

The Word Formation Rules in English and Kurdish Languages: A Comparative Typological Study

Sardar Abdulmajid Abdullah
College of education-English department

ABSTRACT: English is a morphological Indo-European language. English is the most analytic language among all of the European languages. The paper concerns itself only with the standard dialects of English language, which is hypothesized to be important in the process of forming word. In this paper, an attempt is made to identify how many word-formation patterns occur in English language. Then, the paper aims at examining and contrasting where does English word formation resemble morphologically? And where does it productive? For this study, the data have been collected from various English sources and re-analyzed with reference to word formation in English language.

KEY WORDS: word formation, morphemes, noun, derivation, inflection,

Date of Submission: 25-02-2020

Date of Acceptance: 11-03-2020

I. INTRODUCTION

Word-formation is the study of words, tackling the construction or formation rules of words in all languages. This paper focuses on studies and analyses of different ways of English word-formation. Word-formation can be found in morphology, which in linguistics represents the study of construction rules of words. Through dealing with word formation process, English L2 learners can also extend their native language vocabulary in addition to finding out more rules of the languages concerned. English learners could have a better way of acquiring of the main rules of word formation of the languages concerned.

1.1 Process of word formation in English

1.1.1 Etymology

Yule(2010) says that Etymology is The study of the origin and history of a word is called etymology .This term like many others ,comes from latin ,but has its own origins in Greek (etymon original form +log, “study of”).it is far away from entomology which deals with insect .There are many ways in which new words can enter the language .we should keep in mind that these process have been at work in the language for some item and a lot of words in daily use today were considered barbaric misuse of the language .The process of changing a word. To make it more understandable and more like familiar words is known folk etymology. The tennis term let a ball is a good illustration. In the context let has the absolute meaning of prevented in the language of Shakespeare.

1.1.2 Compounding

Yule(2010) States that it is joining of two separate words to produce a single form as in lehn and wort are combined produce Lenhwort in German. in This process can be called compounding .This process is very common in language such as and English .But much less common in language in French and Spanish .common English compounds are bookcase, fingerprint doorknob, sunburn textbook, wallpaper and waterbet .All these examples are nouns ,also there are compound adjective (good-looking ,low-paid) and compound of adjective (fast) plus noun (food) as in a fast-food restaurant or a full-time job.

1.1.3 Clipping

Yule(2010) states that this process occurs when a word of more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form is called clipping. For example (facsimile) is reduced to (fax). Also the term gasoline is still used , but most people talk are ad(advertisement) , bra (brassiere) ,. cab(cabriolet) condo (condominium), fan(fanatic), flu(influenza), perm(permanent wave) phone , plane and put (public house) .

1.1.4 Acronyms

Yule(2010) states that acronyms are new words formed from the initial letters of a set other words. These can be forms such as CD(‘compact disk’) or VCR(‘video cassette recorder’) where the pronunciation

consists of saying each separate letter, acronyms are pronounced as new single words, as in NATO, NASA or UNESCO, These examples have kept their capital letters.

1.1.5 Coinages

-it is one of the least processes of word formation in English is coinage. It is the invention of totally new terms. The most typical sources are invented trade names for commercial products that become general terms (usually without capital letters) for any version of that product. Older examples are aspirin, nylon, Vaseline and zipper, more recent examples are Kleenex, Teflon, Tylenol and Xerox. It may be that there is an obscure technical origin (e.g. te(tra)-fl(our)-on) for some of these invented terms, after their first coinage, they tend to become everyday words in the language.

1.1.6 Antonomasia

Stagberg (1981) states that the formation of common nouns, a verb or an adjective from the name of a person or place, for example, the word Frisbee comes from the frisbie bakery in Bridgewater, Connecticut, whose pie tins were used for a throwing game. The term vandal derives from the Vandals, a Germanic people who occupied southern Europe 1500 years ago and sacked and looted Rome in 15th century names nouns. A lover, for example may be called a Romeo, a don Juan, a Casanova. If he is too quixotic, he may meet his Waterloo at the hands of some Sheba or Jezebel.

1.1.7 Echoism

Stagberg (1981) shows that, echoism is the formation of words which represents the sound of nature. Such as hiss and peewee, the meaning is usually a sound either natural like the roar of a waterfall or artificial like the clang of a bell. But the meaning may be the creature that produces the sound like bobwhite.

Such as: moon, click, murmur, quack, thunder, whisper, lisp, chickadee, bobolink

1.1.8 Back Formation

(Yule 2010:56-57) demonstrates that it is a specialized type of reeducation process known as back formation. A word of one type (usually noun) is reduced to form a word of another type (usually a verb). Fromkin et al. (2003: 97) added that a new word may enter the language because of an error or incorrect morphological analysis, such as the word peddle was derived from peddler on the mistaken assumption that the -er was the agentive suffix. A major source of backformation in English are words which end with -or or -er and have meanings involving the notion of an agent, like editor, swindler, and stoker.

1.1.9 Blending

The combination of two separate forms to produce a single new term, which is called (Blending). It is typically by taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of the other word. In some parts of the U.S.A, there is a product that is used like gasoline, but is made from alcohol, so the "blended" word for referring to this product is gasohol - To talk about combined effects of smoke and fog, we can use the word smog. Some other common examples of blending are bit (binary \ digital), brunch (breakfast \ lunch), motel (motor \ hotel), telecast (television \ broadcast) and channel (channel \ tunnel).

