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College of Education-English Department

**"Noun Formation in English Journalism"**

Research Project

Submitted to the department of English Language in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of B.A in English Language

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**Certification**

I certify that this study was prepared by students (Harir Dilzar Othman & Shaima Khatab Omer) under my supervision at College of Education / Salahaddin University- Erbil in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor in English language.

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**Abstract**

Noun formation is the process by which new words are considered through various ways (compounding, derivation, conversion, clipping, blending, acronym, reduplication, and Onomatopoeic). This research aims at presenting adequate information to illustrate how nouns are formed in English language, and clarify the process through which nouns are constructed in English language.  
 Descriptive analysis has been utilized within this research to convey knowledge about the formation of nouns in English. Besides, This study investigates English journalism to figure out which process is much more productive and commonly used in English journalism. Such information can benefit teachers, students, researchers, and anyone wants to improve his knowledge about word formation, and especially noun formation.  
The results are:

In comparison to the written registers, noun phrases are less complex in conversation. In addition, The productivity of noun derivational prefixes is significantly lower than that of derivational suffixes.  
There aren't many compounds that are really common; in the news, about 50% and in conversation, 63%, respectively, fall into the least common category.  
 affixation words (61%) are the most common word formation process used in the J+ Newspaper.

***Key words: Noun formation, derivation, compounding, and journalism***

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**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 The Question of this Study

Many people and especially students don’t have enough knowledge about how nouns are constructed in English language. This study attempts to answer this question by presenting information about the process through which nouns are formed in English language, and investigates English journalism to figure out which process is more frequently used.

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, English journalism 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, English journalism is examined to discover which of the noun formation processes is more widely utilized. Also section three contains the conclusion and the references of this research paper.

**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.

Derivation and compounding can be used to create new nouns. Derivational affixes (prefixes and suffixes) are used to create derived nouns. Examples include disbelief (dis + belief) and treatment (treat + ment). Contrarily, compound nouns are created by combining two words to create a single noun.(Biber et al., 1999)

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. (Matthews, 1991:p. 38)

Inflection/derivation are discussed in terms of commutability, close/open systems, and large/small classes by Bauer (1989, p.22-26). 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, 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.

Affixes are always bound morphemes and do not fall into any specific lexical category. For instance, the affix -er is a bound morpheme that, when combined with a verb like teach, creates a noun with the meaning "one who teaches". (Oꞌgrady, Guzman, 1997)

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), (P. 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, (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 (Plag, 2018, p. 87). The following are examples of nominal suffixes;

-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.

-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.

-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.

-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.

-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). (Hamawand, 2011)

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 (Scalise, 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.

2.6 Conversion

The derivation of a new term without any obvious marking is referred to as conversion. We must search for word pairs that are phonetically identical and have a similar derivation in order to discover instances of conversion. Finding such instances is not difficult.

the file to file

the skin to skin

the water to water

b. to call a call

to dump a dump

to guess a guess

2.7 Clipping

The definition of clipping by Plag (2003, p. 154) is a "mixed bag of forms abbreviated from larger words, which share a common function, namely to express familiarity with the denotation of the derivative." Clipping is a subclass of truncations. Ad (advertisement), professor, and ad (professor).

This process, which Ingo Plag (2003, p. 146) refers to as truncation, expresses the relationship between a derived word and its base through the absence of phonetic material in the derived term. It indicates that the original word's initial or final letters are deleted to create the clipped word.

2.8 Acronyms

Words that are created from the first letters of words that make up a name are called acronyms. In particular, scientists and administrators frequently create new acronyms for the names of groups. There are primarily two kinds:

1. Abbreviations that are pronounced as a series of characters (also known as "alphabetisms"), such as C.O.D./si: au 'di:/, are the most similar to regular abbreviations and are therefore the least important to word formation.
2. We frequently use acronyms that sound like words, such as NATO (pronounced "neltaul"), without realizing what the initials stand for: )laser lightwave increase through radiation stimulation) (North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO))

2.9 Blending

Blends are words that combine two (rarely three or more) words into one while omitting parts of the original words. (Plag, 2003, p. 155). Examples of blends can be assigned to two different classes, illustrated bellow. Have a look at the two sets of forms and try to find out what characterizes the two types:

Blends, type 1

breath + analyzer → breathalyzer

motor + camp → mocamp

motor + hotel → motel

science + fiction → sci-fi

Blends, type 2

boat + hotel → boatel

boom + hoist → boost

breakfast + lunch → brunch

channel + tunnel → chunnel

compressor + expander → compander

goat + sheep → geep

guess + estimate → guesstimate

modulator + demodulator → modem

sheep + goat → shoat

2.10 Reduplication

Reduplication is a word-formation process that involves copying some part of a base (a segment, syllable, or morpheme), or even the whole base. The term “reduplicant” refers to the copied part of a word, while the term “base” is used to refer to the root to which the reduplication process applies (McCarthy and Prince, 1995).

2.11 Onomatopoetic

According to Perrine (1978), onomatopoeia involves using words that mimic the sounds they represent. Onomatopoeia is the phenomenon that is used to imitate natural sounds as the ringing of bells ,the singing of birds, the sound is made an echo to the sense .It is the formation or making of a word by imitating the sound of the noise or action designated or made such as twitter ,hiss ..etc.

**Section Three: Noun Formation in English Journalism**

3.1 Productivity; which one is more productive?

According to Crystal (2008: 389–90), productivity in word-formation is a general term used in linguistics to refer to the ability of language users to creatively create and comprehend an infinitely large number of sentences.

