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DERIVATION IN ENGLISH – NAMES OF PROFESSIONS AND THEIR TRANSLATION INTO SERBIAN

Abstract: Derivation is one among the many processes of word-formation in English. It is a word-formation process by which a new word is produced from an already existing one by adding affixes (prefixes, infixes or suffixes) to a base. Affixes are also added to a base in the process of inflection, but in the case of inflection, it is not a new word that is produced, but only a grammatical variant of an already existing word. The paper discusses the affixes (suffixes mostly), which are used to produce the words denoting professions in English. It also deals with the new professions that are appearing every day due to the changes in all areas of human life and how the English language produces the new terms to cover these new needs. The point is that the names of all those professions are hard or even impossible to translate into Serbian, so the job of a translator is to discover the ways of how to find the best solution for the problem either by inventing a new term, or more often by adapting the foreign words to follow the rules of the Serbian language, which is not an easy task to do.

Key words: *morphology, word-formation, derivation, suffix, profession, translation.*

I

Morphology is a word of Greek origin made up of a word *morph*, meaning *shape, form* and the suffix *-ology,* meaning *the study of something*. Morphology is a part of linguistics that deals with word study, the ways in which words are formed and with an internal structure of word forms.

It is sometimes very hard to determine what exactly can be said to be a word in any particular language. There are numerous disagreements about that among the linguists. Many think that a term *lexeme* is a more appropriate term for denoting a basic unit of any language, because it refers to all the possible shapes a word can take. In the dictionaries, lexemes are the entries, and not some particular appearance of any word in question. For example, we shall not find *worked* in any dictionary as a separate entry, but there will be the lexeme *to work* within which separate

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representations like *works, working, worked* and *work* will be found. But, we shall not go deeper into the discussion of this kind in this paper. We shall discuss one of the processes in which a word can be formed in English, namely, the process of derivation.

In the English language, derivation is the process of forming a new word from the already existing one by adding an affix (a prefix, an infix or a suffix) to the base. L. Bauer says: *A base is any form to which affixes of any kind can be added. This means that any root or any stem can be termed a base, but the set of bases is not exhausted by the union of the set of roots and the set of stems: a derivationally analysed form to which derivational affixes are added can only be referred to as a base* (1983: 21). Put another way, base forms are words that are not derived from or made up of other words. According to Ingo Plag, *The term 'root' is used when we want to explicitly refer to the indivisible central part of a complex word. In all other cases, where the status of a form as indivisible is not an issue, we can just speak of bases (or, if the* base *is a word), base words* (2003: 10).

What is the difference between a root and a stem? In morphology, a *root* is a form that is not further analyzable and which remains when all inflectional or derivational affixes are removed. For example in the word *dishonesty,* the root is *honest,* the part which remains and cannot be further analysed after the prefix *dis-* and the suffix *-y* are removed. A *stem* is a term which is used only in inflectional morphology; that means that only inflectional affixes can be added to it. So, in the word *sleeping,* the stem is *sleep;* it is the part of the word that remains when the inflectional suffix *-ing* is removed.

Word formation in English encompasses many different processes, among which the processes of inflection and derivation are similar to some extent because they both use affixes to form a word. But inflectional and derivational morphology also differ because inflectional affixes added to a base do not produce a new word – they only change a word form in a sense of grammar, by changing the tense in verbs, or making difference between singular and plural in nouns, for example. A. Carstairs- Mc Carthy says that: *Inflection affects nouns, verbs, adjectives and a few adverbs, as well as the closed classes of pronouns, determiners, auxiliaries and modals. However, the maximum number of distinct inflected forms for any open-class lexeme is small* (2002: 42). The most often used inflectional suffixes are: *-s* (in nouns), *-ing, -ed,* and *-s* (in verbs), *-er* and *-est* (in adjectives and adverbs).

Derivational morphology results in creation of a new word with a new meaning. Most, but not all derivational processes change the word class, producing nouns from adjectives, nouns from verbs, adverbs from adjectives, verbs from nouns, and so on. But, some of them do not do that – they merely produce the words of the same class, but of different quality; so the suffix *-let* produces nouns which are smaller than *X,* like in *book* and *booklet,* while the negative prefix *de-* produces new verbs, as in *compose* and *decompose,* for example.

II SUFFIXES THAT DENOTE PROFESSIONS IN ENGLISH

The names of professions in English are derived with the use of different suffixes. That means that the names of professions are not derived using any prefix or infix, for example. The number of such suffixes is not very big, and almost all of them will be listed below. The derivational suffixes which are most often used in forming the names of professions are the following:

1. Suffix *-er* is a suffix used in forming nouns designating persons from the object of their occupation or labour. The origin of this noun suffix is in Middle English *-er(e)*, a coalescence of Old English *-ere* agentive suffix. The examples from that period can be recognized in the nouns such as *tiler, tinner* or *hatter*. This suffix also serves as the regular English formative of agent nouns, being attached to verbs of any origin, the examples being: *harvester, teacher, employer, writer, worker,* and so on.

This suffix also occurs in loanwords from French in the Middle English period, most often in names of occupations like *archer, butcher, butler, carpenter, grocer, officer*, and so on.

