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REFERAT

THE DEFINITION OF SUFFIXES

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Introduction

The present course paper is devoted to the study "Affixation as a word formation device in English" which presents a certain interest both for theoretical investigation and for the practical usage.

The actuality of present course paper lies in learning prefixes and suffixes in the English language which are widely used to perform linguistic richness of the English language.

This paper is to study affixation and affixal morphemes according to certain patterns specific for the language (affixation, composition) or without any outword means of word formation.

The given purpose follows successive solution of the following tasks:

- 1. affixation as word formation
- 2. to give more information about prefixes
- 3. to give more information of suffixes (their meaning, origin etc).

Body

Affixation is one of the most productive ways of word-building throughout the history of English. It consists in adding an affix to the stem of a definite part of speech. Affixation is divided into suffixation and prefixation. Affixation is generally defined as the formation of words by adding derivational affixes; to stems. On the morphemically level every word formed by means of affixation has only one root - morpheme, which is its semantic certain and one or more derivational affixes. For instance, the words displease and realism have each only one root - morpheme and one derivational affixes the prefix dis and the suffix - ism. Where's the noun reappearance consists of the prefix re-, the root morpheme appear and the suffix - once. On the derivational level derived words comprise a primary stem (the stem being in itself either a simple, a derived or compound stem) and a derivational affixes. Ex. violinist = Noun+ist - a simple stem, friendliness (N+ly)+ ness - a derived stem, friendliness (N-bIy) + ness - a derived stem, chairmanship =(N+N) + ship - a compound stem.

The stems of words making up a word cluster enter into derivational relation of different degrees. The zero degree of derivation is ascribed to simple words, i.e.words whose stem is homonymous with a root morpheme, atom, haste, devote, etc. derived words whose stems consist of a root - morpheme and a derivational affix are described as having the first degree of derivation, e.g. atomic, hasty, devotion, etc. Derived words formed by two consecutive stages of coining process the second degree of derivation, e.g. atomically, hastily, devotional, etc.

Derived words formed by two consecutive stages of coining process the second degree of derivation, etc, e,g. anatomical, hastily, devotional, etc.

In conformity with the division of derivational affix into suffixes and prefixes affixation is subdivided into suffixation and prefixing. Distinction is naturally made between prefix and suffixed derivatives, cf Unjust, rearrange, justify, arrangement. Words like reappearance, unreasonably, denationalize are generally qualified as prefix suffix derivatives. We must realize that this qualification is relevant only in terms of the constituent morphemes such words are made up of, i. e. from the angle of morphemic analysis. From the point of view of derivational analysis such words are mostly suffix or prefix derivatives, e. g. reappearance = (re + appear) + ance. A careful study of a great many suffix and prefix derivatives has revealed and essential difference between them.

Affixes may be divided into dead and living. Dead affixes are those

are no longer left in modern English as component parts of words.

They can be singled out only by etymological analysis.

Ex, admit (from Lad + mittere): deed, flight. Living affixes are easily singled out from a word, e. g. freedom, childhood, marriage.

Living affixes are traditionally in their turn divided into productive and nonproductive. Productive affix are those, which are characterized by their ability to make new words.

Ex. er - baker, lender, ist - leftist, ism - ish₅ baldish; ind, -ness, -ation₅ -ee; ry -or, -ance, ic are productive suffixes re-, un- , non, -anti - etc are productive prefixes. Non - productive affixes are those which are not esed to form new words in Modern English- Ex. -ard, -cy, -ive, -en, -dom, -ship, -fill, -en, -ity etc. Are not productive suffixes; in, ir (im-), mis - dis are not productive prefixes. These affixes may occur in a rear number of words but if they are not used to form new words in Modern English they are not productive.

