THE ORIGIN OF AFFIXES

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Objective: *The objective of this article is to investigate the etymology of English affixes.*

Methods. The main scientific results are obtained using a complex of general scientific and special research methods, namely: analysis and synthesis of scientific literature on the problems of etymology, word formation, affixation; theoretical generalization and concretization; comparative method and methods linguistic research (contrastive and structural).

Results. Etymological analysis plays a significant role in comparative linguistics as it determines the origin of words, records the history of changes in their structure, and explains their modern form

In the course of the study one of the main ways of word formation in English, namely affixation was analysed.

Affixed morphemes make changes to the word, they are divided into word-altering (modify the   grammatical meaning) and word-forming (modify the lexical meaning). The former perform a   grammatical role without affecting the lexical meaning of the word. Word-altering affixes are universal, i.e. they are applicable to all (or most) words of a given grammatical category. Word forming affixes introduce a new lexical meaning, additional to that already contained in the root morpheme. Word-formation affixes are not universal, although, at first glance, they are used quite regularly in the process of creating new words from the same root.

English suffixes and prefixes are diverse in origin. Along with productive suffixes and prefixes, which help to keep adding new lexical items to the English language, there are non-productive or alloproductive ones that occur either in one or more words or as a morphological feature of parts of speech.

The study of prefix and suffix morphemes in English allows us to better understand the structural features of the language and their influence on word formation and the expression of grammatical relations. The study of these morphemes reveals the versatility of the language system, contributes to the enrichment of linguistic richness and improves linguistic expression.

Key words: *word formation, affix, suffix, prefix, etymological analysis*

Introduction

Etymological analysis plays a significant role in comparative linguistics as it determines the origin of words, records the history of changes in their structure, and explains their modern form.

In current studies scientists increasingly turn to the etymological analysis of words or individual morphemes of a word, since such an analysis can provide thorough results that serve as the basis for conclusions about linguistic features, culture and history of countries.

Affixes are something that people constantly use in speech and writing. Understanding their contribution to the emotional colouring of language is an important aspect for the linguistic field, and the etymological analysis of morphemes will provide answers to questions about their variability and development. Thus, the etymological analysis of affixes is relevant as it provides a deeper understanding of the structural features of each language, its borrowings and the role of affixes in the creation of neologisms.

The objective of the article is to investigate the etymology of English affixes.

Methods

The main scientific results are obtained using a complex of general scientific and special research methods, namely: analysis and synthesis of scientific literature

on the problems of etymology, word formation, affixation; theoretical generalization and concretization; comparative method and methods linguistic research (contrastive and structural).

Results and Discussions

There are different ways of word formation. In English, the following methods prevail: affixation (prefixes and suffixes), conversion (changing a part of speech), abbreviation, blending. [3]

One of the most important aspects of learning the grammar of a language is affixes – morphemes that are added to the base of a word to change its meaning or grammatical characteristics.

In order to understand the language, it is necessary to distinguish between different types of affixes and their functions; they are the basic building block of a word, which determines its grammatical and semantic properties, and helps to distinguish words by their function in speech. The Dictionary of the Modern Ukrainian Language gives the following definition of an affix:

Affix is a part of a word that has a specific grammatical meaning and changes the meaning of the root. [1, p. 47]

According to the term, we can understand that affixes make significant changes to the meaning of a word. There is a great variety of affixes. Affixes are divided into types depending on their position in the word: prefixes, postfixes, interfixes and others. Each type of affix has its own characteristics and uses in the language. It is known that affixes perform three main functions in a word: word forming, formative and word-altering.

Formative affixes form grammatical forms of words. When affixes form either words with a new meaning or with an uncritically changed meaning, they perform a word-forming function. Word forming affixes, in turn, form syntactic forms necessary for coordinating words in speech. [2, p. 36]

Grammatically, affixes are divided into productive and unproductive according to the level of use. Productive affixes are used to create new words, while unproductive affixes are rarely or never used in modern language and can be called

archaic. This variety of affixes allows us to express different grammatical and semantic meanings.

Prefixes and suffixes are the most productive word-forming affixes.

