

Lexico-Semantic Word Creation in Modern English Language

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DOI: [10.22178/pos.106-16](https://doi.org/10.22178/pos.106-16)

LCC Subject Category: P1-1091

Received 21.06.2024

Accepted 27.07.2024

Published online 31.07.2024

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Abstract. There are two main methods of word formation: linear and non-linear. One of the non-linear methods of word formation is the lexical-semantic method. This method does not involve external forms. Instead, a new word is formed through an internal change in a word. This method focuses mainly on changing a word's meaning or semantics; therefore, it is also referred to as the semantic method. Some sources consider the transition from unambiguous and polysemous meanings or vice versa, as well as synonymy and homonymy, as part of the lexical-semantic word creation method. This method is called lexical-semantic because it is closely related to semantics and lexis and is based on changes in meaning. The central core of the lexical-semantic method in the modern English language revolves around changes in meaning. Various factors, including the expansion and narrowing of meanings, homonymization, the emergence of polysemy, and the deterioration and improvement of meanings, influence these changes in language meaning.

The article thoroughly investigates the creation of words in English using the lexical-semantic method. The research primarily utilized descriptive and comparative approaches, and although the research was conducted synchronously, the diachronic aspect was also considered when appropriate.

Keywords: English; lexical; semantic; meaning; changing; word creation.

INTRODUCTION

The lexical composition of the modern English language is quite rich. There are many word formation methods in English. These word generation methods are divided into two large groups: linear and non-linear word generation methods. Another format involves the creation of a new linguistic unit in linear word creation. No external formants are involved in non-linear word creation. It is unclear what regularities the words formed by the non-linear method. In the non-linear method, the semantics of the lexical unit changes and a new word is created.

The lexical-semantic method of word creation is also called a process by some scientists. Azerbaijani linguists M. Mirzaliyeva and G. Mahmudova approached the lexical-semantic word creation as a process and noted in their works that this process occurs at the lexical level [7; 8].

Sometimes, the mentioned authors call it the semantic method based on the fact that this method

is based on the semantic meaning. However, considering that it is realized at the lexical level, it would be more accurate to label this method of word formation a lexical-semantic word formation method.

The central core of the lexical-semantic method in the modern English language revolves around changes in meaning. Various factors, including the expansion and narrowing of meanings, homonymization, the emergence of polysemy, and the deterioration and improvement of meanings, influence these changes in language meaning. These factors create the basis for the realization of word creation in the language through the lexical-semantic method.

There is a group of words in modern English that have a symbolic character by expanding their meaning lexically and semantically. When we observe such lexical units, we see that the similarity in these words is superimposed on another one. In this way, the vocabulary of the English language is enriched.

Metaphors and metonymies also have a specific role in creating new words. If metaphors are based on similarity in lexical-semantic word creation, associations play an essential role in metonymies. Meaning changes are based on intra-linguistic and extralinguistic factors. The lexical-semantic method's main essence of word creation is that the other word formed from one word must be semantically connected. If there is no semantic link between the words, there can be no question about creating one word from another.

In modern English, a group of words gains a metaphorical character by expanding their meaning lexically and semantically. When observing such lexical units, it is possible to see that the similarity in these words is superimposed on another one, which contributes to enriching the vocabulary of the English language. Metaphors and metonymies also have a specific role in creating new words. If metaphors are based on similarity in lexical-semantic word creation, associations play an essential role in metonymies. Changes in meaning are based on intra-linguistic and extralinguistic factors. The main essence behind creating words using the lexical-semantic method is that the other word formed from one word must certainly be semantically connected. If there is no semantic link between the words, then the creation of one word from another is not the case in this situation.

Sometimes, the lexical-semantic method is confused with homonymization. Homonymization involves creating words with no meaningful connection, while the lexical-semantic method considers new words as products of meaning changes. When creating a new word, the new meaning loses its connection with the previous one. Moreover, if we do not know how the word evolved and gained new meanings, it leads to homonymization. In this case, talking about word creation using the lexical-semantic method is incorrect. There should undoubtedly be a meaningful connection between the words realized not only with the lexical semantic but in other ways. No matter how much difference in meaning in the words formed by the lexical semantic method, small fragments of the previous meaning must necessarily remain in the newly formed words. The lexical units formed by the lexical-semantic method are familiar between polysemy and homonymization. While polysemy is completely context-dependent, homonymization lacks any meaningful connection. For the lexical units created through the lexical-semantic method, it is a condition that the newly formed word must be

connected with the word from which it was formed.

In polysemy, different word meanings are closely related, usually centred around one central meaning, forming a single system. Thus, all the various meanings of the verb *run* are related to moving quickly in space or time, while all the meanings of the word *hand* are connected to the concept of a hand in one way or another [1, p. 89].

