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**WORD FORMATION AS A LANGUAGE SYSTEM AND ITS ROLE IN  
THE VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT**

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**Annotation:** Language is a dynamic system, and one of its fascinating aspects is the process of word formation. It plays a crucial role in enriching our vocabulary and expanding our linguistic abilities. Word formation refers to the creation of new words or the modification of existing ones to convey different meanings or nuances. Through various word formation processes such as derivation, compounding, blending, and conversion, languages evolve and adapt to meet the diverse needs of communication. This process is essential for the evolution and expansion of a language, as it allows speakers to express new ideas, concepts, and experiences.

**Key words:** a language system, vocabulary, word-formation, compounding, derivation, conversion, prefixes, suffixes.

**VARIOUS WAYS OF FORMING WORDS**

The available linguistic literature on the subject cites various types and ways of forming words. Earlier books, articles and monographs on word-formation and vocabulary growth in general both in the Russian language and in foreign languages, in the English language in particular, used to mention morphological, syntactic and lexico-semantic types of word-formation. At present the classifications of the types of word-formation do not, as a rule, include lexico-semantic word-building. Of interest is the classification of wordformation means based on the number of motivating bases which many scholars follow.

**W o r d - F o r m a t i o n** 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. For instance, the noun driver is formed after the pattern v+-er, i.e. a verbal stem +-the noun-forming suffix -er. The meaning of the derived noun driver is related to the meaning of the stem drive- 'to direct the



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course of a vehicle' and the suffix -er meaning 'an active agent': a driver is 'one who drives' (a carriage, motorcar, railway engine, etc.). Likewise compounds resulting from two or more stems joined together to form a new word are also built on quite definite structural and semantic patterns and formulas, for instance adjectives of the snow-white type are built according to the formula  $n+a$ , etc. It can easily be observed that the meaning of the whole compound is also related to the meanings of the component parts. The structural patterns with the semantic relations they signal give rise to regular new creations of derivatives, e.g. sleeper, giver, smiler or soat-black, tax-free, etc. Derivation is one of the most common word formation processes. It involves adding prefixes or suffixes to base words to create new words. For example, adding the prefix "un-" to the adjective "happy" forms the word "unhappy," indicating the opposite meaning. Similarly, the addition of the suffix "-er" to the verb "teach" results in the noun "teacher." This process allows speakers to expand their vocabulary by manipulating existing words to express subtle variations or entirely new concepts

**Compounding** is another productive word formation mechanism. It involves combining two or more words to create a new word with a distinct meaning. For instance, combining "rain" and "bow" creates the word "rainbow," referring to the beautiful arc of colors seen in the sky after rainfall.

Compounding facilitates the efficient expression of complex ideas, as well as the development of specialized vocabulary in different domains. Terms like "laptop," "blackboard," and "sunflower" are all products of compounding.

In grammar, compounding, also called composition, is when two or more words are combined together to form a new word. For example, the word underground is a combination of the words under and ground. In English, compounding is used to form words belonging to four common parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.

Most of the time, compounding creates a word or phrase that means something different than the meanings of the words used as "ingredients." For example, the word bluebird refers to specific species of songbirds whereas the separate words blue bird refer to any bird with blue feathers. As another example, the adjective old school refers to supporting traditional methods or values and doesn't refer to ancient scholarly buildings.

**Conversion**, or functional shifting, is another fascinating aspect of word formation. It entails changing the grammatical function of a word without altering its



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form. For example, the noun "email" can be used as a verb: "I will email you the document." This process allows for greater versatility in language use and expands the range of expressions available to speakers

Nowadays conversion is accepted as one of the major ways of enriching English vocabulary with new words. Normally, a word changes its syntactic function without any shift in lexical meaning. For example both in yellow leaves and the leaves were turning yellow the adjective denotes colour. Yet, in the sentence The leaves yellowed the converted unit no longer denotes colour, but the process of changing colour.

The high productivity of conversion finds its reflexion in speech. But these new words are not registered by dictionaries e. g.: the annoyed Hero of a story by O'Henry when a shop assistant offers him oranges for the tenth time in one night, instead of peaches, for which he is looking, says: "if anybody oranges me again tonight, I'll knock his face off". One is not likely to find the word to orange in any dictionary, but in this situation the usage of this word answers the need of brevity, expressiveness and humour. Not every case of noun and verb (or verb and adjective, or adjective and noun) is the result of conversion. There are numerous pairs of words, as drink – to drink, love – to love, work – to work which do not occur to conversion but coincide as a result of certain historical processes (dropping of ending, simplification of stems, etc.). The first cases of conversion, which were registered in the 14thc., imitated such pairs as love-to love, for they were numerous in the vocabulary and were subconsciously accepted by native speakers as one of the typical language patterns.

**Prefixes**, however, are treated differently. They are described either in alphabetical order or subdivided into several classes in accordance with their origin, meaning or function and never according to the part of speech. Prefixes may be classified on different principles. Diachronically distinction is made between prefixes of native and foreign origin.<sup>1</sup> Synchronically prefixes may be classified: 1) according to the class of words they preferably form. Recent investigations, as has been mentioned above, allow one to classify prefixes according to this principle. It must be noted that most of the 51 prefixes of Modern English function in more than one part of speech forming different structural and structural-semantic patterns. A small group of 5 prefixes may be referred to exclusively verb-forming (en-, be-, un-, etc.).