1. Sometimes the suffix *-er* can be contrasted with the suffix *-ee,* in that the *-er* denotes people who "do" and *-ee* people who "experience" something. Most often transitive verbs are used for forming such nouns, as, for example, in: *payer* and *payee, addresser* and *addressee, employer* and *employee.* But recently, there have been nouns produced to denote the performer of an act with the base being an intransitive verb, as in *escapee* or *returnee,* for example.

2. Is another noun-forming suffix *-or* now functioning in English as an orthographic variant of *-er*. It is used to form animate or inanimate agent nouns occurring originally in loanwords form Anglo-Saxon, like *tailor, debtor* or *lessor* for example. Now, the suffix denotes a person that does what is expressed by a verb, the examples being: *sailor, actor, conductor, operator, shopper, expropriator, conservator, translator, navigator,* and so on.

3. Is a noun-forming suffix *-ant* occurring originally in French and Latin loanwords (like in *servant,* for example). It is especially used for forming the nouns denoting human agents in legal actions or other formal procedures, the examples being: *applicant, assistant, defendant, attendant,* and so on. This suffix can be added only to bases of Latin origin, with a very few exceptions.

4. Is a suffix *-ent* equivalent to *-ant,* which is also appearing in nouns of Latin origin. It is used to form nouns causing or performing an action, and is added mostly to verbs. The examples are *president, superintendent, recipient, agent,* but also *delinquent, dissident,* and others. This suffix is not so productive as the others mentioned above.

5. Is a suffix *-ist* that often corresponds to verbs ending in *-ize,* and nouns ending in *-ism*. When the names of professions are in question, it is used to denote a person who practices something. Its origin is in Middle English, but through Latin and Greek languages. The examples are: *scientist, dentist, pianist, violinist, physicist, motorist* and so on.

6. Is a noun *-eer* forming suffix occurring originally in loanwords from French. It denotes persons who produce, handle, operate or deal with something. The examples are: *auctioneer, engineer, charioteer, musketeer* and so on. Now, the suffix is often used pejoratively as in *profiteer* or *racketeer,* for example.

7. Is a noun-forming suffix *-ian* with the same meaning as the suffix *-an,* and is mostly added to the nouns of Latin origin. Now, the former one is more productive of the two, especially in recent coinages and especially when the base ends in a consonant. The examples are: *musician, pediatrician, physician, politician, phonetician, optician, librarian* and so on.

8. Is a noun-forming suffix *-ster* referring especially to occupations or associations, and often having a derogatory meaning, as in *gangster, gamester* and *mobster,* for example. This suffix is not very productive. Other examples that do not convey any derogative meaning are *teamster, songster* and *tapster.*

9. Is a noun-forming suffix *-ive* which is not very productive in forming the names of the professions. The names of few occupations formed in this way are *detective* and *fugitive* for example.

10. Is a noun-forming suffix *-ic* occurring mainly in loanwords from Greek and is found in the names of professions like *mechanic, critic, cleric* and others.

11. Suffix *-ess* is used for forming distinctively feminine nouns and the professions that only women occupy. It was borrowed from French and now is added to the agent nouns mostly ending in *-er* and *-or.* The examples are: *actress, stewardess, hostess, waitress, poetess* and others.

12. Suffix *-ie* denotes professions that appeared relatively recently, like *bookie,* and *groupie,* for example.

13. Derivation with a *zero* suffix. In the names of certain professions the derivations with a *zero* suffix occur. So, for example, we can say, that the noun *cook,* meaning *someone who does the cooking,* is derived from the verb *to cook* by using a zero suffix, although many linguists would have different opinions about this type of noun-forming definition. The fact is that by adding a regular noun-forming suffix *-er* (which is used for producing nouns denoting professions) to the verb *to cook,* the word *cooker* is produced which denotes an appliance used for cooking and not the profession itself. The words following this type of derivation are *guide, nurse, spy* and some others.

Many names of professions in English are produced by other word-formation processes among which compounding is the most frequent one. So, all the names of professions containing *-man*, as a combining form in them, are compounds, like:

fisherman, fireman, policeman, handyman, and others. Very rarely, the names of some professions of foreign origin, taken mostly from the Greek language and absorbed into English, are produced by adding a prefix to a base. We can mention the word *architect,* for example. The origin of this word is in the Old Greek, in the word *architekton*, meaning a *builder.* The word was derived using the prefix *archi* and the base *tekton.*

III THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PROFESSIONS AND TRANSLATION OF THEIR NAMES INTO SERBIAN

Languages change all the time following the changes in society. New words emerge every day in different areas of human life: in politics, economy, medicine, technology, education and before all, in the area of entertainment.

With the disappearance of the old crafts and artifacts many professions became obsolete and the names for them disappeared from life and very often from the dictionaries. So, it is very difficult nowadays to find a *charioteer*, a *pinsetter*, a *lamplighter*, a *film projectionist* or even a *video store employee.* With the disappearance of the things that these and many other professions used in their work, the need for the work itself disappeared, too. But, at the same time new professions arise almost every day.

