

STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF SEMI-AFFIXES IN ENGLISH-FRENCH LANGUAGES

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Summary

The semi-affix is widely used in the language to create different forms of the word. There are a number of studies related to semi-affixes both in general linguistics and in Azerbaijani linguistics. In the works written on this or other occasion, half-photographers were also given a place, and opinions were expressed about their characteristics and types. As it can be seen, the role of half-images in enriching the vocabulary of the English language with new words and in word creation is very large. Therefore, a more detailed study of the processing of words with lexical meaning as suffixes is very important for both modern linguistics and grammar. The article will examine the relevant direction based on the English and French languages where semi-affixes are most active.

Key words: linguistics, semi-affixes, English, French, structural-semantic features.

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1. Introduction

It should be noted that in English some semi-affixes can be attached to the beginning of the word stem like prefixes. I. V. Arnold refers to such semi-affixes as mini-, midi- maxi- type elements. Thus, a word that names something shorter or smaller than anything of its kind is called mini- (short skirt). The same can be said about midi- and maxi- semi-affixes: midi-coat, maxi-coat, etc. R.S. Ginzburg characterizes semi-affixes as suffixes and writes that they can carry the function of both a suffix and a free morpheme. For example, the elements "well and half" are used as free words in expressions such as "sleep well", "half an hour", and on the other hand, as non-free morphemes in the combinations "well-known", "half-eaten", half-done". R.S. Ginzburg includes out-, over-, up-, under- and other prefixes in the group of semi-affixes and notes that they are used both as independent words and word-correcting suffixes. Semi-affixes play an important role in modern English word creation. However, as with verbs, they have little ability to form adjectives. These semi-affixes were acquired with certain words in Romance and Greek languages and did not form any new words in the English language.

2. Main part

Unlike compound words, words formed with the presence of semi-affixes do not break up within the compound. Prepositions are also distinguished by their ability to form parts of speech. For example, K.V. According to Piottukh's conclusion, only one of the forty-two word-correcting preforms is out- (outpour – to empty; outspread – to spread), in the formation of verbs, for- in the formation of both nouns and verbs, over- (to overload, over-curious – very

interested in something, very interesting, over-delicate – very delicate, very sensitive) and under- (underact – do not finish, underestimate – do not evaluate, underpay – do not pay in full, underproduce – do not produce the product sufficiently, underborn – underdeveloped, underbred – badly brought up, underhand – secret, behind the scenes, underarm – to put under the hand) are involved in the formation of verbs, nouns and adjectives.

R.S. Ginzburg in his book "A Course in Modern English Lexicology" divides affixes into prefixes and suffixes and writes that prefixes come at the beginning of root morphemes, and suffixes come at the end of roots. However, many grammarians include infixes in this division. Sh. V. Arnold divides affixes into prefixes, suffixes and infixes according to their place, and into word-correcting and functional suffixes according to their function. It should be noted that both prefixes and suffixes are characterized as productive affixes. They talk about prefixes in detail and show that prefixes change the meaning of a word, but do not change the word from one part of speech to another part of speech. for example: the prefix over- creates the meaning of multiplying: to load – to overload; to produce – to overproduce etc. The prefix under- means little: to value-to undervalue, to underestimate; to pay – to underpay, etc. The semi-affix post- then forms the meaning: revolutionary – postrevolutionary and so on. The semi-affix anti- produces the opposite meaning: fascist – antifascist, imperialist – anti-imperialist etc. The semi-affix Counter- gives the opposite meaning: attack – counter-attack; blow – conter-blow etc. (*Zemskaya, 2014:171*). The semi-affix inter- forms the meaning between: national – international; dependent – interdependent, etc. Front semi-affixes in English are mainly: well-, ill-, under-, out- over-, up-, etc. These semi-affixes are sometimes considered by researchers as the first component of compound words. Considering these half-images as the first component of complex words, it seems that they are written with a hyphen and the accent of the second component is pronounced with an equal emphasis. For example, well-appointed, well-balanced, well-connected, etc. However, these characteristics of them are formal and do not always have a leading role in the formation of this or that element.

In the dictionary of linguistic terms D.E. Rosenthal prefixation is defined as a method of word formation and morphology by attaching prefixes to roots and stems (*Rosenthal, 2008: 361*). Some researchers emphasize that semi-affixes, unlike suffixes, serve mainly not to translate one part of speech into another, but to change the lexical meaning of a word. So, for example, N.N. Amosova writes: "...in the English language, prefixes perform only the exclusive function of a means of restructuring the lexical meaning of a word...". I.V. Arnold in the book "Lexicology of the Modern English Language" gives the following formulation to the term prefix: "Semi-affixes are word-forming morphemes that precede the root and change the lexical meaning of the word, but, in most cases, do not affect its belonging to one or another lexicogrammatical class" (*Meshkov, 1976: 91*). However, other authors are inclined to admit that a number of prefixes are still capable of translating one part of speech into another; they are called "converting". For example, the semi-affix de- can form verbs from nouns: deplane (to disembark, unload from an airplane), detrain (to disembark, unload from a train). Using the semi-affix anti- you can form adjectives from nouns: antinoise. V.I. Shkarupin identified 25 "converting" semi-affixes in the prefix system of the English language, which form two large groups:

- semi-affixes that form verbs from substantive and adjectival stems: be-, de-, dis-, en-/in, inter-, out-, over-, re-, un-;
- semi-affixes forming adjectives from substantive stems, phrases and participles: ante-, anti-, inter-, intra-, multi-, over-, poly-, post-, pre-, pro-, sub-, super-, supra-, un-, under- (*Meshkov, 1976: 96*).

