Chapter 5
Word Formation

The Study of Language
George Yule
Etymology

- The study of the origin and history of words.
Word Formation Processes

1. Borrowing
2. Compounding
   - Blending
3. Clipping
   - Hypocorisms
   - Backformation
4. Conversion
5. Coinage
   - Acronyms
6. Derivation
   - Prefixes, suffixes, and infixes
Borrowing

- It is taking words from other languages.
Borrowing

• One of the most common sources of new words.
• Examples of English borrowing from other languages:
  • Piano (Italian)
  • Yogurt (Turkish)
  • Alcohol (Arabic)
  • Croissant (French)
• From English to other languages:
  • Suupaamaakettoo / sport/ klub/futbal

Dr. Marwa Abdel Mohsen
Borrowing

Loan-translation (Calque)

A direct translation of the word into the borrowing language.

Skyscraper → Gratte ciel (Fr)/ wolkenkrabber (Dutch)/ wolkenkratzer (Gr)

Lehnwort → Loan-word
Compounding

• The joining of two separate words to form a single word.
Blending
Blending

• The combination of two separate forms to produce a single new term.
• Taking the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of another.

- smoke/fog → SMOG
- Binary /digit → BIT
- Teleprinter/exchange → TELEX
- Information/entertainment → INFOTAINMENT
Clipping

- It occurs when a word of more than one syllable is reduced to one word.

exam, fax, deli, flu, doc, ad, lab, vet
Clipping

Hypocorisms

A word reduced to a single syllable, y or ie is added to the end

- telly (television)
- movie (moving pictures)
- bookie (book maker)
Clipping

Backformation
Clipping

Backformation

- A specialized type of reduction
- A word of one type (usually a noun) is reduced to form a word of another type (usually a verb)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>Donate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Backformation</td>
<td>Backform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babysitter</td>
<td>Babysit</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conversion

• A change in the function of a word without any reduction.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Verbs as nouns:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a must/ a guess/ a spy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrasal verbs as nouns:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A print out/ a take over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Verbs as adjectives:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See-through material/ a stand-up comedian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjectives as verbs:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to dirty/ to empty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prepositions as verbs:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They’re going to up the price of oil./ We downed the prices.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coinage
Coinage

• The invention of totally new terms for commercial products that become general terms.

• Older examples: aspirin, nylon, Vaseline

• Newer examples: Kleenex, Xerox, Google
Eponyms

- New words based on the names of persons or places
Acronyms

- New words formed from the initial letters of a set of other words.
Derivation

- By adding affixes

Prefix root word suffix

uncomfortable
irregularly
disorganised
unconfidently
disrespectfully
Derivation

- The most common word-formation process.
- Linking affixes to words
- Affixes are prefixes & suffixes & infixes.

- **Prefixes**: beginning of words & change the meaning (un+happy=unhappy).

- **Suffixes**: end of words & change the word class (happy+ly=happily).
Thank you