

# DERIVATION

## LECTURE 9

# Derivation

- I. Derivational Structure.
- II. Derivational Relations.
- III. Derivational Bases.
  - 3.1. Structural Classification of Derivational Bases.
- IV. Derivational Affixes.
  - 4.1. Semantic Characteristics of Derivational Affixes.
  - 4.2. Semi-affixes.
- V. Derivational Patterns.
  - 5.1. Structural-semantic Classification of Derivational Patterns.

# I. DERIVATIONAL STRUCTURE

- **Word-derivation** in morphology is a word-formation process by which a new word is built from a stem – usually through the addition of an affix – that changes the word class and / or basic meaning of the word.

**Derivational structure** - the nature, type and arrangement of the ICs of the word.

### **Prefixational derivative**

*Unmistakable* - the prefixational morpheme is added to the sequence of the root and suffixational morphemes.

*Un-* and *-mistakable* = ‘not mistakable’

### **Suffixational derivative**

*Discouraging* – the suffixational morpheme is added to the combination of the prefixational and the root morphemes.

*Discourage-* and *-ing* = ‘something that discourages’.

## II. DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS

### **SIMPLEXES** –

- are words which derivationally cannot be segmented into ICs.
- The morphological stem of simple words, i.e. the part of the word which takes on the system of grammatical inflections is semantically non-motivated and independent of other words, for example, *hand, come, blue*, etc.

# Morphemically

it may be monomorphic in which case its stem coincides with the free root-morpheme as in, e.g., ***hand, come, blue***, etc.

or polymorphic in which case it is a sequence of bound morphemes as in, e.g., ***anxious, theory, public***, etc.

# COMPLEXES / DERIVATIVES

- are words which depend on some other simpler lexical items that motivate them structurally and semantically, i.e. the meaning and the structure of the derivative is understood through the comparison with the meaning and the structure of the source word.

## *Derivatives*

are secondary, motivated units, made up as a rule of two ICs, i.e. binary units, for example, words like

- *Friendliness* = *friendly* + *-ness*,
- *Unwifely* = *un-* + *wifely*,
- *school-masterish* = *schoolmaster*+*-ish*

The ICs are brought together according to specific rules of order and arrangement preconditioned by the system of the language. Derivatives are marked by the fixed order of their ICs.



The basic elementary units of the derivative structure of words are:

- **derivational bases,**
- **derivational affixes,**
- **derivational patterns**

**Derivational relations** are the relations between words with a common root but of different derivational structure.

# DERIVATIONAL BASE

- is the part of the word, which establishes connection with the lexical unit that motivates the derivative and determines its individual lexical meaning describing the difference between words in the same derivational set.
- *dancer, rebuilder, whitewasher* - active doers of the action, is signaled by the lexical meaning of the derivational bases: *dance-*, *rebuild-*, *whitewash-*, which establish connection with the motivating source verb.

# Differential characteristics of morphological stem and derivational base

A morphological stem	A derivational base
1) the starting point for <b>the forms</b> of the word ( <i>heart – hearts</i> )	1) the starting point <b>for different words</b> ( <i>heart – hearty – heartless, heartbeat</i> )
2) <b>predicts</b> the part-of-speech meaning of the word ( <i>daydreamer</i> (n))	2) <b>does not predict</b> the part-of-speech meaning of the word ( <i>daydreamer</i> (n) from <i>daydream</i> (v))
3) stands for the whole semantic structure of the word, <b>represents all lexical meanings of the word</b> ( <i>glass</i> (n) – 1. a hard clear substance; 2. a small container for drinking out of; 3. attractive objects made of glass; 4. mirror; 5. a barometer)	3) <b>represents only one meaning of the source word</b> ( <i>glassful</i> – a drinking vessel; <i>glassy</i> – smooth and shiny like glass)

# Derivatives

- *fiery, fire-place, to fire, fire-escape, firearm* have bases built on the stem of the same source noun *fire*.
- *fire-escape, fire-engine, fire-alarm* are semantically motivated by the meaning 'destructive burning'.
- *firearms, ceasefire, (to) fire* are motivated by another meaning 'shooting'.
- *fiery* (as in *fiery speech, eyes*) is motivated by the meaning 'strong emotion, excited feeling'.

- *starlet, starry, starlike, starless* are all motivated by the derivational base meaning ‘a heavenly body seen in the night as distant point of light’.
- *Stardom положение звезды, starlet, to star* motivated by the base meaning ‘a person famous as actor, singer’ though both represent the same morphological stem of the word *star*.

### 3.1. STRUCTURAL CLASSIFICATION OF DERIVATIONAL BASES

- 1. **Bases that coincide with morphological stems**, for example, *dutiful, dutifully; to day-dream, daydreamer*;
- Stems that serve as this class of bases may be of different derivational types thus forming derivational bases of different degrees of complexity:
  1. **simple stems**, which consist of only one, semantically non-motivated constituent:  
*pocket, motion, retain*;

## 2. derived stems, which are semantically and structurally motivated.

They are binary: *girlish, girlishness* .

