

27/4/20
Lecture No. (15)
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English (Hons.)

DTII / Paper VIII / Linguistics.

Topic : Word Formation. (Continued...)

In my last two of the previous lectures I have already discussed seven of the ten processes of Word Formation enumerated. The remaining three of them, i.e., "Duplication", "Word Manufacture" and "Multiple Formation" are going to be discussed here in this lecture:-

(1222) Duplication:- In this process of Word Formation, new words are obtained "by repeating an item with a change in the initial consonant or with a change in the medial vowel."

(a) The first type Duplication is "rhyme motivated", as described by Bauer in his book "English Word Formation". The examples are:-

hawk - panky ; higgledy - piggledy ;
helter - skelter ; Georgy - Porgy ;
hotch - potch ; Mumbo - Jumbo ;
hocus - focus ; teeny - weeny ;
hob - nob ; nitty - gritty . etc.

(b) The second variety of Duplication process is referred to by Bauer as ablaut-motivated one, involving the medial vowel change. These can be ^{given as} examples of the same :-
^ flip - flap ; rift - raff ;

(2)

wishy - washy ; zig - zag ;
dilly - dally ; tittle - tattle ;
tick - tock ; ping - pong etc .

However the above words as examples of "rhyme motivated" and "allant motivated" duplication - process-generated words are different from some other compounds like "bye-bye" "fifty-fifty" and "pooh-pooh" because both the constituent parts of the word are exactly the same without any change in the initial part (consonant) or the medial part (vowel).

(ix) Word-Manufacture :-

This process of Word Formation has come in vogue in recent times and brought to the notice of linguists and readers by Bauer. He writes: "The purest cases of word-manufacture" are when a word is created "ex-nihilo, with no morphological, phonological or orthographic motivation whatever". In this ~~the~~ process, ^{thus} any acceptable sequence of sounds is arbitrarily selected and used as the name of an object. These words, devoid of any etymology, have been coined with the aid of computers in recent years to become popular. Following can be cited as the examples of these :-

"Quark" - used first time by James Joyce in his novel "Finnegans Wake".

Some of these words as examples of computer

^{ones}
generated, are — 'Amtron', Daeron, orlon, Krylon
Teflon etc.

(X) Multiple Formation:—

This process of word formation, as a matter of fact, involves two processes being applied in succession, each of the two processes being obligatory for the formation of the word in question. For example:—

- handkerchief > hanky
- Comfortable > comfy
- pinefore > pinny
- underwear > undies
- nightgown > nighty

Two processes of word formation, as we see, ~~are~~ involved here. The first one is "clipping" and the second one is "derivation". If one will stop at applying only the "clipping" ~~derivation~~ to have a shorter version of the word with same meaning, the exercise will prove to ~~be~~ be futile as can well be seen in the following examples:—

- handkerchief > hank
- comfortable > comf
- underwear > und etc.

All the above shortened words are meaningless but the moment we apply the process of derivation by ~~app~~ adding the

④ suffix "y" at the end of each of them, they become alive with meaning - 'lanky', 'comfy' and 'undy' are conotative words just like "handkerchief", "comfortable" and "underwear".

Apart from the above mentioned processes, the product of which do find their ways ~~into~~ into the vocabulary of Standard English, a large number of words ~~are~~ also there in vogue which are mainly used in informal and intimate circles. These are known as "slang words" and "words produced by the "nonce-formation" process.

① Slang has been described as "a peculiar type of vagabond language, always hanging on the outskirts of the legitimate speech, but continually straying or forcing its way into the most respectable company." - For example: -

"Do-it-yourself" - this expression has received such widespread currency... that it has become established as a legitimate expression in Standard British usage.

② Nonce-Formation ^{words are,} ~~one~~ on the other hand, "used when people 'play' with language to convey effects which are 'intriguing, entertaining, endearing, or just plain funny...'" For example: -

"Lord Emsworth ambled off pigwards." - P. G. Woodhouse.

(concluded.)