In some cases, meanings move away from the central meaning in the process of historical development, the connection between them and other meanings - the transitions are lost, and when this happens, the word forms a new version of itself. This phenomenon is called the breakdown of polysemy. The new words formed in this way become homonyms of the original ones. In word creation with the lexical-semantic method, the connection of the new word with the previous meaning is relatively preserved.

Thus, the lexical-semantic method is a word creation method in which new words are created due to the transfer or change of meaning of names. At the same time, although the connection between the old and the new meaning is very slight in the new word, the sound complex remains unchanged.

The upcoming chapters will explore additional techniques to expand the language's vocabulary: these will include word correction, replacement, pairing, word combination, etc. Through these methods, new concepts emerge by combining existing morphological elements in the language, creating new sound complexes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In English, it is possible to illustrate lexical-semantic word creation with the following examples: *foot* - referring to the body part and *foot* - representing the measure of length. This lexical unit formed as a result of the collapse of polysemy. The social and labour experiences contribute to the lexical-semantic method. Initially, there may not seem to be a connection between the *foot* and the *unit of measurement*. However, when measuring tools were unavailable in ancient times, length was measured by feet. When viewed from a diachronic perspective, the connection between the name of the unit of measurement and the body part's name becomes apparent [1, p. 93].

The word "magazine" originally meant "journal" in English, but later came to mean "warehouse". This meaning was borrowed from the Arabic language. The term initially meant "shop"; from the mid-century, it was used to refer to a warehouse.

In the XVIII century, "Gentleman's Magazine" was published in England. The name was symbolic: the magazine contained a wide range of information and news essential for a gentleman. After eliminating the first element from the ellipsis, the proper name became a familiar name metonymically and generally referred to any journal.

In the Latin *tabula*, board means board; after borrowing from other languages, the word began to have two semantics. In modern English, the table has different semantics in the form of a writing board, table, or scheme.

At the same time, the fate of the palm – the palm, palm, capital, capital letter- is realized in its semantics.

In Latin, the word "*tabula*" meant initially "board". Over time, the word gained two meanings after being borrowed from other languages. In modern English, "table" can refer to a writing board, a piece of furniture, or a chart. Similarly, the word "palm" has different semantics related to *the palm of the hand, a measurement*.

"It should be considered that words with the same sound volume and different semantics can be formed through lexical-semantic word change and other methods. On the other hand, lexical-semantic word change can result in homonymization, where the original meaning of the word is completely lost" [2, p. 71].

Change of meaning is also attributed to word creation in the lexical-semantic way. Changes in the sense of words occur in all languages and can involve the contraction, expansion, improvement and deterioration of semantics. Undeniably, the concept of time is considered a crucial factor in the evolution of the meanings of lexical units in the language. "A word used in a specific sense in earlier years, eras, or a certain period of the language may have different semantics in another period. The change of these meanings is not accidental. In this case, extralinguistic factors play a key role as well as intra-linguistic factors" [3, p. 81].

For example, in Old English, *fear* meant *danger*. It means *fear*; its old meaning has passed into the French word *danger*. Thus, the process of lexical-semantic word change took place here. In Old

English, *deor*, and Modern English *deer* did not mean "deer" as in Modern English. It referred to the semantics of all wild animals.

Similarly, in Old English, "deor" did not mean "deer" as in Modern English. In Old English, *fusol* meant modern. In modern English, *fowl*, however, had a broader meaning. On the other hand, in Old English *bridd*, which by metathesis evolved into the contemporary *bird*, had, on the contrary, a narrower meaning - a young bird; youngling; *switch* branch, *harvest* autumn, and *travel* meant labour. These lexical units retain Old English meanings [4, p. 61].

It is evident from the discussion above that "change of meaning" refers to the processes that lead to the enrichment of words with new meanings and the development of polysemy, or in other words, the development of "polysemy", including the processes that lead to the replacement of an old meaning with a new one, consequently, a word does not acquire a new meaning. The number of words in the dictionary does not increase.

"While the word acquires new meanings, the vocabulary undergoes a qualitative change without a quantitative increase. New words are created when this link is lost, but not new meanings. Therefore, creating words with new lexical-semantic meaning leads to a quantitative increase in the dictionary" [5, p. 70].

When studying lexical-semantic word creation, lexical units are considered synchronously. The words existing in the diachronic plan change meaning through lexical-semantic word creation. In this lexical-semantic method, it is necessary to focus on the meaning of the word, which allows us to consider the most appropriate existing classification of changes in the sense of words, such as the genetic classification, which groups the cases of meaning change depending on the reasons that led to them. According to this principle, changes caused by non-linguistic reasons, i.e. semantic changes caused by the development of society and its culture, and changes caused by linguistic reasons are distinguished.

The word represents the material form of expression of a concept and reflects the idea's movement connected with the development of consciousness.

