## Morphological Processes

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Department of English
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences


# Hello! I am $A_{j}$ Glouay! 

Patcharaphan Susamawathanakun patcharaphan.su@ssru.ac.th


## Course syllabus

## INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH MORPHOLOGY

Famala Eka Sanhadi Rahayu


## Word-Formation Processes

1. coinage
2. derivation
3. conversion
4. blending
5. abbreviation and acronym
6. compounding
7. clipping

8. back-formation
9. suppletion
10. apophony
11. borrowing
12. orthographic modification
13. multiple processes

## What is Word Formation?



## Word-formation (definition)

Word-formation is the branch of lexicology that studies

- the derivative structure of existing words and
- the patterns on which a language builds new words.
It is a certain principle of classification of lexicon and one of the main ways of enriching the vocabulary.

The study of word-formation can be defined as the study of how new complex words are built on the basis of other words or morphemes

## Word Formation



## Coinage

Coinage (the production of completely new phrases) is one of the least prevalent processes to be found in the language.

The most common sources are fictitious trade names for commercial products that have become general terms (typically without capital letters) for any variant of that product that has been developed.


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## Coinage



## Eponyms

New words that are derived from the name of a person or a place in the past.
The examples of eponyms that are derived from the names of persons who originally discovered or invented something

Jeans from the Italian city of Genoa where the type of cloth was first made
after the eighteenth-century Earl of Sandwich, who was the first person to insist on having his bread and meat together while gambling
fahrenheit volt
watt



## Derivation

A huge number of small "pieces" of the English language are used in this process, and it is accomplished through the use of a large number of words that are not normally included separately in dictionaries.


## Conversion



## Conversion

* Example 1 noun to verb

| nouns | vebs |
| :---: | :---: |
| the can | to can |
| the brush | to brush |
| the bridge | to bridge |
| the book | to book |



## Conversion

* Example 2 verb to noun



## Conversion

* Example 3 adjective to verbs

| adjectives | verbs |
| :---: | :---: |
| tidy | to tidy |
| empty | to empty |
| clean | to clean |
| open | to open |



## Conversion

* Example 4 adjective to noun

| adjectives | nouns |
| :---: | :---: |
| poor | the poor |
| rich | the rich |
| bell-being | the well-being |

## Conversion

Conversion creates three important theoretical issues:

1. the problem of directionality
2. the problem of zero-morphs

3. the problem of the morphology-syntax boundary, among others


A change in the function of a word, such as when a noun is transformed into a verb (without any reduction), is often referred to as conversion. There are several more names for this fairly typical phenomenon, including "category shift" and "functional shift."


## Conversion

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## Nouns to Verbs

(8) We bottled the home-brew last night.
(9) Have you buttered the toast?
(10) Someone has to chair the meeting
(11) They're vacationing in Florida.


## Conversion

The conversion process is particularly fruitful in Modern English, with new words and phrases appearing regularly. The conversion can result in verbs becoming nouns, with the words guess, must, and spy serving as the sources of the nouns guess, must, and spy, respectively.


| phrasal verbs | proper nouns |
| :---: | :---: |
| to print out | a printout |
| to take over | a takeover |


| verbs | adjectives |
| :---: | :---: |
| see through | see-through material |
| stand up | stand-up comedian |

Conversion

| adjectives | verbs/nouns |
| :---: | :---: |
| a dirty floor | dirty |
| an empty room | empty |
| those insane ideas | crazy |
| those terrible people | nasty |

## Conversion

the ball park ( N )
a ball-park number (Adj.)
to ball-park (V)
Other nouns of this type include carpool, mastermind, microwave, and quarterback, all of which are frequently used as verbs in everyday conversation. Other forms, such as up and down, can also become verbs for instance in the sentences:

- they're going to up the price of oil.
- we downed a couple of beers at the Chimes.



## Conversion

It is important to note that when words are converted from one category to another, the meaning of some words can alter significantly. The negative connotation of the verb to doctor is frequently associated with the source noun doctor, which is unusual.