Prefix is a meaningful part of a word that comes before the root and is used to create new words or forms of a word. [1, p. 1107]

A prefix changes the meaning of a word or the part of speech to which it belongs, usually performing a word-forming and grammatical function. As the name suggests, a prefix is placed before the root form of a word. In English, prefixes are divided into Old English and loanwords, and they are also productive or unproductive (obsolete). Old English prefixes which are considered to be productive unclude: *un-, up-, down-, under-, mid-,* and others (as in **un**kind, **up**grade, **down**fall, **under**neath, **mid**night). Borrowed words prevail from French, Latin, Greek and other languages. It should be noted that Greek and Latin had a great influence on the formation of the lexical structure of the English language. For example, the prefix *un* of non-Latin origin, which in addition to negating an action means "one", serves to form words that have already become firmly established in English, such as **un**ary, **un**icorn, **un**ion, etc. [8]

Suffixes play an important role in creating new words by being added to the stem. They can change the part of speech of a word (for example, adding the suffix -*ness* turns an adjective into a noun: *happy – happiness*), indicate tense, state, number and other properties of the word. A Large

Explanatory dictionary gives the following definition of the suffix:

Suffix is a meaningful part of a word that stands between the root and the ending and serves to create new words or individual forms. [1, p. 1417]

The name "suffix" comes from the Latin word "suffigere" which means "to add to the end". [4] They are added to the root of a word that already has a specific part of speech to form new words or to change their meaning. There are a large number of suffixes in English, but they are used more limitedly than, for example, in Ukrainian. The most commonly used suffixes are: -*ly* (to form adverbs), -*ness* (to form nouns indicating state or quality), -*able/-ible* (to form adjectives indicating

possibility), *-ment* (to form nouns from verbs), *-er/-or* (to form nouns indicating a person or object that performs an action).

Let's consider the etymology of affixes of the English language in detail.

Etymological analysis of English prefixes

English prefixes are known for their origin from different languages, due to the influence of other cultures on the formation of the English language. Let's start with the prefix ***a-,*** which has several different meanings in English. It can mean "on" or "in" something, or performed in a specific way, and it also has a negative meaning. It has high performance. We learn from sources that the prefix or particle *a-* contains many different Germanic and Latin elements in its formation. In words originating from Old English this prefix usually means the Old English word 'on, in, into', for example, ***a**live,* ***a**bove,* ***a**sleep,* ***a**back,* ***a**side,* ***a**foot,* ***a**shore,* ***a**head,* ***a**bed*, etc. In this usage, it forms adjectives and adverbs from nouns with the concept of "in something, participating in something".

[10] In Middle English it existed as "from-, new", as in ***a**new,* ***a**fresh,* ***a**kin,* ***a**breast*. Also, it can be a reduced form of the Old English prefix in past participles *re-,* as in ***a**ware.* [10] Another variant of the meaning may be Old English *a-,* originally *ar-* (related to German *er-* and probably meaning "movement from"), as in ***a**bide,* ***a**rise,* ***a**wake,* ***a**shamed*, which marks the verb as an instantaneous event. In words borrowed from Romanic languages it often represents shortened forms of the Latin *ad* "towards, for", or *ab* "from, away, beyond". It was shortened to *a-* in the ancestors of the Old

French. In several cases, it represents the Latin *ex-*. Based on the list of meanings of the *a-* prefix in

English, we can determine that it has undergone significant changes and expansions in meaning throughout the history of its formation. In addition to the above mentioned, we can give the following examples of usage: ***a**symmetrical,* ***a**chromatic,* ***a**moral,* ***a**political,* ***a**typical,* ***a**theist,* ***a**nemic,* ***a**pathetic,* ***a**sleep,* ***a**blaze,* ***a**like,* ***a**loud,* ***a**shore,* ***a**top*, and others.

