

## WORDS MAKING IN ENGLISH

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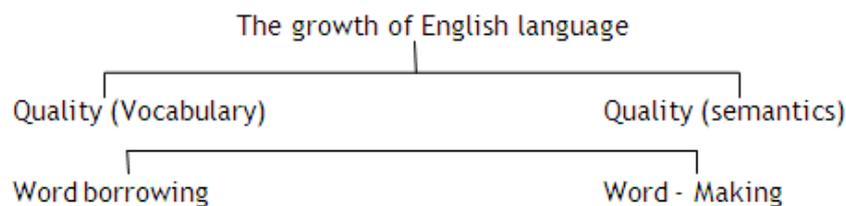
### Introduction

As the life of a living being is marked by its growth in quantity or quality or both, so the life of a language is marked by its growth in quantity (vocabulary) and in quality (semantics). Modern English grew out of Old English through Middle English. If we take any Anglo-Saxon Dictionary and count the number of words (vocabulary) contained in it, we shall note that it does not exceed six thousands.

John Kersey's *A General English Dictionary* (1708) is the first dictionary. But we find a perfect dictionary in Dr. Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755). His dictionary records forty eight thousand words, and today the Oxford Dictionary comprises more than four hundred thousands of words. What is the inference here? The inference is that the language has grown enormously in terms of words.

This is known as *the growth of vocabulary*. And it is a quantitative process. Vocabulary grows in two dimensions; one by borrowing words from other languages; two by creating words.

The whole thing can be diagrammatically represented thus:



We are concerned with the *growth of vocabulary by the process of creating or forming new words*. And this process is phrased by Frederick T. Wood as *the Growth and Vocabulary* and the Henry Bradley and L.P. Smith as *Word-Making in English*.

The enlargement of vocabulary becomes visible or noteworthy from the Restoration Period onwards. This enlargement of vocabulary, "is an inevitable outcome of the need to express new ideas, new perceptions, new shades of meaning, or to give names to new inventions and new discoveries." Thus, the creation, of words proves the principle that "necessity is the mother of inventions." The changing psychological attitude and the changing sense of the social values aid to the coinage of new words.

Again the words are created with or without authorship. That is to say the vocabulary is enlarged either by certain people or by the people at large. The literary geniuses like Shakespeare and Milton contributed some words to the growth of English vocabulary.

The extent of our individual vocabulary varies from person to person. Shakespeare exhibited his boundary of vocabulary to the tune of twenty thousand words and Milton eight thousand. But both took to poetic licence and thus: words or gave special meaning to words.

Further, the *Encyclopedia Britannica* cites a statistical statement the educated person normally makes use of twenty five thousand words % ordinary man four to five thousand. But with Basic English, eight hundred and fifty words are enough for men to communicate their ideas with one another.

The English Language is the richest and it has the most extensive vocabulary of any in the world. This is partly due to historical factors, partly to the genius the language and its readiness to absorb words from foreign tongues or to new ones where existing terms are not adequate". (F.T. Wood).

In the same way, L.P. Smith states: "It is not merely by borrowing from al or by discriminations between already existing words that our vocabulary increased. New words can easily be created in English and are being created s every day". Thus the English vocabulary has been enlarged in a number of ways.

Each author has his own of dealing with this subject. But satisfactorily, length analysis is rendered by F.T. Wood. We shall make here, of course, a study combining the views of various authors under the pattern of analysis propounded by F.T. Wood.

#### **Root-Creation or Imitation or Onomatopoeic or Echoic Process**

This is the oldest and the crudest method of forming words. You might well remember from your reading of les how this process has been postulated as one of the most important sources languages. Such words were neither inherited from, Old or Middle English adopted from any foreign language: but they made their own names. This is as Bradley puts it, "one of the principal forms of root creation is that w known by the name onomatopoeia. The word is Greek and literally means 'making'. It was used by the Greeks to express the fact that a noise or the producing it sometimes *makes its own name*; that is to say, is denoted by a formed in imitation of the sound."

These words are called by Dr. Murray *echoic words*. By this process, 'a word is made, imitating in its sound the thing which it is intended to describe'.

