

Words Recently Coined and Blended: Analysis of New English Lexical Items

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ANNOTATION

Hundreds of new lexical items are coined or borrowed every year. The focus of the thesis is on analysing lexical enrichment of English as it is reflected in newly derived, compounded and blended words. A number of them has been added into the Oxford Dictionary (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/>)

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Adding new words to a language especially English is recently becoming more and more common. The internet, television, commerce, new industrial products or services have provided a fertile soil for blending of a vast amount of new lexical items. It will not be daring to state that the English language is unbelievably fast in adjusting to the changing world. New expressions from everyday life representing the latest changes and evolutions are conventionalized daily. Nevertheless, it is necessary to differentiate between new words and neologisms. It is understood that neologisms are completely new expressions that have not yet been entered in the dictionary while new words already have. These new words are constantly being coined and gradually being used by particular groups of people and have not become formal yet. The completely new words are called neologisms as the following definition taken from the website www.vappingo.com explains: “**Neologisms** are newly coined terms, words, or phrases, that may be commonly used in everyday life but have yet to be formally accepted as constituting mainstream language. Neologisms represent the evolving nature of the English language. Over time people create new words that express concepts or ideas that were previously expressed using other words or use words that may not have existed at all. Neologisms can be completely new words, new meanings for existing words or new senses in existing words”.

In this chapter different ways of word formation will be depicted. The following paragraphs have been inspired by this internet source: <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~kemmer/Words/wordtypes.html>

Compounding means joining two or more common words together in order to form an independent lexical item. Most base words are originally English but sometimes the items are borrowed from other languages such as Latin, Greek. For example: *mailbox, mailman, dog house, fireplace, fireplug, email, e-ticket, dry run, cupcake, pick-up truck*.

Reduplication. So called compound substitutes can also be formed using rhyming words. Actually, two rhyming meaningful words make a rhyming compound (*love-dovey*). On the other hand, rhyming compounds can be created from new invented words that usually have no meaning but rhyme with the first component (*higgledy-pigglety, easy-peasy*).

Other examples may be the following:

adjective-noun compound: blue + berry → blueberry

verb-noun compound: work + room → workroom

Derivation

Derivation creates new words by modifying the root of the original word which can often lead to the change of part of speech.

verb to verb: appear → disappear

noun to noun: friend → friendship

verb to adjective: bore → boring

noun to verb: code → codify

noun to adjective: nature → natural

adjective to noun: ugly → ugliness

Back formation. Back formation is dropping any affixes to form a new part of speech.

babysitter – babysit

gambler – gamble

donation – donate

hazy – haze

Affixation. Affixation is a way in which we derive new lexical items through adding suffixes or prefixes to the root. In fact, this word formation resembles derivation.

Free – freedom

Patient – impatient

Use – useless, useful

Ambitious – unambitious

Blending. Blends are words made by connecting two words rather on basis of a sound than morpheme. This formation became one of the most popular due to its creativeness. Generally, forming new words involves combining bases and suffixes or prefixes in a special way while one item ends where another one begins. For example *jeggings* formed out of jeans and leggings, or *mankini* (man and bikini). Other notable examples may be *brunch* (breakfast-lunch) and *smog* (smoke-fog).

breakfast + lunch → brunch

chuckle + snort → chortle

motor + hotel → motel

Clipping. This is literally cutting or shortening the words in the way that the shortened item has the same meaning as the abbreviated original version. For example *gym, math, ad, lab, photo*.

alligator – gator

gasoline – gas

examination – exam

gymnasium – gym

Abbreviations. The original expressions are shortened or only the main consonants. Frequently the first and the last consonant create the abbreviation.

Apr. – April d. – died, died in
 cm – centimetre (s) dept. – department

Acronyms are made by taking the first letters and making them a word. It is common to use the acronyms as normal words. Some of them worth to mention are for instance *UNICEF* (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) or *UNESCO* (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Conversion. The word or its root is not modified in any way but is simply used as a different part of speech. For example Google (noun) – to google (verb) or email (noun) – email (verb). Conversion is, in fact, a way of derivation called zero derivation or null derivation. Obviously, the noun – verb conversion seems to be the most prolific.

access – to access can – to can
 bottle – to bottle closet – to closet

To sum it up, the English language is changing faster than ever leaving the older generation lost in the flood of new items. This fast evolution is taking place thanks to the massive use of smart phones and the internet communication. It is notable that new lexical items have appeared in many other branches of use, such as journalism and politics. It must be admitted that it depends on the purpose for which the word has been designed and that evidently defines the most convenient way of creation. Of course, sometimes a coinage can be a mere accident which has become popular and accepted in everyday use. Either way reveals a rich source of hundreds new contributions to the English language lexicon and thus we shall never stop learning.

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