Prefix ***de-*** is usually used to cancel an action. However, over time, the prefix *de-* has acquired several new meanings: it can indicate deprivation, removal of something, disapproval or intensity of a word, so its synonyms can be *down, down from, from, off*. *De-* is a productive affix, often used in the creation of neologisms. Changes in the structure are due to a combination of different languages, from Anglo-French *de-, des-,* partly from Latin *de-* 'from, down, away' (from *de*, preposition) andpartly from Latin *dis-*; Latin *de* is similar to Old Irish *di* 'from,' Old English *tō* is similar to *to-, dis-*. [10] Thus, it is used in: ***de**toxify, **de**colonize, **de**hydrate, **de**classify, **de**construct, **de**colorize, **de**scend, **de**press/**de**pression, **de**grade/**de**gradation, **de**crease, **de**cline, **de**prive, **de**lete, **de**tach, **de**flect, **de**ceive, **de**vastate, **de**bate*, etc.

Prefix ***dis-,*** like the previous one, means a negative action or separation, such as "apart", "not", "opposite of", i.e. it is attached to verbs to show the cancellation of an action. It has high performance.

It comes from Latin *dis-* "to separate, to divide" (sources also include Old English *te-,* Old Saxon *ti- ,* Old High German *ze-,* German *zer-*). The prefix is a secondary form of *dwis-* and is thus related to the Latin *bis* "twice" (originally *dvis*) and to *duo*, through the concept of "two ways, in two" (hence "separated, divided")" [10]. It can be found in the following words: ***dis**ability, **dis**affirm; **dis**bar; **dis**belief; **dis**content; **dis**hearten; **dis**like, **dis**own, **dis**prove, **dis**honest, **dis**agree, **dis**comfort, **dis**please, **dis**connect, **dis**able, **dis**grace*, and others. Its synonyms can be *un-, de-*.

Let's move on to the prefixes ***en-, em-***, which mean "to bring, provide or invest" and can also mean "in" something or "on" something. They are highly productive. They are inherited from the

French assimilation of *en-* "in something" or from the same development in the later Latin *in-* (to *im-*). There is no loss of structure. They are present in ***en**vironment, **en**able, **en**code, **en**sure, **en**courage, **en**dure, **en**rich, **en**large, **en**force, **em**brace, **em**power, **em**body, **em**erge, **em**ployment, **em**ission, **em**ulation, **em**igratory*, etc.

Prefix ***fore-*** usually denotes something that is ahead of or precedes something else in time, space, or position, so it is highly productive in the language. Historically,

it is a part of Middle English and comes from Old English *fore-*, from Proto-Germanic *forē-,* from Proto-Germanic *fura-, furai*and means "before, in front of, for, previously, once", and from Indo-European *per-* "formerly; through, throughout". [10] Accordingly, the form has changed to a more convenient one with the development of the language. It is used in the words *fore*cast, *fore*head, *fore*front, *fore*see, *fore*tell, *fore*warn, *fore*father, *fore*thought. The Ukrainian equivalent may be *перед-* (as in *перед*бачити).

Prefix ***im-*** asserts the opposite meaning and is one of several variants of the prefix *in-,* which means 'in, into, on, toward'. *Im-* can also be used as a variant of the prefix *in-* in the negative.

Depending on the specific word, the prefix *im-* can come from Latin, Old French, Ingvöon (a Germanic language of the North Sea), Old Norse, Old English, and Middle English. [10] In addition, there is an explanation of their use and pronunciation: *im-* before labial consonants (p, b, m) – ***im***possible, ***im***maculate, etc; *iŋ-* before soft palatal consonants (k, g) as in ***iŋ***credible, ***iŋ***gratitude, etc.; *in-* before everything else. [10] There is no loss of structure. Examples of usage include: ***im***balance, ***im***mature, ***im***perfect, ***im***possible, ***im***mortal, ***im***polite, ***im***peccable. Also ***im***plant, ***im***migration, ***im***provise, ***im***plement, ***im***mediately, ***im***pulsive, etc.; ***in***volve, ***in***tend, ***in***ject, ***in***complete, ***in***vent, ***in***significant, ***in***dependent, ***in***expensive, etc.

