

WORD FORMATION IN OLD ENGLISH

J. Sobirjonova

a student of English language and literature faculty Fergana State University

L. Murodjonova

a teacher of English language and literature faculty Fergana State University

Annotation: *This article discusses the different ways in which words can be formed in Old English along with examples of each word formation.*

Key words and expressions: *compounding, derivation, inflection, affixes, prefixes, infixes, suffixes.*

From the fifth through the eleventh century, Old English, also known as Anglo-Saxon, was the primary language in England. The language experienced substantial modifications during this time as it transitioned from the Germanic dialects spoken by the Anglo-Saxons to the forerunner of modern English.

Old English speakers and authors had to generate new terms to represent the shifting culture and society, hence word production was a significant component of the language. The object of analysis is Old English, a stage of the language that recent research has studied as to the typological changes relating to the rise of word-formation from stem formation.¹ Words might be created in a variety of ways, such as through compounding, derivation, and inflection. The process of creating words in Old English required the application of several affixes, including prefixes, suffixes, and infixes. With the use of these affixes, one may produce new words, alter the meaning of terms already in use, or alter the grammatical role of words in a sentence. An exception in this respect is the chapter by Bauer, who discusses some phenomena of competition that can be identified in diachronic evolution, such as the Old English suffix *-ster*, which is in competition with *-ess* from the fourteenth century.²

When two or more words were combined to create a single new word in Old English, this process was known as compounding. Prepositions, adjectives, verbs, and nouns can all be combined to produce compound words. For instance, the terms "sostor-fh" and "son-mann" denote "dark-colored" and "seer" or "prophet," respectively.

Derivation is the process of changing the meaning or function of a root word by adding affixes. Prefixes, suffixes, and infixes were the most typical affixes in

¹ Kastovsky, D. Typological Changes in Derivational Morphology. In A. van Kemenade and B. Los (eds.), *The Handbook of The History of English*. Oxford: Blackwell. 2006. 151-177.

² Bauer, L. Competition in English Word Formation. In A. van Kemenade and B. Los (eds.), *The Handbook of the History of English*. Oxford: Blackwell. 2006. 177-197.

Old English. Prefixes, like "un-" and "be-," can alter a word's meaning, but suffixes, like "-ness" and "-ing," can alter the part of speech or denote a characteristic or situation. Even though infixes were uncommon in Old English, they were utilized to produce words with intensified or emphatic meanings, such as "eahte" (which means "eight") and "ehtlc" (which means "eightfold").

In Old English, there existed a third way to create words called inflection. In this way, words were altered to denote grammatical traits including tense, gender, mood, and case. With five separate noun declensions, four different adjective declensions, and three different verb conjugations, Old English had a complicated inflectional system. Old English had a highly inflectional morphology, which meant that words may alter their form depending on their grammatical function in a sentence. This posed a problem for word construction. Despite this challenge, Old English speakers and authors were nonetheless able to develop a rich and varied vocabulary that captured the complexity and change of their environment. Old English has continued to have an impact on many modern English vocabulary and grammar structures, demonstrating the importance and interesting heritage of this language.

Old English word formation included the use of strong and weak verbs, which changed the vowel in the present tense to form the past tense while weak verbs added a suffix to the present tense. For instance, the present tense of the strong verb "son" (meaning "to see") was "seoh," while the past tense was "sw."

The addition of noun suffixes to existing words to generate new ones was a significant component of Old English word creation. For instance, a noun indicating the characteristic of an adjective may be created by adding the suffix "-ness" to the adjective. Bright was changed to "brightness," which is defined as "the quality of being bright."

In summary, Old English authors and speakers were able to express complex concepts and successfully communicate in a world that was changing quickly because to the flexible and creative way that words were formed. Old English has continued to have an impact on many modern English vocabulary and grammar rules, demonstrating the vast and interesting history of this language.

REFERENCE:

1. Bauer, L. Competition in English Word Formation. In A. van Kemenade and B. Los (eds.), *The Handbook of the History of English*. Oxford: Blackwell. 2006. 177-197.
2. Kastovsky, D. Typological Changes in Derivational Morphology. In A. van Kemenade and B. Los (eds.), *The Handbook of The History of English*. Oxford: Blackwell. 2006. 151- 177.