

# Theory of Word Formation in English and Uzbek Linguistics

Usmanova Zulaykho Ilkhombek qizi

English language teacher  
Urgench State University  
Urgench, Khorezm, Uzbekistan

**Annotation.** This article provides information about the concept of word formation in the English and Uzbek languages. In addition, the theoretical views of English and Uzbek linguists on the formation of words are mentioned

**Key words:** word formation, synchronic method, diachronic method, lexical unit, prefix, suffix, word, internal structure of the word, external structure of the word, simple word, derived word, compound word.

Any theoretical conception requires a theoretical background. The conception of word formation to be presented here and the correlated theory make some use of the framework. The existence of words is usually taken for granted by the speakers of a language. To speak and understand a language means – among many other things – knowing the words of that language. The average speakers know thousands of words, and new words enter our minds and our language on a daily basis.

Word formation, the topic of this article, is the creation of new words on the basis of already existing words or parts of words. Two principal methods are applied in the science of language: the synchronic and the diachronic ones. With regard to word formation the synchronic linguist would study the present day system of formative types while the scholar of the diachronic school would write the history of word formation. Mere semantic correlation is not enough to establish a phonological, morpho-phonemic opposition. For the speaker “dine” and “dinner”, “maintain” and “maintenance” and many others are semantically connected but a derivative connection has not developed out of such pairs, so their opposition is not relevant to word formation.

Word formation process is learned by many scholars and scientists and all of them give their definitions about this notion. F. ex., according to outstanding Russian linguist R. S. Ginzburg word formation is the process of creating new words from the material available in the language after certain structural and semantic formulas and patterns<sup>1</sup>. Russian linguist R. S. Ginzburg dedicated a chapter of his book “A Course in Modern English Lexicology” to the word building system of the English language.

As to the English linguist H. Marchand word formation is that branch of the science of language which the patterns on which a language forms new lexical units, i.e. words. With regard to compounding, prefixing and suffixing word formation proceeds either on a native or on a foreign basis of coining. The term native basis of coining means that a derivative must be analyzable as consisting of two independent morphemes (in the event of a compound as *rainbow*) or of a combination of independent and dependent morphemes (in the case of prefixal and suffixal derivatives as *unhappy*, *childhood*). By word formation on a foreign basis of coining we understand derivation on the morphologic basis of another language. In English and German to give three principal European languages, most learned, scientific or technical words are formed on the morphologic basis of Latin or Greek, and in Uzbek most of the derived words are formed on the morphological basis of Turkish and Arabic.

The following definition about word formation is given by the linguist J. A. Sheard: The term “word formation” is applied to the process by which new words are formed by adding prefixes and suffixes or both to a root-form already in existence<sup>2</sup>. So, we can understand that word formation is the process of creating new words. Besides English linguistic scholars, Uzbek scholars have learned and wrote many works on word formation. For instance, A. Hojiyev, Sh. Rahmatullayev, H. Ne’matov, R. Rasulov, A. G’. G’ulomov, M. S. Sodiqova, M. A. Asqarova, S. F. Fuzailov and many other scientists worked on word building system of the Uzbek language. Azim Hojiyev writes in his book “O‘zbek tili so‘z yasaliş tizimi”: “Word formation is a

<sup>1</sup> R.S. Ginzburg A Course in Modern English Lexicology, M., “Высшая школа”, 1979, p. 109

<sup>2</sup> J. Buranov, A. Muminov A Practical Course in English Lexicology, T., “Ukituvchi”, 1990, p.28

creation of new words with the help of language units by any way or method". He dedicated this book to the word formation system of the Uzbek language. This book includes main notions about word formation system, forming new words in parts of speech, namely in nouns, adjectives and verbs, especially, by affixation.

