ON BLENDING IN MODERN ENGLISH

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Abstract: *Articolul cercetează telescoparea ca model de formare a cuvintelor, examinând abordările lingviştilor în definirea acestui tip important de creare a unor cuvinte noi în limba engleză modernă. Articolul se axează pe caracteristicile de bază ale prescurtărilor şi încearcă să identifice diferite tipuri de cuvinte formate prin telescopare evidenţiind cele mai frecvent utilizate cazuri de cuvinte de acest fel.*
Scopul articolului este de a demonstra că telescoparea joacă un rol important în procesul de îmbogătire a vocabularului , dat fiind că engleza modernă este bogată în cuvinte telescopate, care au pătruns rapid în toate sferele vieţii. Aşa cum prescurtările apar în mod constant şi sînt frecvent utilizate în comunicare, ele devin cuvinte obişnuite ale vocabularului nostru.

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Blending is one of the causes that contributes to the enrichment of the vocabulary. Many scholars agree that this *new method* is becoming more and more active and productive, and, it is believed to create a great part of the new words appearing in the English language. There are different names for this particular type of word- building such as *blends, fusions or portmanteau words.* This process is also called "**telescoping-** because words seem to slide into one another like sections of a telescope" (Arnold 1986: 78). Many linguists interpret blends as a type of word-building, which is a combination of two or more words to create a new one, usually by taking the beginning of one word and the end of the other.

Smog -sm[oke] + [f]og

Faction- fact + [fict]ion

Foodled - food + [nood]le

As we see the meaning of the word that appears as a result of blending includes completely or partially the meanings of its structural components.

Analyzing word formation patterns linguists claim that the history of blending is closely connected with Lewis Carroll's works "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" where he skillfully created the first blends, and, we can state that he did this famously through the character of Humpty Dumpty:

'Well, "slithy" means "lithe" and "slimy"... You see it's like a portmanteau where two meanings are packed into one word.' (L.Carroll, p. 102)

Here are some other Carroll's examples:

Mimsy (adj.) - *miserable + flimsy*

Galumph (v.) - *gallop + triumph*

Blending has been investigated by many linguists in a variety of studies. Thus, speaking about word –building, a famous scholar Bauer affirms that ''[a] *blend may be defined as a new lexeme formed from parts of two (or possibly more) other words in such a way that there is no transparent analysis into morph*s" (Bauer 1984: 239).

Cannon's work is based on an analysis of English blends where he formulates a definition which gives some criteria that are characteristic of the most typical blends: *"A blend involves a telescoping of two or more separate forms into one, or, rarely, a superposition of one form upon another"* (Cannon 1986: 123).

I. Arnold, in her work *"The English Word.*" proposes the following definition: *"Blends may be defined as formations that combine two words and include the letters or sounds they have in common as a connecting element "* (Arnold 1986: 80).

Algeo's definition of blends is *"A blend is a word made by joining two or more forms but omitting at least part of one"* (Algeo 1991: 10).

Another scholar states that "*Blends are arbitrary portions of words clipped off and stitched together* "(Trask, p. 39).

To sum up all these definitions, we can say that *a blend occurs when two or more elements "blend" together, so that at the point of "mixture" something is either lost from at least one element, or shared by both.*

At the same time it is worth mentioning that there are different points of view concerning the place of blends among other types of word-building:"Sometimes it is identified with compound words, sometimes with abbreviation. There are opinions that blends occupy an intermediate position between compounds and abbreviations"(Бортничук 1988:174).

Yes, it can be said that all these differences of opinions can be accounted by the fact that it is a "*young type*" of word- building. According to Valery Adams, the main mass of blends appeared only in the 20th century and the productivity of this word- building type has permanently grown since then. We can affirm that these words represent a serious and considerable addition to the vocabulary of Modem English. Many blends bear a private or situational character and such words are not registered in dictionaries. And we have to remark that the peculiarity of blend words is their dependence on the context. Thus, we can conclude that it is hard to understand the meaning of the majority of blends without explaining their components.

Dwelling on the problem of blending, linguists consider that several criteria should be applied in order to understand their structure and meaning. Thus, blends are classified according to some parameters:

According to the parts of speech that appear as a result of blending. And it should be remarked that the results proved to be the following: the most numerous examples of new words appeared as nouns made by blending of two words: **Chunnel -** (channel + tunnel) ;**Magalog** - (magazine + catalogue); **Monergy** - (money + energy); **Faction** - (fact + fiction); **Infotainment -** (information + entertainment); **Worcaholic** - (work + alcoholic);   **Candigram** - (candies + telegram). These are examples of **desubstantival nouns** which are mostly used by *business, mass media and advertising.*

 Besides the above mentioned examples there are nouns formed from other parts of speech. These are **deverbal**, **deadjectival** and other types of nouns.

Speaking about **deadjectival nouns** we can give the following examples:

Intercom - (internal + communication); **Popaganda** - (popular + propaganda; **Mariculture** - (marine + agriculture); **Slang** - (slovenly + language); **Animatronics** -(animated+electronics).