Most of the new professions appear in the IT sector. With the development of IT sector, a whole new language was developed. The development of the Internet created jobs like *web developer, app developer, software engineer, cloud services specialist, social media manager, IT trainee, network analyst, data miner, hacker, bug bounty hunter* and many others. If we take a close look at these coinages we shall notice that most of them are in fact endocentric compound nouns with the right-hand element being a centre. That right-hand element is a derivative denoting a profession and is produced by adding a derivative suffix like *-er, -or,* or *-ee* to the base, while the left-hand element of the compound serves as an adjective narrowing and explaining the meaning of the derivative within a compound.

With the development of social networks, many occupations emerged and new names for them had to be produced. The professions not known of a few decades before, have now become a common place in our everyday lives. Many people earn their living doing something that generations before them would not even consider possible. So, nowadays there are *bloggers, YouTubers, gamers, social media influencers, bots* and *haters,* for example. The names for these occupations have been derived following the same derivational processes that are commonly used in the English language, mainly by using the most common derivative suffix *-er.* The exception is a *bot* produced by the word formation process of clipping – in this example the first part of the word *robot* has been clipped to form a new word.

The development of financial sector, banking and economics in general, also brought about dozens of new professions not known before. The first and most widely spread profession is that of a *manager*, now used in a new and broader sense of the word. Other professions in this area are *executive officer, CEO (chief executive officer), PR manager(or simply PR), Human Resources manager (or simply HR), Millennial Generational expert*, and many others. We will notice here that the names of many new professions are used in a form of an acronym, which is also one of the word-forming processes in English.

Other areas of human life also developed new professions and invented new names for them. So, now there is a profession of a *life coach, motivational speaker, trendsetter, show runner, stylist, fitness instructor, freelancer, story liner* and even *vegan butcher*. Many of these professions are known only to a narrow number of people who work in that specific area of human life or who are in some other way connected to it.

The main difficulty arises when the names of these professions have to be translated, into Serbian, for example, or, namely, into any other language. We very soon realize that a simple, one-word translation is almost impossible. Serbian language does not have the synonyms for all those new words denoting new and different professions. Many of the newly-developed professions would require a phrase or even a whole sentence to be translated or described, which would complicate and slow down the communication.

So, nowadays, the most common process in word production in the area of human professions and occupations is the process of word borrowing. We cannot say that this is the process not known of before. It has been happening all the time. The languages are borrowing the words from one another and accepting them as the regular words of their corpus. That is why some of the words denoting the names of the professions have stayed unchanged for centuries, like the words *engineer, architect, pianist, musketeer* or *operator*, for example,

Nowadays, new English words are simply introduced into Serbian with no change in form or meaning. Even pronunciation is the same with only a few exceptions. This thing is happening because it is much easier to adopt those words the way they are then to search for a suitable word that already exists in Serbian or to invent a new word which might or might not be accepted by broad groups of language users. So, Serbian speakers consciously or unconsciously adopt the words from the English language and willingly or unwillingly learn that foreign language because they do not have a choice. The languages mingle and that is how *Serbglish* is produced. English influences the grammar of the Serbian language, too. The Serbian language accepts some of the morphological rules that are not in the nature of this language: for example, the common Serbian suffixes for producing the names of professions, such as *-ač, -ar, -ak, -ik*, are now replaced by the English *-er, -or* and *-ist.*

CONCLUSION

We can say that the process of derivation is a very productive process of word forming in English. It is often used in producing words denoting professions or occupations, and, in most cases, the process is performed by adding a suffix (not a prefix or an infix) to a base. Due to the development of all areas of human life, new professions emerge almost on a daily basis, and the need for new words is constantly present. Some of the new profession-denoting words are impossible to translate into Serbian. The job of a translator is to find the best way to introduce the new words either by inventing new Serbian coinages to replace them or simply by borrowing new words as they are. It is a very delicate job, and only time will show which solution turned out to be the best.

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ДЕРИВАЦИЈА У ЕНГЛЕСКОМ ЈЕЗИКУ – ИМЕНА ЗАНИМАЊА И ЊИХОВ ПРЕВОД НА СРПСКИ ЈЕЗИК

Резиме

Деривација је један од процеса грађења речи у енглеском језику. То је процес образовања речи у којем се од већ постојеће речи производи нова реч додавањем афикса (префикса, инфикса или суфикса) на основу. Наставци се такође додају на основу и у процесу флексије, али, у том случају, резултат није нова реч већ само граматичка варијанта већ постојеће речи. Рад се бави афиксима (суфиксима углавном) који се користе да произведу нове речи у енглеском језику које означавају занимања. Он такође разматра нова занимања која се појављују сваког дана због промена у свим сферама људског живота и тиме како енглески језик производи нове термине да испуни те потребе. Чињеница је да је тешко или готово немогуће превести имена свих нових занимања на српски језик, тако да преводилац мора да открије начине како да пронађе најбоље решење за овај проблем, било измишљајући нови термин у матерњем језику или, чешће, прилагођавајући стране термине правилима српског језика – што није лак посао.

Кључне речи: *морфологија, грађење речи, деривација, суфикси, занимања, превођење.*