But recent investigations prove that there are no productive and non productive affixes because each affix plays a certain role in word - formation. There are only affixes with different degrees of productivity, besides that productivity of affixes should not be mixed up with their frequency of occurrence in speech. Frequency of affixes is characterized by the occurrence of an affix in a great number of words. But productivity is the ability of a given suffix or prefix to make new words. An affix may be frequent but not productive.¹

There are cases, however, where it is very difficult to drawer hard and fast

line between roots and affixes on the one hand, and derivational affixes abd in flexional formatives on the other. The distinction between these has caused much discussion and is no easy matter altogether.

There are a roots in English which have developed great combining ability in the position of the second element of a word and a very general meaning similar to that of. an affix. They receive this name because semantically, functionally, structurally and statistically they behave more like affixes than like roots. Their meaning is as general. They determine the lexicon - grammatical class the word belongs to cf sailar: seaman, where - man is a semi-affix.

Another specific group is farmed by the adverb - farming suffix -ly, following adjective stems, and the noun - forming suffixes: -ing, -ness, -er and by ed added to a combination of two stems: fainthearted, bng legged. By their almost unlimited combining possibilities (high valiancy) and the almost complete fusion of lexical and lexicon - grammatical meaning they resemble inflectional formatives. The derivation with these suffixes is so regular and the meaning and function of the derivatives so obvious that such derivatives are very often considered not worth an entry in the dictionary and they're fore omitted as selfevident- Almost every adjective stem can produce an adverb with the help of Jy and an abstract noun by taking up the suffix -ness. Every verbal stem produce the name of the doer by adding z \$ r and the name of th process or its result by adding <u>-</u> ing. A suffix approaching those in productivity is -ish denoting a moderate degree of the quality named in the stem. Therefore these words are explained in dictionaries by referring the reader to the underlying stem. For example, in concise oxford dictionary we read: «womanliness - the quality of being womanly; womanized in senses of the verb; womanishly - in a womanish manner; womanly adv-in a womanly manner, womanishness - the quality or state of being womanish».

These affixes are remarkable for their high valence also in the formation of compound derivatives corresponding to free phrases* Examples are: every day: every day ness.

Suffixation. The main function of suffixes in Modern English is to form one part of speech from another, the secondary function is to change the lexical meaning of the same part of speech. (e.g. «educate» is a verb, «educatee» is a noun, and «music» is a noun, «musicdom» is also a noun). There are different classifications of suffixes : 1. Part-of-speech classification. Suffixes which can form different parts of speech are given here : a) noun-forming suffixes, such as : -er (criticizer), -dom (officialdom), -ism (ageism), b) adjective-forming suffixes, such as : -able (breathable), less (symptomless), -ous (prestigious), c) verb-forming suffixes, such as -ize (computerize) , -ify (micrify), d) adverb-forming suffixes , such as : -ly (singly), -ward (tableward), e) numeral-forming suffixes, such as -teen (sixteen), -ty (seventy).

2. Semantic classification . Suffixes changing the lexical meaning of the stem can be subdivided into groups, e.g. noun-forming suffixes can denote:

a) the agent of the action, e.g. -er (experimenter), -ist (taxist), -ent (student),

b) nationality, e.g. -ian (Russian), -ese (Japanese), -ish (English),

c) collectivity, e.g. -dom (moviedom), -ry (peasantry, -ship (readership), -ati (literati),

d) diminutiveness, e.g. -ie (horsie), -let (booklet), -ling (gooseling), -ette (kitchenette), -5

e) quality, e.g. -ness (copelessness), -ity (answerability).

3. Lexico-grammatical character of the stem. Suffixes which can be added to certain groups of stems are subdivided into:

a) suffixes added to verbal stems, such as : -er (commuter), -ing (suffering), - able (flyable), -ment (involvement), -ation (computerization),

b) suffixes added to noun stems, such as : -less (smogless), ful (roomful), -ism (adventurism), -ster (pollster), -nik (filmnik), -ish (childish),

c) suffixes added to adjective stems, such as : -en (weaken), -ly (pinkly), -ish (longish), -ness (clannishness).

4. Origin of suffixes. Here we can point out the following groups:

a) native (Germanic), such as -er,-ful, -less, -ly. b) Romanic, such as : -tion, -ment, -able, -eer. c) Greek, such as : -ist, -ism, -ize.

d) Russian, such as -nik.

