



# Word Formation Processes

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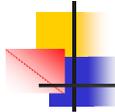
## Chapter 6



## Introduction

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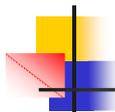
- Spangler and his *electric suction sweeper*
- *Spangler- spangling – spanglered – spanglerish – spanglarism*
- That didn't happen, but people still talk about *'hoovering'*
- **Neologism** → a new word, usage, or expression



## Etymology

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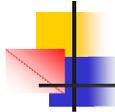
- The study of the origin of the word
- Etymology → comes from Latin but has Greek roots (*etymon* 'original from' + *logia* 'study of')
- Attitude towards new words entering a language
  - *Handbook* – *aviation* in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - *Computer* and *radio* in Arabic
- Ways in which a word can enter a language.



## Types of Word Formation

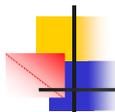
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1. Coinage
2. Borrowing
3. Compounding
4. Blending
5. Clipping
6. Backformation
7. Conversion
8. Acronyms
9. Derivation



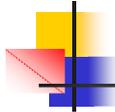
## Coinage

- Invention of totally new words
- Extension of a name of a product from a specific reference to a more general one
- e.g. *Kleenex*, *Xerox*, and *Kodak*
- **Eponyms**: words based on a name of a person or a place. E.g. sandwich, jeans, watt



## Borrowing

- Taking over of words from another language
- English borrowed a lot of Latin and French words
- *Leak* (Dutch)                      *Barbecue* (Spanish)
- *Piano* (Italian)                      *Sofa* (Arabic)
- *Croissant* (French)                      *Yogurt* (Turkish)
- Arabic also borrowed a lot of words from English, e.g. *television*, *radio*, *supermarket*
- Loan-translation or calque
  - A phrase that is introduced into a language through translation
  - Superman → الرجل الخارق
  - Skyscraper → ناطحة سحاب



## Compounding

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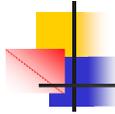
- Two or more words joined together to form a new word.
- Examples:
  - Home + work → homework (N)
  - Pick + pocket → pickpocket (N)
  - Low + paid → low-paid (Adj)



Note: The meaning of a compound is not always the sum of the meanings of its parts.

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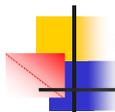
- Coconut oil → oil made from coconuts.
- Olive oil → oil made from olives.
- Baby oil → ~~NOT~~ made from babies



## Blending

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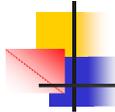
- Similar to compounds, but in blending *only parts* of the words are combined.
- Examples:
  - Motor + hotel → Motel
  - Breakfast + lunch → Brunch
  - Smoke + fog → smog
  - Teleprinter + exchange → telex



## Clipping

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- Shortening a word by deleting one or more syllables
- Examples:
  - Facsimile → fax
  - Hamburger → burger
  - Gasoline → gas
  - Advertisement → ad
  - Professor?
  - Doctor?

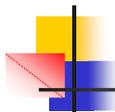


## Backformation

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- Creative *reduction* due to incorrect morphological analysis.
- Examples:
  - editor → edit
  - television → televise
  - babysitter → babysit

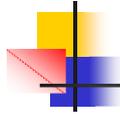
*Note:* backformation always involve reduction (changing the form of the word)



## Conversion

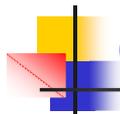
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- Assigning an already existing word to a new syntactic category.
- Examples:
  - **butter** (N) → V to butter the bread
  - **permit** (V) → N an entry permit
  - **empty** (A) → V to empty the litter-bin
  - **must** (V) → N doing the homework is a must
  - **Microwave** (N) → V



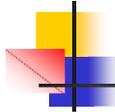
## Acronyms

- Words derived from the initials of several words
- Examples:
  - National Aeronautics and Space Agency  
→ NASA
  - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund  
→ UNICEF
  - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization → UNESCO
  - Compact Disc → CD



## Other examples of Acronyms:

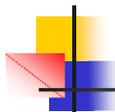
- |          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| a) Radar | a) Radio detecting and ranging |
| b) FYI   | b) For Your Information        |
| c) TGIF  | c) Thanks God It's Friday      |
| d) a.k.a | d) also known as               |
| e) Html  | e) Hypertext mark-up language  |
| f) www   | f) World wide web              |
| g) btw   | g) By the way                  |
| h) ATM   | h) Automatic Teller Machine    |
| i) FAQ   | i) Frequently asked questions  |



## Derivation

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- The most common word formation process.
- affixes
- Examples:  
Happy → **un**happy, happi**ness**  
Arrange → **re**arrange
- Prefixes vs. suffixes
- Infixes → inside the word
  - Tell them I've gone to Singa**bloody**pore!



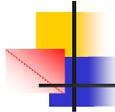
## Multiple Processes

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- The creation of a particular word involves more than one process.
- Example: *Problems with the project have snowballed*

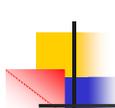
Snow + ball → compound

Snowball (N) → (V) conversion



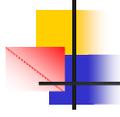
## Multiple Processes

- Identify the processes involved in the creation of the following forms.
  - I just got a new *car-phone*
  - James wants to be a *footballer*
  - The negotiators *blueprinted* a new peace proposal



## Complete the process and Identify the type of word formation:

- |                                     |                  |             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. automatic                        | → Auto→          | clipping    |
| 2. information, entertainment       | → Infotainment → | blends      |
| 3. modulator, demodulator           | → Modem →        | blends      |
| 4. love, seat                       | → Loveseat →     | compounding |
| 5. International, police            | → Interpol →     | blends      |
| 6. A comb                           | → To comb →      | conversion  |
| 7. delicatessen                     | → Deli →         | clipping    |
| 8. Capt. Charles Cunningham Boycott | → Boycott →      | eponym      |



See you next class 😊  
Read Chapter 7