Prefix ***re-*** usually indicates the repetition, resumption or cancellation of an action or state, and thus has a high productivity in the language. The Latin prefix *rĕ-* is derived from Proto-Italic *wre* ("again"), which has a parallel in Umbrian *re-,* but its further etymology is unknown. However, it has a general meaning that can be rendered as "back". The great productivity of the prefix *re-* in Classical

Latin tends to obscure its original meaning. It is used in ***re***build, ***re***claim, ***re***play, ***re***consider, ***re***connect, ***re***write, ***re***charge, ***re***read, ***re***visit, ***re***make, ***re***cycle.

Prefix ***inter-*** means "between" or "among" [10] and is often used to indicate a connection between two or more things or to indicate interaction or mutual influence, and thus has a high productivity. The Latin term is believed to be derived from the proto-Indo-European *enter-,* which also means 'between' or 'among'. There is no loss

of structure. Examples are: *inter*dependent, *inter*national, *inter*mission, *inter*action, *inter*section, *inter*galactic, *inter*personal, *inter*net, *inter*mediate, *inter*est.

Prefix **pre-** is usually used to indicate the meaning of a previous action, something that happened before. It is highly productive in the language. It is a word-forming element meaning "before", from Old French *pre-* and Latin *pre-,* both from Latin *prae* (adverb and preposition) "before", from *peri-* (cognate also with Oscan *prai,* Umbrian *pre*, from Sanskrit *pare* "while", Greek

parai "on", Gallic *are-* "before", Lithuanian *prie* "at", Old Slavonic *pri* "at something", Gothic *faura,*

Old English *fore* "before"). [10] There is no loss of structure. Used in: **pre**view, **pre**vent, **pre**dict, **pre**judice, **pre**pare, **pre**set, **pre**historically, **pre**arrangement, **pre**fix, **pre**pare, **pre**cedent, **pre**cise.

Prefix **un-** usually means "not", so the word formed with it means the opposite of the original.

For example: *not kind* means "unkind". The performance is high because this prefix will never lose its relevance in use. The negation prefix has a long history: Old English *un-* was formed from Proto

Germanic *un-* (sources also include Old Saxon, Old Frisian, Old High German; related to German *un-,* Gothic *un-,* Dutch *on-*), from *n-,* from Sanskrit *a-, an-* 'not', Greek *a-, an-,* Old Irish *an-,* Latin *in-*. [10] It is often used in euphemisms (for example, **un**true instead of *lie*). There is no loss of

structure. It is used in **un**happy, **un**fair, **un**usual, **un**necessary, **un**stable, **un**conscious, **un**cover,

unplug, **un**load, **un**likely, **un**common, **un**seen, **un**fit, **un**ravel, **un**do, **un**tangle, **un**breakable.

Thus, a detailed etymological analysis of English prefixes and the main sources of word

borrowing shows the connections and relationships between prefixes and their etymological roots,

which helps not only to understand the meaning of words but also to study the cultural and historical

context of their origin.

Etymological analysis of English suffixes

Let's start with the suffix **-able,** which means "capable, susceptible, suitable for something,

aspiring to something, given to something", related in meaning to the word *able*, which can be

observed in borrowed words from Latin; it is used in English as a highly productive suffix to form

adjectives by adding to the stem of any origin (*teachable; photographable*). It was first recorded in

1275–1325 in Middle English from Middle French, in turn from Latin *habilis* 'convenient', equivalent

to *hab(ēre)* 'to have, to hold' *-ilis* of adjectival suffix; *-ile*. [10] There is no loss of structure. Examples

of usage are: *comfortable, adjustable, reliable, understandable, acceptable, remarkable, achievable,*

respectable, enjoyable, adaptable, valuable, unbreakable, comparable, profitable, inevitable,

sustainable, reasonable, unforgettable, formidable, desirable.

Suffix **-ity** is used to form abstract nouns that denote state, quality or degree of something and

is highly productive in English. Derived from Middle English *-ite,* Old French *-ete* (modern French

– *ité*) and directly from Latin *-itatem* (nominative *-itas*), the suffix denoting a state or condition is

composed of *-i-* (from the stem or connecting word) the common abstract suffix *-tas*. [10] The suffix

has undergone transformations in structure throughout history. It has formed the following words:

equality, diversity, integrity, serenity, prosperity, authenticity, stability, creativity, flexibility,

universality, generosity, sensitivity, capability, curiosity, fertility, identity, community, opportunity,

authority, responsibility.

