

# **ENGLISH LEXICOLOGY**

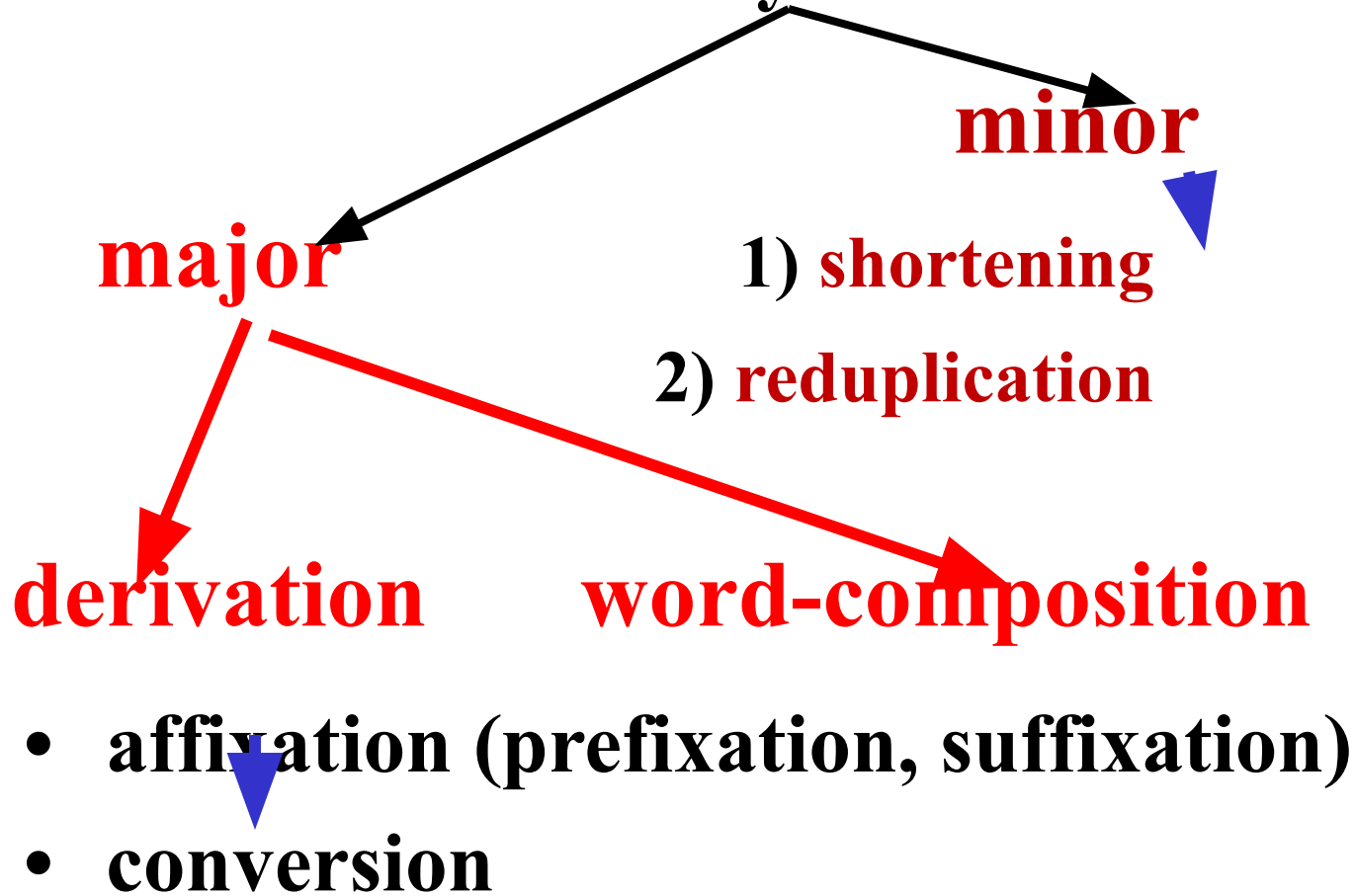
## **Lecture 7**

# **MAJOR WAYS of WORD-FORMATION**

*Questions for discussion:*

- 1. Ways of WF: major & minor.**
- 2. Major ways of WF.**

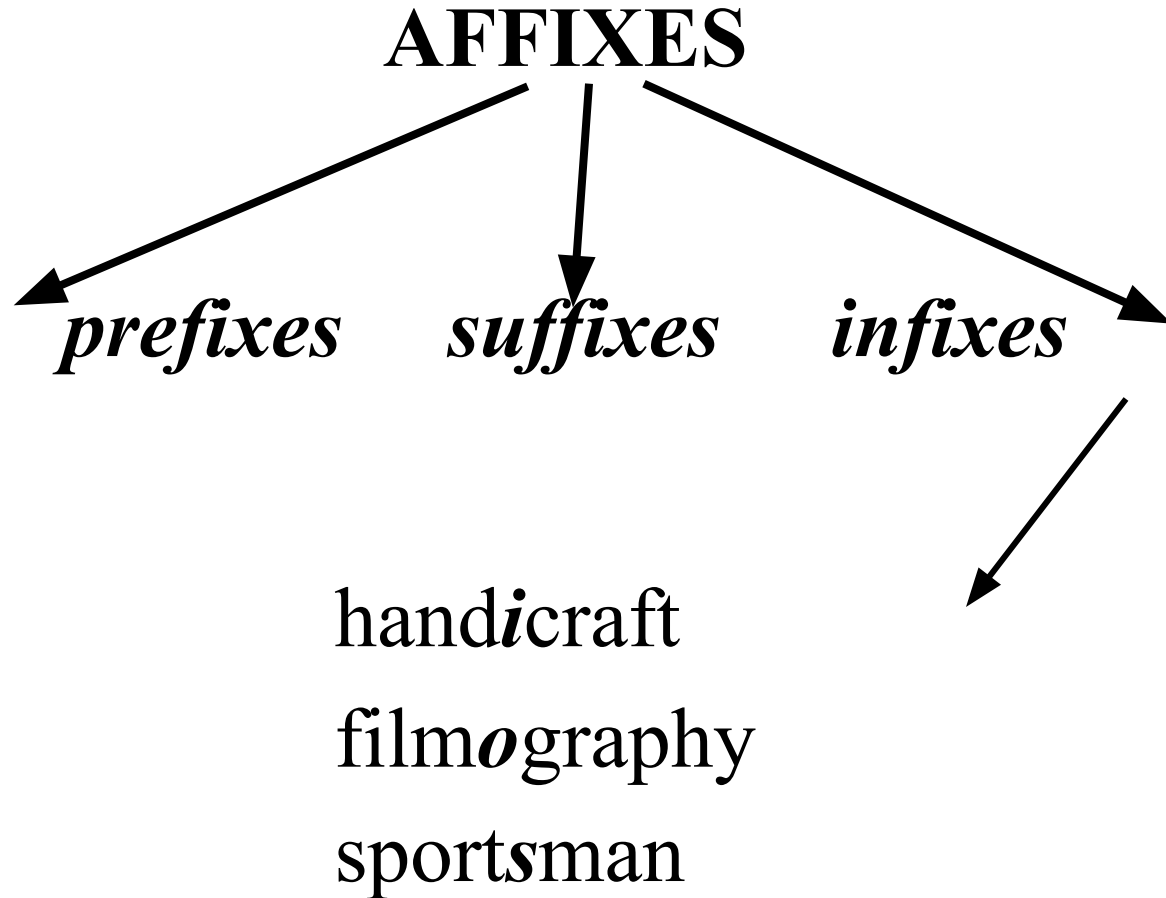
# Way of WF



## **Major ways of WF:**

- **productivity;**
- **frequency.**

**AFFIXATION** – the formation of words by adding DAs to different types of DBs



## **Classification of affixes (criteria):**

- 1) semantic;**
- 2) stylistic;**
- 3) etymological;**
- 4) functional;**
- 5) degree of productivity.**

## 2. Stylistic criterion:

### Affixes possessing:

- 1) *neutral* stylistic reference: *un-*, *over-*; *-er*;
- 2) a *definite* stylistic reference: *pseudo-*, *ultra-*(violet); (aster/rhomb)-*oid*; (girl)-*ie*.