1.1.10 Derivation

Fromkin et al. (2003:44) states that bound morphemes like -ify and -cation are called derivational morphemes. When they are attached to a base, a new word with a new meaning is formed. The form which results from the addition of a derivational morpheme is called a derived word. For example, the adjective happy is added by a bound morpheme -ness becomes a noun sadness. Derivation shapes a word with a meaning and category that differ from that of its base through the addition of an affix (O'Grady et al. 1997:145).

There are many English derivational affixes which change the part of speech of root or base. For example, suffixes -able changes verbs into adjectives (fix-able, understand-able), -(at)ion changes verbs into nouns (realiz-ation, assert-ion, protect-ion)

1.1.11 Cliticization

O'Grady et al. (1997) It is clear that some words cannot stand alone as independent forms for phonological reasons. They are called clitics, which must be attached to another word in a sentence. An example of clitics is found in English, where some verb forms have shortened differently ('m for am, 's for is, and 're for are) that cannot stand alone since they no longer constitute a syllable instead a word must shortly contain at least one syllable. Cliticization occurs and attaches those elements to preceding words. Here are some examples of Cliticization: I'm leaving now, Mary's going to succeed, and They're here now.

1.1.12 Internal Change

Internal change is a process of word formation by changing the vowel of a word, such as verbs drink and drank, write and wrote, nouns tooth and teeth, goose and geese. Internal change is not an example of infixing because there is no English word that has root morphemes like *ft, *sng. Besides, there is no English morpheme oo that represents “singularity” like in a noun goose or an English morpheme ee which means ‘plural’ like in a noun geese (O’Grady et.al. 1997:141).

1.1.13 Suppletion

O’Grady et.al. (1997:141-142) stated that internal change must be differentiated to suppletion. Suppletion is a morphological process whereby a root morpheme is substituted by a phonologically unrelated form so as to indicate a grammatical contrast. The verb go and went is an example of English suppletion.

1.1.14 Conversion

Conversion is one of the processes of word formation which changes an already existing word to a new syntactic category. Conversion does not attach an affix, but it resembles derivation because of the change in part of speech and meaning which it brings about (O’Grady et.al. 1997:157). Which means that a word can be used as a noun and verb. Besides, the idea that derivation can happen without any change in shape which looks strange, and some linguists consider this process as ‘zero-derived’ or ‘zero suffix’, but generally it is called conversion. There are some examples of conversion; dry as verb and adjective, water as noun and verb, walk as verb and noun, etc.

1.1.15 Inflection

Inflection is a word formation that does not change the part of speech and does not create new lexemes, but rather changes the form of lexemes. They fit into different grammatical contexts (Lieber 2009:88). Grammatical category can include information about number (singular, plural), person (first, second, third), tense (past, present, future), etc. Lieber (2009:99) stated that English is quite poor language in inflection. The distinction between singular and plural is marked on nouns Singular (cat, mouse, ox, child) and Plural (cats, mice, oxen, children). Besides, English has only a few of case marking on nouns. It uses the morpheme –s to signal possession and plural like a sentence The two books are on the table (-s signs plural for book), those are Anita’s books (-s sign the possession). Nevertheless, the bound morpheme indicating the possession (-‘s) is not suffix (process of inflection) instead of Cliticization. Suffix gets fully integrated phonologically, semantically, and syntactically with the root or base to which it is attached. It cannot be separated from the root or base and attached to another constituent of the sentence.

1.1.17 BORROWING

According to Yule (1997: 65): it is one of the processes of new words in English. It is by taking words from the other languages. Some words that English borrowed include: alcohol (Arabic), boss (Dutch), croissant (French), lilac (Persian), piano (Italian), biology, ozone, prezzie (German), pistol, robot (Czech), tycoon (Japanese), kiosk, yoghurt (Turkish), zebra (Bantu), strata, episcopos (Latin), street, bishop (Greek), psychology, telephone, physician (European languages), yam, tote, banana (African languages), among others

1.1.18 Reduplication

Stageberg (1981:128) states that it is the process of forming a new word by doubling a morpheme, usually with a change of vowel or initial consonant as in pooh-pooh, tip-top and hanky-panky. The originating morpheme is the most frequently second half as in dilly-dally. Or it may be the first half such as tick-tock or both halves sing-song or neither half like boogie-woogie. Reduplication declares three meanings: the process, the result of the process, the element repeated and avoid using “twin words”

REFERENCES

- [1]. -Fromkin, V. , Rodman, R. & Hyams, N. (2003) An Introduction to Language. 7th Ed. Thomson – Heinle.
- [2]. -Lieber, R. 2009. Introducing Morphology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [3]. -O’Grady, W. et.al. (eds). 1997. Contemporary Linguistics. Edinburgh: Pearson Education Limited.
- [4]. Stageberg, N. C and Oaks, D. D. (2000) AN introductory of English Grammar, 5th edition, USA : Thomson Heinle .
- [5]. -Yule, G. 2010. The Study of Language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. .

Sardar Abdulmajid Abdullah. “The Word Formation Rules in English and Kurdish Languages: A Comparative Typological Study” *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention (IJHSSI)*, vol. 09(2), 2020, pp 74-76.