Salahaddin University-Erbil

**Noun Formation in English Journalism**

Research Project

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**Abstract**

**Contents**

**Abstract** ……………………...……………………….…………………4

**Section one: Introduction** …….……….………………………………..6

* 1. Title ……………...…………………………….……………………..6
  2. Hypothesis ……………………………………….…………………..6
  3. The Aim of the Study ………………………………………………..6
  4. The Significance of the Study ….……………...…………...………..6
  5. Data and Scope of the Study ……………………………...………….7
  6. The Procedure of the Study …………………………………...……..7

**Section Two: Theoretical Background** ………………………….…….8

2.1 Word Formation ……………………………………………………..8

2.2 Noun Formation ………………………………………...……………9

2.3 Derivation ……………………………………………………………9

2.4 Affixation ……………………………………………..……………10

2.5 Compounding ………………………………………………………13

**Section One: Introduction**

1.1 Title

This research paper which is entitled "Noun Formation in English Journalism" presents accurate information about how nouns are formed in English language and the usage of them in English journalism.

1.2 Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that nouns in English language are formed through the following processes: derivation, compounding.

1.3 The Aim of the Study

The study aims at providing an adequate analysis of how nouns are constructed in English language. Moreover, the study attempts to determine which one of the noun formation processes is more productive and more frequently utilized in English journalism.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The study is conducted to provide information to the individuals as following:

1. Researchers: this study can be considered as a reference for those researchers who would plan to make a study related to it.

2. Students: this study can be utilized as a guide for the students who undertake similar studies to gain information related to theirs.

3. Learners: this research paper can benefit those people who would like to expand their knowledge about how nouns are formed in English language.

1.5 Data and Scope of the Study

This research paper is considered as a manual analysis of the processes of formatting nouns in English language, in addition to the differentiating between derivation and inflection. Information about words, nouns, and word formation can be found within this research paper.

Furthermore, an English journal is examined to detect which of the processes that construct nouns is used more commonly.

1.6 The Procedure of the Study

This research paper is divided into three main sections:

1. Section one contains numerous sub-sections illustrating the title, the hypothesis, the aim, the significance, data and scope, and the procedure of the study.

2. Section two contains theoretical background about words, nouns, word formation, and noun formation. Moreover, it illustrates the processes through which nouns are constructed in English language which are: derivation, compounding, conversion, clipping, acronyms, blending, be duplication, and onomatopoetic.

3. In section three, an English journal is examined to discover which of the noun formation processes is more widely utilized.

**Section Two: Theoretical Background**

2.1 Word Formation

Word formation process is defined by Yule (1985, p. 53–60) as a method of developing and constructing new words from the use of existing words. When the rules for word creation are different from the rules for sentence formation, according to Bauer (1983, p. 1), using word formation can be useful. It implies that specific procedures are used to generate words in a particular way. Yule (1985, p. 53–60) asserts that there are numerous different kinds of word production processes which are: coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, acronym, derivation, prefix and suffix, and multiple processes.

The process of word construction typically involves affixation .However, there are certain instances of zero derivation, such as when English verbs like pilot are derived from the matching noun. It was suggested that all affixes be treated as components of word formation rules (each affix being assigned to a specific word formation rule), rather than being given a separate lexical entry, due to the special relationship between word formation and affixes as well as the fact that affixes may not stand alone but always depend on a stem. Since then, that proposal has faced two challenges. Affixes are undoubtedly random signs on the one hand, and they should be granted lexical entries solely for this reason. If so, then listing each affix separately from the rule and together with it means that each affix is listed twice. The main rationale for omitting affixes from entries is the goal to limit all lexical entries to words that fall under the noun, verb, and adjective categories. Nevertheless, despite appearing logical, such a constraint is impractical because higher units, including irregular inflected forms, phrasal idioms, and even sentential forms like proverbs and syntactically odd fixed expressions, require lexical entries. It is merely a statistical reality that nouns, verbs, and adjectives predominate, according to Bernard J. Siegel (1983, p. 359).

According to Mihatsch (2009), nouns are conceptually more flexible than verbs or adjectives, making them better open-class words. Most nouns are not simple nouns; rather, they are derived from other parts of speech. This may be because they can convey a wide range of concepts, making them more amenable to innovation through borrowing than verbs or adjectives. This is also consistent with the fact that there are more nominalization affixes than verbalization affixes.

