

# The Process of Word Formation in English and Kurdish Languages: A Comparative Typological Study

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## Abstract

English and Kurdish are two morphologically different Indo-European languages. The first is the most analytic language among all of the European languages, while the second is an agglutinative, incorporating language. The paper concerns itself only with the standard dialects of the two languages, which are hypothesized to be different in the process of forming word. In this paper, an attempt is made to identify how many word-formation patterns occur in each language? Then, the paper aims at examining and contrasting where does English and Kurdish word formation resemble morphologically? And where do they differ? For this study, the data have been collected from various English and Kurdish sources and re-analyzed with reference to word formation in the two languages.

**Key words:** *word formation, morphemes, noun, derivation, inflection,*

## 1. Introduction

It is clear that process of word formation in any language around the world shows similarities and differences in their features and rules. This study focuses on the rules of word formation in both languages. These two languages belong to one family tree, each one of them is belong to their own branches, for example English is related to Germanic language, while Kurdish is related to Iranian language. At the same time both German and Iranian are members of Indi-European family. On the other hand according to morphological typology English is an analytical language, (Comrie 2009) states that it is one which has no morphological i.e. a language where there is one –to-one correspondence between word and morphemes. (Croft 1990) represent that analytical is the one which does not use any affixes at all. While Kurdish is an agglutinative language, as Fromkin et al (2014) states that word may be formed by a root and multiple affixes where are easily separated and retain the same meaning. For that reason this papers shows both similarities and differences in both languages by focusing the rules of word formation by famous linguists in both languages.

## 2. Aims and Procedures

This paper aims to analyze and give a full description of the process of word formation in English and Kurdish. It also aims to draw a comparison between English

and Kurdish in order to realize the similarities and differences between them in terms of forming words.

This paper will be divided as follows: the first part is an introduction .the second part focus on aims and procedures, in the third part entitled 'word formation in English and Kurdish' the researcher gives a description for the word process: its definitions, types, and roles while the fourth part focuses describing the rule, types, definition in Kurdish.. The fifth part is making a contrastive analysis of word formation in both English and Kurdish.

### **3. Process of word formation in English**

Word formation process is one the most important parts of morphology. Word – formation, as Marchand (1969) says, is "that branch of the sciences of language which considers the design on which a dialect shapes modern lexical units". According to Matthews (1991:37 37), "word – formation is that branch of morphology which tackles relations between a complex lexeme and a basic lexeme". For Rubba (2004), "word -formation forms deals with the ways of forming new words in English. There are many speculation which tackle word - formation appeared by many experienced linguist, such as: Fromkin (2003), Katmaba (1993).Yule (2010).. O'Grady et.al(1997).Lieber (2009) and Carstairs and McCarthy(2002).

#### **3. 1 Etymology**

Yule( 2010) says that etymology is the analysis of the native and history of a word is called etymology .This term like numerous others, originate from Latin, but has its possess beginnings in Greek(etymon unique frame +log, "study of").It is distant absent from entomology which talks about inset .There are numerous ways in which unused words can enter the dialect .we ought to be beyond any doubt that these handle have been at work within the language for some item and a part of words in day by day utilize nowadays were considered primitive misuse of the language. The *tennis* term let a ball could be a great outline. Within the setting let has the supreme meaning of avoided in the language of Shakespeare.

#### **3.2 Compounding**

Yule (2010) states that it is a combination of two different words to create a single form. *school* and *bag* are combined together to form a new word as in *schoolbag*. This rule is called compounding. This rule is very widespread in many languages such as English and German. But much less common in languages like French and Spanish .Common English compounds are *bookcase*, *finger print*, *wastebasket*, *doorknob*, *sunburn* , *backdrop* and *water bet* .All these examples are nouns, compound adjectives can be created within this process by an adjective plus a noun as in: (*good-looking*, *low-paid*) and compound of adjective (fast) plus (food) as in a *fast-food* or a *full-time job*.