A similar type of reanalysis of meaning is taking place in the context of the noun total and the verb run about, both of which do not have negative connotations in English.

- When you total (verb) your car after converting it to a noun, and your insurance company gives you the runaround (noun), you will have a double meaning of the negative.



## Blending

Blending is a process in which two separate terms are combined to make a single new term.

Blending can be performed by taking only the beginning of one word


- gasoline + alcohol = gasohol


## Blending



## Blending



## Blending

| infotainment | information + entertainment |
| :---: | :---: |
| simulcast | simultaneous + broadcast |
| Franglais | French + Anglais |
| Spanglish | Spanish + English |
| (u) (v) |  |

## Blending

Occasionally, we mix the beginnings of two words, as in terminology from the information technology field to generate new words.


| telex | teleprinter + exchange |
| :---: | :---: |
| modem | modulator + demodulator |

## Acronyms

Acronyms are new words that are formed by combining the first letters of a group of other words.
pronunciation consists of speaking each letterindividually $C D=$ compact disk VCR $=$ video cassette recorder pronounced as new single words NATO, NASA, or UNESCO

become common terms
laser $=$ light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation radar = radio detecting and ranging
scuba = self-contained underwater breathing apparatus zip = zone improvement plan

Acronyms


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ACRONYM vs INITIALISM } \\
& \text { initials said as letters } \\
& \text { Federal Bureau of } \\
& \text { Investigation } \\
& \text { FBI } \\
& \text { pronounced by } \\
& \text { SPELLING OUT THE LETTERS } \\
& \text { FBI } \\
& \text { \'er }
\end{aligned}
$$

## Acronyms

Some organization names:
"Mothers against drunk driving" (MADD)
"Women against rape" (WAR)
Some new acronyms become commonplace so fast that many speakers are unaware of the meanings of the words that make up the abbreviation. Inventions such as the

ATM ("automated teller machine") and the needed
PIN ("personal identification number") are frequently used,
with one of its aspects being repeated, as in
"I occasionally forget my PIN number when I go to the ATM machine"

## Compounding

In simple terms, a compound word is a word which is made up of two or more words, usually two words, which are put together to form a new meaning, for example 'deck chair.'
https://7esl.com/compound-words/\#What_is_a_Compound_Word
This process is the most frequent word-formation used to generate a new word and English language is so flexible into it resulting in so many compounds created every year and still used till nowaday.

- compound Nouns: bookshelf, doorknob, fingerprint, sunburn, textbook, wallpaper, wastebasket, and waterbed
- compound adjectives: good-looking and low-paid
- compounds of adjectives + nouns: fast-food restaurant or fulltime employment,



## Compounding

## Three Types of Compound Words



## Clipping

$\square$ Clipping is the process of the cutting off the beginning or the end of a word, or both, leaving a apart to stand for the whole. The result of this process is called "clipped words".

## Clipping

Lex-forming clipping is the shortening of an input lex.
Clipped allolexes can be classified into:
a. back-clippings
b. fore-clippings
c. mid-clippings

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Front clipping: } & \text { Motorbike } \\
\text { Back clipping: } & \text { Gymnasium } \\
\text { Middle clipping: } & \text { Refrigerator } \\
\text {-> fridge }
\end{array}
$$

Back-clippings are clipped output allolexes in which the back part of their non-clipped input lexes is retained.

| girlf | girlfriend |
| :---: | :---: |
| mobe | mobile |
| refi | refinancing |

Fore-clippings are clipped output allolexes in which the fore part of their non-clipped input lexes is retained.

| brane | membrane |
| :---: | :---: |
| droid | android |
| fro | Afro |

Mid-clippings are clipped output allolexes in which the middle part of their non-clipped input lexes is retained.

| flu | influenza |
| :---: | :---: |
| fridge | refrigerator |
| jams | pyjamas |

(The last example jams can be regarded as both a fore-clipping and a mid- clipping.)