Frequency of the four common derivational suffixes used to form abstract nouns; occurrences per million words

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | CONV | FICT | NEWS | ACAD |
| -tion | ■ | ■■■ | ■■■■■■■■■ | ■■■■■■■■■■■  ■■■■■■■■■■■ |
| -ity | □ | ■■ | ■■■■■ | ■■■■■■■■■■ |
| -ism | □ | □ | ■ | ■■ |
| -ness | □ | ■■ | ■ | ■ |

■ represents c. 500 □ represents fewer than 250

Discussion of findings

In this finding which is done by Biber and others (999: p.222-223), In comparison to the written registers, noun phrases are less complex in conversation. The preference for simple nouns appears to reflect the simplicity of noun phrases as well as the high proportion of pronounce and other simple noun phrases. Furthermore, compared to other registers, particularly conversation, academic discourse is much more focused on abstract concepts. Consequently, the table's distribution pattern.

The fact that many of these words are derived from native adjectives designating people's states of mind or character traits, which are the subject of much fictional narrative (e.g., happiness, selfishness), may explain why fiction prefers derivatives in the -ness register more than derivatives in other registers.

Number of nouns formed with common derivational suffixes-academic prose

► The productivity of noun derivational prefixes is significantly lower than that of derivational suffixes. Less than 50 different noun lexemes can be formed using even the most successful noun derivational prefixes, co- and sub-.

► The productivity of noun derivational suffixes varies significantly: In terms of the total number of noun lexemes formed as well as the number of relatively uncommon coinages (derived nouns occurring less than ten times per million words), the suffix -tion is by far the most productive. Other suffixes that are reasonably productive include: -ity, -ness. -er, -ism and -ment.

► All noun suffixes are primarily used to create relatively uncommon coinages (Biber,et al., 1999: pp223).

Frequency of common compounds in AmE conversation and AmE news

Frequency of forms Number of lexemes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| (time per million words) | CONV | NEWS |
| Over 100 | 3 | 11 |
| 26-100 | 14 | 41 |
| 11-25 | 29 | 71 |
| 6-10 | 77 | 125 |
| Total lexemes occurring over 5 times per million words | 123 | 248 |

►There aren't many compounds that are really common; in the news, about 50% and in conversation, 63%, respectively, fall into the least common category.

►The most structurally productive type are noun + noun compounds.

►Nevertheless, news more so than conversation does so because about two thirds of the lexemes in news are not noun + noun, compared to only half in conversation (Biber, et al., 1999).

According to the percentages Cicih Nuraeni (2018) did about word formation, affixation words account for 61% of all word formation processes used in the J+ Newspaper. Furthermore the writer also found out that affixation is the most common word formation process, based on findings both from newspaper and also dictionaries, since this process is the most common and productive morphological process; It is also the easiest way to form a new word with a new meaning.3.2 Conclusion and References

This research study leads us to some significant points which are:

The process of creating new words by using pre-existing ones is known as word formation, and a nonce formation is a brand-new, intricate word that a speaker or writer conjured up on the spot to meet a particular need. There are mainly two processes through which nouns can be formed in English; Compounding and derivational processes. Compounding is the process of adding one base to another, typically with the outcome that the base that comes before the subsequent base is in some way subcategorized. While The process of word formation known as "derivational" is used to create new English words. Through the addition of an affix, derivation produces a word with a meaning and/or category that differs from that of its base. When you hear the word "affixation," you probably think of literary inflection and derivation.  
  
 Affixes are mainly two types; prefixes and suffixes. A prefix is a bound morpheme that precedes a root and serves to clarify or modify its meaning. While to create a derivative or inflected word, a bound morpheme called a suffix is added to the end of a root.

The processes belong to derivation are the following:

1. Conversion: The derivation of a new term without any obvious marking is referred to as conversion.
2. Clipping: It is a mixed bag of forms abbreviated from larger words, which share a common function, namely to express familiarity with the denotation of the derivative.
3. Acronyms: Words that are created from the first letters of words that make up a name are called acronyms.
4. Blending: Blends are words that combine two (rarely three or more) words into one while omitting parts of the original words.
5. Reduplication: Reduplication is a word-formation process that involves copying some part of a base (a segment, syllable, or morpheme), or even the whole base.
6. Onomatopoetic: Onomatopoeia involves using words that mimic the sounds they represent.

The ability of language users to creatively construct and comprehend an infinitely large number of sentences is referred to as productivity in word-formation in linguistics.

Noun phrases are less complex in conversation than they are in the written registers. The preference for straightforward nouns seems to be a reflection of the straightforwardness of noun phrases as well as the prevalence of pronounceable and other straightforward noun phrases. Furthermore, academic discourse places a much greater emphasis on abstract concepts than other registers, particularly conversation.

The productivity of noun derivational prefixes is significantly lower than that of derivational suffixes.

Few compounds are actually very common; in the news, about 50% and in conversation, 63%, respectively, belong to the least common group. Noun + noun compounds are the type with the highest structural productivity (see Table 431). However, news does so more so than conversation because approximately two thirds of the lexemes in news are not noun + noun, as opposed to only half in conversation.

61% of all word formation techniques used in the J+ Newspaper involve affixation words. The writer also comprehended that affixation is the most frequent process for creating new words because it is the most frequent and fruitful morphological process and the simplest way to create new words with new meanings.

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