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PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF SECONDARY NOMINATION IN FORMATION OF FUNCTIONAL WORDS IN MODERN ENGLISH

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Abstract

This article is devoted to exploration of the process of secondary nomination expressed by the derived prepositions and conjunctions in modern English, its realization in language by different word-building types and patterns.

Keywords: secondary nomination, word-building, derivatives.

Introduction.

This paper involves the study of secondary nomination expressed by derived prepositions and conjunctions in modern English.

People explore the reality all the time: during this process a person faces new phenomena in the reality. By reflecting on various sides of a phenomenon a person tries to define them fixing this experience by means of language. The theory of nomination involves a process of fixation of new structures, new concepts in a language. Many attempts to explain the interaction of thinking, reality, and language are made with the help of the theory of nomination [1]. This interaction becomes apparent in the process of nomination where sense, objects of reality, and language are connected. An act of nomination implies fixed connection of an object with its name, a phenomenon and its definition, a mind's structure and its object [2]. A process of categorization of any phenomena, their systematization, according to human intelligence and logic, is realized only by an act of nomination. Any language is considered to be a necessary means for forming a new word to express new meanings fixed in new concepts which appeared as the result of reality exploration. Knowledge of language is essential for word-formation as to

describe a new object of reality any person firstly tries to find an available unit in a language. In this case language units are accumulated. In case of the absence of such a unit a person is to create a unit with the new meaning [3]. Due to language units, it is to define which characteristics of an object a person can single out as people are able to apprehend new information only on the base of available ideas in their mind. More and more language units tend to be formed in language nowadays as modern people acknowledge new characteristics of already explored objects. In modern language the considerable amount of language units are formed in the process of secondary nomination compared with primary nomination. A person uses available language units in a new way of nomination. That is why derivation is very important for any language as with its help it is possible to describe the relationship of a person with the reality not increasing the store of available linguistic units [4]. Almost all new words are derivatives. A word-building modelling makes it possible to fix new structures of knowledge and new concepts in a language. The process of secondary nomination implies different interpretation of the already explored reality, discovery of new characteristics of objects in reality by a person. These processes are immediately reflected in language by transformations of language units because a derived word is not a simple repetition of already existing language unit; it obtains its own meaning where a formed concept is expressed.

As the theory of nomination is still relevant, it is in the focus of many studies nowadays. V. Kolshansky differentiates 3 types of nomination:

1. a lexical type: where a word or phrase is in the focus of the process of nomination because this process is realized by a word or phrase;
2. a propositional type: where a sentence is in the focus of the process of nomination;
3. a discourse type: where a whole text is in the focus of the process of nomination [5].

V. Gak singles out initial and repeated types of nomination. Initial nomination is defined as the formation of a language unit which is used in its primary function to denote a concrete object in a concrete situation. Repeated nomination takes place in speech and it names an earlier mentioned object in a concrete context person, object or quality. Then, V. Gak differentiates primary and secondary types of nomination. Primary nomination is synonymous to initial nomination. Secondary nomination is defined as a type of nomination in which already existing language units are used in a new way of nomination to name a new object [6].

U. Stepanov classifies nominations into two types: direct and indirect types of nomination. His definition of direct nomination coincides with the definition of primary nomination proposed by V. Gak. Direct nomination is defined as the formation of a language unit which is used in its primary function denoting an object of reality. Indirect nomination implies naming of an object

of reality not with the help of available words specially used for naming but with the help of phrases, sentences, and texts [7].

According to the available literature evaluation, we are to admit, that despite diverse terminology and several approaches within the theory of nomination, different classifications of types and typology of nomination proposed by scientists intersect. According to such linguists as E. Aznaurova, E. Kubryakova, V. Teliya, there are two types of nomination: initial (первичный) and secondary types. The secondary type is divided into secondary and indirect nomination. Secondary nomination is defined as the use of an available language unit to denote new meaning [8].

In this study we don't aim at the exploration of different types of nomination and its typology that is why nomination and its types are considered in the general outline. In this study primary nomination is defined as formation of a language unit which is used in its primary function to denote a concrete object in a concrete situation. Secondary nomination is defined as a type of nomination in which already existing language units are used in a new way of nomination to name a new object. Secondary nomination is multi-aspect. Already existing language units which are used in a new way of nomination have two-faced nature which can be realized in language either by the use of language units without any changes by means of different interpretation (e.g. metaphor, metonymy), or by their reorganization (formation of new language units from already existing ones due to concrete patterns in word-formation and syntax. According to V. Gak, the change from primary nomination to secondary one is realized by means of semantic and grammatical transformations [9].

