THE DERIVATIVE ASPECT OF THE FORMATION OF THE PREFIXAL AND ONOMASIOLOGICAL CATEGORY OF NEGATION

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Abstract

The article addresses the formation of the prefixal and onomasiological category of Negation in Old English, Middle English, Early New English and New English. The work represents basic lexico-semantic groups of verb and noun bases, which actively participate in the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation across different periods in the history of the English. It includes a complex diachronical study of the English prefixal derivatives from the point of view of their word-formation potential within the onomasiological category of Negation. It presents an analysis of the considerable changes in the semantic and onomasiological structures within the frame of the onomasiological category of Negation in the history of the English language.

Keywords: *verbal and substantive derivative basis, negation category, onomasiology, prefixation, word-formation, diachrony*

1. Introduction

The study of word-formation processes, which resulted in the genesis of the current system of language derivative units and changes that have been subjected to its separate parts since their inception, is among the topical issues of modern theoretical linguistics. The focus of this type of research should be the formation problems of structural, semantic and onomasiological structures within the same derivative word, one and the same word-building model. The idea of this approach is to show if the new act of word-formation is always a reflection of the past acts of nomination, and if so, what the nature of such a certainty is [Kizyukevich 47-55]. The question of the diversity, specificity and onomasiological boundaries of word formation, of morphological phenomena which accompany the process of derivation and influence its “tactical”

capabilities, is elaborated in the literature [Zemskaya 2004; Lopatin 1974; Kubryakova 2008; Poluzhin 1992; Selivanova 2008; Ulukhanov 1980]. However, we still do not have an integral and consistent perception that would represent the dynamics of those derivative and onomasiological mechanisms that led to the formation of the current system of prefixal-onomasiological category of Negation. Therefore, there is an urgent need for an in-depth study of the multidirectional evolutionary changes associated with the formation and further development of the totality of nominative processes that took place in the history of the development of this category. The combination of diachronic and synchronic approaches in the English prefixal derivatives study will give us the possibility not only to generalize the categorization regularities of environmental phenomena, but also to single out and explain the formation of the system of phenomena that are specific to the onomasiological category of Negation. Environmental phenomena were grouped according to their meanings into the lexicosemantic groups to make a more convenient mechanism of category formation with the help of prefixal units.

The objective of the article is to explore in detail the derivative aspect of the formation of the prefixal and onomasiological category of negation in the evolution of the English language. This objective requires the completion of the following tasks:

- to single out lexical and semantic groups (hereinafter – LSG) of derivative bases taking part in the formation of the prefixal and onomasiological category of Negation;
- to observe the notional peculiarities of the compatibility between verbal and substantive bases LSG and prefixes of the onomasiological category of Negation;
- to compare the derivative peculiarities in the formation of the prefixal and onomasiological category of Negation arising from the verbal, substantive and, within them, the lexical and semantic origin of derivative bases studied as components of derivatives.

2. Discussion: Structural and Semantic Patterns of the Onomasiological Category of Negation

The object of the investigation is 11000 prefixal derivatives, of which 2789 lexical units represent the onomasiological category of Negation during the four stages in the history of English. The topic of the article is the structural, semantic and nominative peculiarities of the verbal and substantive prefixal derivatives which take part in the formation of the prefixal and onomasiological category of Negation during all the lexicalized periods of the English language history.

The onomasiological functions of derivative words are related primarily to the investigation of the conversion of the knowledge about natural phenomena

into the content transmitted by the dissected structure of the verbal nominative mark. Here is the definition proposed by O. Selivanova: “the onomasiological structure of prefixal derivatives consists of the onomasiological basis, indicating a conceptual class, generic notion, and of the onomasiological sign, indicating the specific differences that distinguish the object within the class” [Selivanova 153]. Negation in linguistic literature is assumed as the expression through various linguistic devices of the state of things when the relationship between the elements of expression is perceived as unreal or nonexistent at some point [Polyuzhyn 30], and also the onomasiological basis, which is formed by the derivative bases of these derivatives. To determine the conceptual class of the onomasiological basis, we have singled out lexical-grammatical and lexical-semantic groups of the derivative bases.

We have singled out 9 LSG of verbal derivative bases: 1) *verbs of phase* (V₁); 2) *verbs of motion* (V₂); 3) *verbs of presence* (V₃); 4) *verbs of location* (V₄); 5) *verbs of being* (V₅); 6) *verbs of feelings* (V₆); 7) *verbs of intellectual activity* (V₇); 8) *verbs of physical activity* (V₈); 9) *verbs of communication* (V₉) and 19 LSG of substantive derivative bases: N₁.*environment and geography*, N₂.*weather and natural calamity*, N₃.*geometry and size*, N₄.*time*, N₅.*subjects and substance*, N₆.*representatives of plants and animals*, N₇.*human being*, N₈.*houses and buildings*, N₉.*clothes*, N₁₀.*nourishment*, N₁₁.*emotions*, N₁₂.*intellect*, N₁₃.*culture and science*, N₁₄.*actions*, N₁₅.*movement and transport*, N₁₆.*communication*, N₁₇.*social entities and phenomena*, N₁₈.*diseases and their treatment*, N₁₉.*physical state*.