2.2 Noun Formation

A nonce formation is a new complex word that was created on the spot by a speaker or writer to address a specific need. This definition recognizes brand-new word formations as nonce formations even when they are entirely regular and even if they later gain acceptance in the language community. Not all linguists would necessarily concur with a definition cast in such broad terms. It is entirely possible for different speakers to come up with the same form at different points in time or very close together (such as when a new object appears and needs a name) without it having any bearing on the formation's nonce status.  When speakers using a form are aware that they are using a term they have already heard, which happens almost immediately, the form no longer qualifies as a nonce formation. Despite this, there are a large number of nonce formations that are only used infrequently (possibly never more than once), and when they are used multiple times, it is by a different speaker each time, maintaining their nonce formation status. Usually, this occurs when the "immediate need" that prompts the formation is singular or nonce formation, according to Bauer (1983, p. 45-46).

2.3 Derivation

"Derivational is process of word formation to be found in the production of new English words," according to Yule (2006:57).

Derivation creates a word with a meaning and/or category that is different from that of its base through the addition of an affix, according to O'Grady and Guzman (1997: 144).

The term "affixation" conjures up inflection and derivation in literary works. It is focused on joining affixes together. "Inflectional morphology is the area of morphology that studies paradigms, according to this definition. Therefore, it is concerned with two things: on the one hand, the semantic contrasts between categories, and on the other, the formal mechanisms, such as inflections, that set them apart. (1991, Matthews, p. 38)

Inflection/derivation are discussed in terms of commutability, close/open systems, and large/small classes by Bauer (1989:22). According to him, affixes that belong to large classes to which it is permissible to freely add new items are not inflectional, whereas affixes that belong to small classes to which it is not possible to add new members are. In terms of open/close systems, Bauer notes that a closed system's inflection only involves a small number of variables. For instance, there are only two possible values for the category of number in English: singular and plural. According to Bauer (1989:26), derivation is the morphological procedure that leads to the formation of new lexmes. He asserts that derivation involves a large number of variables in an open class, that it is characterized by low commutability with the word form, but that a few types of derivation are characterized by high commutability within the sentence form. English feminine forms like iness are examples.

The form of English nouns is characterized by a shared set of endings and inflections. The word "forks" has an inflection at the end that conveys numerical information. Singular or plural pronouns are determined by a number. Regular cat/cats and irregular tooth/teeth are two examples of nouns in English that have distinct singular and plural forms (Finegan, 2004: 42).

2.4 Affixation

Affixation is described as a morphological process by Crystal (1997:12) in which grammatical or lexical information is added to a stem. According to his definition of affixal morphology, the only legal morphological operation is the union of affixes and stems. Affixes, according to Crowley (1995:6), are non-free morphemes that are always joined to a root morpheme. A group of letters or sounds that are added to the start or end of a word is what Procter (1980:15) refers to as an affix.

Affixation is one of the two primary conventional processes of word formation, the other being compounding. A compound stem is created by combining two or more stems, whereas affixation entails the addition of an affix to a stem to produce a complex stem.

Prefixation

According to Spencer (1991: 5), a prefix is a bound morpheme that appears at the start of a root to modify or qualify its meaning. Examples include re- in rewrite, tri- in triangle, and mis- in misunderstand.

Prefixes are divided into the following groups according to Plag (2003, p. 123–124), where prefixes:

• quantify over their base words meaning (uni-, bi-, multi-, semi-, etc.),

• express locative meaning (circum-, counter-, inter-, para-, etc.),

• express temporal meaning (ante-, post-, neo-, fore-, etc.),

• express negation (de-, dis-, non-, un-, etc.),

• express diverse notions (mal-, mis-, pseudo-, co-, etc.).

Prefixation resembles suffixation in many ways, but in reverse. The affix is joined to the base's beginning in prefixation. The prefix re- is added to the base start in the word given as an example (restart), (Philipp Strazny, 2013, p. 11-12).

Suffixation

A suffix is a bound morpheme that is added to the end of a root to create a derivative or inflected word, such as -ance in acceptance. -ly in quickly, -ed in cooked, and -ing in waiting are examples of endings that frequently change the root into another part of speech (Spencer 1991: 5).

