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***Word-Formation Processes in English and Arabic:
A Contrastive Analysis.***

A paper

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

كَيْفَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَكُنْتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا فَأَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ
إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ

صدقَ اللهُ العليُّ العَظيم

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Dedication

To everyone who sought to increase my knowledge, development, and success To those who wanted to see me excel in my studies and my whole life.

To my mother and father, who stayed up and tired in bringing me to this stage.

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Section One

Introduction

1.1 The Problem of The Study

Both English and Arabic learners of language suffer or face a difficult in using word formation English has more word formation the Arabic, and their usage is problematic and ambiguous among Arabic students. Due to the differences among the word formation in the two languages, learners use them incorrectly. According to Trask (1997 ; 14), Word formation process is generally known as the phenomenon which is so close to human's life in the world, word formation process is a way to construct new words from existing materials. Word formation process is how to produce the new words based on the some rules. Word formation process is the process to create new words from other words. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that word formation process is the way to construct new words from the existing words based on some rules. Word formation process can be productive and non-productive.

This paper tries to answer the following question:

- 1.How is word formation identified in English and Arabic ?
2. Are the types of word formation the same in both languages ?
- 3.What are the similarities and differences of word formation in the two languages ?

1.2 The Aims of The Study

This study aims at :

1. Identifying word formation in English and Arabic.
2. Explaining the types of word formation in English and Arabic.
3. Point out the differences and similarities of word formation in the two languages.

1.3 Hypothesis of The Study

It is hypothesized that:

1. In both languages word formation in English and Arabic is of different categories .
2. The way of dealing with word formation categories is more diversified in English than those in Arabic .
3. The students face problems in using word formation that related to their knowledge .

1.4 The Procedures of The Study

1. Presenting a theoretical background about the word formation in English and Arabic .
2. A comparison between English and Arabic to highlight the principal differences and similarities between them.
3. Conclusion of the study .

1.5 The Limitations of The Study

This paper is limited to define word formation in English and Arabic and its system of morphology in both languages.

1.6 The Value of The Study

It is hoped that this paper would be of help to those who have interest in contrastive studies between Arabic and English whether they are students or teachers.

Section Two

Word Formation in English

2.1 Introduction

Word formation process is generally known as the phenomenon which is so close to human's life in the world. According to Trask (1997 ; 14), word formation process is a way to construct new words from existing materials. Meanwhile, according to Hacken and Thomas (2013 ; 54), word formation process is how to produce the new words based on the some rules. Besides, Plag (2003; 12) stated that word formation process is the process to create new words from other words. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that word formation process is the way to construct new words from the existing words based on some rules. Word formation process can be productive and non-productive.

Bauer (1983 ; 16) stated that word formation process will be productive if it is appropriate to use in the production of new materials. Meanwhile, the word formation process will be called as non-productive if it is not appropriate to use in the production of new materials. Therefore, it can be concluded that word formation process will be productive if it can be used to produce the new words.

Wei and Wenyu (2014 ; 40) said, "The most frequently occurring word-formation process of netspeak neologisms is compounding, subsequently, blending, affixation, old words with new meaning, acronyms, conversion, and clipping". However, from the studies above, the most productive of word formation processes is still unclear.

2.2 Types of Word Formation Processes

2.2.1 Compounding

Compounding forms a word out of two or more root morphemes. The words are called compounds or compound words. compound words in all languages are different. compound words that generates new meanings that are different from its constituent elements. Trask (1997 ; 112),

In Linguistics, compounds can be either native or borrowed.

Native English roots are typically free morphemes, so that means native compounds are made out of independent words that can occur by themselves (Ibid).

Examples:

mailman (composed of free root *mail* and free root *man*)

2.2.2 Rhyming compounds

These words are compounded from two rhyming words. such as *helter-skelter* or *prime time*, where the two constituents that make up the **compound** itself **rhyme** with one another, are one of the least investigated categories of English word formation. (Ibid).

Examples:

lovey-dovey

There are words that are formally very similar to rhyming compounds, but are not quite compounds in English because the second element is not really a word--it is just a nonsense item added to a root word to form a rhyme. (Subroto, 2012:19).

Examples:

higgledy-piggledy

This formation process is associated in English with child talk (and talk addressed to children), technically called hypocoristic language (Ibid).

Examples:

bunnie-wunnie

2.2.3 Derivation

Derivation is the creation of words by modification of a root without the addition of other roots. Often the effect is a change in part of speech (Ibid). .

2.2.4 Affixation

The most common type of derivation is the addition of one or more affixes to a root, as in the word *derivation* itself. This process is called affixation, a term which covers both prefixation and suffixation (Metz, J. 1915:90).

