

# The Concept of Word Formation



# Word formation

- **Word formation** process is basically how new words are created and become part of the language. In linguistics, **word formation** is the creation of a new word. In other words, it refers to the ways in which new words are made on the basis of other words or morphemes.

# Types of Word Formation

**Derivation:** In linguistics, derivation is the process of forming a new word on the basis of an existing word. **For e.g.** the word **happiness** and **unhappy** are derived from the word **happy**. Similarly, the word **determination** has been derived from **determine**. Derivation is the process of forming a new word by means of **affixation** (prefix, infix and suffix)

# Types of Word Formation

**Compounding**: A compound is a lexeme (a word) that consists of more than one other lexeme (word). It is categorized in two ways:

An **endocentric compound** consists of a head and modifier. **For e.g.** the English compound **doghouse**, where **house** is the head and **dog** is the modifier, which shows that house is intended for a dog.

**Exocentric compounds** do not have a head and their meaning often cannot be transparently guessed from its constituent parts. **For e.g.** the English compound **white-collar** is neither a kind of collar nor a white thing.

# Types of Word Formation

## Examples of Compounding

- One word is added to another word to form compound words.
- Atom bomb
- Waiting list
- Home work
- Low paid
- Dining room
- Fire place
- Cup cake
- Email

# Types of Word Formation

**Blending:** A blend is a word formed by joining parts of two words after clipping.

**For e.g.**

When parts of two separate words are combined to form a new word, it is Blending.

Motel – motor+hotel

Telecast – television+broadcast

Brunch – breakfast+lunch

Smog – smoke+fog

Chunnel – channel+tunnel

Biopic - biography+picture

# Types of Word Formation

**Acronym**: An acronym is a word made up from the first letter of the words that make up the name of something.

**For e.g.**

NASA (is a name whose full form is)- National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
**(Acronym)**

RADAR- Radio Detection and Ranging

# Types of Word Formation

**Calque/ Borrowing**: Borrowing is just taking a word from another language. The borrowed words are called **loan words or calque**. A loan word is a word directly taken into one language from another language with little or no translation. English has many loan words.

**For e.g.**

- Biology, boxer, ozone- Taken from German language
- Jacket, yoghurt, Kiosh- Taken from Turkish language
- Pistol, robot- Taken from Czech language

# Types of Word Formation

**Neologism/ Coinage**: It is the invention of totally new words either deliberately or accidentally. This is a very rare and uncommon method to create new words, but in the media, people try to outdo each other with more and better words to name their products.

**For e.g.**

- Xerox, Kodak, google, nylon, band-aid

# Types of Word Formation

In other words, Coinage are words that somebody creates and people start using it. One category of neologism is **Eponym**. These are words that are based on the name of a person or a place.

- **For e.g.**
- Watt- this word has been taken from the name of a discoverer
- Jeans- this word has been taken from Italian city Jenewa
- Sandwich- this word has been taken from a person who makes his meal between two slices of bread.

# Types of Word Formation

**Back- Formation**: It refers to the process of creating a new lexeme (word) by removing actual or supposed affixes. In other words, back-formations are shortened words created from longer words.

**For e.g.**

The word **resurrection** was borrowed from Latin, the word **resurrect** was then back formed hundreds of years later from it by removing **-ion** suffix.

# Types of Word Formation

**Reduplication**: It is the process of forming new words either by doubling an entire word or part of a word. English makes use of reduplication very rarely.

**For e.g.**

- Humpty- dumpty
- Hustle- bustle
- Hotch- potch

# Types of Word Formation

**Clipping**: It is a word formation process which consists of reduction of a word. Clippings are also known as shortenings. It has four types:

**Back clipping**

**Fore- clipping**

**Middle- clipping**

**Complex- clipping**

# Types of Word Formation

**Back clipping** or **apocopation** is the most common type in which the beginning of the word is retained.

**For e.g.**

- Ad- ~~advertisement~~
- Doc- ~~doctor~~
- Memo- ~~memorandum~~

# Types of Word Formation

**Fore-clipping** or **aphaeresis** retains the final part.

**For e.g.**

- Phone- ~~telephone~~
- Varsity- ~~university~~

# Types of Word Formation

**Middle-clipping** or **syncope** retains the middle part.

**For e.g.**

- Flu- ~~influenza~~

# Types of Word Formation

**Complex- clipping:** In this clipped forms are used in compounds. One part of the original compound most often remains intact.

**For e.g.**

- Cablegram- cable~~tele~~gram
- Op art- optical ~~art~~
- Org man- organization ~~man~~