Chapter 6

Words and word-formation processes

Introduction to Linguistics – LANE 321
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Etymology

Hamburger

Hamburg, Germany
Etymology

- When did they enter a language?
- From what source?
- How have their form and meaning changed over time?

Word-formation processes

- Coinage
- Borrowing
- Compounding
- Blending
- Clipping
- Backformation
- Conversion
- Acronyms
- Derivation
Coinage (Neologism)

Coinage: The Invention of totally new words

Types of coinage:
• Extension of a name of a product from a specific reference to a more general one
  e.g. Kleenex, nylon
• **Eponyms:** new words based on the name of a person or a place.
  e.g.
  ○ sandwich (Earl of Sandwich (1718-92), who ate sandwiches so that he could continue gambling without leaving the table)
  ○ Fahrenheit (the German, Gabriel Fahrenheit)
  ○ Volt (the Italian, Alessandro Volta)

John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich
Borrowing (Loanwords)

Borrowing: the taking over of words from other languages

Examples:
- Café
  - French
- Croissant
  - French
- Satan
  - Arabic
- Saffron, monsoon, camphor, jasmine
  - Arabic
- Pajamas
  - Hindustani
- Yogurt
  - Turkish
- Piano
  - Italian

Other languages borrow terms from English

Examples:
- Arabic
  - موتو - موطور - سوبرماركت - تلفزيون - تلفونات - راديو - رسيفر - دش - تلفون - إنترنت
- Japanese
  - suupaamaaketto, taipuraitaa
- Hungarian
  - klub, sport, futbal
- French
  - Le stress, le weekend

Other examples of loanwords in Arabic:
- الديمقراطية - جيولوجيا - فيزياء - البيروقراطية - الاستراتيجية - التقنية
Borrowing (Loan translation/ Calque)

- A special type of borrowing is described as **loan translation** or **calque**
- In loan translation, it is the **meaning** or idiom that is borrowed rather than the lexical item itself.
  - **Example:**
    - The Arabic ناطحة سحاب, the German *Walkenkratzer* (cloud scraper), & the French *gratte-ciel* (scrape sky) are all calques for *skyscraper*
    - The Arabic وجهة نظر, the English *Point of view*, the French *point de vue*
    - The English *an eye for an eye*, the Hebrw ‏עין תחת עין‏, ayin tahat ayin, the Arabic العين بالعين
    - The English *wisdom tooth* calques Latin *dēns sapientiae*

Compounding

- Examples (compound nouns):
  - bookcase, doorknob, fingerprint, sunburn, textbook, wallpaper, wastebasket, waterbed, lunchbox. (n.)

**Compounding:** Forming new words by combining or putting together old words

- The meanings of the words interrelate in such a way that a new meaning comes out which is different from the meanings of the words in isolation.
- very common in English & German
- Less common in French & Spanish.
Compounding

Examples (compound adjectives):
- Good-looking, handmade,.. 

Other examples:
- stay-at-home (e.g. stay-at-home mom)
- well-to-do (e.g. a well-to-do businessman)
- Fast-food
- Full-time

Blending

Examples:
- motel = motor + hotel
- brunch = breakfast + lunch
- sitcom = situation + comedy

- Blending: Combining 2 separate forms to produce a single new term.
- Blinding is similar to compounds, but in blending only parts of the words are combined.

- In Arabic:
  - ركمة = ركوب الأمواج
  - ليس = لأي شيء
  - اسم = هذا الساعة (حتى الآن)
  - يمثل = يسم الله
Clipping: Shortening a word by deleting one or more syllables

Examples:
- Facsimile >> fax
- Hamburger >> burger
- Gasoline >> gas
- Advertisement >> ad
- Influenza >> flu

Examples (Education):
- Examination >> Exam
- Gymnasium >> Gym
- Laboratory >> Lab
- Mathematics >> Math
- Professor >> Prof

English speakers like to clip each other’s names (nicknames):
e.g. Al, Ed, Liz, Mike, Ron, Sue, Tom,
Clipping (hypocorism)

- In hypocorism, a longer word is reduced to a single syllable, then –y or –ie is added to the end.

