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The Enrichment of the English Language with New Vocabulary Words

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Abstract

This research is intended to wade through all the spheres of how English is enriched with new vocabulary words. Increasing vocabulary is possibly realised through the word-formation processes. The process of word formation implies many devices which are listed and explained in the second section. Each device of forming new words is dealt with separately.

All word formation devices except that one of borrowing are done within the very language, here English, whereas borrowing is always achieved by importing words from other languages.

The reason behind electing this subject is to expose the readers and, especially, the learners of English to a new material necessary in their study. The researchers are keen

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to forward the subject in a total way including all information crucial to create successful results

Keywords: word-formation, process, type, creation, combination, device

إثراء اللغة الإنجليزية بمفردات جديدة

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المستخلص

الغرض من هذا البحث هو الخوض بكل جوانب كيفية اغناء اللغة الأنكليزية بمفردات جديدة. يمكن أن تحصل زيادة المفردات من خلال عمليات صناعة وتكوين الكلمات. عملية تكوين الكلمات الجديدة لها وسائل وأنماط كثيرة مطروحة ومستوفية الشرح في الجزء الثاني من هذا البحث. وقد تم تناول كل وسيلة بشكل منفصل. كل أنماط تكوين الكلمات عدا ذلك النمط المتعلق بالاستعارة تقع ضمن حدود ذات اللغة الانكليزية أما ما يتعلق بموضوع استعارة الكلمات فإنه يحدث من خلال اعتماد مفردات من لغات أخرى. أن السبب وراء اختيار هذا الموضوع هو من أجل تعريف القراء وبالخصوص متعلمي اللغة الأنكليزية بمادة ضرورية في دراستهم، لذا فإن الباحثين حريصان على تقديم الموضوع بطريقة شاملة متضمناً كل المعلومات المهمة لخلق نتائج ناجعة.

1. Introduction

This study aims to tackle a crucial subject called the process of word formation. Word formation is a morphologically (and sometimes grammatically) tackled theme in the study of English. The word formation process has many types to create new vocabulary words which are needed in expressing new notions since the available words in the source language prove insufficient for communicating certain meanings.

In one way or another, the learners of English may sense that some words are related to certain processes and such words are undergoing transformations and modifications.

Or better to say, these words are built in a special way. But they certainly ignore most of the means of creating new words by name.

As far as borrowing concerned, in many cases, our learners do not realise that borrowed words do exist in English which are taken from other languages since they learn English merely for communications purposes. Most of them do not know about the origin of words and where they came from.

The present study contains three sections, Section (1) of this paper is devoted for the introduction which is situated after the abstract. The second section is entitled: “word formation” which contains also the subsection: “types of word-formation”. These are studied one by one. Section (3), however, carries the title “conclusion” which implies the concluded points and outcomes relative to the study.

2. Word-formation

Word formation is the study of how new words are created or formed through the process of new formation. In reality, it is the way of deriving and generating linguistic units to invent a new word and often a new linguistic concept. Word formation is the branch of linguistics that studies created words in terms of their origins and function and their contribution of use in various styles of writing and speech. More precisely, the subject of word formation is a branch of morphology and sometimes it is related to grammar. This morphological process is productive via which a great number of words are created. The resultant words are of a great value and they benefit in speaking and writing.

(Crystal 2003: 523-524) refers to word formation as “the whole process of morphological variation in the constitution of words, i.e., including two main divisions of inflection and derivation”. In his definition, Crystal overlooks the other divisions which are of no less importance to the main ones, such as: borrowing and invention.

2.1 Types of Word-formation

There are many types of word formation which the language, here English, is enriched with new created words. These processes are considered important sources in supplying English with new words to express new concepts and ideas. These types will be dealt with separately one after another, as follows:

1. Compounding

Compounding means the combination of two words or more full words into a single word. Or, in other words, it is the word formation process in which two or more

independent lexemes are combined into a single word. Compounds can be confronted in English as a single word, as a word with a hyphen, or two or more separate words. Sometimes it is not easy to decide whether or not a word is a compound. This issue is still a matter of argument among the specialists of linguistic studies. Differences among them in dealing with this point are still on.

