

THE AFFIXOIDATION PHENOMENON AND THE LANGUAGE SYSTEMS UNIFICATION

E. Mincu, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Institute of Philology, Academy of Science of Moldova, Moldova

The word formation by affixoidation is an active and widely used process, especially in Greek, German, Russian languages etc. For the Romance languages, this model of word formation is less specific because of their analytical nature. In the report the author presents words formed by affixoids, scholarly elements of Greek-Latin origin that form the core of the international terminological lexicon. The first words formed by affixoidation entered the Romanian language along with the translations of Greek, Italian, French, around XVII – XVIII centuries. The Greek word formation is updated in the scientific style and in the specialized terminological languages. The terminological neologisms (formed by affixoids) maintain their international status; this facilitates the unification, planning and standardization of the international terminology.

Keywords: affixoidation, inter- and intradisciplinary variability, word formation, neologisation.

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ФЕНОМЕН АФФИКСОИДАЦИИ И УНИФИКАЦИЯ ЯЗЫКОВЫХ СИСТЕМ

E. Mincu, Ph.D, доцент.
Институт филологии, Академия Наук Республики Молдова,
Молдова

Образование слов путем аффиксоидации является широко распространенным и активно используемым способом, особенно в таких языках как греческий, немецкий, русский и другие. В языках романской группы эта модель словообразования встречается реже, из-за их аналитического характера. Как правило, это слова образованные с помощью общенаучных греко-латинских аффиксоидов. Они образуют ядро общего международного терминологического лексикона. Первые слова, образованные с помощью аффиксоидации проникают в румынский язык благодаря переводам с греческого, итальянского, французского, примерно в XVII – XVIII веках. Греческая модель образования слов воспроизводилась при создании системы специализированной терминологии и была характерна для научного стиля и языка. За терминологическими неологизмами (образованными методом аффиксоидации) закрепился статус международных. Это способствовало дальнейшему объединению, планированию и стандартизации международной терминологии.

Ключевые слова: аффиксоидация, внутри- и межпредметная вариабельность, словообразование, неологизация.

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Affixoidation – subdivision of the composition in the mechanism of the word formation

The process of creation of the lexical units through affixoids is called affixoidation, a subprocedure of the actual composition that opposes to derivation. In the transformation process of the root in affixoid, the linguists distinguish two aspects: identification of the dynamic force that generates this modification of status; the circumstances that facilitate this production.

The linguist Gr. Cincilei highlights the **regularity phenomenon** which neutralizes the opposition root ↔ affix, making possible their interpenetration. The regularity is understood as the property of a system or a phenomenon to comply with a rule. Gr. Cincilei defines several levels of regularity: regularity at a word formation level – the ability to be reproduced by 2 analogy; regularity at grammatical level – Greek–Latin themes categorizing exocentric (especially the suffixoid); regularity at the semantic inclusions level – the presence of homonymic forms; regularity at the motivation level.

Another feature of the present literary language compounds is the

repeatability of the second constituent which, in time, acquires qualitative value: “the nouns used frequently lose their original meaning becoming simple morphemes” [Dimitrescu Fl., 1995, p. 188].

V. Grigoryev states that “if the first or second element of a compound gains the ability to be reproduced in language by analogy and becomes **productive**, it adopts the necessary quality of a productive affix [Grigoryev V., 1956, p. 39-41]. The productivity has not proved to be decisive, but in the affixoidation process, existing affixoids with low productivity: *drio-* <gr. *dryos*, “oak” - *driofil* (botany), *driopitec* (biology); by means of the prefixoid *drio-* there were formed only two words.

In this paper we will complete this series, indicating that the phenomenon of the semantic **variability** under different domains of activity where the affixoids are used causes these status metamorphoses. The strict intradisciplinary use within a single domain of activity preserves partially or totally the invariant-concept, ensuring its singular significance. This is the case of the linguistic units such as *-algie*, *-ectomie* etc., used only in medicine and which at present claim

to lexicalization. The interdisciplinary variability, depending on the complexity of the domain of activity, may also impose changes in the nuance of the invariant concept. This is the case of the prefixoid *angio-* (< gr. *angeon* “vessel”), which, being used only in medicine, but acquired by different medical disciplines, supports certain changes of meaning: a) **anatomy** – „anatomic vessel”: *angiogenicie*; b) **clinical** – “receptacle”, “of red color” *angioblast*, *angiolupoid* (atypical tuberculosis).

