

**“THE POLYSEMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PREFIXES FROM
THE NOVEL “JANE EYRE” BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE”**

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Abstract: *The article reveals the formation of words with the help of prefixes and examples from the work “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Bronte*

Key words: *Uneasy, inheritance, inexhaustible, deserve, refreshing, inability, unfriendly, disloyal, distracted, departure.*

Affixation is the formation of words with the help of derivational affixes. As it was said above all morphemes are subdivided into two large classes: roots (or radicals) and affixes. The latter, in their turn, fall into prefixes which precede the root in the structure of the word (as in re-read, mis-pronounce, unwell) and suffixes which follow the root (as in teach-er, cur-able, diet-ate).

Words which consist of a root and an affix (or several affixes) are called derived words or derivatives and are produced by the process of word-building known as affixation (or derivation).

Derived words are extremely numerous in the English vocabulary. Successfully competing with this structural type is the so-called root word which has only a root morpheme in its structure.

Affixation is subdivided into prefixation and suffixation. For example. if a prefix «dis» is added to the stem «like» (dislike) or suffix «ful» to «law» (lawful) we say a word is built by an affixation. Derivational morphemes added before the stem of a word are called prefixes (un + like) and the derivational morphemes added after the stem of the word are called suffixes (hand+ful). Prefixes modify the lexical meaning of the stem meaning.!, e. the prefixed derivative mostly belongs to the same part of speech. For example. like (v.) dislike (v.). kind (adj.) - unkind (adj.) but suffixes transfer words to a different part of speech, For example teach (v.) teacher (n.).

“We call prefixes such particles as can be prefixed to full words but are themselves not words with an independent existence. Native prefixes have developed out of independent words. Their number is small: a-, be-, un-, (negative and reversative) fore-, mid- and (partly) mis-. Prefixes of foreign origin came into the language ready made, so to speak. They are due to

syntagmatic loans from other languages: when a number of analysable foreign words of the same structure had been introduced into the language, the pattern could be extended to new formations i. e. the prefix then became a derivative morpheme. Some prefixes have secondarily developed uses as independent words as counter sub-arch which does not invalidate the principle that primarily they were particles with no independent existence. The same phenomenon occurs with suffixes also...”

But new investigations into the problem of prefixation in English showed interesting results. It appears that the traditional opinion, current among linguists that prefixes modify only the lexical meaning of words without changing the part of speech is not quite correct. In English there are about 25 prefixes which can transfer words to a different part of speech. For example. head (n) behead (v), bus(n) debus(v). brown (adj) embrown(v), title(/t) large (adj).enlarge (v), camp(n). encamp(v), war(n). prewar (day).

If it is so we can say that there is no functional difference between suffixes and prefixes. Besides there are linguists who treat prefixes as a part of word-composition. They think that a prefix has the same function as the first component of a compound word. Other linguists consider prefixes as derivational affixes which differ essentially from root morphemes and stems.

From the point of view of their origin affixes may be native and borrowed. The suffixes-ness, -ish, -dom, -ful, -less, -ship and prefixes be-, mis-, un-, fore-, etc are of native origin. But the affixes-able, -ment, -ation, -ism, -ist, re-, anti-, dis-, etc are of borrowed origin. They came from the Greek, Latin and French languages. Many of the suffixes and prefixes of native origin were independent words. In the course of time they have lost their independence and turned into derivational affixes. -dom, -hood. O. E. had state, rank, -dom (dom condemn, ship has developed from noun «scipe» (meaning: state); the adjective forming suffix “-ly” has developed from the noun dic» (body, shape).

The prefixes out-, under-, over etc also have developed out of independent words.

there are two ways in which a suffix may come into existence.

- 1) the suffix was once an independent word but is no longer one;
- 2) the suffix has originated as such usually as a result of secretion.

The first applies to a few native suffixes only. The suffixes -dom and hood are independent words still in OE, so the process whereby a second word becomes a suffix can be observed historically

The second in the suffix <-ling» which is simply the extended form of the suffix -ing in words whose stem ended in -1 ...

The contact of English with various foreign languages has led to the adoption of countless foreign words. In the process many derivative

morphemes have also been introduced suffixes as well as prefixes as a consequence, we have many hybrid types of composites... Some foreign affixes as -ance, -al, -ity have never become productive with native words.

Negative prefixes. Among the most common negative prefixes, we shall mention: (1) un-, which means 'the opposite of' or 'not', and is added to adjectives and participles (i.e. unfair, unexpected, unkind); (2) non- which means 'not', and can normally be regarded as corresponding to clause negation (non- smoker=a person who does not smoke). It is added to various classes, for instance, nouns: non- smoker, adjectives: non-drip (paint) or verbs: non-stop (3) in- which has the same meaning as un-, and is added to adjectives. It has different realizations: in- before /n/ (i.e. innate) il- before /l/ (i.e. illogical), imbefore bilabials (i.e. impossible), and ir- before /r/ (i.e. irrelevant). (4) dis- has the same meaning as un-, and is added to adjectives, verbs, and abstract nouns (i.e. disloyal, dislike, disfavour). And finally, (5) a-, which means 'lacking in' and is added to adjectives and nouns (i.e. aside, asymmetry).

Reversative or privative prefixes. Among the most common privative prefixes, we include : (1) un- which means 'to reverse action' and 'to deprive of' which is added to verbs (i.e. untie, undress); (2) de- which means 'to reverse action' again, and is added to verbs and abstract nouns (i.e. defrost, deforestation); and finally (3) dis- which has the same meaning as the previous ones, and is added to verbs, participles, and nouns (i.e. disconnect, disinterested, discontent).

Pejorative prefixes. The most common pejorative prefixes are the following: (1) mis- which means 'wrongly' and 'astray', and is added to verbs, abstract nouns, and participles (i.e. misunderstand, misconduct, misleading); (2) mal- which means 'badly', is added to verbs, abstract nouns, participles, and adjectives (i.e. malform, malfunction, malformed, malodorous); (3) pseudo- or quasi-, which means 'false, imitation' is added to nouns, adjectives (i.e. pseudo-intellectual). Other prefixes with pejorative overtones are arch- (i.e. arch-enemy), over- (i.e. overloaded), under – (i.e. underminimalist), and hyper- (i.e. hypercriticized).

Finally, within the third group, we include suffixes that can also cause a shift of stress in the root word, that is, when added to a word, they can cause the stress to shift to the syllable immediately preceding the suffix. Note the stress shift caused by the addition of the following suffixes to the root word: eous (i.e. from root word ad'vantage to root with suffix advan'tageous); graphy (i.e. 'photo, pho'tography); -ial (i.e. 'proverb, pro'verbial); -ian (i.e. 'Paris, Pa'risian); -ic (i.e. 'climate, cli'matic); -ical (i.e. e'cology, eco'logical); -ious (i.e. 'injure, in'jurious).

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