Word formation Process

Lalit Aggarwal
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- How new words are being formed in the language.
- Word formation is of great interest for linguists as it sheds light on other aspects of language.

Why are new words needed?

- Because of new inventions and changes
- Language is dynamic
- vast amount of new inventions made in the 20th and 21st
- One of the distinctive properties of human language is creativity

Entry Of a Word in a language

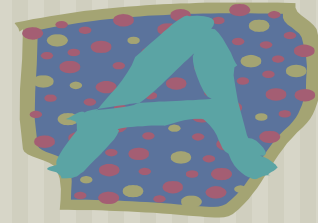etymology: studies of the history of words, their origin, and how their form and meaning changed over time

Etymology: English "Alleviate"

- It is a combination of of Latin levis means light and the prefix ad- means 'to' (ad- changes to al-before a root starting from l-)
- Words derieved from it (levis)

  relieve- re (again) + levis

  elevate (to raise up)- e-(out) +levis

  levitation- process of object apparently rise in the air as if floating

  levity- lightness in sense of frivolity means lack of seriousness.

English word formation

1. coinage

2. Borrowing,

3. Calque

4. Compound

5. Derivation

6. Blending

7. Backformation

8. Conversion

9. Acronym

10. Initialism

11. Onomatopoeia

12. Clipping

1. Coinage

- the word formation process of inventing entirely new words
- Ex: robotics (1941), genocide (1943), black hole (1968),blog, internet, google, Aspirine.

Some more examples

- **e-cruitment**-online recruitment of employees; online submission of resumes and cover letters
- **netbook**–small laptop computer which weighs less than 3 pounds and has a 7 to 10 inch screen
- **notspot**-an area where there is slow internet access or no connection at all
- **slumdog**-very poor, underprivileged person who lives in an overcrowded a slum

Eponym

- --new words based on names of persons/place
- volt [Alessandro Volta, Italian]
- watt [James Watt, Scot scientist]
- boycott [Charles Boycott, Irish]
- fahrenheit [Gabriel Farenheit, German scientist]

2. Borrowing

- Borrowing is the process of actually borrowing words from foreign languages.
- The English language has been borrowing words from ''nearly a hundred languages in the last hundred years''
- The other way round, many countries also have taken many English words into their dictionaries, such as the well-known "*OK or internet*"
- most of the loan words are nouns, only some of them are verbs or adjectives.

- Latin: interim, memorandum, agenda, p.m. and a.m., sponsor.
- Greek : pneumonia, panorama, psychoanalysis, psychology, python
- French: bureau, café, chauffeur, abattoir, attaché, á la carte
- Sanskrit: chakra, mahatma, nirvana, musk
- Hindi -avatar, bungalow, jungle, pajamas, verandah, shampoo, yoga, pundit, cheetah

3. Calque

- Direct translation of the element of a word into the borrowing language.
- word-for-word translation of a phrase borrowed from another language.
- Ex: Spanish from English

 perros calientes –dog hot = hot dog

4. Compounding

- Compounding is the process of putting words together to build a new one that "does not denote two things, but one" and that is "pronounced as one unit"
- Ex: -handbag=hand + bag;
  -wallpaper=wall + paper;
  -fingerprint=finger + print;
  -sunburn=sun + burn,

5. Derivation

- Derivation, as ''the most common word formation process'', builds new words by adding morphemes
- word formation by affixes
- By prefixes: un-usual , mis-pronounce

    mis-lead, dis-respect
- By suffixes: care-less, child-ish

    faith-ful
- prefix and suffix: dis-loyal-ty

    un-erring-ly

6. Blending

- A blending is a combination of two or more words to create a new one, usually by taking the beginning of the other word and the end of the other one

- Ex: brunch =breakfast+ lunch

  motel = motor + hotel

  smog = smoke + fog

  transistor = transfer + resistor

  emoticon = emotion + icon

  webinar = web+ seminar

Some more example

- Sitcom= situation + comedy; television series based on humorous everyday situations
- Netiquette=network + etiquette
- Netizen = internet+ citizen

7. Backformation

- --nouns > verbs: reduction of nouns to form verbs

Ex: television = televise

    donation = donate

    option = opt

    emotion = emote

   enthusiasm = enthuse

   editor = edit

8. Conversion

- -changing the category of words
- zero derivation –no affixes are added
- nouns & verbs: bottle, butter, chair, vacation
- verbs & nouns: guess, spy,
- print out & printout
- verbs & adjectives : see through
- adjectives & verbs: empty, dirty
- adjectives & nouns: the poor; the weak

9. Acronym

- word from initials of a set of words
- Ex: SCUBA -**S**elf-**C**ontained **U**nderwater **B**reathing **A**pparatus

   RADAR -**Ra**dio **D**etection **A**nd **R**anging

   LASER –**L**ight **A**mplification by **S**timulated **E**mission of **R**adiation

   PIN-**P**ersonal **I**dentification **N**umber

10. Initialism

- initialisms are pronounced ''as a sequence of letters''
  DNA- Deoxy Riboneuclic acid
  USA- United states of america

11. Onomatopoeia

- This special type of word that depicts "the sound associated with what is named"

  Ex: buzz, hiss, sizzle, cuckoo, crash, bang, hush, ticktack, etc.

12. Clipping

- shortening of a poly-syllabic word.
- Types: back clipping, fore-clipping, middle and complex clipping
- Ex: facsimile = fax

  fanatic = fan

  telephone= phone

  gasoline = gas

  influenza = flu

  cable tele*gram*= cablegram

  gym, lab, exam, math, prof.

Conclusion

- As we have seen before, there are many ways to create new words
- So finally, if we take a look around, we will see a mass of new words surrounding us, brought to us both consciously by language trends and unconsciously through language change over time
- Language changes constantly. And who knows if the people will understand the language we are using now in a few decades?

Refrences

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THANK YOU