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USING PREFIXES IN ENGLISH WORD FORMATION

New words are constantly appearing in the English language, so there is always a need for research and detailed consideration of their means of formation. This topic will be relevant as long as the language exists and develops.

The purpose of the work is to research and reveal both theoretical and practical questions: what is a word formation, what is a prefix, what is the role of a prefix in word formation, and the classification and definition of characteristic features of a prefix in word formation.

Let us take a closer look at the very concept of word formation since the prefix is a part of it and exists precisely for word formation. Word formation is an important part not only of English grammar but also in lexicology, phonetics, and other linguistic sciences. The term "word formation" means a constant process of creating new words in the language. From the scientific point of view, the subject of word formation is the study of the process of formation of new lexical units and the means by which this process takes place (suffixes, prefixes, infixes, etc.).

Prefixes in English are used for word formation. They can change the meaning of a word, but in most cases, they do not change the part of speech. Most often they are attached to verbs, adjectives, and nouns. In English, prefixes, except for negative ones, can be written together or with a hyphen. In British English, prefixes are most often written with a hyphen, and sometimes separately from the main word. In American English, prefixes are always written together. Example:

British English: *co-worker; re-do.*

American English: *coworker; redo.*

Prefixation, as a word form, consists of the modification of the base to which the prefix is attached. Prefixes differ in their origin: they can come from one's own language or be foreign. By modifying the lexical meaning of the word, the prefix rarely changes the grammatical nature of the word as a whole, therefore, both a simple word and its prefix-derivative in most cases belong to the same part of the language, for example: *approve* – *disapprove*, *believe* - *disbelieve*.

Prefixes, that originated from English, come from individual words. There are not many such prefixes – *a-*, *be-*, *fore-*, *mid-*, *un-*. Prefix *is* - mixed type (German *mis*, Latin *minus*, French *me*, *mes*).

The prefix *–a*, which comes from the Old English preposition *an*, is used with a noun, an adjective, and a verb, and conveys the meaning of a state, or position. For example: *apiece*, *asleep*, *awake*.

In modern English, the prefix *be-* is used mainly to form verbs. With its help adjectives with the meaning of contempt are also formed from nouns, e.g.: *beneaped*. A separate group includes words with the prefix *be-*, which historically form an inseparable basis: *beneath*, *between*, *beware*, *and* *beyond*. The verbs *become* and *begin* have acquired generalized meaning in the process of historical development.

The prefix *for-* belongs to the original English language. The prefix was productive in the Old English period of language development, but in modern times it can be found in a lot of words, although, the meaning attached to it is broad (prohibitions, exceptional, omission, failure, refusal). Commonly used words with this prefix are: *forget*, *forgive*, *forbid*, *and* *forsake*.

The use of the prefix is quite extensive. Verbs often form an adjective or a verbal noun together with a prefix, gaining a different meaning. For example, *outfighting* (*boxing at arm's length*), *outstanding*.

When forming nouns from verbs, after which a preposition can be used, from verbs and derived nouns, the following meanings arise:

- a) process: outbreak, outcry, outrush.
- b) consequence of action: outcome, outcrop.
- c) passive dependence on the action: outlay, outlook, output.
- d) place or time of action: outfall, outlet, output.

When forming adjectives from nouns with descriptive qualities, the prefix gives the meaning:

- a) external features or characteristics: outback, outline, outside.
- b) separate features characteristic of the whole: outhouse, outfield, and outworker.

When forming adjectives from nouns, the prefix gives them the meaning of independence from the object or subject of the action: *outdoor*, *outlaw*.

A prefix can give a new word the meaning of redundancy. This group includes various parts of speech: *outbrave*, *outmatch*, and *outjump*.

Summarizing all of the above, it should be emphasized that the prefix has become widely used in the English language due to the lack of word endings.

In conclusion, it can be said, that prefixation is one of the most common means of word formation in modern English, which is based on attaching a prefix to the beginning of the word root. Prefixes do not change the grammatical nature of the word, and newly formed words belong to the same parts of speech as their bases, which makes it easy to form new words and use them during everyday conversations.

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