The derived stem of the word *girlish* is *girl*, whereas the derived stem of the word *girlishness* – *girlish-*;

- *to weekend* derived from the noun *weekend*;
- *to daydream* – from the noun *daydream*;
- *to parrot* ◀ *parrot*;
- *a drive* ◀ *to drive*;
- *a cut* ◀ *to cut*.

3. compound stems are always binary and semantically motivated, but unlike the derived stems both ICs of compound stems are stems themselves:

*match-box* (two simple stems),

*letter-writer* (one simple and one derived stem);

*aircraft-carrier* ( a compound and derived stem).

**But!**

*girl* ► *girly, girlish, girdles, girl-friend;*

*girlish* ► *girlishness & girlishly*



## 2. Bases that coincide with word-forms: *unsmiling, paper-bound*.

- This class of bases is represented by verbal word-forms the present and the past participles. The collocability of this class of derivational bases is confined to:
  - a) a few derivational affixes such as the prefix *un-* and the suffix *-ly*: *unnamed, unknown; smilingly, knowingly*;
  - b) other bases which coincide only with nominal and adjectival stems: *mocking-bird, dancing-girl, ice-bound, easygoing*.

3. Bases they coincide with  
word-groups: *flat-waisted сглаженная*  
*талиа сердца, second-rateness*  
*посредственностъ.*

- Bases of this class allow a rather limited range of collocability.
- They are mostly combined with derivational affixes in the class of adjectives and nouns:  
*blue-eyed, long-fingered, old-worldish.*

Free word-groups make up the greater part of this class of bases.

## IV. DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES -

are Immediate Constituents of derived words in all parts of speech.

Semantically derivational affixes are characterized by a unity of

- part-of-speech meaning,
- lexical meaning,
- differential meaning;
- distributional meanings.

# Derivational affixes have two basic functions:

1. stem building which is common to all affixational morphemes:  
derivational and non-derivational,  
cf.: *-sh* in the words *girlish, greyish*  
and *-ish* in the words *publish, distinguish*;

2. word-building, this is the function of repatterning a derivational base and thus forming new words.

The repatterning may result in transferring a derivational base into the stem of another part of speech, for example, the derivational suffix *-ness* in the words *friendliness* and *girlishness* repattern the adjectival derivational bases *friendly-*, *girlish-* into the noun stems.

## 4.1. SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

- The part-of-speech meaning is proper to derivational suffixes and prefixes in different degrees.
- Prefixes like *en-*, *de-*, *out-*, *un-*, *be-* possess the part-of-speech meaning and function as verb classifiers, for example, *enlarge*, *deice*, *unhook*, *befriend*.
- The prefix *over-* evidently lacks the part-of-speech meaning and is freely used both for verbs and adjectives, for example, *oversleep*, *overeat*, *over-confident*, *over-worried*.

# The lexical meaning in derivational affixes may be viewed at different levels:

1. the lexical meaning of a generic type proper to a set of affixes, forming a semantic subset.  
The meaning of resemblance found in the suffixes *-ish, -like, -y, -ly* (*spiderish, spiderlike, spidery*);  
The meaning of abstract quality conveyed by the suffixes *-ness, -ty* (*blindness, equality*);  
The meaning of absence conveyed by the prefix *un-* and the suffix *-less* (*unclean, unlucky, speechless, heartless*);

2. an individual lexical meaning shared by no other affix.

The suffixes *-ish*, *-like*, *-y* all have the meaning of resemblance

but *-like* conveys an overall resemblance, *-ish* conveys likeness to the most typical qualities of the object;

*-y* conveys likeness to outer shape, form, size of the object.



- Derivational affixes may be monosemantic, for example, the prefix *omni-* meaning ‘all’ (*omnipresence* *вездесущность*, *omniscience* *везнание*), and polysemantic, for example, the suffix *-less* meaning ‘lacking smth’ (*brainless*, *endless*) and ‘exceeding a category’ (*timeless*, *countless*).

## 4.2. SEMI-AFFIXES

- - are elements which stand midway between roots and affixes.
- These are morphemes whose derivational function does not allow one to refer them either to derivational affixes or to bases, e.g., *half-* in the word *half-done, half-broken*; *self-* in the words *self-made, self-interest*; *ill-* in the word *ill-dressed, ill-behaved*.

On the one hand, these morphemes retain certain lexical ties with the root-morphemes of independent words, on the other hand, they function as derivational prefixes.

