



Research Article

Volume-02|Issue-05|2021

A Study of Word Building and Morphological Processes (Derivational and Inflectional) In English and Urdu

Hina Naseer Khan*

Research Scholar

Article History

Received: 03.05.2021

Accepted: 20.05.2021

Published: 30.05.2021

Citation

Khan, H. N. (2021). A Study of Word Building and Morphological Processes (Derivational and Inflectional) In English and Urdu. *Indiana Journal of Arts & Literature*, 2(5), 17-23.

Abstract: This study aims to investigate various morphological processes involved in word formation. Compounding, shortening, conversion are discussed along with English and Urdu examples of daily life. Derivational and inflectional morphemes are analyzed. Examples of English and Urdu language are analyzed for the presence derivational and inflectional aspect. This study has provided us with numerous connections in word formation and other disciplines of linguistics. Word formation is formally related to morphology, phonology and syntax but in terms of content it is also related to lexicography, semantic and pragmatics.

Keywords: Derivational, inflectional, conversion, shortening, compounding, lexicon, grammar.

Copyright © 2021 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

INTRODUCTION

Language is a repository of words which are the building blocks of a language. Basically, words are the smallest elements of communication both verbal and written. Fromkin (2011) depicts words as, a vital part of 'linguistic knowledge' and essential 'constituent of our mental grammar'. Languages are not static rather keep on growing. A language is usually enriched by variety of words it possesses. The phenomenon by which this repository of words is enhanced is known as morphological process /word formation.

Bauer (1983, p. 33), proposes that "word formation deals with the formation of new lexemes". On the other hand, Yule, G. (2006, p.64) defines mechanism of word formation as "the study of the processes whereby new words come into being in a language". Word formation is a process of creating new words in a language. In this process, the repository of words of a language is enhanced by modifying existing words or by complete innovation. This modification of from of words results into new meaning and new lexicon.

O'Grady and Archibald (2016) enumerate various types of word formation like derivation, inflection, reduplication, cliticization, coinage, conversion, clipping, blending, backformation, compounding acronym, and onomatopoeia. Yule (2010) has also endorsed the typology of word formation depicted by O'Grady and Archibald by defining ways of word formation such as blending, clipping,

compounding, backformation, borrowing, conversion, acronyms and coinage. However, all word formation processes are an outcome of inflectional changes or derivational changes. Some word formation processes alter meaning and category (derivational) and few provide grammatical information to existing meaning of a word (inflectional).

Objectives

This study provides a detailed description of different processes involved in word formation. This will also try to explore the patterns and regularities involved in word formation in different languages. This study not only depicts the ways structures of words are formed but also try to:

- investigate the way **meaning** of words is changed by different morphological process
- enlist ways different words join together to create new **forms** with new meanings
- Discussing the processes involved in an enriched lexicon of a language
- Highlighting importance and implication of morphological process on the word bank of a language
- Depicting role of different morphological processes in lexical growth of a language

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Every language has its rule and parameters regarding word structure and word formation. Different

languages tend to adopt different processes of word formations such as concatenative and non-concatenative.

- Concatenative – involved in linear combination of morphemes (affixation)
- Non-concatenative- change of internal properties of morphemes

Word Building Processes (Compounding, Shortening, Conversion, Compounding)

The meaning of compounding is to put together. In this process, two or more stems (a root combined with an affix) are combined to form a new word. These components can be free morphemes, words built by affixation, or even words formed by compounding themselves. These words belong to different word classes. Thereby in word formation, different parts of speech can also be joined together to form new words (verb and noun, adjective and noun etc.). Thus, two different words are joined together to form new word. This newly built word has new meaning. This new meaning cannot always be predicted by its component words. In short, a compound word consists of at least two stems. For example, airbus, snow-white, keystone.

Distinguishing Features of Compounds

All compound words have a head which helps to determine category/word class of this newly built word. In English language, the component at right hand is head. Thus constituent at right hand determine grammatical category of newly built word/compound word. For example, the head 'fall' in 'rainfall' is a verb thus the compound is a verb. However, in case a preposition takes the rightmost position, the element on left will be the head. Prepositions are function words and belong closed class of words are closed. So in compound word 'over throw' the head would be 'throw. This fact is not same cross linguistically. For instance, in Urdu compound words حفا ظتی مرکز، حکومت پاکستان this position is reversed.