According to Spencer (1991: 5), a suffix is a bound morpheme that is added to the end of a root to create a derivative or inflected word, such as -ance in acceptance, -ly in quickly, -ed in cooked, or -ing in waiting.

The most typical kind of affixation is suffixation. The affix is attached to the base's end in suffixation. (fondness) and (cars) are two examples. The adjective fond receives the suffix-ness in (fondness), creating the noun fondness. The noun car is made plural in (cars) by the addition of the suffix -s. The most common type of affixation in the majority of languages is suffixation, (Philipp Strazny, 2013, p. 11-12).

Nominal Suffixes

In order to create abstract nouns from verbs, adjectives, and nouns, nominal suffixes are frequently used. These abstract nouns can signify actions, outcomes, or other related concepts, as well as properties, qualities, and other things of the sort. Person nouns of various types are derived from a sizable additional group of nominal suffixes. The semantic domains of various suffixes frequently overlap, showing that practically every suffix can express more than one meaning. These meanings are frequently extended to other, related senses, according to (Ingo Plag, 2018, p. 87).

-age

This suffix is used to create nouns that express an action (or its outcome), such as coverage, leakage, and spillage, as well as nouns that denote a group of things or a quantity, like acreage, voltage, and yardage. Some coinages' inherent ambiguities allow the meaning to be expanded to include places, such as orphanages. Base words are frequently monosyllabic, verbal, or nominal, according to (Ingo Plag, 2018, p. 87).

-al

Many verbs take the suffix -al to create abstract nouns that describe an action or its outcome, such as arrival, overthrowal, recital, referral, and renewal. The final syllable of all base words ending in nominal are stressed the most, according to (Ingo Plag, 2018, p. 87).

-ant

This suffix creates count nouns that refer to either individuals or objects used in biological, chemical, or physical processes (attractant, dispersant, etchant, suppressant, for example), as well as terms used frequently in technical or legal discourse. The majority of bases are Latinate verbs, according to (Ingo Plag, 2018, p. 88).

-cy/-ce

Effectively, this suffix attaches to adjectives ending in -ant/-ent (such as convergence, efficiency, and emergence), as well as to nouns ending in this string, such as agency, presidency, and regency. Additionally, bases ending in -ate are acceptable (adequacy, animacy, intimacy).

The resulting derivatives may signify states, qualities, facts, or properties (the fact that something converges, for instance), or they may metaphorically extend to signify a position or institution (such as the presidency). The distribution of the two variants is still not entirely clear, but nominal bases frequently choose the syllabic variant –cy, according to (Ingo Plag, 2018, p. 88).

ion

This Latinate suffix has three allomorphs. The verbal suffix and -ion combine to form the word "personification" when attached to a verb in the -ify form. When -ion is attached to a verb ending in -ate, the base-final consonant changes from [t] to [S], creating a hyphen. In all other situations (starvation, colonization), the allomorph is found. Because all -ion derivatives have their primary stress on the penultimate syllable phonologically, -ion is among the group of suffixes that can result in a shift in stress.

A derivative ending in -ion refers to an event or a process's output. As a result, verbal bases are by far the most common, but there are also a sizable number of forms where -ation is attached to nouns directly without a verb in -ate in between. With words designating chemical or other substances as bases, these forms are most frequently found in scientific discourse (e.g., expoxide - epoxidation, sediment - sedimentation).

2.5 Compounding

It is "the process of putting two words together to form a third," according to Bauer (1983, p. 11). And according to Quirk (1985, p. 1520), compounding is the addition of one base to another, usually with the result that the base placed in front in some way subcategorizes the base that follows.

According to (Sergio Scalise and Irene Vogel, 2010, p. 2), for a variety of reasons, compounds are particularly fascinating linguistic constructions. They are unusual among grammatical constructions in that they are words but also display an internal syntax of a certain kind. Additionally, this syntax is somewhat 'invisible. The following three compounds demonstrate this:

a. taxi driver

b. hard ball

c. poet painter

A syntactic relationship between the two constituents must be added in order to interpret these compounds (e.g., taxi driver, hard ball, poet, and painter); the internal syntax is not overtly present.