

Similarities and Differences of Morphological Productivity in English and Arabic

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ABSTRACT

The study addresses the investigation of morphological productivity in both Arabic and English. Morphological productivity refers to the ability of morphological rules to generate new words in a language. The study begins by defining the concept of morphological productivity and reviewing a number of previous studies related to word formation. It then proceeds to analyze the main mechanisms of word formation in both English and Arabic and also sheds light on several morphological processes, such as acronym, blending, borrowing, conversion, derivation, among others. Finally, the study provides a comparative analysis of word formation strategies in English and Arabic, emphasizing the similarities and differences in the productivity of morphological rules, reaffirming the importance of morphological productivity as an integral part of linguistic competence, and suggesting future directions for research in the field of contrastive studies on word formation.

KEYWORDS: Productivity, Morphological rules, Acronym, Derivation.

1.1 Introduction

A morphological rule or pattern is considered productive when it can be applied to new bases to form additional lexical items. Although the concept of productivity is relevant to both inflectional and derivational morphology, this paper concentrates specifically on productivity within word-formation processes. The investigation of morphological productivity raises several key questions: whether the productivity of a rule forms part of a speaker's implicit linguistic knowledge, and which factors influence the likelihood that a given rule will be used to create new words. In other words, what determines why certain morphological rules are more productive than others? This study seeks to explore and address these questions.

1.2 Productivity knowledge of the speakers

To start, one could wonder why productivity in morphology is so important. Even if few syntacticians are interested in defining and analyzing syntactic norms, they are nevertheless productive. Linguists study hypothetical claims in syntax regardless of whether they are, in some way, true sentences. In fact, we may apply this tactic to morphology and assert that linguists who are interested in language morphological systems ought to look at plausible words, whether or not they are real, widely used terms.

To put it another way, one school of thought holds that morphological performance—the actual application of that knowledge for communication and other activities—and morphological competence—speakers' comprehension of the language's terminology and rules—are conceptually different and ought to be studied independently.

One school of thought holds that since production is a diachronic phenomenon—that is, it has nothing to do with how morphological patterns develop across time—it is irrelevant when

studying competence. A neologism is a sign that a new term has entered the language and that the language has progressed. This is especially true when it is accepted by other speakers and becomes a popular phrase.

Therefore, some linguists propose that the productivity issue can be solved by adopting a strictly synchronic frame of mind. However, something doesn't seem quite right. It doesn't explain why certain morphological patterns are more frequently used than others when creating new words.

As any speaker will agree, hypothetical phrases like *helpfulness (with the suffixes -ful and -ness in the wrong order) or *frownity (with the suffix -ity added to a verb) are manifestly ungrammatical (Aronoff 1980). Given the frequency of such judgments in judging linguistic competence, this study recommends that a rule's productivity be considered part of speakers' (synchronic) knowledge of their language.

By seeking to link the productivity of a rule with its restriction, the importance of productivity has also been questioned. The set of potential bases to which a rule can be applied is known as its realm. When the domain is smaller than the complete word-class, the rule is seen as having systematic selectional limitations.

This frame of view holds that all morphological laws are equally productive but not equally limited. Some are quite restrictive (such as the English deadjectival -en in blacken, redden, etc., which attaches only to monosyllabic adjectives, among other limits), while others are completely unlimited (such as the English -ness, which can be affixed to nearly any type of adjective).

This viewpoint is highly speculative, though. Despite their restricted output, there are simply too many constraints that are not clearly strictly regulated. For instance, although it is rarely used, the English diminutive suffix -let (such as streamlet, piglet, and booklet) may combine with any monosyllabic concrete noun to create new words.

Therefore, we must acknowledge that a speaker's command of a language encompasses not only words and rules but also the ability to use a certain rule to create a new term, such as productivity. Research shows a complex interaction of grammatical, social/pragmatic, and processing constraints that determine whether a morphological rule is productive or unproductive, and speakers can learn about productivity by observing how morphological patterns are used (and not used) in the community. Because of this, productivity is a phenomenon that cannot be explained or ignored, and most linguists view it as a crucial area of study in morphology.

