Specific Features Of The Term Formation In English

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Abstract

This article explores the specific linguistic and structural features of term formation in English. As terminology serves as the cornerstone of scientific and technical communication, understanding how terms are created, adapted, and standardized is vital across disciplines. This study examines the morphological, syntactic, and semantic mechanisms involved in English term formation, analyzes trends such as borrowing, compounding, and affixation, and highlights how technological innovation and globalization influence terminological development. The findings demonstrate that term formation in English is dynamic, systematic, and increasingly influenced by interdisciplinary and intercultural factors.

Key words: terminology, affixation, concept, analyze, linguistic mechanism, term formation.

Introduction. Terminology, the system of terms used in a particular domain of knowledge, plays a central role in the precision and clarity of communication in professional, academic, and scientific contexts. The English language, due to its global reach and adaptability, has become the dominant medium for term formation in many fields including information technology, medicine, engineering, and law. As new concepts emerge, there is a continuous need for new terms, necessitating an understanding of the linguistic patterns and processes involved.

The aim of this study is to analyze the key linguistic mechanisms behind term formation in English and to identify the socio-cultural and scientific influences that shape this process.

Methodology. The research employs a qualitative and descriptive linguistic analysis of terminological examples drawn from diverse fields such as computer science, medicine, and law. Corpus-based resources including the Oxford English Dictionary, IATE (InterActive Terminology for Europe), and scientific articles were used to collect and classify examples of newly formed and standardized terms. The analysis focused on morphological structure, word-formation techniques, and patterns of semantic shift.

Results. The results of the study revealed five primary mechanisms of term formation in English:

Affixation. Affixation remains the most productive method of term formation. Prefixes (e.g., *pre-*, *anti-*, *bio-*) and suffixes (e.g., *-ology*, *-ism*, *-ization*) are commonly used in scientific and technical fields*: Biotechnology*, *globalization*, *antivirus*

Compounding. Compounding involves combining two or more words to form a single term: *Fingerprint scanner*, *data mining*, *machine learning*

Conversion (Zero Derivation). This refers to the process where a word changes its class without any morphological change: *to Google* (from the noun *Google*), *to email*, *a download*

Borrowing. English often borrows terms directly from Latin, Greek, and modern languages: *Agenda* (Latin), *hypertension* (Greek roots), *karate* (Japanese)

Abbreviation and Acronym Formation. Abbreviations and acronyms are prevalent in modern English, especially in technical jargon: RAM *(Random Access Memory),* DNA *(Deoxyribonucleic Acid),* AI *(Artificial Intelligence)*

Discussion. The term formation processes in English reflect a balance between linguistic economy, precision, and international intelligibility. Affixation and compounding are particularly significant because they allow for the rapid creation of terms with predictable meanings. For instance, the prefix *cyber-* has become a productive element in the digital age (*cybersecurity*, *cybercrime*, *cyberspace*).

The rise of globalization has also influenced English term formation. English not only borrows terms from other languages but also creates internationally accepted terms that are later re-borrowed or translated into other languages. The dominance of English in scientific publications reinforces this trend.

Moreover, many terms are coined based on metaphorical or analogical thinking, especially in emerging fields. Terms like *cloud computing* or *virus* in computing derive their meanings from metaphorical extension.

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These terms must undergo processes of standardization to avoid ambiguity, especially in academic and legal contexts.

Another aspect is the role of specialized institutions in term standardization, such as ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and various national terminology committees. These bodies ensure that terminological clarity is maintained across languages and disciplines.

The process of term formation in English is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a reflection of broader social, scientific, and technological developments. As English continues to dominate global communication, especially in science and technology, its term formation mechanisms have adapted to meet the demand for efficiency, clarity, and global intelligibility.

Influence of Scientific and Technological Innovation

Scientific and technological advancements have significantly accelerated the rate of new term creation. Terms like *nanotechnology*, *blockchain*, *quantum computing*, and *telemedicine* illustrate how new domains drive lexical innovation. These neologisms are often constructed using classical roots (Greek and Latin) due to their neutrality and international recognition, allowing terms to be more easily adopted across languages and disciplines.

Interdisciplinary Term Formation

Modern research is increasingly interdisciplinary, leading to the creation of hybrid terms that draw from multiple fields. For example, *neuroeconomics*, *biolinguistics*, and *agroinformatics* combine elements from different sciences to describe emerging areas. These compound terms not only represent new concepts but also demonstrate how language must stretch its boundaries to accommodate novel intersections of knowledge.

Role of English as a Lingua Franca

English's status as a global lingua franca makes it a prime source of international terminology. In many cases, even when terms are coined in non-English-speaking countries, they are later translated into English to ensure wider dissemination. This dominance affects how new terms are formed: they must be phonetically accessible, semantically transparent, and morphologically regular to facilitate global adoption.

Semantic Transparency and Cognitive Accessibility

Another important feature in English term formation is the emphasis on semantic transparency—terms are often formed to clearly reflect the concept they represent. For instance, *wireless charging*, *voice recognition*, and *climate engineering* are easily understood due to their descriptive and literal structure. This enhances cognitive accessibility, especially for non-native speakers or interdisciplinary readers.

Sociolinguistic and Cultural Factors

Cultural shifts also influence term formation. For example, increasing awareness of gender, inclusivity, and digital identity has led to the emergence of terms like *cyberbullying*, *non-binary*, and *eco-anxiety*. These are not merely linguistic developments but indicators of changing social consciousness. Thus, term formation can also be seen as a mirror of contemporary values and concerns.

Challenges and Ambiguities

Despite its flexibility, English term formation can lead to ambiguities, especially when terms are adopted into multiple fields with slightly different meanings. For example, the term *platform* can refer to a software framework in IT, a political agenda in social sciences, or a physical structure in transportation. Such polysemy requires careful contextual clarification to avoid misinterpretation.

Furthermore, the proliferation of abbreviations and acronyms can pose difficulties for readers unfamiliar with specific domain jargon. While terms like *AI* and *VR* are widely known, others like *HPC* (High-Performance Computing) or *CRISPR* (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) require specialized knowledge. Thus, while abbreviation aids brevity, it may reduce accessibility.

Finally, digital communication has accelerated the spread of newly coined terms. Social media, blogs, and online journals act as informal platforms for testing new terminology, which, once stabilized, often enters formal registers.

Conclusion. English term formation is characterized by flexibility, creativity, and responsiveness to technological and cultural change. Its core features—affixation, compounding, borrowing, conversion, and abbreviation—reflect both linguistic tradition and innovation. As new scientific discoveries and digital

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technologies continue to reshape human knowledge, the demand for precise, adaptable, and internationally accessible terminology will only grow. Continued research in this area is essential to track evolving trends and support effective communication across global and interdisciplinary settings.

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