Review Article[1]

BACK FORMATION AS A MINOR PROCESS OF WORD FORMATION

Morphology

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Abstract

Back-formation is a process of English word creation that, due to its irregular nature in terms of form and meaning, has yielded numerous plausible interpretations from linguistic researchers in terms of how it functions on non-affixed words that are interpreted as complicated by speakers. These interpretations are based on how back-formation acts on non-affixed words that are interpreted as complex by people. This study will examine the similarities and differences between clipping and back-formation, as well as the typology of back-formation, with the goal of shedding light on the possible workings of the mechanism that may be responsible for the development of new words. Because it is also predicated on a description of this process of word construction in Middle English as well as modern English, the technique that this research study employs can be categorized as descriptive.

INTRODUCTION

Back-formation is one of the word-formation processes that is generally considered to be on the lower level. Back-derivation, retrograde-derivation, and deaffixation are a few additional names for this process. For a variety of reasons, it stands out from the other processes that lead to the production of words. It is a process that has characteristics that are diametrically opposed to those of the one that experts who study English affixation believe to be the method of developing new words that occurs the most frequently and naturally. Back-formation is the process of removing an affix (or the section of the source that is supposed to be an affix) rather than adding it, which results in a shorter or morphologically simpler item of vocabulary. Because of the manner in which they are formed, such as "AFFIXATION – translate = translation" and "BACK-FORMATION ovation = ovate," they are frequently seen to be an odd or even an unnatural process. This is due to the fact that they are made in the opposite way. In the beginning, you will also regularly come across newly back-formed words. Back-formation is also distinguished by the fact that it is difficult for people who are not trained in linguistics to differentiate its speakers from native English speakers.

There are also a number of back-formed phrases for which linguists themselves are conflicted between two different potential explanations for the origin of the term.

BACK-FORMATION

In etymology, back-formation refers to the process of producing a new word through inflection, typically by removing or substituting real or imagined affixes from a lexical item in a way that increases the number of lexemes that are connected to the associated root word.

Back-formation can also refer to the new word that is formed as a result of this process. [1] In 1889, James Murray was the first person to adopt the term "back-formation" to characterize the result of the process. [2] (The online version of the OED continues to use "back-formation" in its definition of "to burgle; from burglar") This term dates back to 1889. [3]

Either the process of removing real or imagined affixes in order to generate a new lexis (or, to be more precise, a new "word"), or the neologism that results from this process, is referred to as back-formation. For example, the Latin word for resurrection was back-formed into the English verb revive by deleting the -ion suffix that was added to the word hundreds of years later. It was able to divide the phrase "resurrection" into its component parts "resurrect" and "ion" since the English language already possessed examples of Latinate terms in the form of verbs and combinations of verbs and ions, such as "opinion" and "opine." They created the template for several other such combinations, such as insert/insertion, project/projection, etc., where a verb with a Latin supine stems and a noun ending in ion entered the language simultaneously. Examples of this type of combination are insert and insertion. Neologisms are used regularly in a variety of fields, including science, fiction (particularly science fiction), cinema and television, branding, literature, jargon, cant, linguistics, the visual arts, and popular culture.

Differences between Back-Formation and Clipping

Back formation, on the other hand, alters the meaning of the original word by changing its part of speech. The most common examples of back constructions are the verbs televise, which derives from television; automate, which derives from automation; and choreograph, which derives from choreography. Each of these examples creates a new verb from an existing noun.

BACK-FORMATION IN MIDDLE ENGLISH AND CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH

According to Esko V. Pennanen (1966), he states that, "The weakening of the flexional endings during the early Middle English period, which made possible the derivation from verbs of a multitude of nouns, and vice-versa, was also as essential to the rise of and development of back-formation." This statement was made in reference to the rise of back-formation. (From "Contributions to the Study of Back-Formation in English" by Esko V. Pennanen, published in 1966). While on the other hand, W. F. Bolton (1982) claims that "Back formation continues to make a few contributions to the language." Donation has given television on the model of revise/revision, and television has given donation on the model of revise/revision. Television has given televise on the model of revise/revision. The astonishing lase from LASER, which was

recorded in 1966, was even further removed from the present. LASER is an acronym for "lightwave amplification by stimulated emission of radiation." (W.F. Bolton, "A Living Language: The History and Structure of English," in W.F. Bolton. Random House Publications, 1982)

USAGE

Back-formations are objectionable when they are merely needless variations of already existing verbs: back-formed verb - ordinary verb
*administrate – administer
*cohabitate – cohabit
*delimitate – delimit
*interpretate – interpret
*orientate – orient
*registrate – register
*remediate – remedy
*revolute –revolt
*solicit ate-solicit

Filling a Void

In contrast to the opinions of many other academics, Kate Burridge (2011) asserts that "Backformations are more likely to occur with very strongly entrenched patterns and they have the effect of filling an apparent void." Common verbs such as afflict (from affliction), excite (from enthusiasm), laze (from lazy), liaise (from liaison), aggress (from aggression), televise (from television), housekeep (from housekeeper), jell (from jelly), and many more have come up as a result of this process. (Taken from Kate Burridge's book "Gift of the Gob: Morsels of English Language History," published in 2011 by Harper Collins Australia)