1.3 Word formation

Definition and Associated Studies The morphological and sometimes grammatical process of word formation aims to create new words in a language. The process by which words are created is called word development. Crystal (2003:523-524) defines word creation as "the complete process of morphological diversity in the generation of words, i.e. integrating the two key divisions of inflection and derivation."

Word formation takes into account both newly created and preexisting terms. Words that adhere to a set of regular patterns are produced by certain lexical and grammatical conditions and properties, such as affixation, derivation, and inflection. Word development in languages other than or in addition to English has been the subject of numerous studies.



Hang (2003) looked at the origins of terms in both English and Chinese. Using proto-type theory, he compared the rules of word-derivation and inflection in the two languages. He realized that the unconventional approach to word generation in Chinese—specific features plus basic level terms—is essentially a kind of prototype theory application, with Chinese words being uniquely tagged with the semantic category feature that English words generally lack. This is related to how the two cultures interpret the most basic level of category in word construction.

1.3.1 Word Formation Processes in English and Arabic:

Acronym, blending, borrowing, antonomasia, conversion, backformation, compounding, derivation, clipping, folk etymology, and coinage are all word generating techniques in English (Barnhart et al. 2006:670, and Doblhofer, 1990:55). In Arabic, word construction procedures include acronym, blending, borrowing, antonomasia, conversion, backformation, compounding, derivation, and clipping.

1.3.2 Acronym

A. English

New words are created by combining the initials of each word. "Abbreviation" is another name for an acronym. Conversely, it's important to distinguish between common abbreviations, initialisms, and alphabetizes and acronyms spelled as words. For example, USA or UK. As a result, an abbreviation is only considered acronym when it is pronounced like a word. OPEC is an acronym that stands for 'Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries,' UNESCO is an acronym that stands for 'United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization,' and BENELUX is an acronym that stands for 'Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxemburg' (Mossman, 1998:165). Acronyms are widely used to establish new terms in scientific and technical domains, such as SARS ('severe acute respiratory syndrome,' AIDS ('Acquired Immunity Deficiency Sickness,' and LASER ('Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation') (Halden, 1992:107).

b. Arabic

The common acronyms in Arabic are حماس from حركة المقاومة الإسلامية (Islamic Resistance Movement), and واخ from وكالة أنباء الخليج (Gulf News Agency), (Sayeed, 1995:487). There is a certain type of acronym that is irregular in form. e.g. ألب إليك إلبابا (I wait upon thy service, O my Lord!), منصور (1996:122 and حيهلا which is based on حي على الصلاة (Come to prayer!), (Wright, 1971:294).

1.3.3 Blending

A. English

Blending is the process of combining two words to create a new phrase. Portmanteau is another term for blending (Bussmann, 1996:786). The first letters of the first word plus the last letters of the second word are the most common type of blending in English. Given that numerous words are created in this way. Breakfast and lunch Brunch equals telethon, but television + marathon equals telethon. Spanglish is a mash-up of Spanish and English. Yuletide (1996:66).

As in medical + care = medicare and American + Indian = Amerindian, the alternate form is the initial few letters of the first word with no deletion in the second term. As in beef + macaroni = beefaroni and cheese + burger = cheeseburger, the first word is sometimes concatenated with the last letters of the second word. The Halden's (1992:180)

B. Arabic

The starting letters of the first word and the last letters of the second word are frequently used to create Arabic blends. For example, sea surfing.

زمان time + مكان place = زمان setting

ركوب riding + موجة sea tide = ركجة

بري land + مائي sea = برمائي amphibian Sayeed (1995:490).

1.3.4. Borrowing

A. English

Numerous terms in English are borrowed from other languages. English has been influenced by many languages. It has borrowed from French terms such as "chassis, cache, boulevard," Italian terms such as "pizza, viola, piano, diva," Arabic terms such as "alcohol, zero, peak," and Spanish terms such as "cigar, alligator" (Barber, 1987:260). Loan-translation, or 'calque' in English, is the opposite sort of borrowing. Barnhart and colleagues (2006): 876

B. Arabic

In Arabic, there are words borrowed from French like (بورصة stock exchange), مونتاچ, (backstage), (كواليس), (ballet باليه), (customs كمارك), (appearance (ديكور (production), (الالوسي 1989:83).