1)The majority of prefixes (in their various denotational meanings) tend to function either in nominal parts of speech (41 patterns in adjectives, 42in nouns) or in verbs (22 patterns);





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2) as to the type of lexical-grammatical character of the base they are added to into: a) deverbal, e. g. rewrite, outstay, overdo, etc.; b)denominal, e.g. unbutton, detrain, ex-president, etc. and c) deadjectival, e.g. uneasy, biannual, etc. It is of interest to note that the most productive prefixal pattern for adjectives is the one made up of the prefix un- and the base built either on adjectival stems or present and past participle, e.g. unknown, unsmiling, unseen, etc.;

3) semantically prefixes fall into mono- and polysemantic ;

4) as to the generic denotational meaning there are different groups that are distinguished in linguistic literature: a) negative prefixes, such as: un-, non-, in-, dis-, a-, e.g. ungrateful (cf. grateful), unemployment (cf. employment), non-politician (cf. politician), non-scientific (cf. scientific), incorrect (cf. correct), disloyal (cf. loyal), disadvantage (cf. advantage), amoral (cf. moral), asymmetry (cf. symmetry), etc. It may be mentioned in passing that the prefix in- occurs in different phonetic shapes depending on the initial sound of the base it is affixed to; in other words, the prefixal morpheme in question has several allomorphs, namely il- (before [l]), im- (before [p, m]), ir- (before [r]), in- in all other cases, e.g. illegal, improbable, immaterial, irreligious, inactive, etc.; b) reversative or privative prefixes, such as un-, de-, dis-, e.g. untie (cf. tie), unleash (cf. leash), decentralise (cf. centralise), disconnect (cf. connect), etc.; c) pejorative prefixes, such as mis-, mal-, pseudo-, e.g. miscalculate (cf. calculate), misinform (cf. inform), maltreat (cf. treat), pseudoclassicism (cf. classicism), pseudo-scientific (cf. scientific), etc.; d) prefixes of time and order, such as fore-, pre-, post-, ex-, e.g. foretell (cf. tell), foreknowledge (cf. knowledge), pre-war (cf. war), post-war (cf. war), post-classical (cf. classical), ex-president (cf. president); e) prefix of repetition re-, e.g. rebuild (cf. build), re-write (cf. write), etc.; f) locative prefixes, such as super-, sub-, inter-, trans-, e.g. superstructure (cf. structure), subway (cf. way), inter-continental (cf. continental), trans-atlantic (cf. Atlantic), etc. and some other groups;

**S u f f i x a t i o n** is the formation of words with the help of suffixes. Suffixes usually modify the lexical meaning of the base and transfer words to a different part of speech. There are suffixes however, which do not shift words from one part of speech into another; a suffix of this kind usually transfers a word into a different semantic group, e.g. a concrete noun becomes an abstract one, as is the case with child — childhood, friend — friendship, etc. Chains of suffixes occurring in derived words having two and more suffixal morphemes are sometimes referred to in lexicography as compound suffixes: -ably = -able + -ly (e.g. profitably, unreasonably); -ically = -ic + -



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al + -ly (e.g. musically, critically); -ation = -ate + -ion (e.g. fascination, isolation) and some others. Compound suffixes do not always present a mere succession of two or more suffixes arising out of several consecutive stages of derivation. Some of them acquire a new quality operating as a whole unit. Let us examine from this point of view the suffix -ation in words like fascination, translation, adaptation and the like. Adaptation looks at first sight like a parallel to fascination, translation. The latter however are first-degree derivatives built with the suffix -ion on the bases fascinate-, translate-. But there is no base adaptate-, only the shorter base adapt-. Likewise damnation, condemnation, formation, information and many others are not matched by shorter bases ending in -ate, but only by still shorter ones damn-, condemn-, form-, inform-. Thus, the suffix -ation is a specific suffix of a composite nature. It consists of two suffixes -ate and -ion, but in many cases functions as a single unit in first-degree derivatives. It is referred to in linguistic literature as a coalescent suffix or a group suffix. Adaptation is then a derivative of the first degree of derivation built with the coalescent suffix on the base adapt-.

#### **Importance of word-formation in English word-stock**

Word formation as a language system contributes significantly to the enrichment of vocabulary. It allows individuals to create new words, adapt existing ones, and convey nuanced meanings. By understanding the principles of word formation, language learners can enhance their linguistic abilities and explore the vast possibilities of expression. Moreover, as language evolves, new words are continuously added through word formation processes, ensuring that vocabulary remains relevant and adaptive to societal changes. Additionally, word-formation plays a crucial role in expanding the vocabulary of a language by creating synonyms and antonyms. By adding prefixes or suffixes to existing words, speakers can create variations that convey slightly different meanings or nuances. For example, the addition of the prefix "un-" to the word "happy" creates the antonym "unhappy," while the addition of the suffix "-ness" creates the noun "happiness." This ability to manipulate word forms allows speakers to express a wide range of ideas and emotions with precision and nuance. Furthermore, word-formation processes contribute to the efficiency and economy of language. By creating new words or word forms, speakers can communicate complex ideas in a succinct manner. For example, the use of compounding allows speakers to combine multiple concepts into a single word, reducing the need for lengthy explanations. This efficiency is especially important in professional and technical fields, where precise and concise communication is crucial.



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### Conclusion:

Word formation is a vital aspect of language systems. Whether through derivation, compounding, blending, or conversion, it enables the creation of new words and the expansion of vocabulary. By mastering these processes, individuals can enhance their linguistic abilities and embrace the dynamism of language. As language continues to evolve, word formation acts as a mechanism for vocabulary enrichment, ensuring that communication remains adaptable and vibrant. By creating new words, forming synonyms and antonyms, and enhancing the efficiency of communication, word-formation processes contribute to the evolution and expansion of languages. As languages continue to evolve and adapt to changing environments, word-formation will remain essential for the creation and enrichment of vocabulary.

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