#### **3. 3 Clipping**

Yule ( 2010) states that this process happens when a word of more than one syllable reduces to a shorter form is called clipping. For instance (facsimile) is reduced to (fax). In addition, the term gasoline is still utilized, but most individuals use *gas* . There are more clipped words in English as in; net(internet) , phone(telephone), ad(advertisement ) , bra (brassiere), cab(cabriolet), condo (condominium), fan(fanatic), flu(influenza), perm(permanent wave) phone, pub (public house).

### 3.4 Acronyms

Stageberg (1981) depicts that Acronym is a process whereby a word is formed from the initials or beginning segments of words, Sometimes the initial letters are pronounced separately such as Mp(Military police, or member parliament). In other cases, the new form is pronounced as a word like *NATO* ( North Atlantic Treaty Organization), OPEC( Organization of Petroleum Exporting Counter).

Yule ( 2010) states that acronyms are new words shaped from the starting letters of a set other words. These can be new words such as CD(compact disk) or VCR(video cassette recorder)

### 3.5 Coinages

Yule (2010) represents that it is one of the slightest rules of word -formation in English which is called coinage. It is the innovation of completely new terms. The foremost particular sources are trade names for commercial items that suit common terms (usually without capital letters) Orders illustrations are headache medicine(aspirin), nylon, Vaseline and zipper, more later illustrations are Kodak, NiKon, Kleenex, Teflon, Tylenol and Xerox.

### 3.6 Antonomasia

Stagaberg (1981) states that it is the formation of common noun, a verb or an adjective which drive from the people and place's name, for example, the word Frisbee comes from the frisbie bakery in bridgewater ,connecticut ,whose pie tins were utilized for a tossing diversion. the term vandal drives from the vandals, a Germanic individuals who occupied southern Europe 1500 a long time prior and sacked and plundered Rome in 15th nation names things History and Literature give us many common nouns such as A lover, for illustration may be called a *Romeo*, a don juan,a Casanova, more examples about this process are: *hamburger* drives from Hmburg, Germany, *bologna* drives from Italy

### 3.7 Echoism

It is one the slightest process of word formation. According to Stagaberg ( 1981)shows that echoism is a word-formation process which imitate the sound of nature. Such as *hiss* and *peewee*, these two words are the repetition of sound nature. More examples are roar, bomb they are taken from the sound of their surroundings. Many other examples. Such as : moon, click, murmur, quack, thunder, whisper, Irsp, chickasee, bobolink.

### 3.8 Back Formation

(Yule 2010:56-57) illustrates that it is particular sort of reduction is called back formation. A word of one sort (usually noun) is shortened to make a word of another sort (usually a verb) as in: emote (from emotion), enthuse (from enthusiasm) ,donate(from donation).

Fromkin et.al. (2003: 97) says that a new word may enter a language because of a blunder or incorrect morphological investigation, such as peddle was driver from peddler. The verbs such as: hawk, stoke, swindle, burgle and edit. All of them enter a language as back-formation ---of hawker, stoker, swindler, burglar and editor.

### 3.9 Blending

It is a combination of two different forms to create a new single one, which is called (blending). It is typically by taking the first part of one word and joining to the end of the other. For instance the word *gasohol*, it is a blending word which consisted of two separate words. More examples about blending words such as *smog*, which is consisted of smoke and fog, *brunch* (breakfast+lunch), *motel* (motor+hotel), *telecast* (television+broadcast).

