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THE THEORY OF WORD FORMATION IN ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

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Annotation: This article examines the scholarly development of the field of word formation in English linguistics during the 20th century. The study successively analyzes the theoretical views on word formation of H.Marchand, R.B.Lees, V.Adams, M.Aronoff, and other leading linguists. In particular, it discusses Marchand's analytical-descriptive approach, Lees's works in the field of transformational grammar, Adams's systematic classification, and Aronoff's research in the generative direction. The article sheds light on the long period during which the field of word formation remained on the periphery of linguistic research, and on the period of scholarly revival beginning in the 1960s, assessed as "the revival of the field." Likewise, the prospects for studying derivational processes from the standpoint of cognitive and generative linguistics are also identified.

Keywords: word formation, derivatology, English linguistics, transformational grammar, generative grammar, affixation, morphology.

The study of the field of word formation in the English language has always been considered relevant. By the 20th century, it became the object of study of numerous investigations. For this reason, it is important, through examining the historical development of the field of word formation and analyzing the views of linguists, to distinguish their points of similarity and difference.

By the middle of the 20th century, the study of this field had become considerably more active. In English linguistics, issues relating to word formation had been wholly or partially left out of attention, but by 1960 one may observe a revival of this important field. For this reason, some researchers have referred to this process as "the revival of the field." For example, in his work "The Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word-Formation" [4;3], G.Marchand made greater use of an analytical descriptive approach to word formation. In his view, word formation is that branch of the science according to which language studies new models, and on the basis of which language creates new lexical units, that is, words [4;3]. Within the framework of synchronic and diachronic approaches, he not only describes the processes of word formation in the English language, but, drawing on the achievements in the field of studying word formation and structuralist traditions, conducts a profound analysis of derivational processes and, relying on a large amount of empirical material together with numerous examples, develops his own distinctive theory [4;10].

Before other theories emerged, systematic research in the field was carried out in Marchand's "The Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word-Formation" and in R.B.Lees's "The Grammar of English Nominalizations" [3;322]. As a result, over the following decade many works appeared that shed broader light on the domain of word formation. Recent

data indicate the importance of investigating the field of word formation from the standpoint of cognitive processes.

In his work "The Grammar of English Nominalizations," R.B.Lees sought to give a detailed description of the rules required in English grammar in order to ensure the correct formation of grammatical sentences. Although the work is devoted mainly to matters of syntax, attention was also given in it to morphology; it resolved a number of controversial issues concerning a series of problems of word formation, and it also laid a foundation for the development of transformational theory [3;113].

Y.V.Pennanen points out that the weakness of transformational grammar lies in its failure to take word formation into account [5;292-308]. This is because the ability to construct and understand new words is, like the ability to construct and understand new sentences, part of linguistic competence.

In V.Adams's work "An Introduction to Modern English Word-Formation," no new theory of word formation is set forth. It mainly presents a classification of information about word formation. In this work, it is substantiated with evidence that the process of word formation in the English language is a complex notion. In it, the derivational processes in the English language are analyzed systematically and in depth. It also sheds light on certain general rules of word formation, as well as on the distinguishing aspects between syntax and word formation [1;7].

Despite the diversity of views regarding the status of word formation in linguistics, many linguists emphasize that insufficient information has been provided on the subject of the branch of word formation up to the present day [12;23-26]. In particular, the English linguist V.Adams points to two main reasons why the topic of word formation remained for a long time on the periphery of the attention of many linguists. First, the connection of the objects and notions that serve as the means of naming words with the extralinguistic world. Second, its ambiguous position between historical linguistics and descriptive linguistics [1;6].

In connection with determining the importance of word formation within the language system and establishing the criteria for examining it, the works of the American linguists M.Halle and M.Aronoff emerged. In his book "Word Formation in Generative Grammar," M.Aronoff examined word formation in a generalized manner within the generative direction, but the author states that syntactic changes and the rules for the formation of words are not isomorphic. There do not exist grammatical rules of word formation of the kind found in syntactic and morphological rules. They do not convert an "X" at one level into an equivalent "X" at another level. Rather, by adding certain phonological and semantic features to "X," they create "Y." Its level will be the same as that of "X," but it will not be its equivalent [2;56].

On the whole, questions such as what word formation itself is, how the system of word formation is organized, what place the units of word formation occupy at the level of language, and what role word formation plays in representing the linguistic picture of the world, are characteristic of both traditional and modern derivatology. These issues have found expression in the research of linguists such as Y.S.Azarkh, L.A.Arayeva, Y.A.Zemskaya, G.S.Zenkov, Y.S.Kubryakova, V.V.Lopatin, I.S.Ulukhanov, and M.N.Yantsenetskaya.

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