**Тема 3. Word-formation in Modern English.**

* The morphological structure of a word.
* Productive and non-productive ways of word-formation.

**1. The morphological structure of a word.**

The word is not the smallest unit of the language. It consists of morphemes. The term morpheme is derived from Gr *morphe*‘form’ + *-eme.*The Greek suffix *-erne*has been adopted by linguists to denote the smallest significant or **distinctive unit**.The **morpheme** may be defined as the smallest meaningful unit which has a sound form and meaning and which occurs in speech only as a part of a word. In other words, a morpheme is an association of a given meaning with a given sound pattern. But unlike a word it is not autonomous. Morphemes occur in speech only as constituent parts of words, not independently, although a word may consist of a single morpheme. Nor are they divisible into smaller meaningful units. That is why the morpheme may be defined as the minimum meaningful language unit.

**Word formation** is the creation of new words from elements already existing in the language. Every language has its own structural patterns of word formation.

**A form**is said to be **free** if it may stand alone without changing its meaning; if not, it is a **bound form**, so called because it is always bound to something else. For example, if we compare the words *sportive*and *elegant*and their parts, we see that *sport, sportive, elegant*may occur alone as utterances, whereas *eleg-, -ive, -ant*are bound forms because they never occur alone. A word is, by L. Bloomfield’s definition, a minimum free form. A morpheme is said to be either bound or free. This statement should bе taken with caution. It means that some morphemes are capable of forming words without adding other morphemes: that is, they are homonymous to free forms.

According to the role they play in constructing words, morphemes are subdivided into**roots** and **affixes**. The latter are further subdivided, according to their position, into **prefixes**, **suffixes** and **infixes**, and according to their function and meaning, into **derivational** and **functional** affixes, the latter also called **endings** or outer **formatives**.

**The root morpheme** is the lexical center of the word. It is the semantic nucleus of a word with which no grammatical properties of the word are connected. A root may be also regarded as the ultimate constituent element which remains after the removal of all functional and derivational affixes and does not admit any further analysis. It is the common element of words within **a word-family**. Thus, *-heart-*is the common root of the following series of words: *heart, hearten, dishearten, heartily, heartless, hearty, heartiness, sweetheart, heart-broken, kind-hearted, whole-heartedly,*etc. In some of these, 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.*

The root word *heart*is **unsegmentable**, it is non-motivated morphologically. The morphemic structure of all the other words in this word-family is obvious — they are **segmentable**as consisting of at least two distinct morphemes. They may be further subdivided into:

1) those formed by a**ffixation**or **affixational derivatives**consisting of a root morpheme and one or more affixes: *hearten, dishearten, heartily, heartless, hearty, heartiness;*

2) **compounds**or**compound words** containing at least two root-morphemes: *warehouse, camera-man*, *sweetheart;*

3) **derivational compounds** where words of a phrase are joined together by composition and affixation: *kind-hearted*. This last process is also called **phrasal derivation** *((kind heart)+-ed)).*

**Monomorphic**are root-words consisting of only one root-morpheme i.e. simple words *(dry, grow, boss, sell).*

**Polymorphic** are words consisting of at least one root-morpheme and a number of derivational affixes, i.e. derivatives, compounds *(customer, payee, body-building, shipping).*

**Derived words** are those composed of one root-morpheme and one more derivational morphemes *(consignment, outgoing, publicity).*

**Stem** is that part of a word which remains unchanged throughout its paradigm and to which grammatical inflexions and affixes are added. Thestem expresses the lexical and the part of speech meaning. For the word *hearty*and for the paradigm *heart*(sing.) — *hearts*(pl.) the stem may be represented as *heart-.* This stem is a single morpheme, it contains nothing but the root, so it is a **simple stem**. It is also a **free stem** because it is homonymous to the word *heart*.

The stem of the paradigm *hearty* — *heartier* — *(the) heartiest* is *hearty-.* It is a free stem, but as it consists of a root morpheme and an affix, it is not simple but **derived**. Thus, a stem containing one or more affixes is a derived stem. If after deducing the affix the remaining stem is not homonymous to a separate word of the same root, we call it **a bound stem**. Thus, in the word *cordial* − proceeding as if from the heart, the adjective-forming suffix can be separated on the analogy with such words as *bronchial*, *radial*, *social*. The remaining stem, however, cannot form a separate word by itself, it is bound. In *cordially* and *cordiality*, on the other hand, the derived stems are free.

