

TENDENCIES OF WORD-FORMATION IN MODERN ENGLISH

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В данной статье речь идет о новых тенденциях в словообразовании английского языка. Наряду с традиционными, появляются новые способы, которые прочно завоевали свое место в словаре современного английского языка.

On April 3, 1989 the most respectable American newspaper New York Times wrote that “annually the vocabulary bulk of the English Language grows by 15-20 thousands lexical units. Bill Bryson well-known American writer and journalist provides the following data: «When in 1987 the publishing house Random House published its second edition of the recognized dictionary it included over 50 000 words absent from the one 21 years before, and 75 000 new definitions for the old words. From 315 000 dictionary articles 210 000 were to be revised. These were the amazing changes which took place in only twenty years» [5, p. 187].

The reasons for such changes in the vocabulary bulk are mostly obvious: social and cultural changes within the modern society, technical revolution, globalization, etc. Whatever are the reasons we have to trace and account for these changes in our work, moreover that the English language is a donor-language for other tongues in the process of their vocabulary development. And the donor-language itself applied mostly to word-formation methods within this language.

The system of English language word-formation is well studied and described in various sources. Alongside with the traditional types of word-formation productive methods we can observe the increasing popularity of the use of such rather rare method as blending and various types of mixed lexical units. Besides the fact that we can observe the increase in the number of new words formed by relatively new models we should also note a kind of re-

distribution of the significance of the role of various word-formation types in the general system of the language.

Several decades ago the words formed through blending were absolutely rare and the very way of blending as a method of word formation was an exotic trend intended for stylistic purposes. Now the number of such words is quite large and they are perceived as an exiting way of expression of ideas [5, p. 17]. Such word as transistor, motel, medicare and many others entered the general bulk of the English vocabulary and some of them were borrowed by other languages.

The most actively developing style and registers of speech are, first of all, scientific style (registers of science and technology, military, medical technologies), advertising style (consumer advertising) and publicistic style. At the beginning of XXI the reasons of dramatic development of these style and registers are absolutely clear. And in this regard it is natural that among the main requirements to the new lexical unit are brevity in the information rendering conciseness of the information itself, convenient articulation as well as the ability of the word to participate in paradigm relations.

Blending and abbreviation meet these requirements best. Abbreviation is the process of word-formation through combining abbreviated initial elements (letters, syllables or morphemes) of a word combination.

Blending is considered by many linguists as a very rare type or word-formation combining compounding and abbreviation [2, p. 206]. The words of the type motel < motor + hotel, brunch < breakfast + lunch, transistor < transfer + resistor, stagflation < stagnation + inflation, funemployment < funny+employment and many others are formed through combining parts of morphemes into a complex, if similiated to single-morpheme, lexical unit. We can observe clear similarity with compounding since the word is formed from combining of two elements, on the other hand abbreviation also takes

place as both combined words are abbreviated to some letters. The new unit formed in this way meets two requirements of the language to nomination: integrity of the form (that is, to what aspect the problem of the word is related) and the conciseness of the linguistic means (the major characteristic of the abbreviated word). However, we should note that this type of word-formation still is not that rare in the Modern English though it, certainly, keeps some exotic flavour and seems unpredictable, which facilitates the use of the words formed in this way for the purpose of attention drawing and creation of expressive effect. Most spread blended words were found in military terminology, technology, medicine and some other spheres of science where the speed of information conveying is very important. Here we found the words which are already an integral part of the bulk of English vocabulary: Bionics < biology + electronics; camporee < camp + jamboree; gasohol < gasoline + alcohol; glasphalt < glass + asphalt; guesstimate < guess + estimate; lidar < light + radar; medicare < medical + care; meld < melt + weld; modem < modulator + demodulator; moped < motor + pedal; Oxbridge < Oxford + Cambridge; narcoma < narcotic + coma; pennant < pennon + pendant; pulsar < pulse + quasar; quasar < quasi + stellar; radome < radar + dome; simulcast < simultaneous + broadcast; varistor < varied + resistor [1, p. 44]. The examples show that the semantics of the blended words is formed from the semantics of the both components.