### 3.10 Derivation

Fromkin et.al. (2003:44) shows that bound morphemes like -en and -sion are called derivational morphemes. When they are joined to a base, a new word with a closed meaning is created. The word which is formed within derivational morphemes is called derived word. For instance, the noun *beauty* is joined by *ful*, it becomes an adjective as in beautiful. Derivation forms a word with a different meaning and from that its base by adding affixes to it (O'Grady et.al. 1997:145). There are numerous English derivational morphemes which change syntactic categories of words. For illustration, suffix -en changes a word into a verb (shorten, weaken), (at)ion changes verbs into noun (*conversation limitation, direction*)

### 3.11 Cliticization

O'Grady et.al. (1997) it is obvious that many words can not stand alone as free forms for their phonological reasons. They are called clitics, which must be joined to another word in a sentence. An example of clitics is found in English, where few verb forms have abbreviated separately ('m for am, 's for is, and, 're for are) that cannot stand alone since they not constitute a syllable instead a word. Cliticization happens and joins those components to going before word. Here is few examples of Cliticization: *I'm driving to work now. Mary's spending too much time on reading novels. They're outside.*

### 3.12 Internal Change

Internal change is one of the processes of word formation by changing the vowel of a word, such as verbs *drink* and *drank*, *give*....>*gave* nouns such *foot* and *feet*, *goose* and *geese*. Inner change is not a matter of infixing, since there's no English word that has root morphemes like \*ft, \*sng. Also, there's no English morpheme *oo* that shows (singularity) like in a noun *goose* or English morpheme *ee* which implies (plural) like in a thing *geese* (O'Grady et.al. 1997:141).

### 3.13 Suppletion

O'Grady et.al. (1997:141-142) depicts that suppletion is one the process of word – formation. It is a morphological operation whereby a root morpheme is changed by a phonologically unrelated form in order to show a syntactic differentiate. The verb *go* and *went* is a case of English suppletion.

### 3.14 Conversion

Conversion is one of the rules of word -formation by changing an existing word to a new syntactic category. It changes parts of speech without adding affixes. (O'Grady et.al.1997:157). Even, he extends that a word can be used as a noun and a verb. There are a few illustrations of change; *dry* as verb and adjective, *water* as noun and verb, *walk* as verb and noun, etc.

### 3.15 BORROWING

According to Yule (1997: 65) says that it is one of the common processes of word formation in English. English language like other languages has borrowed many words from the other languages. Some words that English borrowed from other languages as in: Sofa (Arabic), croissant (French), lilac (Persian), pizza (Italian), tattoo (Tahitian), gun, robot (Czech), tycoon (Japanese), booth, yoghurt (Turkish), zebra (Bantu), strata, episcopes (Latin).

### 3.16 Reduplication

Stageberg (1981:128) states that it is one of the rules of word formation, which is the repetition of the morpheme with alter the vowel or starting consonant as in pooh pooh.

This process can be divided into three parts as in:

1. The base morpheme is repeated with no change  
clap- clap, tick-tick
2. The base is repeated with a change in initial consonant.  
Willy nilly, fuddy duddy
3. The base morpheme is repeated with a vowel change  
Tik tok, chit chat.

## 4. Word formation in Kurdish

### 4.1 Derivation

Mushir (2013) says that there is a combination of words, also there is a change or removing some sounds as in

Mast + au = (yoghurt)

Dast + giran = (fence)

Shwani (2014) presents that it is a process of creating new words by joining two words, then there is a change in the created word as in

Sht + mak = shmak, (clothes)

### 4.2 Reduplication

It is one of the process of word formation in which is the repetition of a complete word, the underlying words are nouns, the word may have a distributive meaning as in /dəm dəm/ (from time to time)

peç peç (zig zag)

pələ pələ (great haste)

also, shwani depicts that it is a compound word by repeating the same word or similar word. it has many ways to create it as in:

A- Repetition of the same word

Br Br

Kam Kam

B- Repeating the same word sound as it is called onomatopoeic words

Nala Nal

Chrka Chrka

Tik Tok

C- Repeating noun which takes a role as an adverb

Qum Qum  
Dam Dam (from the time to time)  
Nm Nm  
D- Repeating name of arty or parts of the body  
Shar u Shar  
Saransar  
Dasta u Dast  
Dama u Dam

E- Repeating common nouns and number  
Chwar Chwar  
Komal Komal

### **4.3 Compounding**

Marif (1987) states that compounding it is a word which consists of two meaningful words at least.