Taking into account the nature of primary and secondary nomination, in this paper we consider the following types of nomination of prepositions and conjunctions:

primary nominations are prepositions and conjunctions formed specially to name relationship between different objects,

secondary nominations are already existing language forms which nominate prepositions and conjunctions in their secondary function.

In English, the considerable amount of prepositions is the result of the process of primary nomination (60,5%). The majority of conjunctions, though, is the result of the process of the secondary nomination (69,5%) [10].

The vast majority of second nominations expressed by prepositions and conjunctions is the result of the derivational process. In this research derivation is defined as formation of derivatives on the base of other initial language units. The structure of a derivative can be explained only with the help of the language units constituting this derivative. The formation of a derivative is the result of close interaction between two parts of speech in a word-formation process where a connection between a derivative and a motivating word can be direct (teach – teacher) and indirect (read - readable –readability), and a sense

connection can be expressed in a literal, figurative, or metaphorical way (blockhead) [11].

As secondary nomination is a focal point of our research, we are interested in possible ways of its realization in language. One of them is a word-building way. In our study the most productive type of word-formation of prepositions and conjunctions in modern English is conversion, which is also considered to be the most productive word-building type in modern English. The treatment of conversion has been intensely discussed that is why there are three different approaches within the study of it, that is morphological, syntactic, and morphological-syntactic.

According to the morphological approach, H. Sweet firstly used this term in "A new English Grammar". Later, A. Smirnitsky suggested that conversion was a purely morphological way of forming words, as only the word paradigm is used as a word-building means. But, the linguists, who hold this view, should admit the fact that conversion doesn't exist for the parts of speech or numerous word-pairs where either the basic form or the derived word have no paradigm, i.e. they don't change. But, it is difficult to agree with this point of view, as conversion also involves unchanged parts of speech, and syntactic characteristics of words are not taken into account.

According to the syntactic approach, conversion is a purely syntactic word-building means. A. Kennedy, L. Bauer, D. Crystal regard conversion as a functional change which concerns usage of different words and not their word-formation. But, if conversion is a functional change, it implies that one and the same word can belong to several parts of speech simultaneously, which contradicts a definition of a word as a system of forms belonging to a definite part of speech.

According to the morphological-syntactic approach, conversion is treated as a morphological-syntactic word-building means which involves both a change of the paradigm (if there is any) and a change of the syntactic function of the word, the basic form of the original and the basic form of the derived word are homonymous (V. Yartseva, A. Zagoruiko, I. Arnold). In our research we treat conversion as a morphological-syntactic word-building means. There is word-formation without any changes of the basic form of the original word, but there are new syntactic and morphological characteristics, as a new word belongs to another part of speech compared with the original one. The word has new meaning, new grammatical characteristics, and new paradigm.

The considerable amount of the derived prepositions in modern English is formed by conversion - 12,5% (16 units), e.g.:

"The house is further **up** the hill" (BNC).

"The centre was constructed **around** the local lake" (BNC).

As for the derived conjunctions in modern English, the vast majority of them was formed by conversion - 34% (20 units), e.g.:

"**Immediately** she appeared, I remembered her name" (BNC).

“Do it **before** Colonel comes” (BNC).

Word-composition is a highly productive type of word-formation, though it is very old. It is less productive than conversion in the formation of prepositions and conjunctions in modern English. In the frame of this research we agree with the definition given by A. Zagoruiko who characterizes the process of word-composition as the formation of a compound word by means of joining together only two stems which are free stems [12]. Word-formation involves formation of compounds which are inseparable vocabulary units. Compounds are characterized by their semantic unity which means that the meaning of a compound is not always a simple total of meanings of its constituents. Structurally compounds are divided into:

1. compounds that are formed by placing one constituent after another in a definite order;
2. compounds that are formed by joining together the stems with a special linking element, i.e. the linking vowels and consonants;
3. compounds that are formed by joining together the stems with a prepositional or conjunctive stem;
4. compounds that are formed by joining together the stems of shortened words;
5. compound derivatives.

It is to note that in our research derived prepositions and conjunctions in modern English are formed by placing one constituent after another in a definite order.

4% (6 units) of the derived prepositions were formed by word-composition, e.g.:

“After the announcement Dr. Scott got thousands **upon** thousands of letters on his table” (BNC).

“Move the books **onto** the second shelf” (BNC).

20% (12 units) of the derived conjunctions were formed by word-composition, e.g.:

“Some of pieces of the research show positive results, **whereas** others do not” (BNC).

“**Although** it was raining, it was not too much cold” (BNC).