L.P. Smith explains the process with a fine anecdote. This means of making is illustrated by the old story of the foreigner in China, who, sitting d a covered dish, inquired 'quack-quack' and was promptly answered by 'bow-wow' from his Chinese attendant.

The word 'hiss' is formed out of the sound that snake produces while attacking its enemy. Thus the word 'hiss' is created by the process of onomatopoeia.

*In the same way, the following echoic words were created; bang, boo, buzz, cackle, chirp, click, fizz, giggle, hum, number, pop, quack, rumble, simmer, sizzle tick, titter, twitter, whirr, whiz, ding-dong, flip, flop, hee-ho, ping poft pom, tick-tack, whip, etc.*

Yet the sounds of nature have to be translated into articulate sounds which do not imitate them but which suggest them to the mind. Thus the nightingale's song is represented by such diverse sounds as *bul-bul*, *jug-jug* and *whit-whit*. Sometimes these echoic sounds shall vary from generation to generation. For instance, the noise of the gun going off which we describe now by *bang* was originally rendered by the word - *bounce*. This symbolism of sounds, the suggestive power to various combinations of vowels and consonants, give rise to certain associations or suggestions.

- For instance, long vowels suggest a slower movement than the short ones: "thus *dong* is deeper in sound than *ding*; *clank* than *clink*; and *chip* is a slighter action than that described by *chop*."
- *qu*: the words beginning with the consonants *qu* express the idea of shaking or trembling as *quiver*, *quaver*, *quagmire* etc.
- *bl*: suggests inflation and impetus where the breath is involved as *blab*, *balder*, *blast*, *blow*, *blister*, *bloat*, *blob* etc. In all these words, the blowing in, or blasting out of the air is suggested: *blow* and *blast* indicate explosive movements also.
- *fl*: expresses some clumsy movements as *flop*, *flounder* or the hurried action as *flash*, *flee*, *flicker*, *fling* etc.
- *gr*: indicates dissatisfaction as *groan*, *grouse*, *grudge*, *grumble*, *grunt*; etc.
- *scr*: signifies the sense of outcry such as *scream*, *screech* etc.
- *k* or *p*: these stop consonants suggest an abrupt ending of a movement as *click*, *clip*, *clap*, *slap*, *snip*, *snap* etc.
- *sh*: at the same time indicates a slow ending of action as *dash*, *smash*, *splash* etc.
- *mp*: conveys the sense of a duller and heavier sound stopped in silence but more slowly as *bump*, *dump*, *plump*, *lump* etc.
- *st*: suggests stability as *stable*, *stage*, *stall*, *staunch*, *stand*, *statue*, *stay*, *steadfast*, *still* etc.
- *wh*: stands for subdued sounds as *whistle*, *whisper* etc.

At this juncture, a caution may be noted against a notion that all the words beginning or ending with the consonants as stated above suggest the meaning drawn against the each item respectively. It only indicates that in the past they have been the principles underlying word-making.

### Shortening

For the sake of brevity of utterance, people have been shortening some part of the word. And thus new words come to be created.

*Abbreviation*: It is not that all the words shortened become recognized words. For example, even though very often people prefer to say *exam* in lieu of *examination*, yet the word *exam* has not become a recognized one. On the other hand, the term *bus* has replaced by *omnibus*.

- And thus, even though the words like *lab* (laboratory) *maths* (mathematics), *photo* (photograph), *bike* (bicycle) are in conversation usage, yet they are not considered as recognized words.

But *cinema* (cinematograph), *mob* (mobile vulgus), *mike* (microphone), *cab* (cabriolet), *taxi* (taxi-meter-cabriolet), *fan* (fanatic), *piano* (pianoforte), *zoo* (zoological gardens), *submarine* (submarine vessel) are recognized ones.

- Mr. Stuart Robertson interestingly points out in his book *The Development of Modern English*, that all the names of liquor are the shortened forms: *gin* (genievre) *brandy* (brandy-wine), *rum* (rum-bullion), *whisky* (usque baugh), *grog* (grogram), *hock* (hockamore) etc.

