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Word formation: shortening, clipping, blending, graphical abbreviations

Jizzakh branch of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulug'bek

The Faculty of Psychology, the department of Foreign languages
Philology and foreign languages

Scientific advicor: **Teshaboyeva Nafisa Zubaydulla qizi** nafisateshaboyeva@gmail.com

Student of group 401-22: **Davletova Charosxon Muhammad qizi** davletovacharos40@gmail.com

ANNOTATION: This annotation delves into the intriguing world of word formation, exploring the diverse mechanisms such as shortening, clipping, blending, and graphical abbreviations through which new words are forged. It uncovers the fascinating ways in which language adapts and evolves, offering insight into the innovative and ever-changing nature of human communication. Drawing on linguistic studies and literary analysis, this annotation presents a comprehensive overview of these linguistic phenomena, shedding light on their impact on modern language usage.

KEY WORDS: Word formation, shortening, clipping, blending, graphical abbreviations, lexico-grammatical

The process of word formation is a dynamic and complex aspect of language that continually shapes and reshapes the way we communicate. From the spontaneous creation of informal abbreviations to the deliberate merging of existing words, the evolution of language through shortening, clipping, blending, and graphical abbreviations reflects the adaptability and creativity of human expression.

The English language is a living, breathing entity that constantly evolves, and one of the most fascinating aspects of this evolution is word formation. In this article, we will delve into the intriguing world of word formation, exploring techniques such as shortening, clipping, blending, and graphical abbreviations. Drawing from a wide range of scholarly works on linguistics, morphology, and etymology, we will unravel the intricate tapestry of how new words come into being and the impact they have on the ever-changing landscape of language.

Word formation is a fascinating aspect of linguistics that involves the creation of new words, often through the combination of existing linguistic elements. One interesting approach to word formation is known as blending, which

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involves combining parts of two words to create a new word with a unique meaning. Word formation is sometimes contrasted with semantic change, change in a single which is a word's meaning. Word classes are subdivisions of words built around the grammatical characteristics of the words and their use in sentences-adjectives, adverbs, articles, conjunctions, nouns, prepositions, verbs, and such.

Why is word formation important?

To put it briefly, word formation is an effective strategy for learners to quickly expand on their vocabulary. Having knowledge of word formation facilitates vocabulary learning as learners acquire skills to decode and encode new words, therefore becoming more autonomous and independent learners.

BLENDING: Blending is a word formation process in linguistics that involves creating a new word by merging parts of two existing words to form a single word with a combined meaning. The resulting blended word typically retains elements from both original words, often reflecting a new concept or phenomenon.

Overall, blending is a powerful word formation process that showcases the flexibility of language in accommodating new concepts and reflects the ongoing evolution of vocabulary in response to societal and cultural developments.

Blending often occurs in response to the need for a term to describe a new concept or phenomenon. For example, the word "brunch" is a blend of "breakfast" and "lunch," reflecting the increasingly popular concept of a late morning meal that combines elements of both traditional meals. Similarly, the word "smog" is a blend of "smoke" and "fog," reflecting the phenomenon of air pollution combining with foggy weather.

Blending can also occur in the realm of technology and social media, where new terms emerge to describe innovative products or online behaviors. For instance, "vlog" is a blend of "video" and "blog," reflecting the growing trend of creating video content for online platforms. Another example is "infomercial," a blend of "information" and "commercial," used to describe a television program that presents information about a product in the style of a commercial.

Understanding the process of blending and other word formation processes provides insights into the dynamic nature of language and its ability to adapt to evolving human experiences. As new concepts and technologies continue to emerge, word formation processes will play a crucial role in shaping the vocabulary of the future.

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Shortening: Shortening refers to the reduction of a longer word to a shorter form, often resulting in the creation of colloquial terms or slang. This phenomenon is prevalent in everyday language, where words such as "phone" (from "telephone") and "info" (from "information") have become widely accepted and integrated into our lexicon. Shortened words often carry connotations of informality and familiarity, reflecting the intimate nature of human interaction.

Shortening, also known as clipping, is a word formation process that involves the reduction of a longer word to a shorter form. This shorter form often retains the core meaning of the original word, and it is typically used informally or in casual speech. One interesting aspect of shortening is the way in which it reflects the ever-changing nature of language and the creative tendencies of its speakers.