Types of Compound words:

We can classify compound words on following basis:

- On the basis of the parts of speech:

Examples in English Language

- noun- noun: handbook, caveman, keystone, earring, candlestick, lifeboat
- noun- verb: trouble-shoot, rainfall, haircut, train-spotting
- verb-noun: wash basin, cross words, cross roads, playhouse, washing machine, driving license, swimming pool
- verb-preposition: push-up, Roll off, stick on, stand by, see through, lay by, cut through roll on, walk on, walk through
- adjective –verb: high-jump, redcoat, bluegrass,
- adjective-adjective: bittersweet
- adjective-noun: 'jumping bean, greenhouse, software, redhead

- preposition-verb: out-cast, output, overthrow, upturn, input

Examples in Urdu Language:

1. کرہ ارض
2. جامع مسجد
3. کتاب گھر
4. چڑیا گھر
5. گھوڑا گاڑی
6. بیل گاڑی
7. حفا ظتی مرکز
8. ٹکٹ گھر
9. گدھا گاڑی
10. ہلال احمر
11. تمغہ امتیاز
12. موم بتی
13. حکومت پاکستان
14. جان پُچان

- On the basis of the joining element
- Neutral compounds are when two stems are joined together without any joining morpheme. These are also known as closed compound words (without a space between them). For example, Bluegrass, greenhouse خوش قسمت، موم بتی
- Syntactical Compound is when components are joined by form -word stems and its meaning can be understood from the rules of grammar alone. For example, food additive, Redmond-based---A company(based in Redmond)
- Morphological compounds when components are joined by a linking element.

دین و دنیا، تہذیب و تمدن، شب و زمین و آسمان، امن و امان، نشوونما روز،

- On the basis of degree of semantic independence
- Subordinative Compound is a compound whose components are neither structurally nor semantically equal in importance and one of them dominates the other For example, color-blind, evergreen
- Coordinative Compound is a compound whose components are structurally and semantically independent and constitutes two structural and semantic centers For example, actor-manager

Shortening

In Shortening, a word is reduced or shortened without changing the meaning of the word. It is a process of word formation in which a new word is formed by removing some segments or part of it. Another name is used for shortening is clipping. This new word does not change the class it belongs to same part of speech.

According to O' Grady and Guzman, (1996:157) shortening or clipping is a process in which a disyllabic word becomes shorten by removing its one or more syllables. According to Bauer (1993: 233) the term clipping refers to the process in which a word is shortened, with the same meaning and be a member of the same part of speech.

Mostly, clipping results in a change of stylistic level. It functions as a free morpheme. And it also has the same lexical meaning as the original word has. it can take functional affixes as well. A longer term is mostly used in formal situation and shorter form is used in informal conversations.

Examples of Shortening in English

Web	Website	from
Flue	Influenza	from
Fancy	Fantasy	from
Fab,	Fabulous	from
Gas	Gasoline	from
Bus	Omnibus	from

In Urdu language, shortening or clipping is used to show degree of reduction in meaning in newly built word. Original word shows higher degree of meaning. For example,

Examples of shortening In Urdu:

گھروندا سے گھر
در سے دریچہ
پنکھ سے پنکھڑی
دکھ سے دکھڑا
صندوق سے صندوقچہ

Types of clipping/shortening

There are two kinds of shortening.

- Final clipping
- Initial clipping

Final clipping

When the word is clipped at the end is termed as final clipping.

Examples:

- Airplane becomes plane
- Telephone becomes phone.

Initial clipping

When the word is clipped from the end the clipping is termed as initial clipping.

Example:

- Exams from examination
- Taxi from taximeter
- Fest from festival

Conversion (Category shift /Functional Shift)

Conversion is a process of word formation in which an existing word is used in a new lexical category. The morphemic form of the word remains the

unchanged. The new word has a meaning different from original one. This process of forming words is frequently used in English language.

In this widely used process of word formation, a lexeme of one syntactic category functions as another part of speech without any inflectional change. It is probably the easiest way of word formation. Basically in conversion or Zero derivation or functional shift, no word is changed neither affixation is used.

The functional shift takes place when a noun is used as an adjective or an adjective as an adverb etc. According to Bauer (1998) conversion is just the change in the grammatical form of the word without using any affixation.