### 3. Etymological criterion:

**Affixes are divided into:**

- 1) *native*: *under-*, *out-*; *-dom*, *-hood*, *-ship*;
- 2) *borrowed/foreign*: *inter*-(continental),  
*dis*-(connect), *re-*; (clon)-*able*, (age)-*ism*.



## 4. Functional criterion:

**Affixes are:**

- 1) ***convertive/class-changing***: *a*-(board),  
*be*-(friend), *en*-(danger); *-ness*, *-ous*,  
*(dark)-en*;
- 2) ***non-convertive/class-maintaining***: *a*-(moral),  
*ex*-; *(cloud)-let*, *(lion)-ess*; *-ish*.

## 5. Degree of productivity:

**Affixes are viewed as:**

- 1) *productive: un-, re-; -er, -ish, -less;*
- 2) *non-productive: demi-(god);  
(drunk)-ard, -hood, (permiss/mass)-ive,  
-th.*

**PREFIXATION** – the formation of words with the help of prefixes.

## Semantically prefixes may denote:

- 1) *negation*: un-, in-, dis-, a-, non-, anti-, de-;
- 2) *pejoration*: ab-(normal), mis-(inform), mal-(treat), pseudo-(morpheme);
- 3) *locative* prfxs: super-(structure), sub-(way), inter-(continental), trans-(Atlantic);
- 4) *time & order*: fore-(tell/see/shadow), pre-/post-(war), ex-, co-(exist);
- 5) *repetition*: re-

**SUFFIXATION** – the formation of words with the help of suffixes.

## Semantically suffixes may denote:

- 1) ***agent/profession/instrument***: (hat)-*er*, *-ant*, *-ee*, *-ian*, *-ist*;
- 2) ***abstract quality***: *-ness*, *-th*, *-ance/ence*;
- 3) ***diminutiveness & endearment***: *-ie* (horsie, girlie), (book/ring)-*let*, (goose/duck/wolf)-*ling*, *-ette* (kitchenette);
- 4) ***similarity***: (redd/blu)-*ish*, (woman/man)-*like*, (trouble)-*some*.

# DEBATABLE problems of affixation:

1) **semi-free/bound morphemes:** *over*-(do), *under*-(estimate); (cab)-*man* – *affix. derivatives* or *compound words*?

- *-friendly* (user-friendly, customer-friendly, environment-friendly, learner-friendly, girl-friendly);
- *-type* (birthday-type, examination-type, Hollywood-type, Mr-Smith-type, textbook-type);
- *-like* (rocklike, sharklike, unladylike, finger-like, needle-like, James Bond-like).

## DEBATABLE problems of affixation:

2) combining forms: *hyper-*, *tele-*, *mini-* or *-logy*  
– *affixes* or *roots*?

- *hyper**connected*, *cyber**culture*,  
*mega**terror/brand*, *tele**text*



## Most active prefixes:

- **dis-** (disallow, disarm, discontinue);
- **de-** (decode, defrost, deselect, devalue);
- **out-** (outgrow, outperform, outweigh);
- **pre-** (prejudge, prepackage, pretest);
- **under-** (undercut, underfund, undervalue);
- **un-** (unfollow, unfriend)