Bound stems are especially characteristic of loan words. The point may be illustrated by the following French borrowings: *arrogance*, *charity*, *courage*, *coward*, *distort*, *involve*, *notion*, *legible,* *tolerable* ,etc. After the affixes of these words are taken away the remaining elements are: *arrog-*, *char-*, *cour-*, *cow-*, *-tort*, *-volve*, *not-*, *leg-*, *toler-*, which do not coincide with any semantically related independent words.

In English words stem and root often coincide.

**Affixational morphemes** include inflections and derivational affixes.

**Inflection** is **an affixal morpheme** which carries only grammatical meaning thus relevant only for the formation of word-forms *(book-s, open-ed, strong-er).*

**Derivational morpheme** is an affixal morpheme which modifies the lexical meaning of the root and forms a new word. In many cases it adds the part-of-speech meaning to the root *(manage-ment, en-courage, fruit-ful).*

Morphemes which may occur in isolation and function as independent words are called **free morphemes** *(pay, sum, form).*

Morphemes which are not found in isolation are called **bound morphemes** *(-er, un-, -less).*

The segmentation of words is generally carried out according to the method of **Immediate** and **Ultimate Constituents**. This method is based upon the binary principle, i.e. each stage of procedure involves two components the word immediately breaks into. At each stage these two components are referred to as the Immediate Constituents (IС). Each IС at the next stage of analysis is in turn broken into smaller meaningful elements. The analysis is completed when we arrive at constituents incapable of further division, i.e. morphemes. These are referred to as Ultimate Constituents (UC). The analysis of word-structure on the morphemic level must naturally proceed to the stage of UC-s.

The combining form *allo-*from Greek *allos “*other” is used in linguistic terminology to denote elements of a group whose members together constitute a structural unit of the language (allophones, allomorphs). Thus, for example, *-ion/-sion/-tion/-ation* are the positional variants of the same suffix. They do not differ in meaning or function but show a slight difference in sound form depending on the final phoneme of the preceding stem. They are considered as variants of one and the same morpheme and called its allomorphs.

**An allomorph** is defined as a positional variant of a morpheme occurring in a specific environment and so characterised by complementary distribution. **Complementary distribution** is said to take place when two linguistic variants cannot appear in the same environment. Thus, stems ending in consonants take as a rule *-ation (liberation);*stems ending in *pt,*however, take *-tion (corruption)*and the final *t*becomes fused with the suffix.

Different morphemes are characterised by **contrastive distribution**, i.e. if they occur in the same environment they signal different meanings. The suffixes *-able*and *-ed,*for instance, are different morphemes, not allomorphs, because adjectives in *-able*mean “capable of being”: *measurable*“capable of being measured”, whereas *-ed*as a suffix of adjectives has a resultant force: *measured*“marked by due proportion”, as *the measured beauty of classical Greek art;*hence also “rhythmical” and “regular in movement”, as in *the measured form of verse, the measured tread.*

In some cases the difference is not very clear-cut: *-ic*and *-ical,*for example, are two different affixes, the first a simple one, the second a group affix; they are said to be characterised by contrastive distribution. But many adjectives have both the *-ic*and *-ical*form, often without a distinction in meaning. The suffix *-ical*shows a vaguer connection with what is indicated by the stem: *a comic paper*but *a comical story.*However, the distinction between them is not very sharp.

Allomorphs will also occur among prefixes. Their form then depends on the initials of the stem with which they will assimilate. A prefix such as *im-*occurs before bilabials *(impossible),*its allomorph *ir-*before *r (irregular), il-*before *l (illegal).*It is *in-*before all other consonants and vowels *(indirect, inability).*

Two or more sound forms of a stem existing under conditions of complementary distribution may also be regarded as allomorphs, as, for instance, in *long*adj ↔ *length*n, *excite*v ↔ *excitation*n.

Allomorphs therefore are phonetically conditioned positional variants of the same derivational or functional morpheme (suffix, root or prefix) identical in meaning and function and differing in sound only insomuch, as their complementary distribution produces various phonetic assimilation effects.

