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METHODS OF FORMING NEW LEXICAL UNITS IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND THEIR LINGUISTIC NATURE

Uktam Djabbarovich Esanov

Professor, Candidate of Philological Sciences, Department of Languages-2, Oriental University

Uktam-1957@mail.ru

Abstract: This article examines the structural-semantic characteristics of word formation in modern Russian, the principles governing the creation of new lexical units, and the specific features of word-formation methods. It also analyzes the interrelationship between word formation and other linguistic domains-specifically lexicology and grammar (particularly morphology). Special attention is paid to the role of word-forming morphemes in the creation of new words, as well as to word-formation models and their lexico-semantic characteristics. The article further explores the significance of methods such as prefixation, suffixation, prefix-suffixation, and compounding in the development of the Russian lexicon.

Key words: Russian language, word formation, word-formation system, word-formation model, morpheme, prefix, suffix, morphology, lexicology, semantics, lexico-semantic characteristics.

Introduction. In Russian linguistics, word formation is considered one of the key linguistic fields studying the language's vocabulary, morphemic structure, and grammatical characteristics. It investigates the principles governing the creation of new words in Russian, the means and models of word formation, and the semantic and structural properties of derived words. In Russian linguistics, the term «словообразование» (word formation) is used in two primary senses: first, as the process of creating new words; and second, as the branch of linguistics that studies the Russian word-formation system.

The Russian word-formation system has developed in close connection with the language's lexical, morphemic, and grammatical levels. The relationship between word formation and the lexicon is evident in how new words enrich the language's vocabulary. For instance, lexical units expressing new concepts emerge in Russian as a result of advancements in science, technology, information technology, and social life. Some of these units are created based on existing word-formation models.

The relationship between word formation and grammar is reflected in the formation of new words in Russian as members of specific parts of speech and in their acquisition of corresponding grammatical features. For example, учить - учитель (to teach - teacher), читать - читатель (to read - reader), лес - лесной (forest - related to the forest), and быстрый - быстро (fast - quickly) illustrate the formation of new lexical units through word-forming devices. In this process, both the semantic relationships between the base words and their derivatives and their grammatical characteristics play an important role.

In Russian linguistics, the emergence of word formation as an independent scientific discipline resulted from the development of research concerning the morphemic composition of words, the structure of derived words, and word-formation models. The question of whether to

study word formation within the framework of morphology, lexicology, or as a distinct linguistic field has been interpreted in various ways in Russian linguistics. Some approaches explain it in close connection with the grammatical system, while others link it inextricably to the language's vocabulary and lexico-semantic relationships. Modern approaches view word formation as a field possessing its own specific object of study, units, and methods of analysis.

The morphemic structure of a word is of particular importance in the study of word-formation phenomena in the Russian language. Morphemic analysis helps identify the root, prefix, suffix, ending, and other morphemes that constitute a word. However, morphemic analysis and word-formation analysis are not identical concepts. While morphemic analysis identifies the structural components of a word, word-formation analysis determines the base from which a new word is derived, as well as the means and methods used in its formation. For example, the series лес - лесник - лесничий illustrates derived words related to the root лес (forest). Each of these words is formed according to a specific word-formation pattern in Russian and demonstrates semantic and structural relationships with the other words in the series. In this respect, the study of word formation in Russian makes it possible to identify derivational relationships between words, word-formation nests, and the semantic characteristics of derived lexical units.

The Main Methods of Word Formation in Russian

The Russian language is characterized by a rich and diverse system of word-formation devices. In traditional Russian linguistics, the principal methods of word formation include prefixation, suffixation, prefix-suffixation, compounding, abbreviation, and several other methods. In addition, lexical-semantic changes play an important role in the expansion of the vocabulary.

Prefixation (приставочный способ) is a method of forming new words by adding a prefix to a base word. For example, писать - написать (to write - to finish writing), ехать - приехать (to travel - to arrive), and город - пригород (city - suburb). In Russian, prefixes are particularly productive in verb formation and often express the direction, result, or manner of an action.