5. Productivity. Here we can point out the following groups:

a) productive, such as : -er, -ize, --ly, -ness. b) semi-productive, such as : -eer, - ette, -ward. c) non-productive , such as : -ard (drunkard), -th (length).

Suffixes can be polysemantic, such as : -er can form nouns with the following meanings : agent, doer of the action expressed by the stem (speaker), profession, occupation (teacher), a device, a tool (transmitter). While speaking about suffixes we should also mention compound suffixes which are added to the stem at the same time, such as -ably, -ibly, (terribly, reasonably), -ation (adaptation from adapt). There are also disputable cases whether we have a suffix or a root morpheme in the structure of a word, in such cases we call such morphemes semisuffixes, and words with such suffixes can be classified either as derived words or as compound words, e.g. -gate (Irangate), -burger (cheeseburger), -aholic (workaholic) etc. Prefixation. Prefixation is the formation of words by means of adding a prefix to the stem. In English it is characteristic for forming verbs. Prefixes are more independent than suffixes. Prefixes can be classified according to the nature of words in which they are used : prefixes used in notional words and prefixes used in functional words. Prefixes used in notional words are proper prefixes which are bound morphemes, e.g. un- (unhappy). Prefixes used in functional words are semi-bound morphemes because they are met in the language as words, e.g. over- (overhead) (cf over the table). The main function of prefixes in English is to change the lexical meaning of the same part of speech. But the recent research showed that about twenty-five prefixes in Modern English form one part of speech from another (bebutton, interfamily, postcollege etc).

Prefixes can be classified according to different principles: 1.Semantic classification:

a) prefixes of negative meaning, such as : in- (invaluable), non- (nonformals), un-(unfree) etc, b) prefixes denoting repetition or reversal actions, such as: de(decolonize), re- (revegetation), dis- (disconnect), c) prefixes denoting time, space, degree relations, such as : inter- (interplanetary) , hyper- (hypertension), ex- (ex-student), pre- (pre-election), over- (overdrugging) etc.

2. Origin of prefixes: a) native (Germanic), such as: un-, over-, under- etc.

b) Romanic, such as : in-, de-, ex-, re- etc. c) Greek, such as : sym-, hyper- etc.

When we analyze such words as : adverb, accompany where we can find the root of the word (verb, company) we may treat ad-, ac- as prefixes though they were never used as prefixes to form new words in English and were borrowed from Romanic languages together with words. In such cases we can treat them as derived words. But some scientists treat them as simple words. Another group of words with a disputable structure are such as : contain, retain, detain and conceive, receive, deceive where we can see that re-, de-, con- act as prefixes and -tain, - ceive can be understood as roots. But in English these combinations of sounds have no lexical meaning and are called pseudo-morphemes. Some scientists treat such words as simple words, others as derived ones. There are some prefixes which can be treated as root morphemes by some scientists, e.g. after- in the word afternoon. American lexicographers working on Webster dictionaries treat such words as compound words. British lexicographers treat such words as derived ones.

Depending on purpose of work, various classifications of suffixes have been used and suggested. Suffixes have been classified according to their origin, parts of speech they served to form, their frequency, productivity and other characteristics.

Within the parts of speech suffixes have been classified semantically according to lexico-grammatical groups, and last but not least, according to the types of stems they are added to.

In conformity with our primarily synchronic approach it seems convenient to begin with the classification according to the part of speech in which the most frequent suffixes of present-day English occur. They will be listed accordingly together with words illustrating their possible semantic force. It shall be, noted that diachronic approach would view the problem of morphological analysis differently, for example, in the word <u>complete</u> they would look for the traces of the Latin <u>complet-us</u>.