- English people took up the licence of clipping down cumbersome. Latin phrases and thus they have formed the words; *quorum* (of whom), *affidavit* (he has sworn): *subpoena* (under the penalty) *veto* (I forbid), *status quo* (status quo antebellum - the state existing before war), *infradig* (Infra dignitatem), the *pros and cons*, *percent* etc.

The formation of the term, *culprit*, is very interesting. In the Norman French 'culpable, prest' meant (he is) guilty, (and we are) ready (to prove it). This was shortened as 'culprest' and later as 'culprit' and finally *culprit*.

Another interesting account lies with the words *Miss and Mrs*. Even though both the terms were derived from the term *mistress*, they differ in meaning today.

The word *gent*, shortened from *gentleman*, today means something derogatory, even though in its origin it was not so. But the term *cit* formed out *oi-citizen* or *citymun* was derogatory in its meaning from the beginning.

The terms *extra*, abbreviated from *extraordinary* and *chap* from *chapman*, differ in meaning from their parent words.

- Certain terms represent the whole line. For example certain biblical prayers are shortened by the terms like *paternoster* (Our Father), *Ave Maria* (Hail Mary), *Nunc Dimitis* (Now let us thou depart) *Magnificat* (My soul etc).

- Some of the shortened words are on the way to be recognized soon, owing to their profuse use: *varsity* (university) *dip.* (diploma) *prof* (professor) etc.

- Bradley observes that in Middle English and early Modern English periods, it was common to drop the initial vowel owing to hurried pronunciation. And the word dropped of the initial vowel becomes a new word in the long run with a different meaning. Thus no one would imagine today that *assize* and *size* meant the same thing during the Middle English period, though they are so distinctively different in meaning today. But *size* was only a shortened magnitude of an article of commerce was settled by an *assize* or sitting of some constituted authority. Hence the standard or authorized magnitude of anything was called its *assize* or *size* and after words, the latter form came to mean magnitude in general.

And by this process the following words were created.

Tend	from	attend
mend	from	attend
fend	from	defend
strain	from	distain
fence	from	defence
spite	from	despite
sport	from	disport
vie	from	envy

*Tend* and *attend* originally meant 'to tend and sick'. The old attend was differentiated in meaning later. So also *mend* and *amend* originally meant 'amend' only. But now the new word *mend* means something trivial and the old amend: some thing dignified: 'mend your stocking', 'mend your ways', but 'amend and Act of parliament' etc.

The word *envy* adopted from the Latin *invitare* meaning challenge. *Vie* is the shortened form but now of envy and *vie* the latter means something dignified. *Stain* was coined out of *distain* which was borrowed from the Old French *desteindre* (to take out the dye of anything). So also *despite* was adopted from the Old French *despi* and the Latin *despectus*.

### Words Coined from Initials

"In certain cases initials have become more commonly used than the actual words for which they stand so that they can almost be regarded as words in themselves." For instance, we normally do not wish to take the pain of uttering the full phrase *Member of Parliament* instead we only say *empee* (M.P). The initials are uttered so frequently that many who say *empee* may not know its full form. It is hard, whether to speak or to write the full form United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and so the very originators themselves declared that hence forward, it shall be known as 'UNESCO' making it easy for expression. The words that could be formed by this process are numerically unlimited.

All the first letters of a phrase could be grouped to form a single word: *gestapo* was made up of *Gehelme States Polizie*, a name given to the state police in Nazi Germany. *Nincompoop* was formed out of the Latin phrase 'non compos nentis' (not of sound mind). NATO and W.R.N.S. were born by this method.

Every count has its own shortened forms like this. In India we have *Cofeposa*, NSA, IR, IPC, IAF, UPSC and in the educational field we have NCERT, SCERT, DEO, HM, DI, HSC and so on. In this way any organization can create any number of words.

But one should not mistake that the words created by such organizations are universally acknowledged. These words coined out of initials have not found entry into the Dictionary. Yet they are in use both in the spoken and written state.