Suffixation (суффиксальный способ) is a method of forming new words by adding a word-forming suffix to a base. Examples include учить - учитель (to teach - teacher), лес - лесник (forest - forester), and белый - белизна (white - whiteness). This method is widely used in Russian to form nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. In addition to contributing to the lexical meaning of a new word, suffixes may also determine its grammatical category.

Prefix-suffixation (приставочно-суффиксальный способ) is a method of word formation involving the simultaneous use of a prefix and a suffix. For example, окно - подоконник (window - windowsill) and берег - прибрежный (shore - coastal). In such cases, the new lexical meaning is formed through the combined use of several word-forming elements.

Compounding (сложение) is a method of forming new lexical units by combining two or more stems. In Russian, examples of this process include пароход (steamship), formed from пар (steam) and ход (movement); лесостепь (forest-steppe), formed from лес (forest) and степь (steppe); and железнодорожный (railway-related), derived from the compound expression железная дорога (railway). Compounding plays an important role in expressing complex concepts and developing specialized and terminological vocabulary.

Abbreviation (сокращение) is a method of forming lexical units through the shortened forms of words or word combinations. For example, вуз (higher education institution) is an established abbreviation in Russian, derived from высшее учебное заведение. Abbreviations are an important subject of study in Russian word formation. Their analysis focuses on the

mechanisms through which abbreviated forms are created and their functional characteristics within the lexical system.

In Russian, the specific word-formation method is important, but so is the model according to which a word is formed. A word-formation model is understood as a regular relationship between structural elements and the generalized meaning associated with them. For example, the word pairs and sequences учить - учитель (to teach - teacher), строить - строитель (to build - builder), and читатель - читательский (reader - related to a reader) illustrate the use of particular word-forming devices and patterns in Russian. These models demonstrate the systematic relationship between the structure of derived words and their lexical meanings.

Semantic Word Formation and Lexico-Semantic Processes in Russian

In Russian linguistics, the formation of new lexical units is not limited solely to morphemic means. New lexico-semantic units also emerge within the language's vocabulary as a result of changes-such as expansion or narrowing-in the meanings of existing words. Such processes are often studied in the context of lexico-semantic evolution. During lexico-semantic change, a word's phonetic form may remain intact, while its meaning shifts under the influence of new usage contexts. For instance, the Russian word *мышь* (mouse) originally referred to the animal; however, with the advent of computer technology, the same form came to designate a computer peripheral. This phenomenon exemplifies how an existing word can acquire a new terminological meaning.

Furthermore, changes in the Russian lexicon are linked to societal progress, advancements in science and technology, cultural interactions, and the language's internal laws of development. The need to name new concepts leads to the creation of new words or the application of existing lexical units with new meanings. Conversely, some words become obsolete, fall out of active use, or become restricted to specific domains. Thus, word formation and lexico-semantic development in the Russian language are interrelated processes. However, while morphological word formation involves creating a new word using specific derivational means, lexico-semantic change often entails a renewal of the semantic content of an existing word. This distinction holds significant methodological importance for the scientific analysis of the Russian language's word-formation system.

Conclusion. In Russian linguistics, word formation is a significant field of study inextricably linked to the language's vocabulary, morphemic structure, and grammatical system. It examines the methods of creating new words, word-formation patterns, the relationships between base words and derivatives, and lexical-semantic changes. Methods such as prefixation, suffixation, prefix-suffix combination, compounding, and abbreviation play a crucial role in the Russian word-formation system. Through these methods, the language's vocabulary is enriched, new concepts are named, and the functional capabilities of existing lexical units are expanded. Thus, the study of word formation in Russian holds significant scientific importance, not only for determining the structural composition of new words but also for revealing the principles governing the language's lexical, grammatical, and semantic development.

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