Shortening can occur in various ways. One common type of shortening is known as initialism or acronym formation. In initialism, a word is represented by its initial letters, often pronounced as individual letters (e.g., "NASA" for National Aeronautics and Space Administration). Acronym formation, on the other hand, involves creating a new word from the initial letters of a phrase, with the result pronounced as a word itself (e.g., "scuba" for self-contained underwater breathing apparatus).

Another type of shortening is known as clippings, where a part of a word is used to represent the whole. For example, "ad" for advertisement, "phone" for telephone, or "math" for mathematics. This type of shortening is common in colloquial or informal language and often reflects a desire for brevity and efficiency in communication.

However, shortening can also create ambiguity and lexical gaps if the original word is not widely known or recognized. Therefore, while shortening provides a convenient way to create new words and streamline communication, it also presents challenges in terms of comprehension and understanding, especially across different dialects and language communities.

In the age of rapid digital communication and social media, shortening continues to play a key role in the development of new vocabulary, as users strive for brevity and convenience in conveying information. This trend underscores the adaptability and creativity of language as a living system.

Graphical abbreviations: Graphical abbreviations, also known as logograms, are visual symbols or icons used to represent words or concepts, and they play a significant role in many writing systems and communication methods

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around the world. One fascinating aspect of graphical abbreviations lies in their ability to transcend linguistic barriers and facilitate cross-cultural understanding and communication.

While many people are familiar with graphical abbreviations such as the "at" symbol (@) and the "hashtag" symbol (#), there are lesser-known logograms that serve specific cultural or specialized purposes. For example, Chinese characters are a well-known form of logograms, representing entire words or concepts in a single visual symbol. However, this concept extends beyond alphabetic writing systems, as evidenced by the diverse set of logograms found in ancient Mayan inscriptions, Egyptian hieroglyphics, and other writing systems throughout history.

In modern digital communication, emoji symbols have emerged as a form of universal graphical abbreviation, transcending language barriers to convey emotions, objects, activities, and ideas through simple visual representations. This demonstrates the transformative power of logograms, as they enable individuals to communicate complex thoughts and emotions using concise, universally recognized symbols.

Furthermore, the use of logograms in signage, public symbols, and branding reflects a global trend toward visual communication. Logograms have been embraced as a means of conveying information quickly and efficiently, particularly in contexts where linguistic diversity is present. This has led to an increased focus on the development and standardization of international symbols to ensure clear and effective communication across different languages and cultures.

In summary, graphical abbreviations, or logograms, serve as a powerful tool for cross-cultural communication, transcending linguistic barriers and enriching the global language landscape with universally understood visual symbols. Their versatility and ability to convey meaning across diverse cultures underscore the profound impact of visual communication in shaping our interconnected world.

Graphical abbreviations involve the use of symbols, acronyms, and emoticons to represent words or phrases, particularly in digital communication. From the ubiquitous "LOL" (laugh out loud) to the expressive emoticons that convey complex emotions, graphical abbreviations have redefined the landscape of modern communication, transcending linguistic barriers and enriching the expressive potential of language.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the study of word formation processes such as shortening, clipping, blending, and graphical abbreviations reveals the intricate ways in which language evolves and adapts to diverse linguistic and cultural

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contexts. Beyond mere linguistic phenomena, these processes reflect the dynamic interplay between human creativity, technological innovation, and cultural exchange.

Shortening and clipping demonstrate how language efficiency and informal communication needs influence the creation of abbreviated forms, allowing for conciseness and quick dissemination of concepts in a rapidly changing world. These processes also expose the intimate relationship between technological advancements and linguistic evolution, as seen in the rise of acronyms and initialisms in digital communication.

Blending, on the other hand, heralds the emergence of new lexical items through the fusion of multiple words, capturing the inventive potential of language to encapsulate novel concepts. This form of word formation mirrors the adaptability and responsiveness of language to societal and cultural developments, showcasing its ability to accommodate and represent evolving ideas and phenomena.

Graphical abbreviations, or logograms, add a visual dimension to word formation, transcending linguistic boundaries and serving as universal symbols that convey meaning across different languages and cultures. In a world characterized by digital communication and global interconnectedness, graphical abbreviations have become essential tools for efficient and universal expression, fostering crosscultural understanding and bridging linguistic divides.

The collective impact of these word formation processes underscores the robustness and adaptability of language in reflecting and shaping human experiences. Beyond linguistic structures, they embody a convergence of human imagination, technological progress, and intercultural exchange, highlighting the profound role of language in defining and connecting diverse societies and enriching the fabric of human communication.

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