The interdisciplinary variability however presumes the affixoid conceptualization lending to semantic – notional requests (needs) of one or other domain of activity. In special here the affixoids demonstrate their variability valence, being susceptible to take different forms (in semantic level).

According to the communication theory, the concept (word content) attached to the language and social structure, evolves, adding new features. The invariant concept subjected to the processes of expansion and semantic collapse, as well as their combination by succession or simultaneous juxtaposition is transformed into concept-variants: the prefixoid *demo-* (<gr. 3 *demos*, “people”):

a) ancient history, “common people” - *demos*; b) social sciences, “population” - *demography*; c) ethnography “creations and folk traditions” - *demology*; d) medicine “crowd of people” - *demophobia*; e) politics, “people” - *democrat*; f) general use, “creation of popularity” - *demagogue* etc.

As noted above, a key factor determined in the affixoidation process is also the **extra linguistic influence** – the denominative necessity of the language.

In the functional aspect on affixoids as lexical units in affixoidation (a new subtype of word formation) there operates a number of factors on phonological and morphological levels:

E. Kubryakova [1965, p. 18] mentions only two of them (in the scholar’s opinion, the more representative ones): a) the volume and speed of expansion of the notional categories; and b) the amount of words able to hold the status of thematic patterns in the formation of new lexemes. The intralinguistic influence is manifested in the ability to distinguish the field of influence and interaction of the affixoids in the phonetic, morphological and lexical level.

To this aspect refers also the formation of the versions of one and the same affixoid that lends itself particularly to phonetic variations: type: *acid(i)*-/*acid(o)* -> lat. *acidus*, “sour”; *cal(i)*-/*cal(o)* -> gr. *kallos*, “beautiful”; *celandi*-/*celando*-> gr. *kekis*, *-idos* “gala” (here the presence of the phonetic versions can be explained by the fact that the first version is a French form of the affixoid of Greek origin): *cecidiofite*, *cecidogen* (biology, botany, etc.); *chemi*-/*chemi(o)*-/*chimi(o)* - - < gr. *khymos* “juice”: *chemotaxis* (medicine), *chemosterilization* (chemistry), etc.

The compatibility / incompatibility of the affixoids to form a new lexeme in lexical-grammatical level and semantic level is a very important feature dictated by a series of factors:

1. In the plan of phonetic variants, one domain or another has accepted certain variants of affixoids, this fact leading to the new words formation.

In the case of the variants *chemi(o)*-/*chemo*-/*chimi(o)*-/*chimie* < gr. *khymos*, “juice”, the first variant is used in printing terminology: *chemigraph*, *chemigraphy*; and the variants two and three are

available for the use in other domains of activity, sometimes forming paronyms: *chemoluminescence* / *chimiluminescence* (botany), *chemotherapy* / *chimotherapy* (medicine); *chimotaxis* / *chemotaxis* (medicine) etc. It should be also noted that between the last two phonetic variants can be delimited the strict domains of use: *chemotrophic*, *chemotrophs*, *chemolysis* - biochemistry; *chemoprophylaxis*, *chimiatria* - psychology.

2. In the plan of meaning variants we can discuss about the semantic compatibility.

In the word *chemifer* the prefixoid *chemi(o)*-has preserved its primary meaning (< gr. *khymos* “juice”) and designates the property to lead something, being used in botany. The substitution of *chimi(o)*- with *chemo*- or *chemi(o)*- would endanger the meaning of the word. The same situation is valid also for *chymotrypsin* – “gastric juice” (biomedicine). And vice versa, in the words *chemomorphosis*, *chemisorption*, *chemoesthesia*, *chemotrophy* (biochemistry, botany) the prefixoid *chemo*- means “chemistry”, “chemical origin”; the meaning gained by the extension of the primary meaning.