Should in spite of or in place of be treated as a single word like despite or three separate words? Indeed, it is hard to offer a decision. Or better to say; there is no agreement about it among the linguists. This disputed issue, whether or not a word is a compound, is unsettled up to now. This process supplies the language with massive new words which are necessary to meet the style and speech requirements with new notions.

Illustrating compounds listed below:

	baby-sitter	long-haired	
	devil-may-care	copy-book	
notebook	handball	breakfast	
cornflakes	basketball	alongside	
bookcase	fingerprint	volleyball	
sunburn	high school	in spit of	

2. Blending

Generally, Blending is the process via which new words are created in a language. It signals the merging of the beginning of one word with end of another word.

This is a type of word formation in which two or more words are clipped into one. In other words, blends are formed by eliminating a segment of one or both of the original words. In fact, blending is a creative device of word formation, as in: crunk, from crazy and drunk (drunk to the degree of madness). The resultant blend carries both meanings of the original words. The blended words and clipped ones belong to two independent classes though they are not strongly separated; therefore, some words can be inserted into either class.

Different means of creating blended words are available in English:

- a. One way is realised by joining portions of two or more words to obtain a single one. The segments of words are morphemes, for example: the word camorder is a combination of two parts of camera and recorder.

- b. Word blends can also be got by joining a full word with a part of another word. This category of blends is called a splinter e.g; the word motorcade is the product of the word motor and the end segment cavalcade.
- c. Blends can be formed as well by joining the beginning portion of a word with a full word, such as: Eurasia which mixes the first syllable of Europe and the full word Asia; more blends shown below:

gasoline + alcohol = gasohole

smoke + fog = smog

television+ broadcast = telecast

breakfast + lunch = brunch

spoon+ fork = spork

friend + enemy = frenemy

(an enemy pretends to be a friend)

brother + romance= bromance (brotherly friendship)

stay + vacation = staycation

(a short outing near home)

The fundamental distinction between blending and compounding is that a blend is obtained by deleting parts of two words (sometimes only a part of one word with a full word) which are combined into a single word, whereas compounding includes joining two or more full words into one.

3. Clipping

Clipping occurs when new words are formed by removing the beginning or the end part of a word or both. Shorter words are reduced out of longer words. The new form obtained after applying this process represents the whole word. The resultant form is given the term a clipped word. Let's take the word vet, which is of course taken from the first long word in the expression veterinary surgeon.

Nouns are mostly formed in this way. Deleting the end of a word is most common in English. Clipping makes new free forms and sometimes it is the cause to create new morphemes, such: prof and mike. By adopting this process, countless new free forms are created via which English is massively enriched with new synonyms. It is worth noting that the meaning and the word class of the clipped words are retained similar to the meanings of the original words.

Four varieties of clipping can be distinguished in English:

a. End clipping

As is seen in the case of the word vet taken from the first full word in the expression veterinary surgeon, the end of it is omitted. Memo, for example, is the back clipped form of memorandum.

b. Front clipping

This process is opposite to end clipping. Front clipping takes place by removing the initial portion of a word, as in the clipped word vasity, which is a front clipped word (with a slight change into the form of the word) based on the original word university

c. Front-end Clipping

This is rarely existing in English. It occurs when the initial part and ending of the word are clipped creating a new word. Flu is a good example for front-end clipping out of influenza.

d. Combination of Compounding with Clipping

This is very rare to face in the language though it sometimes includes more than a word which are clipped to form a new word. Cablegram is a clear example which is taken from the phrase cable telegram. More clipped words are, as follows: lab, dorm, gym, porn, prom, psych and countless others.

In brief, Clipping is the reductive process by shortening words; in so doing, the effort is reduced in speech and writing and, moreover, this device decreases the time spent in expressing our thoughts.

4. Acronymy

The term acronymy means the formation of a new word from initials or beginning parts of a series of words. In few cases, the initials are pronounced by a string of letters, as in MP (military police or Member of Parliament). In other cases, the initials or beginning portions are spoken as a full word; for example, WHO (World Health Organization) is uttered as /hu:/ and Var is an acronym for (Video Assistant Referee) which is phonetically articulated as /va:(r)/. More acronyms are listed below:

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

VIP (Very Important Person)

PIN (Personal Identification Number)

SIM (Subscription Identification Module)

NASA (National Aeronautics Space Agency)

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

Radar (Radio Detection And Ranging)

Once again, acronyms are words that are created from the first letters of other words. But in case of abbreviation, a word or phrase is shortened by taking the first letter of it. In such cases, the resultant form is normally uttered by each letter. So, this is the fundamental distinction between the two types of word formation.