Suffix **-ness** means "state, quality" and is used with an adjective to say something about the

state or a particular feature of that adjective. It has high performance. It is derived from Old English

-nes(s), from Proto-Germanic *in-assu-* (cognate with Old Saxon *-nissi,* Middle Dutch *-nisse,* Dutch -

nis, Old High German *-nissa,* German *-nis,* Gothic *-inassus*) from *-in-,* originally belonging to the

noun stem, *-assu-,* an abstract noun suffix, probably from the same root as Latin *-tudo.* [10] The

structure was shortened for ease of use. Examples of usage are the following: *happiness, sadness,*

kindness, darkness, sweetness, richness, fitness, weakness, loneliness, cleverness, softness,

openness, fairness, hardness, coldness, politeness, laziness, tenderness, brightness.

Suffix **-age** usually forms abstract nouns or nouns of mass from different parts of speech,

originally found in loanwords from French (as in *voyage; courage*) and is productive in English with

the meanings of aggregate, (as in *coinage*), process (as in *coverage*), result, fact or physical effect (as

in *seepage*) and quantity, measure or fee (as in *tonnage*). It is used in various fields. First registered

in 1225–75; (for a noun) in Middle English, from Anglo-French, Old French *aage, eage*, equivalent

to *aé, eé* (from Latin *ae(vi)tās* "age, life", from *aev(um)* "eternity, period, time" *-itās -ity*) *-age -age*;

the verb derived from the noun. [10] There is no loss of structure. It is used in the following words:

advantage, message, passage, marriage, beverage, coverage, damage, package, voltage, heritage,

courage, voyage, percentage, language, storage, carriage, blockage.

Suffix *-al* with the general meaning "of a kind that refers to something, has a certain form or

character" of what is called a stem. It can be observed in loanwords from Latin (*autumnal, natural,*

pastoral) and is productive in English according to the Latin usage model, usually with stems of Latin

origin (*accidental, seasonal, tribal*). The origin is known to be from Latin -*āle* (singular), -*ālia*

(plural), nominalized neuter from -*ālis -al*; often replaces Middle English -*aille,* Old French or Latin

-*ālia.* [10] There is no loss of structure. Examples of usage are: *regional, cultural, personal,*

professional, industrial, educational, environmental, structural, emotional, financial, criminal,

medical, natural, practical, social, technical, physical, political, spiritual, historical, etc. The

Ukrainian equivalent is -*ний*.

Let's move on to the suffix -*cracy*, which is used in the meaning of "rule", "government",

"governing body" to form abstract nouns. It is found in borrowed words from the Greek language. It

is highly productive and is used in political and sociological terms. It is formed from Middle French

-*cracie* (now -*cratie*), Late Latin -*cratia*, Greek -*kratia,* equivalent to *krát(os)* 'rule, strength, power'

(similar to *hard*) -*ia* -*y*. [10] There is no loss of structure; it is found in *democracy, bureaucracy,*

aristocracy, theocracy, meritocracy, technocracy, plutocracy, autocracy, kleptocracy,

corporatocracy, corruptocracy, cosmocracy, snobocracy, sociocracy, mediocracy, meritocracy. The

Ukrainian equivalent is -*тия* or -*ція*.

Suffix **-er** is usually used with words of Germanic origin. English noun ending corresponding

to the Latin -*or.* From the dictionary: Old English -*ere* (Old Norse also -*are*) 'a person who deals

with', from Proto-Germanic -*ari* (cognates: German -*er,* Swedish -*are,* Danish -*ere*), from Proto

Germanic -*arjoz..* Some believe that this root is identical and is possibly a borrowing of Latin -*arius*

(see -*ary*). [10] There is no loss of structure. It is actively used in the language. Examples are: *teacher,*

runner, writer, singer, dancer, driver, baker, farmer, player, engineer, gardener, painter, waiter,

programmer, designer, photographer, lawyer, speaker, builder, manager, singer, lecturer.