# SEMI-AFFIXES

**well**

- *Well-fed*
- *Well-dressed*
- *Well-educated*
- *Well-done*
- *Well-mannered*
- *Well-armed*

**man**

- *Postman*
- *Cabman*
- *Chairman*
- *Salesman*
- *Sportsman*
- *Fisherman*

# V. DERIVATIONAL PATTERNS

- DP is a regular meaningful arrangement, a structure that imposes rigid rules on the order and the nature of the derivational bases and affixes that may be brought together.
- Small letters **v**, **n**, **a**, **d**, **num** stand for the bases which coincide with the stems of the respective parts of speech: *verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs*;
- **v<sub>ed</sub>**, **v<sub>ing</sub>** stand for the bases which are the past and present participles respectively.
- In words of the *long-fingered* or *sit-inner участник судячей забастовки* type the derivational bases are represented by bracketed symbols of the parts of speech making up the corresponding collocations, for example  $(a+n)+$   $+-ed$ ),  $(v+d) +$  **er**.

## 5.1. STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF DERIVATIONAL PATTERNS

1. at the level of **structural types** patterns are known as **structural formulas**. They specify only the class membership of ICs and the direction of motivation, such as **a+sf** → **N**, **prf +n** → **V**, **prf + n** → **N**, **n + sf** → **N**, **n + sf** → **V**, etc.



In terms of patterns of this type, all words may be classified into four classes:

1. **suffixal derivatives:** *friendship, glorified, blackness, skyward*, etc.;
2. **prefixal derivatives:** *rewrite, exboxer, non-smoker, un-happy*, etc.;
3. **conversions:** *a cut, to parrot, to winter*, etc.;
4. **compound words:** *key-ring, music-lover, wind-driven*, etc.

2. at the level of *structural patterns* which specify the base classes and individual affixes thus indicating the lexical-grammatical and lexical classes of derivatives within certain structural classes of words.

The affixes refer derivatives to specific parts of speech and lexical subsets as, for example, DP **n + ish** → **A** signals a set of adjectives with the lexical meaning of resemblance, for example, *boyish, girlish, womanish*, whereas **a + -ish** → **A** signals adjectives meaning a small degree of quality, for example, *pinkish, whitish, wildish*, etc.

3. at the level of **structural-semantic patterns** the latter specify semantic peculiarities of bases and individual meanings of affixes.

The nominal bases in the pattern **n+*-ess* → N** are confined to nouns having in their semantic structures a component ‘a male animate being’: *lioness, traitress, stewardess*, etc.;

The nominal bases in **n+*-ful*<sub>2</sub> → N** are limited by nouns having a semantic component ‘container’: *lungful, careful, mouthful*, whereas in **n+*-ful*<sub>1</sub> → A** the nominal bases are confined to nouns of abstract meaning.



- The same is true of the pattern **n + -y → A** which represents different semantic sets of derivatives specified by semantic constraints imposed on both the bases and the suffix: nominal bases denoting living beings are collocated with the suffix *-y* meaning ‘resemblance’: *birdy, spidery, doggy*, etc., but nominal bases denoting material, parts of the body attract another meaning of the suffix *-y* that of ‘considerable amount, size’ resulting in the adjectives like *powdery, grassy, leggy, starry*, etc.

## 6. HISTORICAL CHANGEABILITY OF WORD-STRUCTURE

1. Process of simplification:
  - a. root-morphemes may turn into affixational or semi-affixational morphemes;
  - b. polymorphic words may become monomorphic;
  - c. compound words may be transformed into derived or even simple words.

E.g. *friendship – frēōndscipe*;

*husband – hus-bond-a*;

*cupboard [k0bqd]*

# Summary and Conclusions

1. Derivational level of analysis aims at finding out the derivative types of words, the interrelation between them and at finding out how different types of derivatives are constructed.

2. Derivationally all words form two structural classes: simplexes, i.e. simple, non-derived words and complexes, or derivatives. Derivatives fall into: suffixal derivatives, prefixal derivatives, conversions and compounds. The relative importance of each structural type is conditioned by its frequency value in actual speech and its importance in the existing word-stock.

3. Each structural type of complexes shows preference for one or another part of speech. Within each part of speech derivative structures are characterised by a set of derivational patterns.
4. The basic elementary units of the derivative structure are: derivational bases, derivational affixes, derivational patterns.

5. Derivational bases differ from stems both structurally and semantically. Derivational bases are built on the following language units: a) stems of various structure, b) word-forms, c) word-groups or phrases. Each class and subset of bases has its own range of collocability and shows peculiar ties with different parts of speech.

6. Derivational affixes form derived stems by repatterning derivational bases. Semantically derivational affixes present a unity of lexical meaning and other types of meaning: functional, distributional and differential unlike non-derivational affixes which lack lexical meaning.

7. Derivational patterns (DP) are meaningful arrangements of various types of ICs that can be observed in a set of words based on their mutual interdependence. DPs can be viewed in terms of collocability of each IC. There are two types of DPs — structural that specify base classes and individual affixes, and structural-semantic that specify semantic peculiarities of bases and the individual meaning of the affix.



- DPs of different levels of generalisation signal:
  1. 1) the class of source unit that motivates the derivative and the direction of motivation between different classes of words;
  2. 2) the part of speech of the derivative;
  3. 3) the lexical sets and semantic features of derivatives.

## REFERENCES:

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