Transitions from the concrete to the abstract, from the particular to the general, are characteristic of the development of thinking, and in language, more and more precise differentiation of

concepts is revealed in the processing of word meanings. Thus, the verb *grasp*, meaning *to hold* is also used in the abstract sense of understanding. In addition to its concrete meaning, the word *way*, initially referring to a *road*, later takes on the abstract meaning *method*; the adjective *right*, which initially means *straight*, later acquires the abstract meaning of *correct*. In the phrase *pay a great deal* the word *deal* takes on the more general sense of quantity.

The transitions from the particular to the general and from the concrete to the abstract are closely related. In the word *home*, which also signifies *motherland*, we observe abstraction and generalization.

The historical evolution of meanings reflects the more complete information of human thinking about the surrounding world and its objective relationships. Therefore, one of the most important reasons for the evolution of the meaning of words is the change in the concept that the word represents. In a person's understanding of reality, the concepts become more precise and closer to the subject's essence.

The reasons that led to the evolution of the meaning of the word are also in the history and culture of the people, as well as changes in people's attitude to the surrounding reality, which includes the reevaluation of objective world events.

As an example, the word *earth* can be considered. Its meaning has changed primarily because people's knowledge and perceptions of the earth have changed significantly since the Old English period. If in Old English, *eorde* mainly referred to the land beneath people's feet, later, with the development of knowledge, this word began to signify a planet inhabited by humans, contrasted with other planets and other celestial bodies. The perception of our planet has also transformed significantly. In an era when religion dominated human consciousness, the word *earth* also meant the world where people reside, distinct from the afterlife. However, with the advancement of scientific knowledge, this significance is gradually disappearing [6, p. 94].

The concepts no longer in use are often preserved in language after the ideas have disappeared.

The words *angel*, *devil*, *witch*, *imp* and *fairy* are always used figuratively in the modern language. For example, when referring to a nasty, evil woman, she is called a witch, even though no one believes in the existence of witches, angels and

devils for a long time. With the disappearance of old concepts, the words expressing them can change their meaning and even disappear from the language.

Humans not only understand the nature around them, but at the same time, they transform it. To this end, they create many different objects and concepts that change significantly with the development of culture and technology. Along with these changes, the words in the language also acquire new meanings. This means the meaning changes with the development and change of what is expressed.

The word *mill* comes from Latin and, used in English, originally meant a hand mill, but in modern English, it is used to describe factories and extensive industrial facilities such as *saw mill*, *cotton mill*, *steel mills*.

CONCLUSIONS

As new inventions and discoveries take place based on the previous progress of science and technology, to define them, the language uses already existing lexical material by adapting it to one or another type of existing words, including the lexico-semantic method, in other words, creating new meanings for existing words is also used.

For example, several words related to the development of a new field of technology, such as aviation, arose by reconsidering the conditions of maritime language. This is quite natural because aviation and shipping have a lot in common. Such words as pilot - pilot, cabin - cabin, course - course, navigation - navigation, sail-planning, stern - stern post, pilot, cabin, course, navigation, sail-sail-planning, stern - stern-post and many other words were originally nautical terms. So, with the lexical-semantic method of word creation, we witness the transition of words from one specialized dictionary to another.

The transition of words from one area of use to another is always accompanied by a change in meaning, and a certain regularity noted by the French scientist M. A. Breal is also observed. When the word moves from a broader sphere to a more specific one, from a general vocabulary to a specialized area, its meaning becomes more apparent and expresses a more differentiated concept.

For example, in medieval English, "*rail*" originally meant a strip of iron or metal. Then, in the

transition to railway terminology, it took on the meaning of "rail", that is, a specially shaped track on which wheels travel; similarly, the lexical unit "to glide" - means to plan in aviation terminology refers to the act of flying without thrust; "capacity" in technology means the ability to hold or contain, it means capacity, etc. "...the ongoing development of science and technology increases the demand to express in words the meaning of new concepts that enter our lives and everyday life. Although new words are often created in the language using various additional constructions, new lexical units are usually formed through the internal development of the language itself. As a result of the internal development of the language, word formation is realized through the lexical-semantic method" [7, p. 31].

On the contrary, when moving from a narrower field to a broader sphere, generalization and

expansion of meaning are observed: in Old English *bendan* had the narrow special meaning of tying the ends of a bow with a string and then tightening the string and bending the bow; later in Middle English, with the transition to common colloquialism, *bend* acquired the more general meaning;

Another example is the word "arrive," which was initially a nautical term meant to reach the shore. In modern English, it now means "to come".

The formation of lexical-semantic words in a language result from society's evolving understanding of specific concepts, events, processes, perspectives, and knowledge about the world. The lexical-semantic approach, which holds significance among various word creation methods, remarkably contributes to the growth and enrichment of the English language's vocabulary.

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