

Ekaterine Bakaradze

Characteristic features of Portmanteau and Blend Words - Telescopic Wordformation

Abstract

The paper aims at studying morphological process in English that is commonly referred to as telescopic wordformation or, in other words, portmanteau or blend words.

I propose that one form of verbal economy law - "principle of the least effort" can be considered as the formation of telescopic or blend words, which is one of the most significant events in linguistics within the last two decades.

The viewpoints of linguists such as Adams, Arnold, Gries, Kharitonchik, and others are analyzed regarding portmanteau words; the classification of the types of such shortened units is discussed. The research mainly focuses on the following issues: What are the types of blend words? What is the classification of morphological shortening like? How productive is blending as a type of shortening and how it differs from other morphological shortenings? Can compounded shortenings be divided? Should the structure (expression) and semantics (consistence) of a blend word be foreseen during the research of wordformation? Which models are used for the formation of telescopic words? How many elements do the blend words comprise and which one is more active? And as a result of conducted research, we present our own classification of portmanteau words.

During the study we tried to focus on several aspects of formation blend words and find an answer to them: 1. Which part of speech makes the most frequent part of these coined words and what are the productive units? 2. Which parts of two different words were used to blend in order to make one telescopic word? 3. What is the aim of creation of such words? 4. How are new hybrids (or words) given names? 5. In which fields of life are such creations used? 6. What are the popular blendings like? Are they colloquial or can we find them outside the boundaries of spoken language? According to the research and on the basis of analyzed data we drew relevant conclusions.

Despite the fact that blend words mostly have colloquial coloring, their usage in scientific and technical literature is not rare as well in order to coin new names, brands, advertisements. Part of such portmanteau words is accepted by the language and thus they are registered in dictionaries. As a result of a permanent change of the language many of such units loose their original meaning and function but nevertheless such coinages are very popular among different users of the language.