3. The compatibility is sometimes made by affixoid acceptability in the plan of the community of origin. The prefixoids *hipno*- < gr. *hypnos* and *sleep(o)* - < lat. *somnus* (the last one not certified as affixoid) have the same meaning “sleep”, forming even relationships of synonymy: *somniferous* drug (sleep carrier) or *hypnotic* (reported on sleep). However the substitution of the segment *somni*- of *somniferous* by *hipno*- is inadmissible. This is about the incompatibility of origin: in the word *somniferous* the both formative elements (*somnus* “sleep” + *ferre* “to carry”) are of Latin origin. This regularity, however, is not without exceptions.

The affixoids *adipo*- < lat., *adipis* and *lip(o)* - < gr. *lipos*, with the meaning of fat, both are available for the suffixoid *-urie* < gr. *ouron*, “urine”, forming a relationship of synonymy: *adiposuria* = *lipuria*; and designates the presence of fat in the urine (medicine).

4. The functional compatibility is the ability of the word to enter into the functional sphere of terminology.

Thus, in the medical terminology the dictionary proposes two terms for the denomination of one notion: *duodenitis* and *duodecadactylitis*, “inflammation of duodenal mucosa”. The first term is accepted at various levels of communication: usual, media, terminological, thus existing *in vivo*; the second one is not accepted in the functional sphere, existing only *in vitro*.

The variability intra-and interdisciplinary – dynamic force in the affixoidation process

We consider the variability on domains a hard condition, because namely it determines the revisions of affixoidal primary concept which, penetrating various specialized human activities, is put in the situation to adapt to denominative needs.

In order to demonstrate that the inter- and intradisciplinary variability generates semantic flexibility of autonomous and non-autonomous lexical units (here: of the affixoids) which, in its turn, determines the appearance of homonymic variants, there was performed the analysis of the affixoids contained in the *Letter A* from the *Great Neologism Dictionary* [Marcu Fl., 2000]. Out of 110 (100%) affixoids, 18 affixoids (16.3%) maintain their primary meaning being used in a single domain of activity, but 92 (83.7%) supports semantic changes, sometimes up to the total loss of the primary meaning: the ambipositional affixoid *adelfo*-/*adelf*-/*adelfie* (in gr. “brother”) is used with the meaning “accretion”, “union”, “gamete” in botany, biology.

There are attested affixoids which are forming from a term (> fr. *atto*, “a billion billion less” – *attosecond*, word used in physics) to several hundred terms (*auto*-> gr. *autos*, “single, oneself” forming in all homonymic versions (*auto-1*, “single”, *auto-2*, “individual”, *auto-3*, “own energy, car” *auto-4*, “on one’s own account” etc.) 444 terms, used in mechanics, philosophy, biomedicine, sociology, linguistics, chemistry, geography, music, botany, psychology, sports, construction industry, etc.

According to the Webster’s theory, the concept constitutes the basic notion of terminology, being fixed, limited and unique. This statement was criticized. Thereby, according to the Communicative

Theory of the Terminology, the concept attached to the language evolves, is not static. It evolves by adding new features (conjunction of concept, disjunction of concept, combination of concepts). The fact that is essential is that the concept versus various specialized domains can have different meanings: *virus* – in biology: “inframicrobial germ”; in medicine: “pathogenic agent of several infectious diseases”; in informatics: “program with destructive effects on computers”; *geometry* –in mathematics: “branch that studies the space figures”; in technics: “geometric structure of a technical system”: *wheel geometry*; in medicine, “anatomical structure”: the *geometry of nasal passages*.

In the relation concept → denomination, some theories distinguish the phenomenon of: polysemy (Communication Theory); homonymy (General Theory). The communication theory accepts the idea of the existence of a single concept with several signifiers that are actually the expression of the semantic possibilities of the concept depending on the specialized domain. The general theory accepts homonymy; starting from E. Webster’s statement (1959, 1968, 1975), the concept can have only one signified. Thus to each signified correspond one particular concept.