The **-ion** suffix is used to form abstract nouns that denote an action, process, state, condition,

or result of something. It is one of the most common suffixes in the English language, derived from

Latin and French, and thus has a high productivity. The origin is known to be from the French *-ion*

or directly from the Latin *-ionem* (nominative *-io*, genitive *-ionis*). [10] The structure has been

shortened for ease of use. Examples of usage are: *completion, formation, reaction, solution,*

transition, operation, condition, education, reduction, direction, communication, innovation,

intention, examination, celebration, definition, separation, reservation.

The word-forming morpheme *-ism* forms nouns denoting practice, system, doctrine and is

highly productive in English. It is derived from French *-isme* or directly from Latin *-isma, -ismus*

(also Italian, Spanish *-ismo*, Dutch, German *-ismus*), from Greek *-ismos* (ending of a noun denoting

practice or study), from a verb stem ending in *-izein*, a verbal element denoting the action of the noun

or adjective to which it is attached. [10] There is no loss of structure, but there has been a shortening

in modern language. Examples of usage include: *capitalism, socialism, communism, Buddhism,*

Judaism, Hinduism, atheism, feminism, racism, terrorism, activism, pacifism, optimism, realism,

romanticism, nationalism, pluralism, colonialism.

Suffix *-ous* forms adjectives from nouns, meaning "to have, to be full of, to possess

something". It is a productive affix. The origin is known to be from Old French *-ous, -eux*, from Latin

-osus, from Middle English *-ous*, from Old French *-ous/-os/-us*, from Latin *-ōsus*. [10] There is no

loss of structure. It can be found in the words: *delici**ous**, curi**ous**, ambiti**ous**, courage**ous**, danger**ous**,*

*fabul**ous**, gener**ous**, mysteri**ous**, nerv**ous**, obvi**ous**, preci**ous**, furi**ous**, glori**ous**, harmoni**ous**, joy**ous**,*

*lumin**ous**, marvell**ous**, spaci**ous**.*

So, we analysed the most commonly used English suffixes and identified the main sources of

their borrowing: these are mainly Latin, French, Greek and others .

Conclusions

Thus, the etymological analysis of affixes is an important step in the knowledge of linguistics,

as it allows us to better understand the influence of cultural context on the structure of language and

word formation processes.№ 1 (28) 2024

In the course of the study one of the main ways of word formation in English, namely

affixation was analysed.

Affixed morphemes make changes to the word, they are divided into word-altering (modify

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grammatical role without affecting the lexical meaning of the word. Word-altering affixes are

universal, i.e. they are applicable to all (or most) words of a given grammatical category.

Word-forming affixes introduce a new lexical meaning, additional to that already contained in the root morpheme. Word-formation affixes are not universal,

although, at first glance, they are used quite regularly in the process of creating new words from the same root.

English suffixes and prefixes are diverse in origin. Along with productive suffixes and prefixes, which help to keep adding new lexical items to the English language, there are nonproductive or alloproductive ones that occur either in one or more words or as a morphological feature of parts of speech.

The research work helped to draw conclusions that the most common means of word formation in modern English is suffixation, which is based on adding a suffix to the end of the word stem. Despite the fact that in addition to proper English suffixes, there are a large number of suffixes borrowed from Latin, Greek, French and other languages, proper suffixes still prevail in the language.

Suffixes are used to form nouns (both common and proper names, both abstract and concrete names), adjectives, verbs, etc.

The next most common means of word formation in modern English is prefixation, which is based on attaching a prefix to the beginning of a word stem. It was included in the list of basic means because English has no endings and it is prefixation that helps to distinguish between parts of speech.

Prefixes, unlike suffixes, do not change the grammatical character of a word, and the newly formed words belong to the same parts of speech as their bases.

English, as an analytical language, uses prefixes and suffixes, but to a lesser extent than Ukrainian. The use of prefixes in English often reflects the negation, absence or change of the meaning of a word. Suffixes in English are used to form different forms of words and to express grammatical categories.

The study of prefix and suffix morphemes in English allows us to better understand the structural features of the language and their influence on word formation and the expression of grammatical relations. The study of these morphemes reveals the versatility of the language system, contributes to the enrichment of linguistic richness and improves linguistic expression.

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