

Word Formation (OR)

Process of Morphological Productivity:

The following are the key processes through which new words are formed, highlighting the dynamic nature of language:

① Neologisms:

Neologisms are words that are created to explain new ideas. They are formed by

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borrowing words or mixing existing words to talk about new concepts. Neologism is also called coinage.

Example:

- Web + Seminal (Webinae)
- Smoke + Fog (Smog)

② Derivation:

Derivation is the process of forming a word by changing the form of the base or by adding affix i.e. prefix or suffix to it. Derivation is also called affixation because affixation is also a process of creating words through suffixes and prefixes i.e. affixes.

Examples:

- Change + -able = Changeable
(verb) (affix) (adjective)

Wise + -dom = Wisdom
(Adjective) (affix) (Noun)

- a + sleep = asleep
(affix) (verb) (adjective)

- en- + courage = encourage
(affix) (noun) (verb)

3) Blending:

Blending also known as portmanteau or fusion, is a process in which two or more words combine or merge to create a new one, usually by taking the beginning of one word and the end of the other word.

Examples:

- Breakfast + Lunch = Brunch
- Television + Broadcast = Telecast
- Motor + Hotel = Motel
- Smoke + Fog = Smog
- Information + Entertainment = Infotainment

4) Compounding:

Compounding or composition is the process in which two or more words (free morphemes or bases) combine to form a new unit, compound.

The new word often combines the meanings of the original words, resulting in a term that expresses a specific concept or idea.

Examples:

- Black + Board = Blackboard
- Sun + Flower = Sunflower
- Star + Fish = Starfish
- Home + Work = Homework

Types of Compounding:

- ① Open Compounding
- ② Closed Compounding
- ③ Hyphenated Compounding

i. Open Compounding:

Open compounds consist of two or more words written separately but used together to convey a single concept.

Example:

Ice cream, Post office, High School etc.

ii. Closed Compounding:

Closed compounds are formed by joining two or more words together without spaces, creating a single word.

Example:

notebook, Greenhouse, Basketball.

iii. Hyphenated Compounding:

Hyphenated compounds are formed by joining two or more words with hyphens (-), creating a single concept while retaining individual word boundaries.

Example:

Mother-in-law, Well-being, Part-time etc.

Subl More Types of Compounding:

① Endocentric Compounds

② Exocentric compounds

Endocentric Compounds : (Head)

Endocentric compounds have a head (the core part of the compound) that determines the word's overall meaning. The head is usually the second element in the compound.

• Doghouse (A type of house)

• Toothbrush (A type of Brush)

Exocentric Compounds : (no head)

Exocentric compounds do not have a clear head that determines the meaning of the whole compound. The meaning is derived from the compound as a whole rather than from one of its parts.

Example :

• Pickpocket (not a type of pocket, but a person who picks pockets).

• Redhead (a person with red hair, not a type of head).

Loanword / Borrowing:

Loanword or Borrowing is the process by which a word from one language

is adopted for use in another. The word that is borrowed is called a borrowed word.

Example:

- Money from French word Monnaie.
- Story from French word Histoire.

6 Conversion:

Conversion or zero-derivation or null derivation in morphology is a kind of word formation which involves changing or converting the class of a word without changing its form.

In simple words, in this process a word of one grammatical form becomes a part of another grammatical form without any changes to spelling or pronunciation.

Example:

→ Noun to Verb

- Bottle (The wine was brewed in France but ^Vbottled in Italy).

- Butter (Don't ^Vbutter the bread for me)

→ Verb to Noun

- hit (He scored a ^Nhit in his first shot)

- Cheat (He used some ^Ncheats in the computer game)

Back-formation:

Back-formation is the process of shortening a long word by cutting off an affix to form a new word. The new word has a different part of speech from the original word.

Example:

- Televise (V) from Television (N)
- Donate (V) from Donation (N)
- Beg (V) from beggar (N)
- Edit (V) from Editor (N)

Clipping / Truncation:

Clipping / Truncation is the process whereby new words are formed by shortening other words, i.e. by eliminating the initial part, the last part, or both parts of those words.

Example:

- Phone from Telephone
- Ad from Advertisement
- Flu from Influenza

Types of Clipping:

- ① Initial Clipping / Fore Clipping
- ② Mid Clipping
- ③ Final Clipping / ⁱⁿHead Clipping

i Initial Clipping:

(whereby we eliminate the initial part of the word).

Example: Initial clipping

- Net from Internet
- Plane from War plane

ii Mid Clipping:

(whereby we eliminate the initial & final parts of the word and retain the middle).

Example:

- Fridge from Refrigerator.
- Flu from Influenza

iii Hind Clipping:

(whereby we eliminate the final part).

Example:

- Exam from Examination
- Gas from Gasoline
- Prof from Professor etc.

iv Acronyms / Initialism:

Acronyms are formed from the initial letters of a series of words and are pronounced as a single word.

Examples:

- NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
- SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome)
- NASA (National Aeronautics & Space Administration)

Abbreviations:

Abbreviations are formed from the initial letters of a series of words but are pronounced letter by letter.

Examples:

- FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)
- TV (Television)

Eponyms: are words derived from the names of people or places, often honoring the contributions of individuals or reflecting the origins of the associated concept.

Examples:

- Sandwich (named ^{after} the Earl of Sandwich)
- Pasteurization (named after Louis Pasteur)

Conclusion: Each of these processes contribute to the dynamism & adaptability of language.