5. Derivation

Derivation means forming new words by adding derivational affixes (bound morphemes) to the root words. These affixes are combined with the stem words or phrases to get derived inflected words, e.g.: teach, teacher; thank, thankful; write, rewrite etc. This is a key source to have new words.

Combining a prefix, a prefix and a suffix or two suffixes with a stem word is called Affixation. Prefixes and suffixes are all bound morphemes added to the base to form new words. A Morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit but bound morphemes can't stand or occur alone with full meaning.

Prefixes and suffixes

Having a look at the abovementioned examples, it is easily to be realised that some affixes are used at the beginning the of the words, such as: un-, iq-, ir- etc. respectively available in the words: unclean, ignoble, irregular. These additions are given the term prefixes. Anyhow, other affixes are connected to the end of the words, e.g.: (-ful, -able, -ly etc.) respectively available in the words: shameful, respectable, lovely etc. These are called suffixes. Therefore, unclean has a prefix, disagreement has both a prefix and suffix, whereas faithfulness has two suffixes. Another rare affix called infix usually occurs inside another word which can be encountered in English, notice the following examples:

Anglo-American

Afro-Asian

All English derived words are formed by adding either a prefix, a suffix, a prefix and a suffix or two suffixes.

6. Coinage

Coinage is less common than any of the other processes of word formation in English. This process happens very rarely. Certain words are invented to fit some purpose. New words are required to be invented due to the invention of new things. The invented

words are adopted by the people and they gradually become daily use of the language. This term indicates the invention of entirely new words into the language. The creation of such terms takes place either intentionally or accidentally which differ from the other types of word formation. Most of the newly-created words comes from the inventors' names, names of products or names of companies. The coined words are divided into two categories: either old invented words like aspirime, nylon, vaseline, zipper etc. or recently-created words like laptop, computer, youtube, google, kodak, facebook, exon, mobile, teflon, kleenex etc. The process of inventing new words is known neology as a scientific term.

7. Back-formation

Back-formation is the formation of a new word by removing the affixes from existing words. This process is also called back-abbreviation. Edit is the verb obtained as a result of deleting the agent morpheme (-or) from the noun editor. In other words, the creation of the verb edit is made by omitting the suffix (-or). Back-formation is opposite to affixation since the former admits the omission of affixes from words, whereas the latter requires adding affixes. The example hedgehop which certainly occurs to stand alone with full meaning is formed by eliminating the bound morphem (-er) from the noun hedgehopper.

The word class is changed when the process of back-formation is applied to the words containing affixes.

This process is an important access of creating new words. It is in other words, the source of increasing the language with new vocabulary words necessary in speech and writing.

It is worth mentioning that back-formation differs from clipping, in that the former changes the word class of words though back-formations are reduced words formed from longer ones. But, in case of, clipping the same word class of the original word or words is kept.

8. Echoism

Echaism is a limited process of word formation referring to the words that imitate certain natural and artificial sounds. Or it is the formation of words with sound suggesting their meaning like hiss and peewee. The meaning represents a sound which is either natural like the roar of a waterfall or artificial like the clang of a bell.

More echoic words you can see next: moan, click, murmur, quack, thunder, whisper, lisp, chickadee, babolink etc.