## Clipping

Lex-forming clipping is often a means of creating less formal first names.

Alex - Alexander
Tina - Christina


Clipping

| fax | facsimile |
| :---: | :---: |
| gas | gasoline |
| ad | advertisement |
| condo | condominium |
| fan | panatic |
| perm | phone |
| pub | public house |



## Clipping

- educational contexts
chem, exam, gym, lab, math, phys-ed, polysci, prof, and typo
- Australian and British English hypocorisms (This procedure involves condensing a lengthy word down to a single syllable and then adding the suffix -y or suffix -ie at the end)
Aussie - Australian
barbie - barbecue
booki - bookmaker
brekky - breakfast
hankie - handkerchief


## Suppletion

In addition to clipping, suppletion can be used to create casual first names that are not as formal as clipping.

Ex. Alexander and Alexandra are combined into a less formal suppletive allolex called Sasha (which are of Greek origin). Sasha and Alexander are usually regarded as two distinct names in the English linguistic community and as such must be considered to be lexes realizing two distinct words.

| Bill-William | Bob-Robert |
| :--- | :--- |
| Dick-Richard | Ted-Edward |



## Borrowing

The taking over of words from other languages.


| wods | oigins |
| :---: | :---: |
| croissant | French |
| dope | Dutch |
| tattoo | Tahitian |
| piano | Italian |
| sofa | Arabic |
| tycoon | Japanese |

## Back-Formation

Typically, a word of one type (usually a noun) is reduced to form a word of another type (usually a verb).


## Back-Formation



One very regular source of backformed verbs in English is based on the common pattern worker - work. Then we can create a verb for what that noun -er does.

## Orthographic Modification

The development of an orthographically distinct output allolex with the same pronunciation as a matching input lex is referred to as Lex-forming orthographic modification.

The input lex gangster and the output allolex gangsta is the pronunciation of the word /gast/: both have the pronunciation/gast/.

Ex.
through - through
the United States of America - the United States of America you - u


## Multiple Processes

It is feasible to track the operation of more than one process at work in the development of a particular word.

In the case of the phrase deli, for example, it appears to have become a standard American English expression through a process that began with a borrowing of delicatessen (from German) and then clipping that borrowed form.


## Multiple Processes

"Problems with the project have snowballed," snow + ball -> snowball (compound noun) -> snowballed (V) laser (acronyms) -> lase (N) -> lase (backformation into a verb) WASP (acronyms) -> waspish (derivation) -> waspish attitudes COVID (acronym) -> covid + idiot -> covidiot (compound noun)

## SunMnony

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- a. Word Formation is the study of how new complex words are built on the basis of other words or morphemes.
-b. Coinage is the creation of totally new words in a language.
- c. Derivation is the process of adding affixes (can be prefix and/or suffix) to a basq wordto form a new word (lexeme).
- d. Conversion is a change in the function of a word without any addition (for example through affixation) and/or reduction.
- e. Blending is is a process in which two separate terms are combined to make a single new term in which the composite words are reduced.
- f. Acronyms are new words that are formed by combining the first letters of a group of other words.
- g. Compounding is the merging of two independent words might result in a single form.
- h. Clipping is the process of creating a new word by omitting a part of a longer word into a shorter one. It is usually happened in the words with more than one syllable and reduced into one syllable?
- i. Suppletion is a process of creating a new word in which the new one is phonologically different from the old word.
- j. Apophony is similar to vowel change, is a process of changing a certain vowel in a word.
- k. Borrowing is the taking over of words from other languages.

- I. Back-formation is a reduction process of a word of one type (usually a noun) is reduced to form a word of another type (usually a verb).
- m. Orthographic modification is the development of an orthographically distinct output allolex with the same pronunciation as a matching input lex is referred to as Lex-forming orthographic modification.
- n. Multiple processes mean that the creation of new words need more than just a single process.


# ANY QUESTIONS? 

WE CAN DISCUSS IN CLASS OR CONTACT ME VIA EMAIL.