### Back - Formation

The principle underlying this process is very interesting. Around the transitional period of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, there was an adverb, *groveling*, meaning 'in object manner on the ground'. The usage was in this *groveling in the dust*. This adverb, was mistaken for a present participle owing to the presence of - ing. And so the infinitive to grovel was coined. But actually the word *groveling* was formed by combining the suffix - ling with the noun *grufe*. The process can be diagrammatically represented thus: *grufe + line - groveling (adv) mistaken 'to grovel' (v) for a present participle.*

The name back-formation has been given to this process owing to the fallacious appearance of the word 'groveling' as though it was formed out of the verb 'to grovel' whereas the truth was otherwise. In a normal formation, the verb yields another word. In this case, the verb is yielded and hence the nomenclature *Back Formation*. To put it diagrammatically;

1. Infinitive verb yielding another part of speech - Normal formation.
2. Any other part - yielding Infinitive verb - Back formation of speech.

In a similar way the following words were created. *Siddle* from *sideling*, *darkle* from *darkling*, *nestle* from *nestling* and so on.

Note the following words created by the process of back formation.

Verb	-	Noun
to beg	-	begger
to peddle	-	peddler
to edit	-	hawker
to edit	-	editor
to resurrect	-	resurrection
to conscript	-	conscription
to inscribe	-	inscription
to subscribe	-	subscription
to donate	-	donation
to burgle	-	burgler
to enthuse	-	enthusiasm
to audit	-	auditor
to televise	-	television
Noun	-	Adjective
gloom	-	gloomy
greed	-	greedy

There are other interesting items too. The Middle English word *pese* meant a single pea-nut and so the usage was a *peae*. But people considered that *pese* should mean the plural owing to the letters *se* which they thought to be a suffix for forming the plural, and

so they coined the word *pea taking* it for the singular. Thus, out of the singular, another singular was formed making the original singular, to mean the plural.

In this way *cherry* from *cherts* (French *cerise*) was formed.

In the case of the verbs to *diddle* and to *maffick*, the process of back formation is peculiar, James Kenner, of the nineteenth century, wrote a farce *Raising the Wind* and there appears in it a cheat called Jeremy Diddler, the infinitive verb to *diddle* was coined. *diddle* is quite obvious, therefore.

There were the wild scenes of rejoicing in London with a view to celebrating the relief to Marketing during the Boer War.

The device, back-formation was used to create humorous effect also; but they stopped at the level of humour without recognition. G.K. Chesterton wrote, “the wicked grocer grocess”, and J.K. Stephen parodied, “The Rudyards cease from Kipling, and the Haggards ride no more.”

*Derivation*: This is a process by which a new word is formed from an existing one, making it a stem or root of the created word.

### Old English Period

The way by which many words have been derived by adding suffixes is very interesting. For instance the Old English word, *mod*, (meaning ‘mood’, ‘a mental state’, ‘heart’, ‘mind’, ‘spirit’, ‘boldness’, ‘courage’, ‘pride’, ‘haughtiness’ etc.) yielded many words when suffixes were added.

Mod +	-	ing moding (adj) meaning 'spirited', 'bold', 'high minded', 'arrogant', 'stiff-necked'.
Mod+	-	iglic - modiglic (adj) magnanimous
Mod+	-	iglice - modiglice (adv) amgnanimous
Mod+	-	ignes - ian- modignes (n) magnanimity, pride
Moding adj	-	ian - modigian (v) 'to bear oneself proudly.
mod+	-	full - modeful (adj), 'hugha'
mod+	-	lias - modlias (adj) 'spiritless'

Thus the following words were created in old English by adding suffixes: *modesfa*, *modgepanc*, *modgepoht*, *modgehyed*, *modgessynd*, *modhord* (all meaning the ideas related to 'thought'), *modereft* (intelligence), *moderfig*, (intelligent), *modlufer* (affection), *modcaru* (sorrow), *modhete* (hate), *modleast* (want to courage), *modleof* (beloved) etc.

Of the suffixes that are being employed now, -by, -ness, -ic, -ful, -some, -less, -dom, -wise, -ish, -ship, -er, -hood descended from Old English.

There are number of words coined with the help of those suffixes. Thus we *photo /'the* words, *cleverly*, *cleverness*, *economic*, *mouthful*, *speechless*, *kingdom*, *comockwise*, *bluish*, *kingship*, *writer*, *childhood*, etc. and also ever so many words like these.