For example,

- I have sent you an email (noun).
- I email (verb) you.

In these instances of the word Email is a noun and the same word in second sentence is used as a verb without any reduction.

- I am learning English (noun).
- You are reading English (adjective) book.

In these instances, the word English is a noun in first sentence and the same word is used as an adjective in second sentence.

Here in above instances words are used from one category to another category of words without any change just because of different sentence position especially in an adjective case.

Noun to Verb conversion

This type of conversion is most productive in English language.

Noun	Verb
Email	to email
Eye	to eye
Fool	to fool
Host	to host
Shape	to shape
Pocket	to pocket

- Kindly attend my call (noun), it is an emergency.
- Kindly all me later I am in a meeting (verb).

For example, in Urdu language the word بولی in:

صبا جانوروں کی بولی سمجھتی ہے noun
is used as a noun, while in the second sentence, بولی is used as a verb.

صبا اونچی آواز میں بولی _____ verb

Example 2

میں گانا گا چکا ہوں۔ noun
یہ گیت صبا نے گانا ہے verb

احمد نے تمہارے پاس سونا ہے؟ verb
میرے وطن کی مٹی سونا ہے Noun

Nominalization (Verb to Noun Conversion)

Verb to noun conversion is another instance of conversion. For example,

Verb	Noun
to call	call
to cover	cover
to experience	experience
to feel	feel
to hope	hope
to judge	judge
to laugh	laugh
to rise	rise
to sleep	sleep
to start	start
to visit	visit

Example 2

- a. She uttered a loud cry (noun) on seeing a snake.
- b. Little Amina cried (verb) all night.

مجھے تیرنا آتا ہے۔
تیرنا منع ہے۔

Other instances of Conversions

Following are few less frequent instances of conversions:

adjective to verb: green → to green (to make pollution free)

preposition to noun: up, down → the ups and downs

interjection to verb: pooh – to pooh-pooh

Morphological processes (Inflectional and Derivational)

As structural and general linguistics is promoting, the distinction between linguistic levels is becoming less prominent. And deep analysis of every linguistic level has begun now. With the development of structural and generative linguistics, the separation of the linguistic level is fading and further developing towards the relationship doctrine leading to a focus on one level of linguistic analysis (Katamba, 1993).

Morphology is the study of form of words or word structure. The branch of linguistics that studies word structure especially in terms of morpheme. But what is morpheme? *Morpheme* is the smallest constructive unit of grammar. It is the minimal unit of grammar or grammatical function(e.g. cat, rat, ball, boy). Katamba (1993) states that the morphology is the study of the structure of a word, while Nida (1949) regarded morphology as the study of morphemes and their distribution in a word formation.

Morphological analysis of every level i.e. semantic, syntactic, phonological leads to a comprehensive morphological process. *Morphological*

process is the process which changes the meaning of the stem in such a way that it gets adjusted in a syntactic and communicational context. Derivation and inflection are morphological processes categorized under word formation. Words contain different number of morphemes ranging from 1 to multiple morphemes. Lets analyze a word, Careless

- Careless = Care + less= 2 morphemes=1 word
- لا پرواہ=لا+پرواہ

Similarly,

- Unhappy= un+ happy
- بے رونق = بے+رونق

Morphological process is the process of conversion of word. Morphemes are distinguished into two types, based on their free and bound behavior i.e. free and bound morphemes. Free morphemes are morphemes that can stand by themselves as a single word, which can stand alone as words of a language. For example,(Care, touch, help, ادب،مدد،خیال).Free morphemes may be lexical or functional. Lexical morphemes are content words that convey information in a text or speech act. They are treated as open class of words because they can produce new words by adding suffixes/prefixes. For example,(Red + ness= Redness;Peace+ ful = Peaceful;Hard+ness = Hardness; پرامن=پرامن+امن; حاصل=لا+حاصل).Functional morphemes are closed class of words that don't produce new words. They consist of functional words in a language such as Conjunctions, Prepositions, and Articles & Pronouns. For example,(In, that, she, it, (میں،وہ،یہ،ادھر).**Bound morphemes** cannot stand alone and are typically attached to another form.For example,-ed,-s,-ing. They occur only in combination and appear as part of a larger word i.e. Affixation (Suffixes & Prefixes)

For example,

- un- = unrelated, Unhappy-
- less = starless, careless
- ed= adopted, talked
- ing = caring, teaching
- er= teacher
- لاتعلق،بے حساب،غمزدہ،مزدوری،کھاتی

Bound morphemes show derivational and inflectional behavior, under the morphological process of Affixation.