2**. Productivity. Productive and non-productive ways of word-formation.**

**Productivity**is the ability to form new words after existing patterns which are readily understood by the speakers of a language. The most important and the most productive ways of word-formation are **affixation**, **conversion**, **word-composition** and **abbreviation (contraction).** In the course of time the productivity of this or that way of word-formation may change. **Sound interchange** or **gradation** *(blood − to bleed, to abide − abode, to strike − stroke)*was a productive way of word building in old English and is important for a diachronic study of the English language. It has lost its productivity in Modern English and no new word can be coined by means of sound gradation. Affixation on the contrary was productive in Old English and is still one of the most productive ways of word building in Modern English.

**3. Affixation. General characteristics of suffixes and prefixes.**

The process of **affixation**consists in coining a new word by adding an affix or several affixes to some root morpheme.

**Suffixation** is more productive than **prefixation**. In Modern English suffixation is characteristic of noun and adjective formation, while prefixation is typical of verb formation (*incoming, trainee, principal, promotion*).

From the etymological point of view affixes are classified into the same two large groups as words: **native**and**borrowed**(see Lecture 1; Table 2). It would be wrong, though, to suppose that affixes are borrowed in the same way and for the same reasons as words. The term borrowed affixes is not very exact as affixes are never borrowed as such, but only as parts of loan words. To enter the morphological system of the English language a borrowed affix has to meet certain conditions. The borrowing of the affixes is possible only if the number of words containing this affix is considerable, if its meaning and function are definite and clear enough, and also if its structural pattern corresponds to the structural patterns already existing in the language.

If these conditions are fulfilled, the foreign affix may even become productive and combine with native stems or borrowed stems within the system of English vocabulary like*-able*< Lat *-abilis*in such words as *laughable*or *unforgettable*and *unforgivable.*The English words *balustrade, brigade, cascade*are borrowed from French. On the analogy with these in the English language itself such words as *blockade*are coined.

Affixes are usually divided into **living** and **dead affixes**. Living affixes are easily separated from the stem (*care-ful*). Dead affixes have become fully merged with the stem and can be singled out by a diachronic analysis of the development of the word (*admit* − L*. ad+mittere*).

Affixes can also be classified into **productive**and **non-productive** types. By **productiveaffixes** we mean the ones, which take part in deriving new words in this particular period of language development. The best way to identify productive affixes is to look for them among **neologisms**and so-called **nonce-words***,*i.e. words coined and used only for this particular occasion. The latter are usually formed on the level of living speech and reflect the most productive and progressive patterns in word-building:

*unputdownable*thrill*;*

“*I don't like Sunday evenings: I feel so Mondayish”;*

Professor Pringle was a thinnish, baldish, *dispeptic-lookingish* cove with an eye like a haddock. (From *Right-Ho, Jeeves*by P.G. Wodehouse)

In many cases the choice of the affixes is a means of differentiating meaning:

*uninterested −* *disinterested;*

*distrust − mistrust.*

One should not confuse the productivity of affixes with their frequency of occurrence. There are quite a number of high-frequency affixes which, nevertheless, are no longer used in word-derivation (e. g. the adjective-forming native suffixes *-ful, -ly;*the adjective-forming suffixes of Latin origin *-ant, -ent, -al*which are quite frequent).

Unlike roots, affixes are always bound forms. The difference between suffixes and prefixes, it will be remembered, is not confined to their respective position, suffixes being “fixed after” and prefixes “fixed before” the stem. It also concerns their function and meaning.

**A suffix** is a derivational morpheme following the stem and forming a new derivative in a different part of speech or a different word class, сf. *-en, -y, -less*in *hearten, hearty, heartless.*When both the underlying and the resultant forms belong to the same part of speech, the suffix serves to differentiate between lexico-grammatical classes by rendering some very general lexico-grammatical meaning. For instance, both *-ify*and *-er*are verb suffixes, but the first characterises causative verbs, such as *horrify, purify, rarefy, simplify,*whereas the second is mostly typical of frequentative verbs: *flicker, shimmer, twitter*and the like.

If we realise that suffixes render the most general semantic component of the word’s lexical meaning by marking the general class of phenomena to which the referent of the word belongs, the reason why suffixes are as a rule semantically fused with the stem stands explained.