Examples:
- movie (moving pictures)
- telly (television)
- Aussie (Australian)
- hankie (handkerchief)

Examples (nicknames)
- Lizzie
- Tony
- Susie
- Gabby

Backformation

- Backformation: reducing a word of one type (usually a noun) to form a word of another type (usually a verb).

Examples:
- Television (n.) → televise (v.)
- Donation (n.) → donate (v.)

- One of the regular sources of backformed verbs in English is based on the pattern worker – work
- If there is a noun ending in –er then we can create a verb for what the noun –er does.

- Editor (n.) → edit (v.)
- babysitter (n.) → babysit (v.)
- sculptor (n.) → sculpt (v.)
Conversion

Conversion: assigning an already existing word to a new syntactic category.

Conversion can also be defined as a change in the function of a word, as for example when a noun comes to be used as a verb (without any reduction).

Examples:
- butter (n.) $\rightarrow$ (v.) she buttered the bread
- permit (v.) $\rightarrow$ (n.) You can't park here unless you have a permit
- empty (adj.) $\rightarrow$ (v.) Paul emptied the glass and washed it
- must (v.) $\rightarrow$ (n.) Doing your homework is a must

Acronyms

Acronyms: New words formed from the initial letters of a set of other words

Examples:
- Some acronyms are pronounced by saying each separate letter:
  - CD = compact disk
  - USA = The United States of America/ US = the United States
  - UN = The United Nations
  - KAU = King Abdulaziz University

- Some acronyms are pronounced as new single words:
  - UNICEF = United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
  - UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
  - NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Agency
Acronyms

- Acronyms such as NASA, UNESCO, & UNICEF have kept their capital letters.
- Many acronyms simply become everyday terms
  - Examples:
    - *laser* = light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation
    - *radar* = radio detecting and ranging
    - *scuba* = self-contained underwater breathing apparatus

Derivation

- The most common word formation process in English.
- Affixes (*prefixes, suffixes, & infixes*)
- e.g.
  - *un-, mis-, pre-, -ful, -less, -ish, -ism, -ness.*
  - *unhappy, misrepresent, prejudget, joyful, careless, boyish, terrorism, sadness.*

- *mislead*
- *disrespectful*
- *foolishness*
- *lead, respect, fool* are called *stems*
Derivation

- There is a 3\textsuperscript{rd} type of affix but it is not normally used in English.

- An \textit{infix} is an affix inserted inside a stem (an existing word)
  
  - \textit{Tell him I've gone to Singabloodypore!}
  - \textit{absobloodylutely}
  - \textit{Godtrippledammit}
  - \textit{un* & %$##believable!}

Multiple Processes

- The creation of a particular word might involve more than one formation process.

\textit{Example:}
- \textit{Delicatessen (German)}
  1. \textit{Delicatessen (English) loanword – borrowing}
  2. \textit{Deli (English) Clipping}
Identify the different word-formation processes involved in the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. automatic</th>
<th>→ Auto</th>
<th>→ clipping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. information, entertainment</td>
<td>→ Infotainment</td>
<td>→ blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. modulator, demodulator</td>
<td>→ Modem</td>
<td>→ blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. International, police</td>
<td>→ Interpol</td>
<td>→ blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. A comb</td>
<td>→ To comb</td>
<td>→ conversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. fire, man</td>
<td>→ fireman</td>
<td>→ compounding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Capt. Charles Cunningham Boycott</td>
<td>→ Boycott</td>
<td>→ coinage</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Eponym)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. brainwashing</td>
<td>→ غسيل دماغ</td>
<td>→ borrowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(loan translation)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homework: p. 59 (1, 2, 3, 4, & 6)

Thank you