H. Ne'matov and R. Rasulovs' book "O'zbek tili sistem leksikologiyasi" is also dedicated to the word formation system of the Uzbek language. The scientists of Tashkent institute of Language and literature: A.Hojiyev, Sh. Rahmatullayev, A.G'.G'ulomov, M.S.Sodiqova, M.A.Asqarova, S.F.Fuzailov, Sh.Sh.Shoabdurahmonov, R.Q.Qo'ng'urov and many others worked on the grammar system of the Uzbek language and they wrote a book and named it as "O'zbek tili grammatikasi". In this book A.G'. G'ulomov writes that word formation is a branch of linguistics that studies formation of words, laws, models, means of creating new words, in addition, it analyses the structure of words. In Uzbek linguistics the term morphemic was used for the first time by the scientist Ayub G'ulomov and he gave information about morpheme. For instance, "Morphemics is a subject about the smallest meaningful units of a word. These small units are called morphemes". One of the main problems of Uzbek linguistics is word formation. In his works, the scientist paid attention to this and wrote many monographs dedicated to the word formation system of the Uzbek language. In Uzbek linguistics for the first time word formation was learned as a serious problem, and was learned as a branch of linguistics like phonetics, morphology by A. G'ulomov. In other words, in foundation of word formation in Uzbek linguistics and in development of terms related to this branch, A. G'ulomov's name plays much role.

Because the central topic of this paper is word formation, it is useful to define what the term "word" actually stands for. Although speakers of a language usually have some kind of intuitive feeling for what a word is, there is not a universal definition of the term and it can be sometimes unclear what it refers to. The aim of this paragraph is to clarify the ambiguity in the term "word". First, word as a unit in speech or writing is defined and the criteria used for its identification are presented. Secondly, different senses in which the term "word" is used are introduced.

There exists many definitions of the term word and none of them is generally accepted. However, in the majority of cases people actually experience no difficulty in separating one word from another in their native tongue.<sup>3</sup>

The term word denotes the basic unit of a given language resulting from the association of a particular meaning with a particular group of sounds capable of a particular grammatical employment. A word therefore is simultaneously a semantic, grammatical and phonological unit.<sup>4</sup> Uzbek scholar A.G'.G'ulomov gives the following definition to the term word: «A word is the expression of notion about things or objects in the reality by means of phones».<sup>5</sup>

Sapir defines word as "one of the smallest, completely satisfying bits of isolated meaning into which the sentence resolves itself and which cannot be cut into without a disturbance meaning". According to Crystal, word is a unit of expression, which has universal intuitive recognition by native speakers, in both spoken and written language.

The criteria used by Crystal for the identification of words include their stable internal structure, uninterruptibility and the fact that word is the smallest unit, which can constitute, by itself, a complete utterance. Therefore, a word is a unit of speech, which, as such, serves the purpose of communication. Thus, the word can be defined as a unit of communication. The word can be perceived as the total of the sounds, which comprise it. The properties of words are summarized as follows:

- words are entities having a part of speech specification
- words are syntactic atoms
- words (usually) have one main stress
- words (usually) are indivisible units (no intervening material possible).

The word, viewed structurally, possesses several characteristics.

The modern approach to word studies is based on distinguishing between the external and internal structures of the word.

<sup>3</sup> Б. С. Хаймович, Б. И. Роговская "Теоретическая Грамматика Английского Языка", М., "Высшая школа" 1967, p 11

<sup>4</sup> I. V. Arnold "Современный английского языка", М., "Высшая школа", 1986, p 9

<sup>5</sup> "O'zbek tili grammatikasi. I tom. morfologiya", Т., "Fan", 1975, p 16

---

By external structure of the word, we mean its morphological structure. For example, in the word *ungentlemanly* the following morphemes can be distinguished: the prefixes *un-*, the root *gentleman*, the adverb-forming suffixe – *-ly*. All these morphemes constitute the external structure of the word *ungentlemanly*. We will discuss the external structure of words in the second chapter. The internal structure of word, or its meaning, is nowadays commonly referred to as the semantic structure of a word. This is certainly the word's main aspect; hence, words serve the purposes of human communication solely due to their meanings. The area of lexicology specializing in the semantic studies of the word is called **semantics**.

### References

1. R.S. Ginzburg A Course in Modern English Lexicology, M., “Высшая школа”, 1979, p. 109
2. J. Buranov, A. Muminov A Practical Course in English Lexicology, T., “Ukituvchi”, 1990, p.28
3. Б. С. Хаймович, Б. И. Роговская ”Теоретическая Грамматика Английского Языка”, М., “Высшая школа” 1967, p 11
4. I. V. Arnold “Современный английского языка”, М., “Высшая школа”, 1986, p 9
5. “O`zbek tili grammatikasi. I tom. morfologiya”, T., “Fan”, 1975, p 16
6. Azim Hojiyev “O`zbek tili so`z yasalishi tizimi”, “O`qituvchi”, Toshkent 2007.