1.3.5 Antonomasia

A. English

The process by which a legitimate or personal name becomes an epithet for something particular is known as antonomasia. Some of these terminologies were inspired by place names, such as "hamburger" (from Hamburg, Germany), "wiener" (from Wien, Austria), "gouda" (from Gouda, Holland), "muslin" (from Mosul, Iraq), and "limousine" (from Limoges, France). Doblhofer (1990:155).

Other names are called after personal names, as in 'nicotine' (after Count Nicote), 'bilharzias' (after T. Bilharz), 'ford' (after Henry Ford), 'watt' (after James Watt), and 'Reuters' (after M. de Reuter), (Barber, 1987:211).

B. Arabic

There are some words in Arabic the origin of which is a proper noun and, in certain words, a personal name. The proper nouns almost refer to place-names, and the common words are صيني

china earthenware' (after China), (مهند) a type of swords used to be made in India), (كوفي) a type of writing font in Arabic that was originated in (رقفي) الكوفة, 'watermelon' (after رقة in Syria) and 'منغولية' mongolism' (after Mongolia), (1989:85 الألويسي،

1.3.6 Conversion

A. English

Conversion happens when the function of a word changes, such as when a noun becomes a verb. Some words, such as 'butter' N 'to butter' V and 'radio' N 'to radio' V, are changed from nouns to verbs. Words can be changed from verbs to nouns, such as 'must' V 'must' N and 'to guess' V 'guess' N. Adjectives can be turned into verbs, as in 'dirty' Adj. 'to filthy' V and 'empty' Adj. 'to empty' V. (Doblhofer, 1990:187). Furthermore, abbreviations and compounds have evolved; 'ID' is now used as a verb 'to ID,' while 'print out' has become a noun 'printout' (ibid.).

B. Arabic

Conversion Converted words are extremely rare in Arabic, and they are distinguished by a shift from noun to verb, i.e., generated from nouns.

'companion' Noun صاحب → 'to accompany' Verb صاحب

'stage' Noun مسرح → 'to act on stage' Verb مسرح

'army' Noun جيش → 'to mobilize army' Verb جيش

'phone' Noun هاتف → 'to phone' Verb هاتف

(Kharma and Mitchell, 1987:170).

1.3.7 Backformation

A. English

It is the process of taking an existing term and using it to create a new one. Backformed words typically show both functional and morphological changes. The change from noun to verb is linked to the functional shift. 'Babysitter' means 'to babysit,' 'option' means 'to opt,' 'television' means 'to televise,' 'emotion' means 'to emote,' 'typewriter' means 'to typewrite,' and 'house-keeper' means 'to housekeep' (Williamson, 2004:177).

B. Arabic

Backformation In Arabic, there is a group of new words that have arisen from other familiar ones through the process of backformation. All of the words generated are verbs that are derived from nouns or adjectives.

'globalization' Noun عولمة → 'to globalize' Verb عولم

'programming' Noun برمجة → 'to programme' Verb برمج

كهرباء 'electricity' Noun → كهرب 'to electrify' Verb

(امين، 2005:256)

1.3.8 Compounding

A. English

Compounding is the process of combining two words to form a single word. There are many ways to combine words. Compounds are treated as single words even though they consist of two or more words. This is due to the fact that they aim to convey a specific emotion or meaning. Compounds consist of two or more grammatical elements, like a verb and a noun. "Grammatical or lexical compounding" is the term for this, (Erlich, 1995:144). 'Bookcase,' 'regardless,' and 'nowadays' are examples of this kind. Words can be connected with and, as in 'hide-and-see' or 'Jack-and-Gill.' Prepositions are also used to form compounds like as "man-of-war," "daughter-in-law," and "face-to-face." Reduplicatives, which are repeated words or syllables, are also known as compounds since they are made up of two words. For example, 'tell-tale,' 'hugger-mugger,' and so on. Compounding of words is not the only sort of compounding; compounding of sentences is another. This type of compounding is called as 'syntactic compounding' since phrases or sentences are employed (Partridge, 1997:628). It may be found in phrases like 'forget-me-not,' 'hop-on-my-thumb,' and 'happy-go-lucky.' (Barnhart et al., 2006:566). A novel form of compounding has just been employed. It consists of one or two letters followed by a word: the letter might be an abbreviation, as in 'e-mail,' where 'e' stands for 'electronic,' or it can be a simple letter, as in 'T-shirt' (a garment shaped like the letter T) (Mossman, 1998:654).