- prefix/ سابقہ
- suffix/ لاحقہ

Prefixes

Affixes that precede the root are termed as prefixes. For example, in English word unhappy 'un' is a prefix.

In Urdu words پامال، بے پناہ، the morpheme بے/پ are examples of prefixes

سابقہ

(حرف یا لفظ جو کسی لفظ کے شروع میں لگایا جائے)۔

Suffixes

Affixes that follow the root are termed as suffixes. For example in English word chemist the morpheme 'ist' is a suffix. In Urdu language, the words خانہ/خانہ، دار/خانہ، دار، بورچی خانہ of suffixes

لاحقہ

[کسی لفظ کے آخر میں لگائے جانے والا حرف ---

Affixes mark two types of changes in word formation:

- Derivational (-er in teach-er)
- Inflectional (-s in teacher-s)

Derivation and inflection are two vital and traditional notions in the field of linguistics. It may be called as a subfield of linguistics dealing with the internal structure of words. (Booij, 2006)

Derivational morphemes

Derivational morphemes make new words of different grammatical categories. Derivation is a way of creating new forms of a word by adding affixes while changing its category or meaning.

For example,

- Goodness(Noun)=Good(Adjective)+ness(derivational morpheme)
- خوبصورتی=خوبصورتی+ی
- اسم صفت+لاحقہ=اسم

List of Derivational Morphemes

English examples

- Prefixes
down-, extra-, mid-
- Suffixes
-ve, -less, -ous, -y, -acy, -al, -able, -ance, -ence, -dom, -er, -or, -ism, -ist, -ty, -ity, -ment, -sion, -tion, -ate, -en, -fy, -ize, -ise, -able, -al, -en, -ful, -ive, -less.

Prefix as derivational	
Re	Direct(adj)=redirect(v)
Down	Stair(n)=downstairs(adv)
Super	Super(adj)=Superstar(n)

Suffix as derivational	
Ly	Brave(adj)=Bravely(adv)
Ism	Secular(adj)=Secularism(n)
Ness	Sharp(adj)=Sharpness(n)
Able	Digit(n)=digitable(adj)

Urdu Examples: تصریف/ڈیریوشنل: لاحقہ

گی، خانہ، آس، باز، بند، پن، تر، آئی، گاہ، کار، گر، گری، یاب، وار،
ور، نما، نگار

لاحقہ	
سادہ=سادگی	گی
اسم صفت=اسم	خانہ
پاگل=پاگل خانہ	

اسم صفت=اسم	آس
میٹھا=میٹھاس	
اسم صفت=اسم	پن
بھولا=بھولا پن	
اسم صفت=اسم	آئی
بھلا=بھلائی	
اسم صفت=اسم	

سابقہ	
سابقہ	سابقہ
عام=سر عام	سر
عقل=کم عقل	کم
اسم=اسم صفت	نو
مسلم=نومسلم	
اسم=اسم صفت	ہم
جماعت=ہم جماعت	
اسم=اسم صفت	

Example of different forms of word:

Root word- علم (knowledge)

Derivational words:

- عالم (male) knowledgeable
- عالمہ (female) knowledgeable
- معلم educator
- معلمہ female educator
- معلوم know
- معلومات information

Inflectional Morphemes

Hatch and Brown, (1995, p.285) defines inflection as a way of creating new forms of a word by adding affixes without changing its category or meaning. Inflection is the usage of affix to form variants of the same word. For example, define /define-s/;/defining/;/defined-ed/. Thereby, Inflection is adding extra grammatical information to existing meaning of words. It is not concerned with the creation of new words.

In English language, there are almost no inflectional prefixes. However, inflectional suffixes are very much productive in English language, since they provide extra grammatical information about existing meaning of words.

English categories which can be defined by inflections:

• Inflections as Plural Markers

English plural Inflectional suffixes are following

- /s/ - lips
- /z/ -cats
- /iz/ -boxes

Plurals may be *regular* or *irregular*.

