LECTURE   2

WORDBUILDING

- **World-building (word-formation)**
  - Morpheme.
  - Affixation. Suffixation.
  - Affixation. Prefixation.
- **Structural types of words.**

Word-building is one of the main ways of enriching vocabulary.

Main ways of word-building:

- ➤ affixation
- ➤ composition
- ➤ conversion
- ➤ abbreviation

Secondary ways of word-building:

- sound interchange
- stress interchange
- sound imitation
- blending
- back formation

The main unit of the lexical system of a language which results from the association of a group of sounds with a meaning is **a word**.

A word, however, can be divided into smaller sense units – **morphemes**.

According to their function and meaning

morphemes are divided into two large groups:

- **lexical (derivational)**
- **grammatical (functional)**

Lexical (derivational) morphemes:

- **Free lexical morphemes** are roots of words which express the lexical meaning of the word, they coincide with the stem of simple words.

- **Bound lexical morphemes** are affixes: prefixes (e.g. dis-), suffixes (e.g. -ish) and also blocked (unique) root morphemes (e.g. Fri-day, cran-berry).

Grammatical (functional) morphemes:

- **Free grammatical morphemes** are function words: articles, conjunctions and prepositions (the, with, and).

- **Bound grammatical morphemes** are inflexions (endings), e.g. -s for the Plural of nouns,

-ed for the Past Indefinite of regular verbs,

-ing for the Present Participle,

-er for the Comparative degree of adjectives.

According to the role

they play in constructing words morphemes are subdivided into:

- **roots**
- **affixes:**
  -prefixes
  -infixes
  -suffixes

Roots

are main morphemic vehicles of a given idea in a given language at a given stage of its development.

Thus *heart-* is the common root of the following series of words: *heart, hearten, dishearten, heartily, heartless, hearty, heartiness, sweetheart, heart-broken, kind-hearted, wholeheartedly,* etc.

In some of this, as, for example, in *hearten,* there is only one root; in others the root *heart* is combined with some other root, thus forming a compound like *sweetheart*

Affixation is one of the most productive ways of word-building throughout the history of English.

It consists in adding an affix to the stem of a definite part of speech:

e.g.   music - musical

patient - impatient

Suffixation

- There are different classifications of suffixes:

Part-of-speech classification. Suffixes which can form different parts of speech are as follows:

a) **noun-forming suffixes,** such as: -er (criticizer), -dom (officialdom), -ism (ageism),

b) **adjective-forming suffixes**, such as: -able (breathable), less (symptomless), -ous (prestigious),

c) **verb-forming suffixes**, such as -ize (computerize), -ify (micrify),

d) **adverb-forming suffixes**, such as: -ly (singly), -ward (tableward),

Semantic classification

Suffixes changing the lexical meaning of the stem can be subdivided into groups, e.g. noun-forming suffixes can denote:

a) **the agent of the action**, e.g. *-er* (experimenter), *-ist* (taxist), *-ent* (student),

b) **nationality,** e.g. *-ian* (Russian), *-ese* (Japanese), -ish (English),

c) **collectivity,** e.g. *-dom* (moviedom), *-ry* (peasantry, *-ship* (readership), *-ati* (literati),

d) **diminutiveness,** e.g. *-ie* (horsie), *-let* (booklet), -ling (gooseling), *-ette* (kitchenette),

e) **quality,** e.g. *-ness* (heartlessness), *-ity* (readability).

Lexico-grammatical character of the stem.

Suffixes which can be added to certain groups of stems are subdivided into:

a) **suffixes added to verbal stems**, such as: *-er* (commuter), *-ing* (suffering), *-able* (eatable), *-ment* (involvement), *-ation* (computerization),

b) **suffixes added to noun stems**, such as: *-less* (smogless), *-ful* (roomful), *-ism* (adventurism), *-ster* (pollster), *-nik* (filmnik), *-ish* (childish),

c) **suffixes added to adjective stems**, such as: *-en* (weaken), *-ly* (pinkly), *-ish* (longish), *-ness* (sweetness).

Origin of suffixes

Here we can point out the following groups:

a) **native (Germanic),** such as *-er,-ful, -less, -ly.*

b) **Romanic**, such as: *-tion, -ment, -able, -eer.*

c) **Greek**, such as: *-ist, -ism, -ize.*

d) **Russian,** such as *-nik.*

Productivity

Here we can point out the following groups:

a) **productive,** such as: *-er, -ize, -ly, -ness.*

b) **semi-productive,** such as: *-eer, -ette, -ward.*

c) **non-productive,** such as : *-ard* (drunkard), *-th* (length).

Prefixation is the formation of words by means of adding a prefix to the stem.

Prefixes can be classified according to the nature of words in which they are used:

- ❖ prefixes used in notional words (bound morphemes) , *e.g. un- (unhappy)*

- ❖ prefixes used in functional words (semi-bound morphemes) , *e.g. over- (overhead)*
(cf over the table).

Semantic classification:

a) **prefixes of negative meaning**, such as : *in-* (inseparable), *non-* (nonformals), *un-* (unpack) etc,

b) **prefixes denoting repetition or reversal actions**, such as: *de-* (decolonize), *re-* (rewrite), *dis-* (disconnect),

c) **prefixes denoting time**, space, degree relations, such as : *inter-* (interplanetary) , *hyper-* (hypertension), *ex-* (ex-student), *pre-* (pre-election), *over-* (overdrugging), *post-* (postposition) etc.

Origin of prefixes:

a) native (Germanic), such as: *un-, over-, under-* etc.

b) Romanic, such as: *in-, de-, ex-, re-* etc.

c) Greek, such as: *sym-, hyper-* etc.

According to the nature and the number of morphemes constituting a word there are different <u>structural types of words</u> in English:

- ✓ *simple,*
- ✓ *derived,*
- ✓ *compound,*
- ✓ *compound-derived.*

- *Simple words* consist of one root morpheme and an inflexion (in many cases the inflexion is zero), e.g. *seldom, chairs, longer, asked*.

- *Derived words* consist of one root morpheme, one or several affixes and an inflexion, e.g. *unemployed*.

- *Compound words* consist of two or more root morphemes and an inflexion, e.g. *girl-friend, baby-moons*.

- *Compound-derived words* consist of two or more root morphemes, one or more affixes and an inflexion, e.g. *blue-eyed, broad-shouldered, absent-mindedness*.