B. Arabic

In Arabic تركيب إضافي, the compound has two words that are related through the genitive case. It consists of two nouns linked by the definite article الـ 'the', as in درجة + درجة الحرارة = حرارة, 'temperature', كرة القدم = قدم + كرة, 'football', and الكتاب + أهل those especially nouns, personal in used also is It Book.' the of 'أهل الكتاب' (أهل الكتاب + أهل). (درويش، 1967:180) and أبو الطيب (أبو الطيب + أبو) with start

Another genitive compounding is that which is adjective-noun, hence it is called مشبهة (نهر، 1989:106) 'much-witted' and صافي النية 'good-intentioned' and صفة

As for تركيب إسنادي, the compound word consists of phrases or sentences. In other words, subject and predicate, as in تأبط شرا 'He carried wickedness underarm' and الحق جاد 'The right grew better' (الطنطاوي، 1975:211). Other examples are جاد المولى 'The Lord gave liberally' and برق نحره 'His butchering shone' (قباوة، 1971:180).

1.3.9 Derivation

A- English

In derivation, a word is constructed by combining derivational affixes and inflections. Many suffixes are used to make nouns, including 'ment' in 'agreement,' 'hood' in 'brotherhood,' 'ship' in

'friendship,' 'ness' in 'kindness,' 'dom' in 'kingdom,' 'age' in 'storage,' 'let' in 'starlet,' and 'ess' in 'starlet' (Williamson, 2004:233) '-less' in 'careless,' '-ly' in 'friendly,' '-some' in 'tiresome,' '-full' in 'handful,' '-ish' in 'childish,' '-al' in 'conditional,' 'ing' in 'interesting,' and '-ize' in 'criticize.' Adverbs are made of of suffixes like '-ly' in 'happily,' '-wise' in 'likewise,' '-ward' in 'westward,' '-wide' in 'global,' and '-style' in 'westernstyle.' Snyder and Thomson (2006), p. 180. To produce verbs, derived prefixes such as 'en-' in 'enlarge,' 'em-' in 'empower,' 'be-' in 'belittle,' and 'de-' in 'delimit' are utilized (Erlich, 1995:144).

B. Arabic

In many circumstances, affixes in Arabic incorporate suffixes. Verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs are derived from these suffixes. The suffix transforms male nouns into feminine nouns.

And adjectives;

معلم teacher → معلمة woman teacher

It also derives generic nouns from verbs;

سَمَكَ to plumb, v → سَمَكَة plumber, n

The suffix ى derives feminine adjectives;

قصير short, masc. → قصيرة short, fem.

عطش thirst, n → عطشان thirsty, adj

1.3.10 Clipping

A. English

It is the process of chopping a word, which results in a clipped or abbreviated term. Clipping is also known as shortening and ellipsis (Bussmann, 1996:357). Many English words are clipped at the end, deleting the term's last part. As a result, the words 'prof' (professor), 'gym' (gymnasium), 'logo' (logotype), and 'gasoline' are all abbreviated at the end (Fromkin and Rodman, 1983:125). Some words are cut at the start; the first letters are removed, as in (disport)'sport' and (helicopter)'copter.' Words that have been clipped on both ends, such as 'flu' (influenza) and 'fridge,' are sandwiched in between (refrigerator). Clipping can cause a change in shape while retaining the same sounds regardless of whatever area is cut. For example, 'mike' (microphone), 'nuke' (nuclear), and 'Xmas' (Christmas). Another method words, especially compounds, are cut is by hypocorism, or the use of diminutives, as in 'cookie' (cake), 'telly' (television), 'roomie' (roommate), and 'goalie' (goalkeeper) (Erlich, 1995:179).

B. Arabic

There are certain words in Arabic which might be shortened or clipped. Clipping occurs either at the beginning of the word, namely the initial letters, as in هذا 'this' (masc.) → ذا, or at the end of the word, as in تلك 'that' (fem.) → تا and ذلك 'that'(masc.) → ذا (Sayeed, 1995:490). However,

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