- ✓ Regular plural
noun + suffix -s = book + -s = books
- ✓ Irregular plural
ox = oxen
- ✓ Zero plural morpheme
Fish (singular) = Fish (plural)

English Examples

/s/
Shirts, clips
/z/
Dogs, fans, windows, doors, cats.
/iz/
Pages, boxes, diaries

Inflectional Suffix as Plural Marker

Urdu Examples

Following are few inflectional suffixes from

Urdu

- ے
- کمرے، بستے، پردے، راستے 'جو تے' کپڑے، دروازے
- وں
- ، وادیوں، آسمانوں، کتابوں، آبادیوں
- یں
- آنکھیں خبریں قبریں، کتابیں
- ات

مناجات، اخراجات، اختارات جامعات

• Inflections as Tense Markers

English Examples

a. Regular tense markers

Verb + suffix

Play = Play-ed (past), Play-ing (participle)

Tense markers

- /t/-fished
- /d/-buzzed
- /id/-buried

b. Irregular tense marker

Fly = flew

Send = Sent

Bend = bent

Think = thought

Teach = taught

Urdu Examples

Tense markers in Urdu

Simple present Tense

تی، تا، تے

علی سکول جاتا ہے

میں نماز پڑھتی ہوں

میں سبق یاد کرتی ہوں

Simple past tense

ی، یا، ہے

علی سکول گیا

علی نے نماز پڑھی

میں نے سبق یاد کیا

✓ علی کھانا کھاتا ہے

✓ علی نے کھانا کھایا

Here 'تی، تا، تے' marks Simple Present

Here 'ی، یا، ہے' marks Simple Past Tense (ایا، گیا، پڑھا، سویا)

• Inflections as markers of Adjective Degree

English Examples

❖ Positive-sharp

❖ /er/ -sharper

❖ /est/-sharpest

Tall = Tall-er, Tall-est

Urdu Examples

بہترین

خوبصورت

ترین

بہتر

خوبصورت تر

بدتر

اچھا

خوبصورت

بد

بدترین

SYNTHESIS / CONCLUSION

The description of morpheme, its types and rules of word-formation, has shown vitality of words in the domain of lexicon and grammar. These word formation processes help to recognize the grammatical class of a word by its structure. For example, the word generation can be classed as a noun due to suffix '-ions'. Similarly, in Urdu the word دردانگیز is an adjective due to the suffix انگیز. Similarly, it can be said that these morphological processes share a major contribution in terms of word enrichment of a language. Languages keep on growing by such morphological processes. This very aspect opens doors for new researches in the domain of lexicon.

The form, meaning and function of different lexemes work hands in hands to make a language lexically rich as time passes on. Different morphological processes not only help to increase word stock of a language but also make a language lexically self-sufficient, more precise and communicable.

The crux of the whole discussion is that word-formation holds an inter-disciplinary status between lexicon and grammar. Since, word-formation is involved in patterns and regularities that form new words using existing vocabulary. As we have found, word formation quite vast, systematic and scientific in nature. It can evidently be termed as an independent area of linguistics. This study has provided us with numerous connections in word formation and other disciplines of linguistics. Word formation is formally related to morphology, phonology and syntax but in terms of content it is also related to lexicography, semantic and pragmatics.

REFERENCES

1. Bauer, L. (1983). English word-formation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, London, UK.
2. Fromkin, V. (2011) *An introduction to language (9th ed.)*. Canada: Nelson Education, Ltd.
3. O'grady, W., & Archibald, J. (2015). *Contemporary linguistic analysis: An introduction*. Pearson Canada..
4. Yule, G. (2010). *The study of language (4th ed.)*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
5. Hatch, E., & Brown, C. (1995). *Vocabulary, semantics, and language education*. Cambridge University Press, 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211 (hardback: ISBN-0-521-47409-4; paperback: ISBN-0-521-47942-8).

6. Booij G (2006), *Inflection and Derivation*. In: *Keith Brown*, (Editor-in-Chief) *Encyclopedia of Language & Linguistics*, Second Edition, volume 5, pp. 654-661. Oxford: Elsevier.
7. Candrasari, R. (2018). *Morphological Process of Devayan: An Analysis of Morphological Tipology*. In *Proceedings of MICoMS 2017*. Emerald Publishing Limited.