The largest number of LSG of the productive substantive bases are involved in the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation (OCN) – all 19 of investigated units. However, such a representation of the OCN was not a characteristic of the first two periods in the history of the English language. In Old English, it was represented by only five LSG with the notions of: “*human being*”; “*emotions*”; “*intellect*”; “*actions*”; “*communication*”. In Middle English their inventory grew by nine LSG: “*geometry and sizes*”; “*time*”; “*representatives of plants and animals*”; “*clothes*”; “*nourishment*”; “*culture and science*”; “*social entities and phenomena*”; “*diseases and their treatment*”; “*physical state*”; in Early New English – “*environment and geography*”; “*weather and natural calamity*”; “*subjects and substance*”; “*houses and buildings*”; “*movement and transport*”.

During the four periods in the history of the English language, the value of the category of Negation is acquired by a small number of LSG of verbal derivative bases that reflect the phenomena of the world: LSG with “*motion*” and “*physical activity*”. We also discovered LSG of verbal derivative bases that emphasized negation during one or two stages in the history of English: LSG with reference to “*communication*” – in Old English and Early New English,

LSG with reference to “location”, “intellectual activity”, “feelings” – in Middle English.

The nucleus, the main structure, and the periphery of the onomasiological category of Negation for each historical period were joined by new components. The main structure during the Old English period consisted of the following LSG: N₁₁, N₁₂, N₁₆, in Middle English, LSG N₇ and N₁₄ were added along with N₁₇ and N₁₉ from the periphery, which came into use in this onomasiological category. In Early New English, N₉, N₁₃ from the periphery, and N₁, N₂, N₅, N₁₅ were added, the prefixal derivatives of which began to form the onomasiological category of Negation. The nucleus of this category in Old English was N₁₁ and N₁₆, in Middle English it expanded with the help of N₁₂ from the main structure, in Early New English – N₇, N₁₄, N₁₇, also from the main structure. The periphery was formed in Old English with the participation of N₇ and N₁₄, in Middle English they were displaced into the main structure: N₃, N₄, N₆, N₉, N₁₀, N₁₃, N₁₈ and in Early New English it was supplemented with N₈.

Structurally-semantic models, which are idiomatic for the onomasiological category of Negation, remained more or less productive throughout the history of English. For example, Pr + N → D is productive; Pr + N₁ → D, Pr + N₂ → D, Pr + N₃ → D, Pr + N₄ → D, Pr + N₅ → D, Pr + N₆ → D, Pr + N₈ → D, Pr + N₉ → D, Pr + N₁₀ → D, Pr + N₁₃ → D, Pr + N₁₅ → D, Pr + N₁₈ → D, Pr + N₁₉ → D – non-productive, Pr + N₁₂ → D, Pr + N₁₆ → D are models that already became productive in Middle English, and Pr + N₇ → D, Pr + N₁₄ → D, Pr + N₁₅ → D already became productive in Early New English. Let us consider the main characteristics that appear in LSG during the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation. To do this, we will study the compatibility dynamics of the LSG of the onomasiological category of Negation with its prefixes.

In the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation, the following basic LSG are involved: N₁₁, N₁₂, N₁₆. The semantic potential of LSG N₁₁ of this category was implemented in ascending order during the four periods of the history of English. So, in Old English, it was combined with prefixes: *med-*, *or-*, *un-*, *wan-*. A significant number of prefixes of LSG N₁₁, which is half of the current prefixal inventory of the onomasiological category of Negation, were used in Middle English. These are: *dis-*, *mis-*, *non-*, at the same time derivatives of this onomasiological category, formed with the participation of *med-*, ceased to be formed. In Early New English, the category set of prefixes changed because derivatives formed with the use of authentic prefixes: *non-*, *or-*, *un-*, *wan-*, were by now out of use. These prefixes were replaced by: *a-*, *semi-*, that participate in the formation of quite a large number of new lexical units. For example, *or-treowness* (*trust*) – *o.e. distrust*.

In Old English LSG N₁₂ was combined with the prefix *un-*, which continues to participate in the formation of derivatives up to the New English

period. In Middle English, this group began to combine with the prefixes: *dis-*, *in-*, *non-*, the derivatives of which still exist, and prefixes: *over-*, *on-*, *re-*. But derivatives, formed with the last three mentioned prefixes, were out of use in Early New English. The modern inventory of LSG N₁₂ prefixes of this category, was formed mainly in Middle English and Early New English, where it began to join prefixes: *mis-*, *non-*, *under-*. For example, **un**-*gewittigness* (*mind*) – *o.e. madness*.

