

## СЛОВОТВІР

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### AFFIXATION AS A PRODUCTIVE WAY OF SLANG VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

*The article reveals the productivity of affixation in the word-building of modern English slang. The author stresses that suffixation is more often employed for the coinage of new slangisms than prefixation. Moreover, the suffixes used for the formation of new slangisms may be either typical of slang word-building or function in Standard English word-building system as well. The author points out the fact that suffixation in slang is often accompanied by semantic transference. It has been emphasized that models according to which new slang units are formed in most cases coincide with the models of Standard English word-building. All theoretical statements have been profusely illustrated with linguistic data selected from modern lexicographic sources.*

**Key words:** affixation, suffixation, prefixation, models, suffixes, slangisms.

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### АФІКСАЦІЯ ЯК ПРОДУКТИВНИЙ СПОСІБ ЗБАГАЧЕННЯ СЛЕНГОВОГО ВОКАБУЛЯРУ

*У статті проаналізовано значення афіксації в утворенні сленгізмів в англійській мові. Зазначено, що створення нових лексичних одиниць на рівні сленгу частіше відбувається за допомогою суфіксації, ніж за допомогою префіксації. Крім того, афікси, що утворюють сленгізми, можуть бути як типовими лише для рівня сленгу, так і запозиченими з літературної підсистеми. Окремо вказано, що афіксація у сленгу часто супроводжується семантичною деривацією. Автор зазначає, що моделі, за якими відбувається утворення нових сленгізмів, у цілому збігаються із моделями, характерними для лексичних одиниць літературного шару лексики англійської мови. Усі теоретичні положення проілюстровані матеріалом сучасних лексикографічних джерел.*

**Ключові слова:** афіксація, суфіксація, префіксація, моделі, суфікси, сленгізми.

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### **АФФИКСАЦИЯ КАК ПРОДУКТИВНЫЙ СПОСОБ ОБОГАЩЕНИЯ СЛЕНГОВОГО ВОКАБУЛЯРА**

В статье проанализировано значение аффиксации в образовании сленгизмов английского языка. Отмечается, что образование новых лексических единиц на уровне сленга чаще происходит с помощью суффиксации, чем префиксации. Более того, аффиксы, с помощью которых образуются сленгизмы, могут быть как типичными только для уровня сленга, так и заимствованными из литературной подсистемы. Отдельно указывается, что аффиксация в сленге часто сопровождается семантической деривацией. Автор отмечает, что модели, по которым происходит образование новых сленгизмов, в целом совпадают с моделями, характерными для лексических единиц литературного слоя лексики английского языка. Все теоретические положения проиллюстрированы материалом современных лексикографических источников.

**Ключевые слова:** аффиксация, суффиксация, префиксация, модели, суффиксы, сленгизмы.

**Problem statement indicating its connection with the important scientific and practical objectives.** The rapid development of all spheres of human life brings about constant changes in the lexical level of language. The susceptibility of vocabulary layers to such influence varies. One of the layers of the English Vocabulary that is constantly enlarging due to linguistic and extra-linguistic factors is slang. As the formation of new slangisms by means of affixation is a continuous process, it requires linguistic research based on topical language data.

**Analysis of recent research and publications cited by the author.** In our understanding of the essence of slang we appealed to the fundamental studies by such prominent scholars as E. Partridge, H. Wentworth, S. B. Flexner, H. L. Mencken, Ch. Fries, R. Spiers, J. E. Lighter, V. A. Khomyakov, M. M. Makovskyi etc. Our interpretation of affixation as one of the most productive ways of English word-building is based on the theories worked out by I. V. Arnold, H. B. Antrushina and others. Slang units analyzed in the presented paper have been selected from 'The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang' [4].

**The goal and objectives of the present article.** The main objective of the presented paper is to analyze the peculiarities of English slangisms formed by means of affixation.

**Presentation of the research.** Affixation is the most often employed way of building new slangisms. Thorough studies of lexicographic material prove that prefixation is less productive than suffixation. Prefixes and suffixes may be either typical of the literary standard or of slang word-building; they may be attached both to standard and to sub-standard roots to form new slangisms. For example, the prefix **de-** if added to the slang word **bag** (from **bags** – *trousers*) forms the slang verb **to debug** meaning *to remove (a person's) trousers, esp. as a joke*; the meaning of the prefix **de-** thus being preserved: *down, away, off*. The literary standard prefix **un-** is used to form slang adjectives, verbs etc.: **uncool** → *unrelaxed, unpleasant; (of jazz) not cool*; **unstuck** → *to leave the ground, take off*. It should be noted that derivation is often accompanied by semantic transference in the act of forming new slangisms.