As a matter of interest, the following words may be cited, for example, to show the change in Modem English words from those of the Anglo-Saxon while coining words with the

names of places and people. For instance: *English* (*English* - Old English), *Londonish* (Lundenisc O.E.) and *childish* (chindisc O.E) were coined by the addition of the suffix-isc. By the fifteenth century, this suffix-isc came to be attached to the name of colour and so we have *bluish*, *blackish* etc. The same suffix is made use of in assigning shades of meaning to the coined terms. For example, to mean 'some what good' the term *goodish* is used.

The Old English suffix *lice*: The adverbial ending become: *ly* in Modern English owing to the non-pronunciation of the final 'e' and consequently the consonant. It was in the sixteenth century, owing to the need for indicating the position in a numbered series, the adverbial suffix-ly was added to the ordinal numeral and thus words like the following were created *firstly*, *secondly*, *thirdly*, *fourthly* etc.

### Foreign Formative Machinery

- *ation*: During the thirteenth century, owing to a changed political climate, a number of French words flowed into English vocabulary. As a consequence of this, we find the suffix - *ation* finding entry into English through French from Latin. "This particular suffix supplied a real want because the only native means of forming nouns of action was suffix -*ing* which was not quite definite in meaning. It is true that this foreign suffix has not been very extensively attached to native words; as a rule it has been felt to be more in accordance with fitness to adopt French, or Latin nouns of action, ready-made." (Henry Bradley).

- *ative*: This suffix is very widely used but only with the foreign nouns. But this suffix has been appended to a native verb only in one instance, namely, *talkative*. "Such formations as *untalkative* have been employed jocularly but have never taken root in the language." (Bradley).

- *age*: (postage), -al (withdrawal etc), -ment (government etc) - able are the French suffixes. These suffixes are to form a great number of words in English. As these suffixes have nothing corresponding to them in English, the English language could hardly afford to do without them.

- The following Greek suffixes - *ize* (modernize etc.) - *ist* (palmist etc.) - *ism* (socialism etc.) - *ite* (socialite etc.) have been very extensively used in the formation of English derivatives

The foreign suffix- *tee* (etemittee, now eternity) has been used to derive words only from foreign root-words. Because the native uses answered all purposes, and so the introduction of a foreign synonym was not required.

Of the foreign suffixes - *aire* (questionnaire), *graph* (autograph), -*vision* (television, supervision), - *type* (stereotype, stenotype), - *phone* (Dictaphone), - *logue* (travelogue), *crat* (autocrat), *aine* (cocaine, novocaine), - *scope* (telescope) etc are worth to be mentioned.

Suffix in primitive Old English. In primitive Old English verbs were formed from the nouns and objects by the addition of the suffix -jo (pronounced -yo). And thus *talū* became *taljun*, *salve saljan*, *tun tunjan*, *fellan fallian*. In pre-Historic Old English, the 'j' in this position always produced an alternation in the vowel of the preceding syllable and caused the preceding consonant to be lengthened or doubled if the vowel before it was short. And so, *taljan* became first *telljan* and then *tellan* and *blodjond-blid-jan*, *blidanand*. But the kind of derivation existed, before Old English became a written language. (travelogue), -crat (autocrat), aine (cocaine, novocaine worthy to be mentioned).

*Suffix in Primitive Old English.* In Primitive Old English the nouns and objects by the addition of the suffix -jo (pro *talū* became *taljan*, *salve saljan*, *tun tunjan*, *fiellan falljan*). In pre-Historic Old English, the 'f' in this position always produced an alternation in the vowel of the preceding syllable and caused the preceding consonant to be k if the vowel before it was short. And so, *taljan* became first *tey* and *blodjond-blid-jan*, *blidanand*. But this kind of derivation in English became a written language.

Even though this means of derivation became extinct other modes continued even to the present time. For instance the verb *wilcumiau* (to welcome) was formed *wilcuma* (a welcome guest, and so *ic wilcumode* meant 'I welcomed'). In later English through the dropping of final syllables, the infinitive, the imperative and the plural, and the first person singular of the present indicative of the derived verb have the same form as the primary noun, so that what takes place seems to be not making of new word but using of a noun as a verb. Henry Bradley gives illustrations to show the extent to which the language enjoys in forming verbs from nouns.