**A prefix** is a derivational morpheme standing before the root and modifying meaning, cf. *hearten*— *dishearten.*It is only with verbs and statives that a prefix may serve to distinguish one part of speech from another, like in *earth*n — *unearth*v, *sleep*n — *asleep*(stative).

It is interesting that as a prefix *en-*may carry the same meaning of being or bringing into a certain state as the suffix *-en,*сf. *enable, encamp, endanger, endear, enslave*and *fasten, darken, deepen, lengthen, strengthen.*

Preceding a verb stem, some prefixes express the difference between a transitive and an intransitive verb: *stay*v and *outstay*(sb) vt. With a few exceptions prefixes modify the stem for time *(pre-, post-),*place *(in-, ad-)*or negation *(un-, dis-)*and remain semantically rather independent of the stem.

**An infix** is an affix placed within the word, like *-n-*in *stand.*The type is not productive. An affix should not be confused with **a combining form.** A combining form is also a bound form but it can be distinguished from an affix historically by the fact that it is always borrowed from another language, namely, from Latin or Greek, in which it existed as a free form, i.e. a separate word, or also as a combining form. They differ from all other borrowings in that they occur in compounds and derivatives that did not exist in their original language but were formed only in modern times in English, Russian, French, etc., сf. *polyclinic, polymer; stereophonic, stereoscopic, telemechanics, television.*Combining forms are mostly international. Descriptively a combining form differs from an affix, because it can occur as one constituent of a form whose only other constituent is an affix, as in *graphic, cyclic.*

Also affixes are characterised either by preposition with respect to the root (prefixes) or by postposition (suffixes), whereas the same combining form may occur in both positions. Cf. *phonograph, phonology*and *telephone, microphone,*etc.

# **3.1. Semantics of Affixes**

Meanings of affixes are specific and considerably differ from those of root morphemes. Affixes have widely generalised meanings and refer the concept conveyed by the whole word to a certain category, which is vast and all-embracing. So, the**noun-forming suffix** *-er*could be roughly defined as designating persons from the object of their occupation or labour *(painter*— the one who paints) or from their place of origin or abode *(southerner*— the one living in the South).

Some words with this suffix have no equivalents in Ukrainian and may be rendered in descriptive way:

The sheriff might have been a slow *talker*, but he was a fast *mover* (Irish).

− Можливо, шериф і говорив повільно, та рухався він швидко.

I'm not a *talker*, boys, talking's not what I do, but I want you to know that this is not.... (King).

− Я не дуже балакучий...

Michael is a great breaker of hearts. I do hope you won't let him break yours (Howard)

− Майкл добре уміє розбивати серця...

He looked back at the whisperers as if he wanted to say something to them but thought better of it (Rowling) − Він оглянувся на тих, що шепотілися...

Other noun-forming suffixes designating the same semantic field both in English and Ukrainian are given in table 1:

***Table 1***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Ukrainian** |
| ***-er***teacher, banker, thinker, worker, miner, driver, dancer, reader, owner, leader, worker, robber, producer, owner, knower, observer, singer, programmer***-ar/or***liar, proprietor, vendor, ambassador, dictator***-ant/ent***participant, claimant, student***-ist***philologist, scientist *-ее*detainee, employee***-ess***(feminine) actress, proprietress***-anAian***vegeterian, politician, Mancunian***-ette***(fem) usherette, suffragette***-ite***laborite, Muscovite | ***-ар***шахтар, лікар***-ір/-ир/-ер-/ор***банкір, бригадир, офіцер, лідер, диктатор***-тель***вчитель, мислитель***-ик/-ник***робітник, виробник, радник, грабіжник, власник, передовик, відмінник***-ій*** водій, тюхтій***-ун***брехун, товстун***-ець***підприємець, митець, знавець, українець***-ач***оглядач, попихач, позивач, читач***-ак***співак, мастак***-іст***машиніст, програміст*-****ант/ент***практикант, дилетант, студент, кореспондент***-ака***писака, зівака***-ан***критикан***-ло***брехло, вайло***-нь***учень, злидень, здоровань***-ша***лівша***-ля; -еса; -ка; -иця***поетеса, актриса, праля, ткаля, практикантка, провідниця***-ин***молдаванин, грузин***-як***сибіряк, свояк***-ит***одесит, сибарит, бандит |