2.2.5 Blending

Blending is one of the most beloved of word formation processes in English. It is especially creative in that speakers take two words and merge them based not on morpheme structure but on sound structure. The resulting words are called blends (Metz, J. 1915:92).

2.2.6 Clipping

Clipping is a type of abbreviation of a word in which one part is 'clipped' off the rest, and the remaining word now means essentially the same thing as what the whole word means or meant. For example, the word *rifle* is a fairly modern clipping of an earlier compound *rifle gun*, meaning a gun with a rifled barrel (Ibid)..

2.2.7 Reanalysis

Sometimes speakers unconsciously change the morphological boundaries of a word, creating a new morph or making an old one unrecognizable. This happened in *hamburger*, which was originally *Hamburger steak* 'chopped and formed steak in the Hamburg style, then *hamburger* (*hamburg* + *er*), then *ham* + *burger* (Ibid).

2.2.8Folk etymology

A popular idea of a word's origin that is not in accordance with its real origin. Many folk etymologies are cases of reanalysis in which the word is not only reanalysis but it changes under the influence of the new understanding of its morphemes. The result is that speakers think it has a different origin than it does(Booij, Geert. 2007:54).

2.2.9Analogy

Sometimes speakers take an existing word as a model and form other words using some of its morphemes as a fixed part, and changing one of them to something new, with an analogically similar meaning. (Ibid)

2.2.10Novel creation

In novel creation, a speaker or writer forms a word without starting from other morphemes. It is as if the word if formed out of 'whole cloth', without reusing any parts.

2.2.11Creative respelling

Sometimes words are formed by simply changing the spelling of a word that the speaker wants to relate to the new word. Product names often involve creative respelling, such as *Mr. Kleen*. (Ibid)

2.3The important of word formation

Word formation is the creation of a new word. Common processes of word formation include , eponym formation, blending, backformation and agglutination. Eponym formation is the use of a proper name in a new word, typically an adjective.

Bauer (1983 ; 30) The word "Orwellian" is an eponym formation related to the author and political philosopher George Orwell. Blending is the combination of two or more words into a new word. The word smog" is a blended form of "smoke" and "fog." Backformation is taking away prefixes or suffixes to create a new word.

Agglutination is adding prefixes or suffixes to create a new word. New words can also enter the English language through other languages. These words are called loanwords. Most English loanwords are taken from Romance languages. Words like cafe, chic, and pizza fall into this category.

Section Three

Word formation in Arabic

Most Arabic words are formed based on a root and certain patterns. The root typically consists of 3 letters, e.g. (ك ت ب). These letters can be used in a number of formations or patterns to make derivations or words that are related in meaning to the root, e.g. (كاتب) “writer”, (كتابة) “writing”, (كتاب) “book”, (مكتبة) “library”, (مكتب) “office”, etc. The relationship between the root and the pattern is systematic. For most three lettered verbs, the doer of the action follows the pattern (فاعل), e.g. (كتب / كاتب) “wrote/writer”, (عمل / عامل) “worked/worker”, (حكم / حاكم) “ruled/ruler”, etc. Knowledge of the root system and the patterns is very important for building one’s vocabulary. This knowledge is also important for the use of Arabic dictionaries (الطنطاوي: ١٩٧٥).

Arabic monolingual dictionaries (Arabic-Arabic) and some bilingual dictionaries like (Arabic-English) for example Hans Wher’s are not like English dictionaries. Words in Arabic dictionaries are listed according to the root of the word. For example, to search of the meaning of the word (مكتبة), we do not search under the letter (م) which is the first letter of the word. We have to find the root of the word which is (ك ت ب) and search for the word under (ك). Roots are listed alphabetically and all words that come under a certain root are given in the same entry regardless of the first letter in them.(Ibid)

Finding out the root of the word is not very easy. It is very important to recognize all the prefixes and suffixes and take them off. Sometimes, there are infixes as well that must be taken out.

All the letters that are added to verbs for conjugation must also be removed. The following examples give words and their roots. It should be noted that there are words that have 4-lettered roots, e.g. (ترجم) “translate”.

Acronyms

Acronyms are words formed from the initial letters of words in a phrase. new acronyms are freely produced, particularly for names of organizations. Acronyms pronounced as sequences of letters are called alphabetisms. The letters may represent full words: U.S.A. => United States of America; or they represent elements in a compound or just parts of a word, eg: T.V. => television, GHQ General Headquarters. Many acronyms are pronouns as words.

Arabic examples:

In arabic some acronyms are found in the Koran such as: كهيحص طه ، يس ، Ham like الاوبك اليونسكو ، ارامكو ، الاوابك ، طس . Other acronyms that exist in Arabic Standard Modern ،الناتو ، اليونيسيف are borrowed from English.