The formation of slang words by means of suffixation is characterized by a variety of models. Most of them are typical of standard word-building. Thus, one of the most frequently used suffixes is the suffix **-er** in the meaning of *the doer of the action* as well as in other meanings. The formation of new slang nouns may be carried out according to such models as:

1. N + -er → N: **backyard** + -er → **backyarder** (*a person who keeps chickens in his backyard, a small poultry-keeper*);  
**Christ** + -er → **Christer** (*an over-pious or sanctimonious person*);  
**foot** + -er → **footer** (*the game of football*);  
**life** + -er → **lifer** (*career soldier*);
2. V + -er → N: **to break** + -er → **breaker** (*a Citizen's Band radio user; esp. one who interrupts a conversation in order to begin transmitting*);  
**to clang** + -er → **clanger** (*a mistake, esp. one that attracts attention*);
3. Adj. + -er → N: **bum** (Adj.: *of low quality*) + -er → **bummer** (*an unpleasant or depressing experience, esp. one induced by a hallucinogenic drug; a disappointment, failure*);
4. Num. + -er → N: **five** + -er → **fiver** (*nickel, five-cent coin*).

A peculiar feature of slang derivation is the wide use of suffixes with compounds, contracted phrases and abbreviated stems. For example, **peasoup** + -er → **peasouper** (*a dense yellow fog; French Canadian*); **barbecue** + -ie → **Barbie** (Australian slang); **grot/esque** + -y → **grotty** (*unpleasant, dirty, shabby, unattractive*); **reg/istration** + -o → **rego** (Australian slang, *motorvehicle registration*).

Alongside suffixes typical of standard word-building slang derivatives may be formed by means of such suffixes which mark the

structure of the word as a slang one. Here belong: **-aroo**, **-eroo**, **-erino**, **-ette**, **-ino**, **-terino**, **-nik**, **-itis**, **-o**, **-ola**, **-ski** etc.

It is presumed that the suffix **-o** has been borrowed from the Mexican variant of Spanish where it was used as the ending of the Accusative Case of Nouns, Masculine, Singular [1, p. 99].

Models according to which new slangisms are formed by means of the suffix **-o** are numerous:

1. Adj. + -o → Adj.: **neat** (Adj.) + **-o** → **neato** (Adj.) *neat, pleasant, satisfactory*;
2. Adj. + -o → N: **sick** (Adj.) + **-o** → **sicko** (N) *a day's sick leave, esp. one taken without valid medical reason*;
3. N + -o → N: **job** (N) + **-o** → **jobbo** (N) *back slang of boy meaning a lout, hooligan*;
4. N + -o → Adj.: **whizz** (N) + **-o** → **whizzo** (Adj.) *excellent, wonderful*;
5. N + -o → Int.: **whizz** (N) + **-o** → **whizzo** (Int.) *exclamation of delight*;
6. V + -o → N: **stop** (V) + **-o** → **stoppo** (N) *an escape, a get-away*;
7. V + -o → Adj.: **stink** (V) + **-o** → **stinko** (Adj.) *extremely drunk*;
8. Adv. + -o → Adj.: **stark** (Adv.) + **-o** → **starko** (Adj.) *stark naked* etc.

The suffix **-o** may be added to curtailed stems. Here the words undergo two word-building processes: abbreviation and affixation. In such formations the suffix **-o** does not change the semantics of the words but adds peculiar jocular, positive connotations to it, e.g.: **aggr/avation** + **-o** → **aggro** (N) *deliberate trouble-making or harassment, violence, trouble*; **musician** + **-o** → **muso**; **journalist** + **-o** → **journo**.

The slang suffix **-o** may also function as the semantic intensifier. Thus, the word **daddy-o** is used as a form of address to a man; the exclamation "**Right-o!**" functions as the slang equivalent of the expression "**All right!**".

A lot of slangisms formed by the suffix **-o** added to the root morpheme or the stem of literary or slang words are observed in Australian slang. Nouns may be used here to denote a person of a particular occupation e.g.: **bottle-o** → *a collector of empty bottles* [2, p. 14]; **milk-o** → *milkman*; comes from the call "Milk O!" used by milkmen; **rabbit-o** → *a travelling seller of rabbit-meat*.

Another slang suffix **-ino/-arino/-erino** serves as an intensifier of jocular or ironical connotation. A lot of slangisms built by means of this suffix are widely used by Americans of Italian origin. The suffix **-ino** is often added to the originally English word thus enriching slang

vocabulary with analogous creations [1, p. 100]. For instance, the slangisms **smasherino**, **sockerino** refer to *success*.