TYPES OF BACK-FORMATION

Type I.Verb from agent/ instrument noun;
Type II. Verb from action noun;
Type III. Verb from adjective;
Type IV.Noun from adjective;
Type V. Adjective from noun;
Type VI. Noun from another noun which is believed to be its derivative;
Type VII. Prefixal back-formations

TYPE I: verb from agent / instrument noun

1. Blush (1988) < blusher; to apply blusher to
2. Comede (1989) < comedian; informal, jocular; to tell jokes to an audience; bea comedian
3. Deal (1988) < dealer; to be dealer in something, sell

4. Jack roll (1990) < jack roller; (i.e. one who robs a drunk or sleeping person; South African – a member of a criminal gang in Soweto)

5. Skirt-chase (1981) < skirt-chaser; slang; to pursue women with amorous attentions

TYPE II: verb from action noun

1. **break-dance** (1982) < break-dancing; (originally U.S.: dancing in which solo dancers perform acrobatics that involve touching various parts of the body to the ground); to dance in that way;

2. **carjack** (1991) < car-jacking; to steal or commandeer an occupied car by threatening the driver with violence (car-jacking, 1991: car + hijack + -ing);

3. **computer-generate** (the 1990s) < computer-generating; computing: to create sounds or visuals (images, music, etc.) with the aid of computer software;

4. **Demerge** (1980) < demerger; to dissolve a merger between business concerns; to separate one or more firms or trading companies from a large group;

5. **Disinform** (1980) < disinformation; to give or supply disinformation to;

6.**Divizionalize** (1982) American trademark/proprietary name divisionalization; to organize (a company, etc.) on a divisional basis;

7. **Dollarize** (1982) < dollarization; economics: to adopt the U. S. dollar as a country's official national currency;

8. **Drop-ship** (1999) < drop-shipment; to ship (goods) from a manufacturer or wholesaler directly to a customer instead of to the retailer who took the ordering;

9. **Snowboard** (1985) < snowboarding; to ride a snowboard, to participate in snowboarding;

10. **Sulphonylate** (1980) < sulphonylation; chemistry: to convert into a sulphonyl.

TYPE III: verb from adjective

1. Auto-destruct (1980) < auto-destructive; self-destruct;

2. Hard-wire (1983) < hard-wired; computing: to provide with, or make as, a permanent electric connection;

3. Silicone (1980) < siliconed; chemistry: to coat, impregnate, fill, or otherwise treat with silicone or silicone-based material (silicone = a polymer containing silicon, the word is a blend of silicon and ketone);

4. Skeeve 1 (1986) <skeevy; U.S. slang: to disgust (someone), to repel; to make uncomfortable;

5. Skeeve2 (1991) <skeevy; U.S. slang: to loathe (a person or thing); to dislike intensely.

TYPE IV: noun from adjective

1. **Bilat** (1989) < bilateral; bilateral meeting, probably informal;

2. **Cat** (1989) < catalytic; catalytic converter;

3. **Decaf** (1988) < decaffeinated; informal: decaffeinated coffee;

4. **Ditz** (1980) < ditzy; slang: a scatterbrained or eccentric person;

5. **Flash** (1989) < flashy; informal; the quality of being flashy (glittering)

6. **Shonk** (1981) < shonky; Australian slang: one engaged in irregular or illegal business activities; a 'shark';

7. **Skeeve** (1990) < skeevy; U.S. slang: an obnoxious or contemptible person; a person regarded as disgusting, unpleasant, etc;

8. **Transgene** (1985) < transgenic; biology: a gene which is introduced into the genome of another organism;

9. **Un-hero** (1989) < un-heroic; a character who is not the hero of a story.

TYPE V: adjective from noun

1. capitated (1983) < capitation; of, relating to, participating in, or being a health-care system in which a medical provider is given a set fee per patient regardless of treatment required;

2. Desertified (1980) < desertification; transformed onto desert;

3. Genethic (1988) < genethics; relating to ethical issues which arise from the humanmanipulation of genetic material (e.g. by genetic engineering).

TYPE VI: noun from another noun which is believed to be its derivative

1. eco-label (1989) < eco-labelling; a label that confirms that the product to which it is attached was made with no harm on the environment

2. fact-find (1989) < fact-finding; an instance of fact-finding

TYPE VII: Prefixal back-formations

1. Concerting (adj., 2003) < disconcerting (adj.); informal, jocular; suitable, comforting, satisfying ('a concerting telephone conversation');

2. Ilch (adj. /noun, 2003) < zilch (adj./noun); slang, Americanism: total, all-encompassing;

3. Plore (noun, 1989) <explore (verb); a museum exhibit which demonstrates some scientific principle in action.

CONCLUSION

The most important takeaways from this investigation can be summed up as follows: Back-formation is a simple method of word creation that has been refined from Middle English to contemporary English despite the fact that there have been some differences. The most fruitful back-formation process continues to be the development of verbs from action nouns, even if there are many various kinds of processes that can be classified as back-formation. The process of back-forming verbs from agent nouns has become less prevalent over time, although the role of compounds in the process of back-forming adjectives from nouns has increased with time. The suffixes -ing, -ion, -ation, and -er are the ones that are dropped from words the most frequently.

The subsequent discovery was reached as a result of the inquiry of the aforementioned material: Backformation is an efficient and straightforward method of wordformation that unquestionably has the potential to create brand-new words in the not-too-distant future.

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