The intense activity of LSG N₁₆ was manifest in Middle English due to its combinations with the prefixes: *dis-*, *ex-*, *in-* and also *mis-*, *or-*, *un-*, which began to participate in the formation of Negation in Old English. In Early New English, the prefix inventory of the mentioned LSG grew at the expense of such units as: *ab-*, *non-*, *under-*. At the same time, the prefixes *or-* and *un-* went out of use. For example, **dis**-*board* – *n.e. to disembark*.

The category of Negation is also characterized by LSG, the word-building potential of which expanded with the new additions: N₇, N₁₃, N₁₄, N₁₇, and N₁₉. LSG N₇ and N₁₄ formed the onomasiological category of Negation since Old English and underwent a significant expansion of their word-building potential in Early English. So, LSG N₇ in Early New English combined with most of the inventory of prefixes that are involved in the formation of this category: *anti-*, *be-*, *ex-*, *non-*, *semi-*, *under-*. They joined the word-formation models of this LSG, formed with the help of Negation prefixes, which constitute a peculiar “foundation” of this category in combination with LSG N₇, as they are involved in its formation during the four periods of the history of English. They are: *un-* from Old English and *dis-* from Middle English. During the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation, LSG N₇ also combined with prefixes that ceased to form derivatives in Middle English: *wan-*; and in Early New English: *de-*, *non-*, but their output did not significantly affect its development. For example, **wan** + *bode* (*messenger*) – *o.e. who bids a low price*.

The main extension of LSG N₁₄ of the onomasiological category of Negation was in Early New English, as the current inventory of prefixes of this category consists of the prefixes: *ex-*, *semi-*, and *under-*, which began to give the meaning of negation to N₁₄ in Early New English, and the basic prefixes which are those which have participated in the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation for the last three historical periods: *in-*, *non-*. The number of prefixes that ceased to form derivatives of the onomasiological category of Negation are not significant (2 lexical units). They are *dis-* in Middle English and *un-* in Early New English. This fact, however, did not prevent the word-building potential of LSG N₁₄ from realizing from its significant expansion during the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation. For example, **non**-*packing* – *m.e. unpacking*.

LSG N₁₃, N₁₇, N₁₉ have formed the onomasiological category of Negation since Middle English but the significant realization of their word-

building potential occurred in the Early New English. So, LSG N₁₃ combined with the prefix *in-* in Middle English, and in Early New English its inventory grew at the expense of such prefixes as: *a-*, *apo-*, *extra-*, *non-*, *semi-*. For example, *ir-religiosite* (*religiosity*) – *m.e. irreligiousness*.

LSG N₁₇ came into Middle English with prefixes: *de-*, *mis-*, *non-*, and in Early New English the prefix *mis-* was forced out by the prefix *under-*. For example, *mis-order* – *m.e. absence or breach of order*. Two prefixes of LSG N₁₉, which represent half of its modern prefixal inventory, came into use in Early New English. They are: *non-* and *under-*. Among other prefixes of LSG N₁₉ we focused on *un-*, since its derivatives are found only in Old English, as well as on the borrowed prefix *in-* in Middle English, which together with LSG N₁₉ continues to participate in the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation. For example, *non-being* – *e.n.e. the condition of not being, non-existence*.

Among LSG of the onomasiological category of Negation, the word-building potential of which is realized insignificantly or not at all, we found: N₁, N₂, N₃, N₄, N₅, N₆, N₈, N₉, N₁₀, N₁₅, N₁₈. These LSG began to form the onomasiological category of Negation since Middle English or Early New English.

LSG N₃, N₄, N₆, N₉, N₁₀, N₁₈ have been involved in the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation since Middle English. So, LSG N₃ of Middle English was combined with the prefixes: *in-* and *un-*, which in Early New English were forced out by the prefix *under-*. For example, *im-propotion* – *m.e. want of proportion, disproportion*.

LSG N₄ began to combine with the prefix *un-* in Middle English, which was forced out by *non-* in Early New English. For example, *un-time* – *unseasonable, inopportune (non-seasonal)*. LSG N₆ was combined with the prefix *de-* in Middle English, which was forced out by *dis-* and *ex-* in Early New English. For example, *dis-plume* – *n.e. to strip of plumes, moult (without action)*.

LSG N₉ was combined with the prefix *dis-* in Middle English and increased its inventory with such prefixes as: *be-* and *in-* in Early New English. For example, *dis-helm* – *m.e. to deprive or disarm of one's helmet (deprive a helmet)*.