Shwani (2014) says that a word is created by combining two free morphemes by a preposition or without it

Noun + Preposition + Noun (Larz u Ta) (fever)

Pronoun + Preposition +pronoun (xo bo xo)

Noun + adjective (chaw jwan)

Shows that compounds can be classified into two ways:

- 1- Descriptive compounds which compounds are formed of two words without composition vowels.
- 2- The second one is those formed with a composition vowel, those with /-ə/ are called emphatic compounds, and those with /-u-/ are called coordinate compounds.

### **4.4 Borrowing**

Mushir (2013) represents that in all languages around the world there are many words entered the languages due to social, political, economic factors. Due to variety of each languages the borrowed word should be changes to the new language as in; the word (Qutabi) comes from (Arabic one) (Alkittab). It has undergone the following changes:

- 1- Change sound (K) to (Q)
- 2- removing one of (t) letter
- 3- The meaning of (kittaby) changed from a (servant) of mosque to a student.

Shwani (2014) says that borrowing caused by lacking equivalent words in Kurdish language it is obliged to take words from other languages but the word should be suited to the Kurdish language in phonological process (kteb) comes from (kitab). The sound (a) of (kitab) changed to (e) in Kurdish.

### **4.5 Inflection**

Mukiryani (2018) Says that inflection is one of the processes in Kurdish language. Inflectional suffix is added to create a new word. Suffixes are attached (noun, adjective, verbs, pronouns.....etc.) as in:

Zhin (woman).....>zhinan (women)

Aw(he/she).....> Aawan (awan)

Jwan(beautiful).....> jwantr (more beautiful)

Chu( He/she went).....>chum (I went)

#### 4.6 Acronym

Mushir (2013) says that it consists of taking the first letter of two or more words. It can be read or considered as one word as in:

(peace be up on him)      د.خ (دروودی له سهه نیت)

B.C      —————>      (before Christ)      ب.ز (پیش زاین)

Shwani(2014) represents that it is a word which consists of many letters, pronouncing it easily ,it has some features as following:

- 1- Taking the first letter of two or more words.
- 2- Pronouncing it easily and rapidly.
- 3- Replaces word.
- 4- Entering the language, it goes to other language.

Here are some examples of acronym in Kurdish Yu En (U.N)

PDK (Party democratic of Kurdistan)

PUK (Patriotic union of Kurdistan)

Yunsef (UNICES)

#### 4.7 Blending

Shwani(2014) depicts that It is one of the processes of word formation by combing two separate forms to produce a single new term after removing sound or more as in

Sht u Mak (shmak)      (clothes)

Ga + Asn (gasn)      —(crop rotation)

Mushir (2013) says that from the word (zanko) (university)

It consists of taking the root (zanin) from (zanin) and (Ko) from (ko krnawa)

#### 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, this research works on the English and Kurdish word – formation process. Each language has its own rules of word formation.

Word-formation processes are almost the same in most languages.

Kurdish and English belong to two the same language family which is Indo-European languages. Both languages have their own phonological, morphological and syntactic rules. In analyzing the sample, it is found that English and Kurdish employ nearly the same processes with

minor differences in both languages, For example, in both languages. For example, English word –formation comprises a large number of processes (sixteen processes) such as: (derivation, blending, compounding, conversion, Echoism, reduplication, inflection , coining , clitization, etymology, clipping , antonomasia, acronyms ,internal change, suppletion ,backformation and borrowing).

Whereas Kurdish word-formation comprises seven processes: derivation, blending, Acronym, inflection, compounding, reduplication, borrowing..

## **6. THE RESEARCH FINDINGS**

1. English and Kurdish languages form their words by using some processes, for instance, affixation, acronyms, alternation, blending, borrowing, clipping, compounding, reduplication, etc

2. Derivations and Inflection in Kurdish have counterparts in English. For example: Both languages employs prefix, infix, suffix and circumfixation .

3. Kurdish has morphemes in its structure like most languages, such as English.

4. Kurdish employs word – formation processes just like English. For instance:

(a) Kurdish uses several affixation to form some words such as English.