Noun-forming suffixes:

<u>-</u> age (bondage, breakage, mileage, vicarage); - ance/ - ence (assistance, reference); - ant/ - ent (disinfectant, student); - dom (kingdom, freedom, officialdom); - ee (employee); - eer (profiteer); - er (writer, type-writer); - ess(actress, lioness); - hood (manhood); - ing (building, meaning, washing); - ion, -sion, - tion, ation (rebellion, creation, tension, explanation);

ism/ - icism(heroism, criticism); - ist (novelist, communist); - ment (government, nourishment); - nees (tenderness); - ship (friendship); - (i) ty (sonority).

Adjective-forming suffixes:

<u>-</u> able/ - ible/ - uble (unbearable, audible, soluble); - al (formal); - ic (poetic); - ical (ethical); - ant/ - ent (repentant, dependent); - ary (revolutionary) ;-ate/ - ete (accurate, complete); - ed/ - d (wooded); - fill (delightful); -

ian(African, Australian); - ish (Irish, reddish, childish); - ive (active); - less (useless);

like (lifelike); - ly (manly); - ous/ ious (tremendous, curious); - some (tiresome);
y (cloudy, dressy).

Numeral-forming suffixes:

- fold (twofold); - teen (fourteen); - th (seventh); - ty (sixty)

Verb-forming suffixes:

<u>-</u> ate (facilitate); - er (glimmer); - en (shorten); - fy/ - ify (terrify, speechify, solidify); - ize (equalize); - ish (establish).

Adverb-forming suffixes:

- ly (coldly); - ward/ - wards (upward, northwards); - wise (likewise).

If we change our approach and become interested in the lexico-grammatical meaning the suffixes serve to signalize, we obtain within each part of speech more

detailed lexico-grammatieal classes or subclasses.¹

A lexico-grammatical class may be defined as a class of lexical elements possessing the same lexico-grammatical meaning and a common system of forms in which the grammatical categories inherent in these units are expressed. The elements of one class are substituted by the same prop-words the term prop-word is a term of syntax. It denotes a word whose main function is to provide the structural completeness of a word-group. A prop-word or an an aphonic word stands for another word already said or written. Personal pronouns he or she substituting nouns class them as personal nouns for either male or female beings. The words one, do and to are the most specifically English examples of prop-words. Compare the various functions of do and to in the Following: <u>«Even if</u>

<u>I did go. couldn't do any good» Charles paused and said:</u> «I m afraid that I want you to». «Why do you? (SAAU)» and characterized by identical morphological patterns and a common set of derivational affixes. Taking up nouns we can subdivide them into <u>proper</u> and <u>common nouns</u>. Among common nouns we shall distinguish personal names, names of other animate beings, collective nouns, falling into several minor groups, material nouns, abstract nouns and names of things.

Abstract nouns are signaled by the following suffixes:

<u>-</u> age, - ance/ - ence, - ancy/ - ensy, - dom, - hood, - ing, - ion/ - tion/ -ation, - ism, - ment, - ness, - ship, - th, - ty.

See examples above.

Personal nouns that are emotionally neutral occur with the following suffixes: - an (grammarian), - ant/ - ent (servant, student), - arian (vegetarian), -ee (examinee), - er (porter), - ician (musician), - ist (linguist), - ite (sybarite), - or (inspector), and a few others.

Feminine suffixes may be classed as a subgroup of personal noun suffixes. These are few and not frequent: - ess (actress), - ine (heroine), - rix (testatrix), -

¹ The example is borrowed from A. Sheard, The Words We Use. Andre Deutsch, London, 1962.

ette (suffragette).

