

The Concept of Word Formation



Word formation

- **Word formation** process is basically how new words are created and become part of the language. In linguistics, **word formation** is the creation of a new word. In other words, it refers to the ways in which new words are made on the basis of other words or morphemes.

Types of Word Formation

Derivation: In linguistics, derivation is the process of forming a new word on the basis of an existing word. **For e.g.** the word **happiness** and **unhappy** are derived from the word **happy**. Similarly, the word **determination** has been derived from **determine**. Derivation is the process of forming a new word by means of **affixation** (prefix, infix and suffix)

Types of Word Formation

Compounding: A compound is a lexeme (a word) that consists of more than one other lexeme (word). It is categorized in two ways:

An **endocentric compound** consists of a head and modifier. **For e.g.** the English compound **doghouse**, where **house** is the head and **dog** is the modifier, which shows that house is intended for a dog.

Exocentric compounds do not have a head and their meaning often cannot be transparently guessed from its constituent parts. **For e.g.** the English compound **white-collar** is neither a kind of collar nor a white thing.

Types of Word Formation

Examples of Compounding

- One word is added to another word to form compound words.
- Atom bomb
- Waiting list
- Home work
- Low paid
- Dining room
- Fire place
- Cup cake
- Email

Types of Word Formation

Blending: A blend is a word formed by joining parts of two words after clipping.

For e.g.

When parts of two separate words are combined to form a new word, it is Blending.

Motel – motor+hotel

Telecast – television+broadcast

Brunch – breakfast+lunch

Smog – smoke+fog

Chunnel – channel+tunnel

Biopic - biography+picture

Types of Word Formation

Acronym: An acronym is a word made up from the first letter of the words that make up the name of something.

For e.g.

NASA (is a name whose full form is)- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
(Acronym)

RADAR- Radio Detection and Ranging

Types of Word Formation

Calque/ Borrowing: Borrowing is just taking a word from another language. The borrowed words are called **loan words or calque**. A loan word is a word directly taken into one language from another language with little or no translation. English has many loan words.

For e.g.

- Biology, boxer, ozone- Taken from German language
- Jacket, yoghurt- Taken from Turkish language
- Pistol, robot- Taken from Czech language

Types of Word Formation

Neologism/ Coinage: It is the invention of totally new words either deliberately or accidentally. This is a very rare and uncommon method to create new words, but in the media, people try to outdo each other with more and better words to name their products.

For e.g.

- Xerox, Kodak, google, nylon, band-aid

Types of Word Formation

In other words, Coinage are words that somebody creates and people start using it. One category of neologism is **Eponym**. These are words that are based on the name of a person or a place.

- **For e.g.**
- Watt- this word has been taken from the name of a discoverer
- Jeans- this word has been taken from Italian city Jenewa
- Sandwich- this word has been taken from a person who makes his meal between two slices of bread.

Types of Word Formation

Back- Formation: It refers to the process of creating a new lexeme (word) by removing actual or supposed affixes. In other words, back-formations are shortened words created from longer words.

For e.g.

The word **resurrection** was borrowed from Latin, the word **resurrect** was then back formed hundreds of years later from it by removing **–ion** suffix.

Types of Word Formation

Reduplication: It is the process of forming new words either by doubling an entire word or part of a word. English makes use of reduplication very rarely.

For e.g.

- Humpty- dumpty
- Hustle- bustle
- Hotch- potch

Types of Word Formation

Clipping: It is a word formation process which consists of reduction of a word. Clippings are also known as shortenings. It has four types:

Back clipping

Fore- clipping

Middle- clipping

Complex- clipping

Types of Word Formation

Back clipping or **apocopation** is the most common type in which the beginning of the word is retained.

For e.g.

- Ad- ~~advertisement~~
- Doc- ~~doctor~~
- Memo- ~~memorandum~~

Types of Word Formation

Fore- clipping or **aphaeresis** retains the final part.

For e.g.

- Phone- ~~tele~~phone
- Varsity- ~~un~~iversity

Types of Word Formation

Middle- clipping or **syncope** retains the middle part.

For e.g.

- Flu- ~~in~~fluenza

Types of Word Formation

Complex- clipping: In this clipped forms are used in compounds. One part of the original compound most often remains intact.

For e.g.

- Op art- ~~optical~~ art
- Org man- ~~organization~~ man