There is a great number of **blending nouns fixed with one fully preserved word** such as:

Fanmiliarity - (fan + familiarity); **Japanimation** - (Japan + animation); **Foodgerator** - (food + refrigirator).

As for **deadjectival adiectives** we can offer such examples as:

Fantabulous - (fantastic + fabulous); **Affluential** - (affluent + influential); **Humongous** - (huge + monstrous); **Blafrican** - (Black + African); **Ginormous** - (gigantic + enormous).

We can also remark a number of **verbal blends**. Some of them were formed on the basis of conversion, so they could be regarded both as nouns and verbs.

Verbal blends: Flop - (flap + drop); **Waddle** - (wade + toddle);**Swipe** -(sweep + wipe);**Chortle** - (chuckle + snort); **Hassle** - (haggle + tussle); **Flurry** - (flutter + hurry);

Linguists claim that there are some models according to which blends are made.

Thus, blends are made according to the following four models:

Blends made of two fragmentary elements. Usually these blends are named **full blends**:

Stagflation - stag[nation] + [in]flation; **Chunnel** - ch[annel] + [t]unnel; **Biopic** - bio[graphical] + pic[ture]; **Memberlect** -[re]member + [recol]lect; **Broccoflower**- brocco[li]+ [cauli]flower.

Full blends may be also a combination of the initial element of the first word with the final fragment of the second word: **Tigon** - ti[ger] + [li]on; **Swacket** - sw[eater] + [j]acket; **Radionics** - radi[ation] + [electr]onics ; **Hesiflaion** - hesi[tation] + [in]flation;

It should be pointed out that the fragment of the basic word may be a bigger part of the word or may include only some letters or even one letter.

Another type of blends *are blends made of a full stem of the first basic word with a part of the stem of the second word:* **Artmobile** - art + [auto]mobile; **Boatel** - boat + [hot]el; **Breathalyser** - breath + [an] alyser.

Then linguists propose the third model of blends, and namely, *blends made of a cut fragment of the stem of the first initial word with a full stem of the second word:* **Teleplay** - tele [vision] + play; **Teleprinter** - tele[graph] + printer; **Lansign** – lan [guage] +sign; **Educreation** - edu[cation] + creation; **Ecopolitics** - eco[nomic] + politics.

Speaking about word-building patterns, linguists say that blends created on the second and third models are named ***partial.*** They claim that these blends are formations with fusion of both components. This fusion takes place one upon another both in pronunciation and in spelling. For example: **Beefish** - beef + fish; **Replicar** - replica + car ; **Barococo** - bar[oque] + rococo.

It is known that as a rule blends are formed of two elements. However there are formations made of three elements such as: **Bosnywash** — Boston + New York City + Washington;   **Fritlux** - France + Italy + Benelux; **Ameslan** - American + sign +language; **Benelux** - Belgium + Netherlands + Luxemburg. Both elements of blends involve sliding together not only of sound but meaning as well. Semantic relations are different and according to these relations, Nikolenko A.G. distinguished two types of blends. These are **additive** and **restrictive**. So, the **additive** type is the one which consists of complete stems combined by the conjunction *and*: **Smog** - sm[oke] and [f]og ; **Brunch** - br[eakfast] and [l]unch ; **Wordrobe** - word and [ward]robe; **Frenglish-** Fre[ch] and [En]glish (Nikolenko 2007).

The elements of blends may belong to the same semantic field or lexico-grammatical class of words, while the **restrictive** type represents an attributive phrase where the first element serves as a modifier of the second: **Positron** - positive electron; **Telecast** - television broadcast; **Intercom** - internal communication.

As for the semantic peculiarities it should be pointed out that as a rule linguists distinguish three main meanings of blend words.

1. These are blend words the general meaning of which is equal to the sum of meanings of their components: **Oxbridge** -Oxford + Cambridge; **Colorcast** — color + broadcast ;**Fringlish** - French + English.

2. Blend words the general meaning of which is not equal to the sum of meanings of their components. This meaning is new and very often conveys additional information on the subject or phenomena of reality. For example: **Euratom** - Europe + atom; **Eldercare** - elderly + care; **Medibank** - medical + bank.

3. Blends in which one component defines another, adds something to its meaning making it more accurate, usually the second component is the basic one: **Airgation** - air + navigation; **Norlina** - North + Carolina; **Loxygen** - liquid + oxygen.

In conclusion we can say that in linguists' opinions it is but natural for all blend words to fall into certain semantic groups such as politics, science and technology, sport and travelling, mass media, everyday life, arts, etc.

All physical aspects of the universe and all aspects of human life can change, and language is no exception. Every aspect of people's life is reflected in the words they use to talk about themselves and the world around them. As the world changes – through invention, discovery, revolution, evolution, creation and personal transformation - so does the language.

Thus, it is certain that political life introduces blends because of changes in politics, the development of science and engineering brings its own blends, and, of course, television and mass media also create very many blend words as well.

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