Reversing this process, in Modern English, we have created an almost unlimited number of nouns which are merely verbs: *a wash*, *a shave*, *a think*, *a tumble down*, etc. Some times, it so happens that a noun gives rise to a verb which in turn gives rise to another noun but all these words look alike in spelling and pronunciation too: (i) The smoke of pipe (ii) To smoke a pipe, (iii) To have a smoke. In the above two examples, you will note that no suffix is added to the words in changing their parts of speech. Yet it is reckoned with the process of the creation of words.

*Diminutive:* "Old English in comparison with most other Indo-Germanic languages, was remarkably poor in diminutive endings" (Bradley), The Old English suffix -nice as in *tunice* (a little town on homestead) was not able to survive even into Middle English.

- *ling* an Old Norse suffix became quite common, in English as a means of forming diminutive nouns: *kingling*, *princeling*, *squireling* etc.

- *king* (identical with the German *chen*) is another diminutive suffix adopted from the Dutch or Flemish diminutive ending. First it was used to form nicknames; but latter it was used to form the diminutive.

The examples are the proper names like *Jenkins*, *Atkins*, *Wilkins* etc.

- *iet*, another suffix adopted from French, has been appended to many native words: *streamlet*, *booklet* etc.

- *ette* is another suffix as used in *novelette*, *cigarette* etc.

- *ate* is a Latin suffix adopted into English in order to form the words like *directorate*, *doctorate* etc.

- *ee*, a French suffix, has widely been adopted into English as we find in *photo examinee* etc.

- *ery*, (*bakery*, *cookery* etc) is yet another French suffix adopted.

The following suffixes derived from Latin though French are used to form adjectives: *al*, *-ous*, *-ose*, *-see*, *-ese*. *-ary*. *-able*, etc and verbs *-fly*, *-ate*, *-ize*, *-ish*, etc. *-ard* (*coward*, *lollard* etc) and *esque* (*picturesque*, etc) came through French from German. The suffix *-ade* (*cascade*, *cavalcade*, etc) is of Spanish origin; and the following ones *-ism*, *-ize*, *-ic*, *-ance*, (*forbearance*) and *-ess*, (*Goddess*, etc) are of Greek origin *-ical* (*sociological*) is a hybrid of Greek and Latin.

The following are the Latin prefixes adopted into English: *ante-* (*antedate*, etc.) *ambi* - (*ambivalence*, *abitheatre*, etc), *pre* - (*prefix* *pre-examination*, etc.) *post-* (*postmortem*, etc.) *per-* (*percent*, etc.), *super* -(*superman*, etc.), *sub-* (*subnormal*, etc.), *repro* -(*reprograph*, etc.), *counter* - (*counterattack*, etc.), *circum* - (*circumvent*, etc.), and so on.

The foreign prefix *re-* (*revision*, etc.) has been completely naturalised and used again and again with native words; so also the modern borrowing *anti* - and *pro* -. This indicates that whereas the foreign affixes were found simpler and more convenient, they were employed to replace the native ones. For instance, Latin *re* replaced the native prefix, *again* is in *re-buy* from *again* - *buy*.

Old but correct prefixes *in* and *il* (*incertain*, *ingrateful*, *illimited*) are replaced by the hybrid prefix *un*.

Reversal is the case in the following: the native *un* - (as used in Middle English *unsuitable*, *unglorious*, etc.) has been replaced by Latin *in* for the latter is found in the language homogeneous throughout. So also the *unpossible* of the sixteenth century has been replaced by *impossible*.

The following are the Greek prefixes: *hyper* - (*hypertension*, etc.), *psuedo* - (*pseudonym*, etc), *neo* - (*neoclassim*, etc), *dia* - (*diameter*, etc.), *meta* - (*metanalysis* etc.) *proto* - (*protoplasm*, etc.), and so on and so forth.

