

## Another form of word formation

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Word formation operates with words and morphemes, is the standard view. That a form of non-morphemic word formation exists in addition is seen as a fringe case at best. This presentation aims to highlight the importance of non-morphemic word formation.

To this end, three word-formation processes, which are occurring with increasing frequency (Cannon 1986, 1989, Bauer 1994, 2001, Frandrych 2008), are discussed and analysed:

- Clipping
- Libfixing
- Blending

In this presentation I limit myself mainly to examples from English. The data come from the literature about the processes discussed or have been found through targeted internet searches.

### Clipping

Clipping is the shortening of lexical material. Back clipping is the most common form of clipping. The result is usually monosyllabic:

- (1) sax < saxophone
- Chev < Chevrolet
- sex < sexual activity

The examples show that the resulting clipped form is not a morpheme, but a stressed syllable.

Clipping can also form the basis for embellished clipping (Bauer and Huddleston 2002: 1636):

- (2) lesbo < lesbian
- journos < journalist
- sleazo < sleazy

Again, clipping does not take morpheme boundaries into account.

### Libfixing

Libfixing (Zwicky 2010) is a process in which suffix-like elements are 'liberated' from longer formations and that can productively be used to coin novel words:

- (3) vacation > -cation      documentary > -umentary
- staycation      shockumentary
- gaycation      mockumentary
- brocation      dogumentary

Neither *va-* nor *-cation* are morphemic units. What is striking is that the resulting new words syllabically and prosodically follow the model *vacation* and *documentary* respectively.

### Blending

Lexical blending is a process that combines (parts of) two source words into one single form, losing some phonological material in the process (Moreton et al. 2017: 349).

- (4) breakfast + lunch > brunch      gigantic + enormous > ginormous

smoke + fog	> smog	guess + estimate	> guesstimate
boat + hotel	> boatel	stagnation + inflation	> stagflation

The examples presented show that morphemes do not play any role in the truncation of the source words and in the blending of the remaining parts.

Blends are characterized by several properties, the most essential of which is that the right-hand part is the formal, and often also semantic, head of the new word form (Hamans 2021):

- (5) simultaneous (Adj) + broadcast (Noun) → simulcast (Noun)  
 die Kur ‘cure’ (F) + der Urlaub ‘vacation’ (M) → der Kurlaub (M) [German]  
 die Daten ‘data’ (pl) + die Kartei ‘file’ (sg) → die Datei (sg) [German]

The head also determines the syllabic and prosodic structure of blends. If an onset of the second source word, of which the head results, has been truncated (*lunch, fog, hotel*) the onset of the first, left, source word may be inserted. If the truncated part is a syllable (*enormous, estimate, inflation*) the first syllable of the first source word may be inserted.

**These examples show that processes of non-morphemic word formation are productive and systematic and thus need a place in morphological theory but still require much research.**

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