

Diyala University

College of Education for Human Sciences

English Dept.

Ch.10/Word formation processes:lec.2

Asst.Inst.Wassan H. Alameer

There are systematic word formation processes that take place across human languages. Depending on the language, some of these processes might be available in particular languages, whereas others may not. But the result is the same, new words are always created and added to the lexicon of the language.

1.Borrowing:

New words also enter a language through contact with other languages. Such words are called loan words. English, for example, borrowed a lot of French words as a result of the Norman invasion in 1066, and that's why the English lexicon has a Latinate flavor to it, even though English did not descend from Latin. Moreover, all words related to Islamic ceremonies are used nowadays in English due to the spread of Islam all over the world. Here are some examples of foreign words that found their way into English :

- (a) leak, yacht (from Dutch)
- (b) barbecue, cockroach (from Spanish)
- (c) piano, concerto (from Italian)
- (d)cotton, sheikh, hijab, masjid (from Arabic)
- (e)rouge, suit, garage, fiancé(from French)

2.Compounding:

New words are also created through the common process of compounding, i.e. combining two or more words together to form a new compound word. For instance:

- (a) post + card → postcard
- (b) post + office → post office
- (c) book + case → bookcase
- (d) black + bird → blackbird

We may also combine more than two words, e.g. mother-in-law, sergeant-at-arms, Jack-in-the-box, tat-for-tat

3.Derivation:

The most productive process of word formation in a language is the use of derivational morphemes to form new words from already existing forms. For example:

Change +able= changeable en+large=enlarge

Sincere +ity= sincerity woman+ly=womanly

Pre + master=premaster

wealth+ wealthy

Prince+princess school+hood=schoolhood

4.Invention OR Coinage:

is the invention of totally new words. The typical process of invention usually involves the extension of a product's name from a specific reference to a more general one. For example, kleenex, nokia, goof, toyota and nylon. These started as names of specific products, but now they are used as common names for different brands of these types of products.

5.Echoism:

Is the formation of words whose sounds suggest their meaning. This process also known as onomatopoeia in literature specifically in poetry .For instance:

Murmur, wheeze, peep, mow, moan, click, tick, tissue, hiss, hush...etc.

6.Clipping:

Is cutting off the beginning or the end of word or both , leaving apart to refer to the whole i.e., the shortening of a longer word. For instance:

fax =facsimile gym = gymnasium,

lab = laboratory, ad=advertisement,

exam=examination math=mathematics,

dorm=dormitory prof.=professor