Abbreviations

An abbreviation is created when a single term is not written in its full form, but a certain part (a letter or letters) of the term is omitted.

، م (مهندس) (م/ث (متر في الثانية) ، كم/سا (كيلومتر في الساعة) ، ش (شارع) ، ص (صفحة) ، ح (حديد) ، نح (نحاس) ، أ. (استاذة) ، د. (دكتور) ، أ.د. (الاستاذ الدكتور)، يد (هيدروجين) ، أ (اكسجين) ، فو (فوسفور) ، ن (نتر (م (متر) ، كغم (كيلو غرام) ، دسم (ديسمتر)

Blends

Blends are compounds created by clipping and blending elements of a complex term. Many blends have only a short life and are very informal, but some have become more or less fully accepted in the language.

Arabic

Arabic

كهروطيسي (كهربائي ومغناطيسي) ، افرواسيوي (افريقي واسيوي) ، ضبخن (ضباب ودخان) ، سرمن (سار اثناء النوم) (حسبل (حسبي الله)

Back-formations

Back-formations are the creation of derived word forms by analogy, either by dropping an affix, or by creating a new base form:

(باب) بوب ، فهرس فهرس ، (تلفزيون) تلفز ، (فوج) فوج ، (قانون) تقنين مقنن قنن ، كهرباء ، مكهرب ، كهرب ، (برنامج) مبرمج ، برمجة ، برمج (بستان) بستن ، (شجرة) شجر ، (سوق) تسوق

clipping

Clipping denotes the subtraction of one or more syllables from a word. The clipped form tends to be used in informal style.

is not very common in Arabic. Syllables cannot be subtracted from arabic words except in the following cases:

قاضي قاض

كتابان كتابا الولد

معلمون معلمو المدرسة

يدرسون لم يدرسوا

يكتبان لم يكتبا

عبد الحلیم حلیم

عبد المنعم منعم

مكة المكرمة مكة

Extention

New words may be formed from already existing words, which appear to be analysable, i.e., composed of more than one morpheme.

جمع: جمعية ، جامعة ، مجمع ، مصنع تجميع .حسي: كشف حساب ، حاسب ، آلة حاسبة ،
محاسب ، محاسبة ، محاسبية، محاسبي حسب: حاسوب ، حاسب الي .اكسجين: اكسيد ، اكسيدات
، اكاسيد ، اكسدة ، تأكسد ، مؤكسد ، مؤكسد

Section Four

Comparison study between Arabic and English

4.1 Differences

It is found that some of the acronyms in Arabic are borrowed from English and other global languages and are either used as they are or they are translated into Arabic and then abbreviated. English compounds may be classified in several ways, such as the word classes or the semantic relationship of their components. A blend is different from a portmanteau word in that a portmanteau refers strictly to a blending of two function words, similar to a contraction. There are, of course, numerous word formation processes that do not arouse any controversies and are very similar in the majority of languages. Acronyms and initialisms are usually pronounced in a way that is distinct from that of the full forms for which they stand. In Arabic, most compounds are separated by a blank, there are few joined compounds and the researcher did not come across any hyphenated one. Whereas English has all three varieties. It is possible to find the three patterns representing the same compound word. In both the languages, derivational suffixes do close off a word. It is possible to add another derivational or inflectional suffix after them. English derivational affixes have two types: class-changing derivational and class-maintaining derivational. While in Arabic, the derivation process is classified into four types: simple derivation, great derivation, greater derivation and the greatest derivation (acronyms).

4.2 The Similarities

The word formation used in both languages. It is used in everyday life by both Arabic and English speakers. Some of it is used in both languages to achieve the same goals. It is based on shared knowledge between the speaker and the listener in both languages.

Section Five

Conclusion

1. In English, clipping is one of the shortening forms and it is classified as pure shortening unlike acronym and blending. Arabic doesn't have clipping as one of its shortening forms. In English, clipping is a word formation process for creating new words and it is providing language with new synonyms to expand its vocabulary system. In Arabic, there is no word formation process known as clipping.

2. In English, clipping is an independent process of creating new words by cutting off its elements without any change of its meaning or word class. In Arabic, there is no autonomous process known as clipping, but Arabic has a partition process.

3. Blending is found in both of the two languages under study, probably as a manifestation of the universal trend by language speakers to opt for economy in speech.

4. In all cases, this process involves a certain phonemic contraction in the new coinages.

5. Blending is a more frequent and productive word-formation process in English than in Arabic. This is one manifestation of the fact that English accepts a faster and a greater change than Arabic.

6. In both the languages, a compound is a set of elements (two words or more) that are connected without affixes and represents an isolated unit.

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