Ukrainian words of this type may have diminutive, caressing or coarsened variations *-ньк-, -чк-, -ець, -езн-, -ил-, etc*: *зіронька, сонечко, кияночка, шахтарочка, вітерець, малесенький, малюсінький, здоровенний, дівуля, дівчисько, дівчинонька, дівчинка, дівка, бабега, дідуган, шоферюга, волоцюга,ледацюга,).*

The correlation of the other noun-forming suffixes are given in table 2:

***Table 2***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Ukrainian** |
| ***-ion***explanation, probation, rotation, explosion*-****ment***unemployment, movement, appointment, enjoyment*-****ance/-ence***experience, reassurance, entrance***-ancyl-ency***valency, insolvency, pregnancy***-ness***happiness, willingness, tenderness, kindness***-ism***cynicism, criticism***-th***breadth, width***-dom***freedom, officialdom, kingdom***-ship***friendship, statesmanship***-hood***childhood, likelihood***-ing***unbuilding, painting | ***-ота***доброта, скорбота, біднота***-ина***ширина, довжина***-їсть***бідність, убогість, більшість, вагітність***-ство***товариство, малярство, правознавство, дитинство***-ання/-ення***призначення, сьогодення, світання, пояснення***-изм/ізм***шовінізм, расизм***-ція***ерудиція, апробація, агітація, симуляція***-(іт)тя***безробіття, лихоліття, майбуття, шмаття |

The **adjective-forming suffix** *-ful*has the meaning of “full of”, “characterised by” *(beautiful, careful)*whereas *-ish*may often imply insufficiency of quality *(greenish —*green, but not quite; *youngish*— not quite young but looking it):

Although Polly was *twelvish,*a year younger, she did not seem it. (Howard).

He felt a little foolish saying such a thing - a little *auntieish*- but it was clear the guy needed reassurance(King).

Coming on the heels of what had just happened, I might have considered this *Tom Clancyish*vehicle a hallucination, except for the bumper-sticker (King)

Such examples might lead one to the somewhat hasty conclusion that the meaning of a derived word is always a sum of the meanings of its morphemes: *un/eat/able*= “not fit to eat” where *not*stands for *un-*and *fit*for *-able.*

There are numerous derived words whose meanings can really be easily deduced from the meanings of their constituent parts. Yet, such cases represent only the first and simplest stage of semantic readjustment within derived words. The constituent morphemes within derivatives do not always preserve their current meanings and are open to subtle and complicated semantic shifts.

Let us take at random some of the adjectives formed with the same productive suffix *-y,*and try to deduce the meaning of the suffix from their dictionary definitions:

*brainy*(inform.) — intelligent, intellectual, i. e. *characterised by*brains

*catty*— quietly or slyly malicious, spiteful, i. e. *characterised by features*ascribed to a cat

*chatty*— given to chat, *inclined to*chat

*dressy*(inform.) — showy in dress, i. e. *inclined to*dress well or to be overdressed

*fishy*(e. g. in *a fishy story,*inform.) — improbable, hard to believe *(like*stories told by fishermen)

*foxy*— foxlike, cunning or crafty, i. e. *characterised by features*ascribed to a fox

*stagy*— theatrical, unnatural, i. e. *inclined to*affectation, to unnatural theatrical manners

*touchy*— apt to take offence on slight provocation, i. e. *resenting*a touch or contact (not at all inclined to be touched)

The Random-House Dictionary defines the meaning of the *-y*suffix as “characterised by or inclined to the substance or action of the root to which the affix is attached”. Yet, even the few given examples show that, on the one hand, there are cases, like *touchy*or *fishy*that are not covered by the definition. On the other hand, even those cases that are roughly covered, show a wide variety of subtle shades of meaning. It is not only the suffix that adds its own meaning to the meaning of the root, but the suffix is, in its turn, affected by the root and undergoes certain semantic changes, so that the mutual influence of root and affix creates a wide range of subtle nuances.

It is sufficient to examine further examples to see that other affixes also offer an interesting variety of semantic shades. Compare, for instance, the meanings of adjective-forming suffixes in each of these groups of adjectives.