The modern system of prefixes of LSG N₁₀ of the onomasiological category of Negation was formed in Middle English with the help of the prefixes *dis-* and *in-* which, without any changes, still participate in the formation of this onomasiological category nowadays. For example, *in-digestion* – *n.e. want of digestion*.

LSG N₁₈ was combined with the prefix *un-* in Middle English, which in Early New English was forced out by two prefixes: *a-* and *in-*. For example, *a-catastasis* – *n.e. an unsettling (unstable state)*.

LSG N₁, N₂, N₅, N₈, N₁₅ have been present since Early New English. So, LSG N₁ was combined with prefixes: *dis-*, *in-*, *under-*; N₂ with *be-*, *in-*; N₅ with *dis-*, *in-*; N₈ with *dis-*, *under-*; N₁₅ with *dis-*, *ex-*, *under*. For example, **dis-room** – *e.n.e. to displace*; **be-flake** – *n.e. to take off an external layer, skin in thin flakes*; **dis-pearl** – *e.n.e. to deprive of pearls*.

A small number of verbal base LSG which participate in the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation cannot single out the nucleus, the main corpus and periphery of this category. Structural and semantic models of these LSG were not highly productive. There is an exception to the model Pr + V₈ > V which was productive only in Old English and Middle English. Another productive model was Pr + V₆ > V in Middle English. Other models such as Pr + V₉ > V, Pr + V₂ > V, Pr + V₇ > V, Pr + V₄ > V were non-productive.

LSG V₈ took an active part in the formation of the onomasiological category of Negation in the first two periods. In Old English, this group was combined with the prefixes: *be-*, *for-*, *to-*, in Middle English its inventory received *mis-*, but in this period LSG V₈ also stopped forming verbal derivatives with the prefix *for-*. In Early New English, its word-building potential was expanded with the prefix *ex-* while authentic prefixes *be-*, *to-*, *mis-* went out of use. Nowadays LSG V₈ is combined only with the prefix *ex-*. For example, **be-daelan** (*divide*) – *o.e. to deprive, rob, strip*.

LSG V₉ was active only during the first two periods; during the next two phases its verbal derivatives were not recorded. In Old English it was combined with the prefixes *be-* and *for-*, in Middle English it additionally combined with *mis-*, but the prefix *for-* went out of use. In Early New English, LSG V₉ stopped to form verbal derivatives involving prefixes *be-* and *mis-*. For example, **be-tellan** – *o.e. to clear a person of a charge*.

In Old English LSG V₂ combined with the prefixes *be-*, *for-*, *to-*, in Middle English its inventory grew at the expense of the prefix *mis-*. However, in Middle English, the prefix *for-* went out of use, and in Early New English the prefixes *mis-* and *to-* stopped forming derivatives. For example, **un-lay** – *m.e. not to lay*.

LSG V₄, V₇, V₆ were active only during Middle English. Thus LSG V₄ combined with prefixes *æt-*, *mis-*, *to-*; LSG V₇ and V₆ formed derivatives with the prefix *mis-*. For example, **a-schamien** – *m.e. to make ashamed, put to shame*; **over-write** – *e.n.e. to cover over with writing*, **for-dwinan** (*blossom*) – *o.e. to fade away, dwindle away*.

3. Conclusions

During the four stages in the history of English the combinatory dynamics of LSG reveals certain patterns. The realisation of the LSG of the onomasiological category of Negation has increased, which proves the fact that the substantive

derivative bases were not active during the early stages of its formation. The main corpus and nucleus of the onomasiological category of Negation underwent expansion due to increased productivity of their components, and the periphery developed due to the appearance of new LSG. The onomasiological category of Negation has been represented by 2 out of 9 LSG of singled out verbal derivative bases. They are LSG denoting “verbs of motion”, and “verbs of physical activity”. And the LSG of derivative bases denoting “verbs of communication”, “verbs of feelings”, “verbs of location”, “verbs of intellectual activity” also acquired a reference to negation in certain periods in the history of English.

The onomasiological category of Negation was formed by the following nucleus LSG of substantive derivative bases: N₁₁, N₁₂, N₁₆, and the word-building potential has expanded meanwhile with N₇, N₁₃, N₁₄, N₁₇, N₁₉. LSG with insignificant or no word-building potential are: N₁, N₂, N₃, N₄, N₅, N₆, N₈, N₉, N₁₀, N₁₅, N₁₈. As to the LSG of the verbal derivative bases of this category, they are characterized by small or no word-building potential. Besides, in each period of the English language LSG V₈, V₉, V₂, V₆, V₇, V₄ were combined with various prefixes. We can conclude that the onomasiological category of Negation is basically the substantive, but not the verbal category. The prospect for our further study is to investigate the role of adjective and adverbial derivatives in the formation of the prefixal and onomasiological category of Negation.

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