Glasphalt – a mixture of asphalt and crushed glass; brunch – meal...intended to combine breakfast and lunch; celtuce – type of lettuce that combines flavors of lettuce and celery; redox – producing or containing the processes of reduction and oxidation [4, p.149].

However, the semantic relations between the parts of the new-formed word are not limited to the meaning of some combination. There are also blendings where one component is an attribute to another and the attributed component is in post-position to the attribute. Such positions of the attribute and attributed word to full

extent meets the laws of the Modern English. At the same time the form of the new word is often determined not by the semantic relations between the components but by the formal (phonetic) reasons. In definitions as a rule both initial words are represented: astronics – electronics applied to astronauts; bionics – study of the anatomy and physiology of animals as a basis for new or improved electronic devices, systems [6, p. 45].

Comparison of these two words demonstrate the same structure but the semantic relations in them are opposite: in the first case (astronics) electronics is an attributed word as used for the purposes of astronautics, in the second case (bionics) visa verse, biology is used for electronics purposes. It is clear that the form of these new formations is rather determined by sound harmony than the semantic role of the components.

The examples prove the fact that formed through blending they are semantically global and formally have form of integrity. At the same time the morphological structure turns to be to certain extent dimmed.

In general we can state that new words formation through blending of two fragments of semes at the current stage of the English language development is an active process: increasing number of lexical units is formed in this way in various styles of speech. Still, they are not very usual, which gives them certain expressiveness. That is why they are popular with advertising texts intended to attract attention. That is why many blendings remain occasion formations and do not enter the general bulk of the language. Among such units we can mention: netiquette = etiquette in writing messages in Internet; Skycago = skyscrapers of Chicago;

The same features can be found with another word-forming process- abbreviation

Abbreviations are «...the words made up from abbreviated initial elements (morphemes) of a word combination or made through combining of the initial letters or sounds» [2, p. 27].

Abbreviations may be divided into the following groups:

1) Initialisms:

a) letters – are pronounced in accordance with the names of letters in the alphabet: BBC, MP, PC, etc.

b) letters-and-sounds: VTOL [vi:tol] <VerticalTake-Off and Landing.

c) sounds (acronyms) – pronounced as words: NATO [ˈneitou], UFO [ˈju:fou].

2) Combines, that is combining abbreviation with the initial abbreviation: Univac < Universal automatic computer.

As a word-building way abbreviation is especially wide spread in military and technical sources, however, we find abbreviation in other styles as well. In colloquial speech abbreviation sometimes becomes a kind of game due to the peculiarities of English phonetic and graphical systems, the play is performed upon homophony of some words on the one hand and names of letters and figures, their spelling on the other. For example, U2 – “You too”. Here, comparing spelling and pronunciation there is a created polyphony of meanings simultaneously rendering the both meanings of the phrase or the meanings of two homonym phrases. Blendings and Abbreviations as well as all the processes related to them are currently active processes and require further thorough investigation. We can state that due to the peculiarities of the graphical and phonetic systems of the English language it demonstrates the increase in these trends of word-formation.

In the course of the English language development in modern times we can observe the shift in patterns of new vocabulary formation. Such patterns of word-building as blending and abbreviation become much more popular than they used to be in previous periods.

One of the sources providing the inflow of blending and abbreviation neologisms is slang, not only youth language but also professional slang.

The resulting vocabulary units demonstrate the trends of demorphologisation and partial de-etymologisation with formation of conventionally “non-motivated” morphemes, though based on the existing lexical units, and as a result may cause serious difficulties in understanding and, accordingly, in translation.

Bibliography

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AN OVERVIEW OF MALL

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Rezumat

Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) este o relativ nouă abordare de predare – învățare a limbilor, bazată pe utilizarea tehnologiilor mobile, inclusiv telefoane, tablete, ceasuri inteligente, playere, etc. MALL combină învățarea cu ajutorul dispozitivelor mobile cu învățarea asistată de calculator și a căpătat o popularitate mare în ultimii ani, datorită stilului de viață accelerat și utilizării masive a tehnologiilor mobile ce au conexiune la internet.

Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL) deals with the use of mobile technology in language learning. It is described as an approach to language learning that is assisted or enhanced through the use of a handheld mobile device, or, as any sort of learning that