An example from Tagalog is the alteration of the form *sulat*, "a writing," to the form *sinulat*, "that which was written," through the addition of an infix, *-in-*. English inflectional suffixes are illustrated by the *-s* of "cats," the *-er* of "longer," and the *-ed* of "asked." A circumfix consists of a prefix and a suffix that together produce a derived or inflected form, as in the English word *en*light*en*. [1]

Driver = v+*-er (*a verbal stem + the noun-forming suffix *–er).*

The meaning of the derived noun *driver* - the meaning of the stem *drive*- 'to direct the course of a vehicle' and the suffix *-er* meaning 'an active agent': a *driver* is 'one who drives' (*a carriage, motorcar, railway engine*, etc.).

Main Types of Forming Words

I. **Word-derivation** in morphology is a word-formation process by which a new word is built from a stem – usually through the addition of an affix – that changes the word class and / or basic meaning of the word.

The basic ways of forming words in word-derivation are:

1. **Affixation** is the formation of a new word with the help of affixes: *point**less*** (from *point*).

2. **Conversion** is the formation of a new word by bringing a stem of this word into a different formal paradigm: *a fall* (from *to fall*), *a cut* (from *to cut*).

II. Word-composition is the formation of a new word by combining two or more stems which occur in the language as free forms: *door-bell*, *house-keeper*.

Minor Types of Forming Words

shortening is the formation of a word by cutting off a part of the word.

a) initial (or aphesis):*fend (v) <* *defend, phone <* *telephone*;

b) medial (orsyncope): *specs < spectacles, fancy < fantasy;*

c) final (or apocope): *lab – laboratory, exam –* *examination*;

d) both initial and final: *flu < influenza, fridge < refrigerator;*.

sound-interchange is the formation of a word due to an alteration in the phonetic composition of its root. Sound-interchange falls into 3 groups:

a) vowel-interchange (or ablaut): *full − to fill, blood − to bleed, food – to feed*. In some cases vowel-interchange is combined with suffixation: *long − length, strong − strength, broad − breadth;*

b) consonant-interchange: *advice – to advise*.

c) combined forms: *life – to live*;

Particular cases of sound-interchange:

[k] — [tʃ]: *to speak — speech,*

[s] — [d]: *defence — to defend; offence to offend;*

[s] — [t]: *evidence — evident, importance — important*, etc.

sound imitation **(**or ***onomatopoeia*****)** is the naming of an action or a thing by a more or less exact reproduction of the sound associated with it, cf.: *cock-a-doodle-do* (English) — *ку-ка-ре-ку* (Russian). [3]

Groups:

a) words denoting sounds produced by human being in the process of communication or expressing their feelings: *mumble, babble*;

b) words denoting sounds produced by animals, birds, insects: *mew, croak, buzz*;

c) words imitation the sound of water, the noise of metallic things, a forceful motion, movement: *splash, clink, bang.*

back-formation is the formation of a new word by subtracting a real or supposed suffix from the existing words. The process is based on analogy: the word *to butle* 'to act or serve as a butler' is derived by subtraction of *–er* from a supposedly verbal stem in the noun *butler*;

distinctive stress is the formation of a new word by means of the shift of the stress in the source word, cf.: *export* (n) — *to ex´port; ´import* (n) — *to im´port; '*

Affixation is subdivided into suffixation and prefixation.

Distinction is naturally made between prefixal and suffixal derivatives according to the last stage of derivation, which determines the nature of the ICs of the pattern that signals the relationship of the derived word with its motivating source unit, cf.

unjust *(un-+just),*

justify, *(just++* ***-ify****),*

arrangement *(arrange +* ***-ment),***

non-smoker (non- *+ smoker).*

Prefixal-suffixal derivatives:

reappearance, unreasonable, denationalise

This qualification is relevant only in terms of the constituent morphemes such words are made up of, i.e. from the angle of morphemic analysis.