Most of the English four letter words (dirty words) are mostly echoic. In literary writing, echoic words are called onomatopoetic which have frequent appearance in poetry. Echoic words are existent in Arabic, too. These Arabic echoic words look like what happens in English of sound and meaning. In both languages, English and Arabic, echoism is represented by a group of words. The following Arabic expressions include echoic words:

The hiss of a snake	فحيح الأفعى
The roar of a waterfall	أجيج الشلال
The roar of a lion	زئير الأسد
The crow of a rooster	صياح الديك
The clang of a bell	رنين الجرس
Nightingales tweet (sing).	تغرد البلابل

9. Conversion

Conversion means creating a new word (of different word class) from an available word with no change in form. In other words, another function of a word occurs when a noun converts to a verb in use. In this case, the same form is retained. The nouns, e.g.: sleep, talk, train, stop, cup, dress, divorce, merge, battle, chair, host and many others can be used as verbs by applying the process of conversion. The following sentences contain converted words:

1. Don't talk the talk if you don't walk the walk.
2. a. The trainers train some children how to swim.
b. The train is coming fast
3. a. Some men divorce their wives due to social and economic problems with them.
b. The divorce took place quickly.
4. a. My parents host some friends for a tea party.
b. The air host served the dinner.
5. a. The principal may chair the meeting in his office.
b. A big chair is over there.

It is worth remarking that this process is also termed as zero derivation or null derivation.

Sometimes a change of the internal vowel or the stress of a syllable should be applied in converting a non-verb to a verb like

contract (noun) /kóntrækt /

contract (verb) /kənrækt/

bow (noun) /bou/

bow (verb) /bau/

Adjectives used as nouns are also available in English (e.g.: the adjective clean can be used as a verb: the house-keeper had cleaned the room before the kids came in. The noun green in golf (indicating a putting green) is taken from the adjective green.

Conversion from adjectives to nouns and vice versa are somewhat common in English; but much more notable is the creation of a verb by converting a noun.

This process represents a mainstream in supplying the language with new words. And these derivations have gained ground since they have been in use for several centuries and it becomes so hard now to overlook or neglect them.

10. Folk Etymology

Let us, first of all, start with the meanings of the terms: Folk and etymology. Folk is often used to mean the traditional style in a community, whereas etymology refers to the study of the origins and history of words and their meanings. Or it is the study of the origin and history of a particular word. Etymology is one of the most interesting portions of exploring any language.

Folk etymology is the process of changing a word or phrase through history by replacing its unfamiliar form by a more familiar one. In fact, it is the state of adapting unknown words or parts of words to known ones in a particular language. The resultant forms are finally put into the lexical system for use. Examples on folk etymology are listed, as follows: muskrot, helpmate, hangnail, grayfish, woodchuk, cucaracha became cockroach, asparagus came out of “sparrow grass”.

The words derived through this process are formed in the way to be familiar and popular for communication among people. Words of this type became known overtime of their common use and hey are adopted by the speakers of English. Several other English words fall into the category of folk etymology, such as: Welsh rabbit, Jerusalem artichoke and grey hound.

11. Eponyms

This process comes about when new words are created based in form on the name of a person or place. Such words are called eponyms. Examples on this type:

jeans	{	from Italian city of Genoa where the type of cloth was first made.
Sandwich	{	from the eighteenth century, Earl of Sandwich who first insisted on having his bread and meat together while gambling
Fahrenheit	{	German Gabriel Fahrenheit
Hoover	{	Spangler
Volt	{	Alessandro Volta, Italian Scientist
Watt	{	James Watt
Joule	{	James Prescott Joule
Newton	{	
Alzheimer's disease		

12. Reduplication

It is the creation of new words by doubling a morpheme and sometimes this is accompanied either by change in a vowel or the first consonant of the word like pooh pooh, tip top and hanky-panky. The fundamental, establishing morpheme is often the second half, as in dilly-dally; but it may be the first morpheme which originates the expression, as in tiktok or both originating halves like singsong which contains two equal halves. Or it may be formed by two new different morphemes like boogie-woogie.

13. Abbreviation

Abbreviations mean cutting a word into a smaller form. This process involves shortening a word or words. All of the short forms that you notice below are abbreviations:

Dr. (doctor); Ltd. (limited)

Mr. (Mister); Co. (company)

Laser; DVD; DOB (Date of birth)

NASA (National Aeronautics Space Agency)

Five types of abbreviations are referred to by the specialists in the field of linguistics.

- a. Abbreviations for people: We often abbreviate for people for certain reasons
- b. Abbreviations for places
- c. Abbreviations related to science
- d. Abbreviations for common objects and for certain phrases
- e. Text abbreviations

Abbreviations are usually used instead of long words or phrases so as to make your sentences easier to read. They are also advantageous when you need to press a lot of writing into a small space. It should be noted that initialisms and acronyms are really types of abbreviations.