The above classification should be accepted with caution. It is true that in a polysemantic word at least one of the variants witl show the class meaning signaled by the affix. There may be other variants, however, whose different meaning will be signaled by a difference in distribution, and these will belong to some other lexico-grammatical class. C.f. <u>settlement</u>, <u>translation</u> denoting a process and its result, or <u>beauty</u> which, when denoting qualities that give pleasure to the eye or to the mind, is an abstract noun, but occurs also as a personal noun denoting a beautiful woman. The word <u>witness</u> is more often used in its several personal meanings that (in accordance with its suffix) as an abstract noun meaning evidence or «testimony». The coincidence of two classes in the semantic structure of some words may be almost regular. Collectivity, for instance may be signaled by such suffixes as <u>- dom</u>, <u>- ery</u>, <u>- hood</u>, <u>- ship</u>. It must be borne in mind, however, that words with these suffixes are poly semantic and show a regular correlation of the abstract noun denoting state and a collective noun denoting a group of persons of

Alongside with adding some lexi co-grammatical meaning to the stem, certain suffixes charge it with emotional force. They may be derogatory: <u>- ard</u> (drunkard); <u>— ling (underling)</u>; <u>— ster (gangster)</u>; <u>- ton (simpleton)</u>. These seem to be more numerous in English that the suffixes of endearment.

Emotionally coloured diminutive suffixes rendering also endearment differ from the derogatory suffixes in that they are used to name not only persons but things as well. This point may be illustrated by the suffix - y/ - ie/ - ey: <u>auntie</u>, <u>cabbie</u> (cabman), <u>daddie</u>, but also; <u>hanky</u> (handkerchief), <u>nightie</u> (nightgown). Other suffixes that express smallness are <u>- en</u> (chicken): <u>- kin/ kins</u> (<u>mannikin</u>); -let (<u>booklet</u>); <u>-ock</u> (hillcack); et (cornet).

The connotation of same diminutive suffixes is not one or endearment but of some outlandish elegance and novelty, particularly in the case of the borrowed suffix <u>- ette (kitchenette, launderette, lecturette, maisonette, etc)</u>. The diminutive suffixes being not very productive, there is a tendency to express the same meaning by the semiaffix <u>mini-</u>; <u>mini-bus</u>, <u>mini-car</u>, <u>mini-crisis</u>, <u>miniskirt</u>, etc. Which may be added to words denoting both objects situations.

A suffix is a derivative final element which as or formely was productive in forming words. A suffix has semantic value, but it does not occur as an independent speech unit.

Conclusion

The paper is devoted to the study of affixation. Suffixes is the formation of words with the help of suffixes. Suffixes is the derivational affix which is added after the stem.

Suffixation is the most productive way of word formation.

In this paper we spoke about lexicology, the types of lexicology, its connection with other aspects of linguistics such as grammar, phonetics, stylistics etc: them qualification paper gives information about subdivisions of lexicology. One if the most important subdivisions of lexicology is word formation. Word formation is a branch of science of the language, which studies the patterns on which a language forms new lexical items (new unities, new words). It's a process of forming words by combining roots affixal morphems. According to certain patterns specific for the language or with out any outword means. Two major groups of word formation may be distinguished;

1) Words formed as grammatical syntagmas, combinations of full linguistic signs (types: compounding, prefixation suffixation, conversion, and back derivation)

2) Words, which are not grammatical syntagmas, which are not made up of full linguistic sigus.

Ex: expsessive symbolism, blending, clipping, rhyme and some others.

Common for both groups is that a new word is based on synchronic relationship between morphemes.

Words formed by word-derivation have only stem and one or more derivational affixes. Some derived words have no affixes because derivation is achieved through conversion. Words formed by word - composition have two or more stems. The basic away of forming words in word - derivation, for instance, are affixation and conversion. As we mentioned above there are several types of word formation. And affixation is one of the most productive way of forming words. Beside affixation there are: word composition, conversion, abbreviation.

In this paper I try to give full information about suffixes, its problem, the

origin of suffixes and classification of suffixes.

Suffixes is the formation words with the help of derivational affixes adding after the stem. Suffixation is usually bound up with the paradigm of certain part of speech. It is significant that linguistic literature derivational suffixes are always divided into nounforming, adjuctive forming, etc.

There are many borrowed suffixes from Latin, Romanic, Greek, Germanic and etc. Then we can found out information about classification of suffixes. Suffixes may be classified on different principles. Diachronically distinction is made between suffixes of native and foreign origin synchronically they are classified according to the meaning they convey to the derived word.

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