The slang suffix of Spanish-American etymology **-aroo/-eroo/-roo/-oo** usually denotes an agent and is the slang equivalent of the literary standard suffix **-er**. For example, **flop** (V) + **-eroo** → **flopperoo** (N) *a failure*; **pip** (N) + **-eroo** → **pipperoo** (N) *something / somebody remarkably good* – диво-хлопець; **smash** (N) + **-eroo** → **smasheroo** (N) *a great success*.

The same suffix may be added to form slang adjectives: **stinkeroo** – огідний, гідкий; **cufferoo** – безкоштовний; **aceroo** – перший, найкращий [1, p. 99].

The slang suffix **-aroo/-eroo/-roo/-oo** can add either positive or negative connotation to the semantic structure of the word. It depends on the semantics of the stem to which it is added. Thus, in the slang noun **flopperoo** the suffix functions as the intensifier of the negative shade of meaning. The noun **buddyroo** is more positively charged than the noun it has been derived from (**buddy**); here the suffix intensifies the positive connotation: “Be a buddy. Be a buddyroo.” [4, p. 39].

The French noun **ville** (*town*) is used as the second element of nouns denoting names of places and people in the literary standard of American English. Here the root morpheme **ville** has lost its semantics and new derivatives with **-ville** are widely used for negative characterization of some place or person. The modern suffix **-ville** is used to form the name of fictitious places with reference to a particular (often unpleasant) quality [3, p. 278]. For example, **dull** (Adj.) + **-ville** → **Dullsville** (*an imaginary town that is extremely dull or boring; hence, a condition or environment of extreme dullness*); **Nashville** → *unfashionable*.

Another slang suffix **-nik** is supposed to have come from Yiddish where it bore negative diminutive connotation as in the word **nudnik** (*занауда*) [1, p. 102]. Slangisms with the suffix **-nik** are formed on the principle of analogy to the word **beatnik**. For example, **neat** + **-nik** → **neatnik** (*one who is neat in his/her personal habits*); **no-good** + **-nik** → **no-goodnik** (*a worthless person*); **tromba** (*trumpet*) + **-nik** → **trombenik** (*a boaster, braggart; any idle, dissolute or conceited person*). Thus, the suffix **-nik** bears a negative connotation and denotes a person associated with a specified thing or quality.

The slang vocabulary is rich in words built with other productive suffixes, among which one can find the following: **-ation**, e. g. **trickery** + **-ation** → **trickeration** (*a trick or stratagem*); **-aire**, e. g. **squillion** + **-aire** → **squillionaire** (*someone extraordinary wealthy, a multimillionaire*); **-ster**, e. g. **swing** + **-ster** → **swingster** (*a musician who plays jazz with a swing*); **-ati**, e. g. (**glitter** + **-ati** → **glitterati** (*the fashionable set of*

*literary or show-business people*); -ery, e. g. **nosh** + **-ery** → **noshery** (*a restaurant, a snack-bar*); -ette, e. g. **bimbo** + **-ette** → **bimbette** (*an adolescent or teenager*); -ful, e. g. **ear** + **-ful** → **earful** (*as much as one is able to hear or can tolerate hearing; a strong and often lengthy reprimand*); -ine, e. g. **gonger** + **-ine** → **gongerine** (*opium, an opium pipe*); -ski/-sky, e. g. **butt-in** + **-sky** → **buttinsky** (*someone who butts in, an intruder*); -fy, e. g. **yuppie** + **-fy** → **yuppify** (*to change (an area, building, clothing etc.) so as to be characteristic of suitable to yuppies*).

**Conclusions and prospects of further investigation in the outlined field.** Thus, affixation is considered one of the most productive ways of word-building in English and American slang. More slang units are formed by means of suffixation than by prefixation. Suffixes used to form new slangisms may be typical of the literary standard or of slang word-building. They may bear the semantics of their own or just serve as intensifiers of the meaning of the root morpheme or the stem. There are a lot of analogous formations among slang derivatives. The productivity of different slang suffixes varies.

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#### **СЛОВОТВОРЧІ МОДЕЛІ КОЛОРОНІМІВ У НІМЕЦЬКІЙ МОВІ**

*У статті здійснено спробу виокремити словотворчі моделі, за допомогою яких утворюються колороніми в німецькій мові: кореневі, суфіксальні моделі, моделі складання основ, моделі-словосполучення. Кожну з виділених моделей охарактеризовано щодо потенційної можливості утворювати нові колоронайменування, тобто, умовної відкритості чи закритості.*