## Most active suffixes:

- **-ism** (Gr.) – (sexism, ageism, alphabetism, workaholicism, scapegoatism);
  - **-ee** (divorcee, escapee, retiree, trainee, licensee, returnee);
  - **-able**: v + sfx (breathable, likeable, lovable, avoidable, electable, danceable (music)); n + sfx (knowledgeable, pleasurable, practicable, offshorable);
  - **-ess** (lioness, huntress, priestess, authoress, doctress, clerkess);
- native**:
- **-ing** (overparenting, video-conferencing, trolling,);
  - **-er** (hater, footballer, silencer, answerer, insider, flash mobber, IBMer);
  - **-ness** (overcarefulness, expertness, aboutness);

# CONVERSION:

- the process of changing a word class without adding an affix;
- the case of phonetic identity of 2 words belonging to different parts of speech

*eye – to eye, water – to water; to run – a run*

## Namings:

- *affixless* word-derivation,
- *zero*-derivation (a *zero affix*),
- *root*-formation,
- *functional* change,
- a change of a *word's paradigm*,
- *semantic* derivation

## Approaches to **CONVERSION** as:

- a case of *polysemy*?
- a case of *homonymy*  
(*lexical-grammatical*)?

# SEMANTIC RELATIONS within a conversion pair

## Denominal verbs typically denote:

- ❖ *action characteristic* of an object (*to father, to fool, to boss; Women pilot planes & man ships.*);
- ❖ *instrumental use* of an object (*to whip, to knife*);
- ❖ *acquisition/addition* of an object (*to fish, to milk*);
- ❖ *deprivation* of an object (*to dust, to skin*).

# SEMANTIC RELATIONS within a conversion pair

## Deverbal nouns typically denote:

- ❖ *instance* of an action (*a jump, a smile, a try*);
- ❖ *agent* of an action (*a help, a cheat, a bore*);
- ❖ *place* of an action (*a drive, a race, a run*);
- ❖ *object/result* of an action (*a peel, help; a good buy*).

## **BASIC CRITERIA of semantic derivation:**

- 1) ***synonymity*** (to chat – a chat ← *to converse* – a conversation; to show – a show ← *to exhibit* – an exhibition);
- 2) ***derivational*** cr. (**derivational relations within the word family**: ‘hand – to hand’ – ‘*handful, handy, handed*’; ‘float -- to float’ – ‘*floatable, floater, floating, floatation*’);
- 3) ***semantic*** cr. (**semantic relations within a conversion pair**);



4) ***frequency*** of occurrence of either of the 2 members of the conversion pair: *to joke* (8%) – *a joke* (82%);

5) ***transformational*** cr. (transformation of nominalisation):

- Tom *loves* nature. – *Tom's love of nature.*  
(love – to love)
- Kate *bosses* the offices. – *\*Kate's boss of the office.*  
(boss – to boss)

**COMPOUNDING/WORD-COMPOSITION**  
**ON -- combining 2 *immediate constituents***  
**which are both *derivational bases*.**

## CRITERIA of compound words:

- 1) **semantic: semantic cohesion of CWs** (*'a tallboy' – 'a tall boy'*); but: phraseological units:
- 2) **phonetic: unity stress** (*'best-seller*) or **double stress** (*'blood-,vessel; ,sky-'blue*), but: level stress as in *'arm-'chair*);
- 3) **graphic: solid** (*airbus*) or **hyphenated spelling** (*chatter-box*), but: *'air piracy, cat food*;
- 4) **morphological & syntactic: formal & structural integrity** (*'a blackboard' & 'a very black board'*; *the tallest boy*).

## PROBLEM area:

- **differentiating** btw *nominal compounds* & *'stone wall' constructions*

□ *sandcastle ? sand castle ?*

□ *price rise, but: price control, price list;*

□ *wage freeze, but: wage-earner.*

## Criteria of CLASSIFICATION of compounds:

- 1) **degree of semantic integrity:** *idiomatic/non-idiomatic* (earworm, crowdfunding, catfish);
- 2) **part of speech** (*nominal, adjectival, verbal* etc.);
- 3) **means of composition:** *with/out a linking element* (statesman, train-sick);
- 4) **type of the constituent bases forming the compound:** *compounds proper* (bitcoin) & *derivational compounds* (teenager, long-legged).