According to another classification, semi-affixes can be divided into:

- original – borrowed;
- transposing – non-transposing;
- negative – non-negative,

• monovalent – multivalent. As for English and French, it should be noted that most of the semi-affixes in these languages are borrowed from Latin and Greek. In addition, many prefixes in English are borrowed from French. A large number of prefixes express a negative meaning, which led to the identification of a special class of negative prefixes. The presence of a large number of such semi-affixes often causes some difficulties in choosing a specific prefix in a certain situation, since the addition of a prefix often depends not on a specific rule, but on the established practice of word usage. Some prefixes can be combined only with the stems of one part of speech, while others can be combined with the stems of several parts of speech.

According to K.V. Of the forty-two word-formation semi-affixes of the English language, five prefixes are involved only in the word-formation of verbs (en-, out-, be-, de-, un-), five only in the word-formation of nouns (ex-, arch-, ana-, dys-, per-); three (for-, sur-, re-) form verbs and nouns, etc. (*Meshkov, 1976:94-95*). Prefixes can form various transposing (Pref + N = V; Pref + A = V; Pref + N = A) and non-transposing schemes and models (Pref + N = N; Pref + A = A; Pref + V = V). In modern English, there are a large number of words with prefixes that have partially or completely lost their meaning; when these prefixes are separated, the remaining part cannot be recognized as an independent word (*Vargo, 2010:85-87*). Such words are recognized as non-derivative. For example, arrive, become, dispatch, precise, prepare, reduce, remember, subject, understand, etc.

Of the negative semi-affixes of the English language, the prefix un-, which is used with both native English words and verbal forms, is the most productive and can be used not only with adjectives, but also with verbs: unapproachable, unbelievable, unending, unknown. A significant difference between the functions of prefixes and suffixes in French is that, since the stress in French always falls on the last syllable, when suffixes are at the end of words, they are more closely connected with the generating stem. Semi-affixes, which have word-formation meaning, are more independent of the word-formation base than suffixes, which contributes to the process of lexicalization, that is, their use as independent words. For example, ultra; super (*Tsibova, 2008: 71*).

As a rule, French semi-affixes, unlike suffixes, do not serve to translate words from one part of speech to another: succès (noun) – insuccès (noun), composer (noun) – recomposer (noun); ho enchanter (verb) – enchantement (noun), observer (verb) – observateur (noun), triste (adj.) – tristement (adv), simple (adj.) – simplement (adv.) etc. L. Gilbert divides all prefixes into three groups depending on their activity: active, to which he includes, for example, the prefixes anti-, hyper-, super-, re-, de-, sur-; semi-active: a-(ad-); inactive, which can only be distinguished etymologically: ab-; pour-; pro-, par-, per-; co- and others (*Tsibova, 2008: 72*). Inactive prefixes are actually quasi-prefixes.

Charles Bally wrote about the presence in the French language of a fairly large group of words with meaningless, inactive prefixes devoid of word-formation meaning, which he called “conventional labels” (*Tsibova, 2008: 72*), for example: prefixes pro-, per-, co-(con-, com-, cor-) in the words promettre – promise; permettre – to allow; commettre – to commit. Just like in English, words with such prefixes are perceived by modern native speakers as non-derivative. Among the active prefixes of the French language, several main semantic groups can be distinguished:

- negative privative semi-affixes;
- intensity semi-affixes;

• semi-affixes of local meaning. The group of negative privative prefixes can in turn be divided into several subgroups:

• negation semi-affixes: (a-(+noun, adj.) – anormalité (abnormality), asocialité (asociality), asymetrique (asymmetrical), atemporel (timeless); non-(+noun, adj., adj.) – non-assistance (refusal to assist), non-participation (non-participation), noncombattant (non-fighting), non-concerté (uncoordinated), non-recevable (unacceptable); in-(im-; il-; ir-)(+ noun, adj., adverb) – inégalité (inequality), incoutable (harassing), immodest (immodest), illégitime (illegal), irresistible (irresistible);

• antonymic semi-affixes: anti-(+ noun) – antiphrase (antiphrase), antimatière (antimatter), de-(dis-)(+ noun, adj., verb) – disproportion (disproportion), déforestation (deforestation), dégelant (de-icer), déloyal (disloyal), défaire (destroy what has been done), dégarnir (empty), disparaître (disappear);

• semi-affixes of opposition: anti-(+noun, adj.), which in this case acts as an antonym of the prefix pro-. So, for example, antimilitariste (anti-militarist, anti-militarist), antimissile (anti-missile), antiterroriste (anti-terrorist). Prefixes of intensity (L. Guilbert calls them “préfixes à valeur de superlatif”), denoting the highest degree of quality, include: super-, hyper-, extra-, sur-, archi-, ultra-. L. Guilbert and J. Dubois expressed the opinion that there is a tendency to form a system of degrees of comparison in modern French in a synthetic way, that is, through prefixes that thereby compensate for the absence of intensity suffixes. However, we should not forget that French is an analytical language, and degrees of comparison can also be expressed analytically (*Tsibova, 2008: 75*).