Affixation is a productive word-formation means within the confine of our research. In our study it is defined as the formation of words by adding derivational affixes to different types of bases. Affixes are divided into prefixes and suffixes. It means that affixation is divided into prefixation and suffixation. There is a difference between prefixal and suffixal derivatives. This difference is obvious not only in their position in the word, but also that prefixes are able to change only the meaning of the word, while new words belonging to another part of speech are formed with the help of suffixes. In the frame of our research derived prepositions and conjunctions in modern English are formed by suffixation.

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7% (10 units) of the derived prepositions in modern English were formed by affixation (suffixation), e.g.:

“Sorry, but, **considering** these circumstances, you lose this job...” (BNC).

“Everybody was for Jane **including** Annie” (BNC).

8,5% (5 units) of the derived conjunctions were formed by affixation (suffixation), e.g.:

“We will buy everything you produce, **provided** of course the price is right” (BNC).

“**Assuming** he’s still alive, how old would he be now?” (BNC).

Another word-formation means revealed in our research is shortening. This ancient word-formation means has become very productive in modern English. Shortening is defined as a morphological type of the word-formation which involves the omission of some part of the original word. There are three types of shortening in modern English:

1. apheresis takes place when the initial part of a word is shortened;

2. syncope takes place when the middle part of a word is shortened;

3. apocope takes place when the final part of a word is shortened.

In our research the vast majority of derived prepositions and conjunctions are formed by means of apheresis and syncope.

10% (14 units) of the derived prepositions were formed by shortening, e.g.:

“Every year they play ‘**gainst** the league champions every year” (BNC).

“The burglar got in **thro’** the window” (BNC).

7% (4 units) of the derived conjunctions were formed by shortening, e.g.:

“I did ‘**cause** I felt so” (BNC).

“Molly was fond of him, **tho’** he often annoyed her” (BNC).

Sound alteration is another word-formation means which was detected in formation of derived prepositions and conjunctions in our study. Sound alteration is not productive in modern English. It is preserved in language as the vestige inherited by English from the earliest stages of its development. Sound alteration is defined as a word-formation means which is realized by the phonetic change of a root.

15% (8 units) of the derived prepositions were formed by alteration, e.g.:

“Hey, fellow, you gotta try it **agin’**” (BNC).

“The door was **betwixt** 3 windows” (BNC).

Conjunctions formed as the result of alteration were not detected.

Material and methods.

The subject of this research is a cognitive base and a linguistic way of formation of the derived prepositions and conjunctions' formation in the process of secondary nomination in modern English. The units of analysis are the derived prepositions and conjunctions of English (137 prepositions and 59 conjunctions) selected by means of continuous sampling from such lexicographical sources as "Oxford Dictionary of English", "Collins dictionary", "Free Dictionary", "Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary", and also from "The British national Corpus" and "The Corpus of Contemporary American English". 54 (39,5%) derived prepositions and 41 (69,5%) derived conjunctions expressing a category "Relation" in their secondary function were thoroughly examined. A whole complex of methods was used in this research: word-building, component, distributional, contextual, conceptual, quantitative types of analysis, and conceptual and cognitive methods.

Results.

This study made it possible to reveal the structural characteristics of the derived prepositions and conjunctions formed in the process of secondary nomination. Thus, 54 (39,5%) derived prepositions and 41 (69,5%) derived conjunctions of modern English were thoroughly examined. The analysis of the structural characteristics showed that formation of the derived prepositions differed from that one of the derived conjunctions. The most productive word-building means in formation of both prepositions (12,5%) and conjunctions (34%) is conversion. The number of the derived prepositions (10%) formed by shortening doesn't differ much with that of the derived conjunctions (7%), but in the confine of this examination shortening is the least productive word-building means for formation of conjunctions in modern English. The number of the prepositions (7%) formed by affixation is not significantly different to the number of the analogically formed conjunctions (8,5%). The least productive word-building means for formation of the derived prepositions (4%) is word-composition. Though, it is very productive in formation of the conjunctions (20%). The number of prepositions formed by alteration is 6%, whereas conjunctions formed in an analogical way were not detected.

The revealed results emphasize the essential role of secondary nomination in the process of formation of language units, as the exploration of the reality and its reflection is realized by secondary nomination. The interaction of the way of thinking, reality, and language becomes apparent only with the help of secondary nomination. In modern language the considerable amount of language units are formed in the process of secondary nomination compared with primary nomination. A person uses available language units in a new way of nomination which is realized in language by derivation. That is why derivation is very important for any language as with its help it is possible to describe the relationship of a person with the reality not increasing the store of available linguistic units. Secondary nomination is defined as a type of

nomination in which already existing language units are used in a new way of nomination to name a new object. In this study there was an attempt to demonstrate the process of secondary nomination in the way of reorganization of language units.

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