(b) English employs internal change to form some words, it Changes the internal structure of the words while Kurdish lacks this feature.

(c) Both English and Kurdish borrow a lot of words from other languages of the world.

(e) Compounding is another common process of forming words in English and Kurdish languages. Here, it is discovered that both the languages use nouns, verbs, and adjectives, etc. as their bases.

Furthermore, the elements that make such compounds (in English as well as Kurdish languages) could be two or more.

(6) Some of the processes of word- formation (in this study) can be found in both languages (e.g. affixation, alternation, borrowing clipping, compounding and reduplication); others are employed by alone (e.g. acronym, back-formation, blending, and coinage).

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یاساکانی وشه دروست کردن له زمانی کوردی وئینگلیزی

- لێکۆڵینهوهیهکی بهر اوردکاری تایپۆلۆجیه

پیشهکی

زمانی ئینگلیزی و کوردی دوو زمانی جیاوازی ئیندۆ ئیروپین له پرووی مۆرفۆلۆجیهوه. یهکهمیان زمانیکی لیک دابراون لهناو ههموو زمانه ئیروپیهکان لهکاتیگدا دووهمیان زمانیکی نووساوه. ئەم توێژینهوهیه پهیههسته تایبەت به زمانی ستانداردی ههردوو ههردوو زمانهکه که جهخت لهسهه جیاوازی ههردوو زمانهکه دهکاتهوه له پرووی وشه دروست کردنهوه. ئەم توێژینهوهیه ههولێکه دراوه بۆ زانیی چهند پرۆسهی وشه دروست کردن روودهن له ههریهک له زمانهکان. دواتر، ئەم توێژینهوهیه مهبهستی بهواداچوون و جیاوازیکردنی ههردوو

زمانی ئینگلیزی و کوردییە لەرووی مۆرفۆلۆژییەوه لەکوئ وەکوو یەکن؟ لە کوئ جیاوازی؟ بۆ ئەم توێژینەوهیە  
ئەو زانیارییانە کۆکراونەتەوه لە چەندین سەرچاوهی جیاوازی ئینگلیزی و کوردی و دووبارە پیدانەوهی  
سەرچاوهی وشە دروست کردن لەهەردوو زمانەکه.

وشە سەرەکیەکان: وشە دروست کردن، مۆرفیم، ناو، گیرەکی دارشتن. گیرەکی ریزمانی .

## قوانين إنشاء الكلمات في اللغتين الانكليزية والكوردية

- دراسة مقارنة نوعية -

### المقدمة

لغتا الإنكليزية والكوردية هما لغتان مختلفان ضمن عائلة هيزو أوروبية من الناحية الصرفية.

أولاً اللغة الإنكليزية لغة منفصلة من حيث الكلمات. أما اللغة الكوردية لغة متصلة .

هذه الدراسة مختصة باللغة القياسية لكلتا اللغتين التي تركز على أختلاف اللغتين من ناحية إنشاء الكلمات. وهي محاولة لمعرفة عدة عمليات إنشاء الكلمات في اللغتين. وبعد ذلك هذه الدراسة هدفها هو معرفة إمرأ وأختلاف إنشاء الكلمات بين اللغتين من الناحية الصرفية. من أي ناحية تشابهان؟ وفي أيهما يختلفان .

وجُمعت معلومات هذه الدراسة من مجموعة من المصادر الإنكليزية والكوردية وكُررت مراجعة مصدر إنشاء الصغ في اللغتين .

الكلمات الرئيسية : إنشاء الكلمات . العورفيم ، الاسم ، اللاحقة الإنشائية واللاحقة النحوية .

ياساكانى دارشتنى وشه له زمانى نينگليزى و كورديدا

لينكولينه وهينكى بهاروردى تايپولوجييه

سهردار عبدولمهجيد عابدوللا

قواعد صياغة الكلمات في اللغتين الانكليزية و الكوردية

دراسة مقارنة نمطية

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