14. Borrowing

The specialists in the field of Linguistic researching assure that borrowing is the process of taking over words from one language into another. In other words, it is the state of taking words from other languages.

This category of word formation is regarded as the most common way of increasing the English language with new vocabulary which carries new notions. This process is referred to as borrowing. Through borrowing, new imported words and phrases are offered admission in the source language and such words become an important part of the lexical system of English. English has been adopting overtime a great number of foreign words from other languages. Borrowing words among languages are considered a global phenomenon. All languages around the world necessarily contain words taken from other languages. The exchange of words occurs powerfully among languages of neighboring states or nations. The following are examples of borrowed words into English.

cotton; admiral; alchole; sofa (Arabic)

bazaar; lilac (Persian)

tea (Chinese)

croissant (French)

dope (Dutch)

Piano (Italian)

Pretzel (German)

tattoo (Tahitian)

tycoon (Japanese)

yoghurt (Turkish)

3. Conclusion

Before starting with the outcomes reached about the research, we should state that big difficulties and problems have encountered the researchers throughout all the stages of writing this paper, especially, the difficulty of handling reasonable paraphrases and making required comments. The obstacles which have appeared during researching have been overcome by hard work, deep thinking, and a lot of patience.

The eventual step of the study will be to cite the concluded points and important remarks relative to the research. This section represents the gist of the study.

1. The process of word formation is of vast importance to invent new words and expressions with new concepts which are required in speaking and writing. The newly-formed words are necessary to express new ideas.
2. Sometimes the available vocabulary words which are used in English are inadequate for communication in expressing all needed meanings and ideas. So, to meet this shortage, proper words and phrases with proper meanings are formed or borrowed from other languages. The process of importing and exporting words and phrases are usually taking place more among the languages of neighboring states.
3. English is full of acronyms. Arabic, anyhow, is still in short of such a device of creating new vocabulary. Arabic, definitely, lags behind as far as this characteristic is concerned.
4. Word formation as a subject is treated morphologically and sometimes grammatically in English.
5. The processes of word formation aim to produce new words and expressions in a language. So a great number of words are created in this way. These means, however, are existent to enrich a language with suitable words and expressions carrying new meanings that are unavoidably necessary in everyday life.
6. Borrowing is a clear feature of all languages around the world. This occurs through the process of give and take among languages.
7. Borrowing is achieved through two factors: colonisation and military occupations for states and mainly via transfer of technology.
8. The present TV channels which air programmes all over the world in various languages are considered the best means of exporting and importing vocabulary words among people of different communities.

9. The notion of newly-formed words is adopted to facilitate life affairs among people and to face the shortage of vocabulary in the language.
10. Arabic does not have special counterparts for all English types of word formation. But one can discover some types available in Arabic · Borrowing, invention and derivation do exist in Arabic. The lack of most types in the Arabic language is ascribed to differences in linguistic distribution between the two languages.
- a. So many borrowed words and phrases from other languages, especially, the languages of the neighboring nations and English have become a noticeable part of our mother tongue.
- b. A number of entirely invented words and expressions also enter into Arabic at present. The words invented in English are also adopted by the Arabists without or with little change, for example:
- موبايل – روبوت – نايلون – كومبيوتر – لابتوب
Laptop – Computer – Nylon – Robot – Mobile
- c. As far as derivation concerned Arabic is named the language of derivations, i.e., it is possible to get many derivations out of a single verb, examples:

Derivations of the verb يكتب Write :

- written / مكتوب - wrote / كتب
- writing / كتابة - write! / أكتب
- writer / كاتب - library / مكتبة
- write with others / نكاتب - book / كتاب
- booklet / كتيب - office / مكتب
- librarian / مكتبي - letter / مكتوب

11. Arabic, like English, has the word formation category of echoism. The Arabic echoic words are divided into two kinds: either natural or artificial. This division is exactly the same as that one available in the English language. Arabic contains many words which imitate certain sounds suggesting their meaning. Examples:

The bark of a dog	نباح الكلب
The neigh of horses	صهيل الخيل
The meow of cats	مواء القطط

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