1) *eatable (fit*or *good*to eat);

*lovable (worthy of*loving);

*questionable (open to*doubt, to question);

*imaginable (capable of*being imagined);

2) *lovely*(charming, beautiful, i. e. *inspiring*love)

*lonely*(solitary, without company; lone; the meaning of the suffix does not seem to add anything to that of the root)

3)*friendly (characteristic of*or *befitting*a friend)

*heavenly (resembling*or *befitting*heaven; beautiful, splendid)

4) *childish (resembling*or *befitting*a child)

*tallish*(rather tall, but not quite, i. e. *approaching the quality of*big size)

*girlish (like*a girl, but, often, in a bad imitation of one)

*bookish*(1) *given or devoted to*reading or study; (2) more acquainted with books than with real life, i. e. *possessing the quality of*bookish learning)

The semantic distinctions of words produced from the same root by means of different affixes are also of considerable interest, both for language studies and research work. Compare:

*womanly*— *womanish,*

*flowery*— *flowered*— *flowering,*

*starry*— *starred,*

*reddened*— *reddish,*

*shortened*— *shortish.*

The semantic difference between the members of these groups is very obvious: the meanings of the suffixes are so distinct that they colour the whole words.

*Womanly*is used in a complimentary manner about girls and women, whereas *womanish*is used to indicate an effeminate man and certainly implies criticism.

*Flowery*is applied to speech or a style (cf. with the Rus. цветистый, UA. барвистий ), *flowered*means ‘decorated with a pattern of flowers” (e. g. *flowered silk or chintz, cf.*with the Rus. цветастый, UA. квітчастий ) and *flowering*is the same as *blossoming*(e. g. *flowering bushes or shrubs, cf.*with the Rus. цветущий, UA. квітучий ).

*Starry*means “resembling stars” (e. g. *starry eyes)*and starred — “covered or decorated with stars” (e. g. *starred skies).*

*Reddened*and *shortened*both imply the result of an action or process, as in *the eyes reddened with weeping*or *a shortened version of a story*(i.e. a story that has been abridged) whereas *shortish*and *reddish*point to insufficiency of quality: *reddish*is not exactly red, but tinged with red, and a *shortish*man is probably a little taller than a man described as short.

Adjective-forming suffix both in English and Ukrainian are given in table 3:

***Table 3***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Ukrainian** |
| ***-able/ible***probable, vulnerable, miserable, edible, perceptible***-al***accidental, seasonal, tribal***-ic***poetic, archaic, public***-ical***rhetorical, political***-ant/ent***pleasant, constant, different, insistent***-ate/-ete***separate, appropriate, complete***-ed/d***hooked, married, bearded***-ful***shameful, beautiful, careful, thoughtful, wakeful, harmful***-ish***outlandish, English, childish***-ive***passive, destructive, corrective***-less***mericless, childless***-like***childlike, lifelike***-ly***manly, cowardly***-ous***glorious, nervous, atrocious, contiguous, garrulous, obvious***-some***quarrelsome, tiresome***-y***moody, juicy, dreamy | ***-ов-ий***випадковий, спадковий, чорновий, зимовий***-н-ий***їстівний, безпечний, сумний, хмарний, тривожний***-ич-н-ий***поетичний, епічний, політичний, проблематичний, публічний***-ат-ий/ят-ий***бородатий, рогатий, багатий***-увати/-юват-***дурнуватий, синюватий, вовчкуватий***-ив-***мінливий, щасливий***-ив/н-ий***активний, прогресивний***-уч-ий***балакучий, сипучий***-ський/-цький***панський, студентський, англійський, перекладацький, читацький |

Suffixes forming the other parts of speech are given in table 4:

***Table 4***

|  |
| --- |
| **Suffixes** |
| **Numeral-forming suffixes** | **Verb-forming suffixes** | **Adverb-forming suffixes** |
| ***-fold***twofold***-teen***fourteen***-th***seventh***-ty*** sixty | ***-ate***facilitate***-er***glimmer***-en***shorten***-fy/-ify***terrify, solidify***-ize***equalize***-ish***establish | ***-ly***coldly***-ward/-wards***upward, northwards***-wise***likewise |