From the point of view of derivational analysis such words are mostly either suffixal or prefixal derivatives, e.g.

sub-atomic *=* ***sub-*** *+ (atom + + -ic),* ***unreasonable*** *=* ***un- +*** *(reason + -able),* ***denationalise*** *=* ***de-*** *+ + (national + -ize),* ***discouragement*** *= (dis- + courage) +* ***-ment.***

Suffixation is mostly characteristic of noun and adjective formation.

Prefixation is mostly typical of verb formation.

The distinction also rests on the role different types of meaning play in the semantic structure of the suffix and the prefix.

The **part-of-speech meaning** has a much greater significance in suffixes as compared to prefixes which possess it in a lesser degree.

A prefix may be confined to one part of speech, e.g. *enslave, encage, unbutton* or may function in more than one part of speech as, e.g., *over-* in *overkind a, to overfeed v, overestimation n*

Suffixation is the formation of words with the help of suffixes, which usually modify the lexical meaning of the base and transfer words to a different part of speech.

Some suffixes do not shift words from one part of speech into another, but usually transfer a word into a different semantic group, e.g. a concrete noun becomes an abstract one, e.g. *child — childhood, friend — friendship,* etc. [9]

A suffix is a derivational morpheme following the root and forming a new derivative in a different word class (*-en, -y, -less* in *heart*-en, *heart*-y, *heart*-less).

Prefixation is the formation of words with the help of prefixes, which are derivational morphemes, affixed before the derivational base.

A prefix is a derivational morpheme preceding the root-morpheme and modifying its meaning (*understand* – mis-*understand, correct* – in-*correct*).

According to the class of words they preferably form prefixes are divided into:

verb-forming prefixes: en-/em- *(enclose, embed);* be- *(befriend);* de- *(dethrone)*;

noun-forming prefixes: non- *(non-smoker);* sub- *(sub-committee);* ex- *(ex-husband)*

adjective-forming prefixes: un- *(unfair);* il- *(illiterate);* ir- *(irregular*);

adverb-forming prefixes: un- *(unfortunately);* up- *(uphill).*

The word-forming activity of affixes may change in the course of time. This raises the question of ***productivity of derivational affixes***, i.e. the ability of being used to form new, occasional or potential words, which can be readily understood by the language-speakers.

Thus, ***productive affixes*** are those used to form new words in this particular period of language development.

The productivity of an affix should not be confused with its *frequency of occurrence* that is understood as the existence in the vocabulary of a great number of words containing the affix in question.

An affix may occur in hundreds of words, but if it is not used to form new words, it is not productive, for instance, the adjective suffix *–ful.* [7]

Valency of affixes is understood as their capability to be combined with certain bases, e.g. adjective forming suffixes are mostly attached to nominal bases. They are:

- *en (golden),*
- *ful (meaningful),*
- *less (careless),*
- *ly (soldierly),*
- *like (childlike).*

The highly productive suffix *–able,* however, can be combined with nominal and verbal bases alike (*honorable, advisable*).

Valency is very important semantically because the meaning of the derivative depends not only on the morphemes of which it is composed but also on combinations of bases and affixes that can be contrasted with it.

Contrast is observed in the use of the same morphemes in different environment or in the use of different morphemes in the same environment, e.g., the difference in the suffixes *–ity* and *–ism* becomes clear when comparing them as combined with identical bases:

formality – formalism; reality – realism.

- ity – *'the quality of being what corresponding adjective describes, an instant or quality';*
- *ism* –' a disposition to what the adjective describes, or a corresponding type of ideology'.

Classifications of derivational affixes are based on different principles such as:

1) the lexico-grammatical character of the stem the affix is added to,
2) the part of speech formed,
3) the meaning,
4) the generalising denotational meaning,
5) the stylistic reference, etc.

Three degrees of productivity are distinguished for derivational patterns and individual derivational affixes:

l) highly-productive,
2) productive or semi-productive,
3) non-productive

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