*To the Latin root vert, many prefixes are added to form are words; convert, pervert, retrovert, controvert, introvert, extrovert, invert, revert, advert, subvert, divert, etc.*

There foreign prefixes *re-*, *un-*, and *dis* - (according to Bradley) have been so completely taken into English that we use them almost or quite as freely as we do those of native origin. Even though the prefix *dis* - first appeared in English as early as 1430, it was not until a hundred years later that it came to be attached profusely to native words. It is an interesting prefix. During the 16th century several words were coined with the help of the prefix. But many of them have become obsolete. For instance, eventhough we could

understand *dislove* yet it is not in current use: So also the *disgod*, *dishero*, *diShealth*, *discharity*, formed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century sound strange now. \

The French prefixes *en -* and *- em -* are profusely used to form words as *endear*, *embody*, *embark*, *ensure*, etc

The Greek prefixes *anti-* is much more in common use today than it was and so is the Labo *pro-*. These prefixes are helpful to form innumerable words: other Latin prefixes are: *co -* (as in *coeditor*) *sub-*(*sub-let*) *inter-*(*inter-lock*), *non* (*nonconductor*), etc.

To classify the prefixes according to their ages, the following observation may be made. The prefixes *a-*, *bad-*, *for-*, *fore-*, *ge-*, *t-*, *miso-*, *over-*, *on-*, *to-*, *un-*, *under-*, and *with -* belong to the Old English period. The formation of the words was like this. Out of the verb *setm* (to set) the following words were formed: *asettan* (place), *besettan* (appoint), *forsettan* (obstuct), *foresettan* (place before), *gesettan* (people), of *settan* (afflict) *ousettan* (oppress) *tosettam* (dispose), *unsettan* (put down), *withsettan* (resist).

During the middle English period, apart from the anglo-saxon prefix, the following ones were in use; counter (*counter-act*), *dis-*, *re-*, *trans-*, (*transmigration*, etc). During the modern period, apart from the other things stated already, the following ones come in to use: *de -* (as in *decord*), *mix -*, etc.

Use of a double prefix is very interesting as in *disembark*; as also of a suffix and prefix as in *disembarkation*, *devaluation* etc. (One word to the student! With the help of the affixes given under 5(a) and 5(b) of this chapter, you try to form as many words as possible. It shall be good exercise towards increasing your vocabulary).

There are other processes also by which words have been newly created. F.T.Wood observes a dozen processes.

A word which is normally one part of speech is used as another.

For instance, *but* is a conjunction; but in a sentence, "But me no buts" the conjunction *but* is used as a verb and a noun. Very often nouns and verbs interchange. Let us first consider the nouns that gave rise to verbs. In this process the words do not undergo any change in spelling but in pronunciation.

Park (n) - to park (v)

Pocket - to pocket

In the following words if the stress falls on the first syllable, they are nouns. If on the other second, verbs; *import* (n) -*import* (v), *permit* (n) -*permit* (v), *subject* (n)- *subject* (n), *convert* (v) -*convert* (v), *contract* (n)-*contract* (v), etc.

Some adjectives are used as nouns,

Principal (adj) - principal (noun)

Submarine vessel - submarine

Wireless telegraphy - wireless

Panic fear - panic

Executive person - executive

Making use of this process, some verbs are created giving them interesting meaning to mouth means to abuse and not to eat, to lip means to talk; these were originally slang expressions. F.T Wood quotes some lines from Shakespeare where Shylock complains of Antonio, to show how a noun is used as a verb:

You foot me like a stranger Over your threshold

We can shoulder our way through a crowd and/or shoulder our responsibilities.

**An Older Word is given a new Significance or given extension of Meaning**

We can see more of this under the change of meanings. For the present, a few examples may be seen: 'to manufacture' originally meant 'to make by hand' but now it is used to denote a large meant 'household effects' but today 'plunder' means 'looting away of the properties' *blackout* was originally a theatrical expression but today its meaning is extended. A very good illustration can be made with the word *board* for the word would mean

- (1) A plank of wood
- (2) A table
- (3) The food served on the table
- (4) The people who sit around the table as board of directors
- (5) A notice -board
- (6) The deck of a ship
- (7) Getting in to train plane of ship