Having studied this group of semi-affixes in more detail, the authors found that, for example, the prefix super- is more often used in cinema vocabulary, military vocabulary, etc., for example, super-vedette (superstar), superfestivale (superfestival). The semi-affix hyper- is rather inherent in scientific terminology (medicine, psychology, mathematics): hyperalgésie (increased pain sensitivity), hypersomnie (increased drowsiness), hyperplan (hyperflatness), etc. The prefix extra- “something unusual, extraordinary, excellent quality” is quite common in advertising vocabulary: extra-fin (extra-thin), extra-fort (extra-strong), extra-sensible (extra-sensitive). The semi-affix sur- (one of the most active and productive prefixes) is characteristic of economic terminology, and is also found in political, technical terminology and in words of popular vocabulary: surinvestir (to make excessive investments), surplus (remainder, surplus), surintensité (overcurrent). Antonymous to this prefix is the prefix sous-, which means “lower degree, lower quality”, for example, sous-alimentation (malnutrition), sous-développement (backwardness) (*Picton, 2008: 87–90*). The semi-affix ultra- is largely found in political, scientific, advertising and colloquial vocabulary. The prefix archi-, meaning “to the highest degree, greatest, highest, extreme,” may also have the greatest degree of expressiveness with a hint of irony and even familiarity, which explains its use mainly in colloquial vocabulary. So, archi- (+ noun, adj., adverb) – archimillionnaire (arch-millionaire), archiplein (packed to the brim), archiconnu (long known to everyone), etc. (*Kracht, 2018: 94*).

It should be noted that intensity semi-affixes do not have unambiguous word-formation meanings and clear functional and grammatical differences; they can be synonymous and polysemic. For example, the semi-affixes super-, extra-, sur-, sous- also have a local meaning: superstructure (superstructure), extrascolaire (extra-terrestrial), extra-terrestre (extraterrestrial), surrénal (adrenal), sursol (platform above underground structures), sous-vêtement (underwear), sous-marin (underwater). The semi-affix sous- can have a private word-formation meaning “subordinate position”: sous-agent (junior agent), sous-secrétaire (assistant secretary), sous-inspecteur (assistant inspector), etc. The third semantic group of semi-affixes includes prefixes of local meaning a-, en-, trans-. The prefix a-(+verb) denotes approximation: apporter (bring),

approcher (approach); en-(+verb) can denote removal: enfuir (to run away, get away), entraîner (to drag away, take away), etc. The semi-affix trans-(+ noun, adj., verb) has the meaning of re-, through, trans- : transhorizon (over-the-horizon), transmigration (relocation), transpercer (pierce through). Note that most words with the semi-affix trans- are of Latin origin, many of them are non-derivative and indivisible (transmodulation, transfuser). The prefix inter- (+ noun, adj., verb) has the word-formative meaning “between, inter”: interchangeabilité (interchangeability), interétatique (interstate), interligner (to write between the lines). The prefix re-(+ noun, verb) belongs to the category of active prefixes, it has the word-formative meaning of repetition or resumption of action and corresponds to the semi-affix re-: réunifier (reunite), reutilization (reuse) (Picton, 2008: 87-90).

However, in quite a few cases the semi-affix re has lost its original word-formation meaning. So, for example, in the verbs regarder, recommander, which in modern French have no semantic connection with this prefix and are perceived as non-derivative words. Thus, we can conclude that the prefix systems of English and French are somewhat similar, based on the fact that most prefixes in these languages have Latin and Greek roots (Gazdar, 1985: 61). Classification of semi-affixes into original and borrowed; transposing and non-transposing; negative and non-negative, intensity prefixes and local prefixes, relevant for both languages studied.

3. Conclusions

It should also be noted that the highly productive types of prefixes in both languages freely form derived words, they are usually associated with a large number of producing stems, and they have standard meanings. These are prefixed nouns, which correspond to the semi-affixes anti-, super-, non-; adjectives with prefixes archi-, anti-, over; verbs with prefixes re- and others. Idiomatic meaning can be inherent in any prefix derivatives. So, for example, surmouillage (casting into a mold made from a finished object) or non-activité (military temporary stay without a position, behind the staff), where the meaning of the word cannot be accurately determined by the derivational meaning of the prefix and the lexical meaning of the generating word. There is no doubt that determining the lexical meaning of prefixed derivative words is possible if these semi-affixes have a certain word-formation meaning.

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