

BLENDING AS A PRODUCTIVE TYPE OF FORMING WORDS IN ENGLISH

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The nature, types and general structural and lexical features of blends are considered. The nature, difference from compounds and functional peculiarities are touched upon in the paper.

The national picture of the country is best shown by the lexical base of the language, which reflects the particular perception of the surrounding reality by a native speaker. At present, blending is becoming more widespread due to the content and originality of the form, due to the ability to give an idea of the nature of native speakers and the situation in the country, evaluate various innovations from the point of view of people and see their attitude to various realities. In the second half of the twentieth century, there are changes in the usual notions of creating new lexical units. The need for conciseness and mainly conciseness in the transfer of information has also increased in connection with the rapid development of advertising, science, technology, and medicine. The words formed as a result of blending satisfy these queries.

The aim of the paper is to give a general overview of blending as a universal way of enriching the vocabulary of a language and as a particularly productive type in English.

Today, the theory of conceptual integration or the well-known theory of blending is most attracting attention. The founders of this theory are Gilles Fauconnier and Mark Turner, French and American linguists, who stated that the ability to basic cognitive surgery is an important breakthrough in the evolution of the human brain. This is also a decisive circumstance that caused the emergence of the language. The theory began to develop actively in the mid-90s. XX century and began to be applied in various fields of science. They believed that «conceptual integration is based on the “four-space model”. The present model is represented by two initial input spaces, a generic space and an blended space or blend, that is, a new value that appears as a result of the projection of one source mental space onto another source space or as a result of merging their meaning». [1]

The blending process becomes possible due to the person's ability to think reasonably, thanks to cognitive abilities, the ability to establish connections between elements that at first glance seem incompatible. These cognitive operations connect language and thinking, as a result of which complex theories or concepts are created, but they may actually not be as simple as they might seem.

Blending as a way of word formation is a common language phenomenon and is found in different languages. The number of blends in a language can indicate the degree of manifestation of flexibility in it, the level of adaptation and readiness for various changes. Blending began to spread not only in English, but also in other European languages. However, it is English that shows the greatest tendency to form new words from its resources. One reason is the analytical structure of the English language. In terms of the blending structure, a certain type can be distinguished in English, namely phrasal blends. It should also be mentioned that this is a freer type, which serves to indicate linguistic realities, adopted for the convenience of understanding them. It is mainly a spoken language.

A study of the Russian language blends showed that most of them are borrowed from the English language, meaning international, well-known concepts that have common similarities that arise in a particular speech situation. It should be noted the predominance of nouns in this pair of languages. Such blends have typical characteristics of the part of speech from which they were formed.

In "Modern English Lexicology: Theory and Practice", E.M. Dubenets gives the definition of blends as follows: «Blends are words formed from a wordgroup or two synonyms. In blends, two ways of word-building are combined: abbreviation and composition. To form a blend we clip the end of the first component (apocope) and the beginning of the second component (apheresis). As a result we have a compound-shortened word». [4, c. 192]

During the study of blending, several different terms appeared that are used in English to refer to this process: “contamination”, “telescoping”, “portmanteau”, “fusion”, “hybridwords”. All the terms are used as synonyms, but the most common are “blend” and “blending”.

Blending and compound words have some similar features. They are close in semantic unity and integrity, have a connecting stress and complete spelling, but differ from complex words in the combination of parts, truncation and insertion of morphs. At the moment, the question still remains open whether the value of blends can be reduced to the sum of the values of their components. It is necessary to distinguish between blends, which are new tokens, and blends, which are shorter stylistic variants of previously existing phrases. Blending is not the same as a reduction, although there is indeed a certain reduction in words and morphemes.

These language models are characterized by universality, but as O. A. Khrushcheva notes: «the prevalence of a particular model varies depending on the language: units formed by replacing the hyposem of the dominant seminal structure prevail in the housing of the Russian language blends, a common way of forming the lexical meaning of blends is by combining the seminal structures of correlates». For example, rockoon = rocket + ball, surfer = surfe + safari, transistor = transfer + resistor. [2, с. 187-189]

English linguist G. Cannon emphasizes that «Blends <...> are caused by the rise of two or more words (often synonyms or near-synonyms) to one's consciousness at the same time». [3, p. 725-75]

There are several characteristics for blends: they are organized in such a way that usually a shorter and more common word becomes the first part of the blend. The number of syllables hardly exceeds the number of syllables in the original, longer word. As a rule, blends retain the same stress as in one of the source words. They usually also have at least two syllables, one of which comes from each source word.

There are two types of blends: the additive and the restrictive. Both include adding together not only sound but also meaning. But still, the semantic relationship is different. In the first case, a connection of equivalent foundations occurs. Frenglish = French + English. The restrictive type is a certain combination, where the first element modifies another. For example, medicare = medical + care; hamboo = sham + bamboo, gasohol = gasoline and alcohol.

The blending process exhibits general and particular features in languages. General features are manifested at the level of speech - widespread in advertising, journalism, in scientific papers. The universal function of blends is implemented in specific languages in different ways, so if they are not international or are not direct borrowings from any source language, then they are determined culturally and there is a need for interpretation taking into account the basic knowledge and premises of the speaker.

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