Paraphrasing the statement of M. Leiris: “The words are the most chameleonic ...”, we mention the chameleon character of the affixoids. Demonstrating this by the illustration of genealogic tree of *tele-* (one of the most productive affixoids in the culture languages), conducted by J. Peytard [1964, p. 37-44] and Fl. Dimitrescu [1995, p.180 -184].

J. Peytard aims to study the way the radical *télé-*, initially used in the

specialized language, penetrates the common language, where it operates with a status of a prefix. This availability is dictated by a certain degree of productivity and by certain conditions that generate semantic decrease of the radical. The conclusions are the following:

- The radical of Greek origin *télé-* is a polysemantic prefix that can be noticed: in the position of a prepositive element with a semantic value “far”, “by far”; As a prefix, has a semantic value “which is appropriate to television”; With the status of a prefix has also another semantic value “which is assigned to *téléphérique* (funicular for the transport of the people)”; With the value of a noun, has the following semantic values: masculine noun – “*téléphérique*”; feminine noun –“television”.

- *Télé-*became a prefix under the following conditions: rapid technical development (1950-1961) which has generated the use of the distance communication techniques; quantitative explosion of the words formed with *télé-*; changes in the lexical distribution allowing the dominance of the “extended motivation” to predominate the “specific motivation”; associations with bases (lexical segments) belonging to different and varied lexicon.

- The extended motivation of *télé-* is explained due to its penetration in the general lexicon. Thus, the transition of *télé-* in general use (cited J. Peytard) was encouraged by the formation of homonymic versions: *télé-1* „*télévision*”; *télé-*; *télé-2* „*téléphérique*”.

The *Great Neologism Dictionary* [Marcu Fl., 2000, p. 858-861] certifies 154 terms that contain the prefixoid *tele-*.

The systematization of the compound words with this affixoid have resulted in

the following semantic samples.

The information we have on terms paternity is as follows: the formative element *tele-* is attached in scholarly compounds already in the XIV century. In 1611 J. Tarde uses the term *telescope* for Galileo’s invention. In 1873 the verb *telescopeis* used (with figurative meaning) by Hubner where it referred to a train collision.

At the end of the XIX century, Miot creates the term *telegraph* to name the device invented by Chappe brothers. In 1842 Mozin put into circulation the word *to telegraph*, and in 1866 there was attested the term *telegraphist*. The word *telephone* is used by Sudrű to name a hearing aid; the term was taken over later in 1876 by G. Bell. At the end of the XIX century there were certified the words: *to telephone*, *telephonic*, *telephonist*. The term *telepathy* is an Anglicism created by Myers in 1882. In 1887, the french Jacquez introduced the term *téléphérage* eafter English model *telpherage* (1883, Fleeming Jenkin) from which comes the term *telefer* (the end of XIX century) [Dauzat A., 1938, p. 703].

Today, we are witnessing the changes in the status of the segment *tele-4* “telephone, referring to telephone”:

a) tendency to lexicalization: on billboards and in the media there is used the word *Tellus* (network, telephone rooms [Makler, 06.01.2006, p.118]: *tell-* “telephone” (acoustic version that makes it different from the other lexicalized version *tele-2* “television”) + *us*, Latin termination, masculine gender, II declination; this termination is also present in other new words – Dom *usetc*;

b) suffixoid status: if initially the element *tele-* emerged as prefixoid, we are now witnessing its transformation in

Tab. 1.

Lexical functionality of the prefixoid *tele-*

<p style="text-align: center;">Fl. Dimitrescu <i>Tele-< gr. tele</i> “distance”</p> <p><i>Tele-1</i> – words of scientific language, that refer to devices or actions related to the notion of distance: <i>telebatoSCOPE</i>, <i>teleoperation</i>, <i>teleschi</i> (<i>platter lift</i>) etc.</p> <p><i>Tele-2</i>– “referring to television”: ex. <i>telereclam</i>/<i>television advertising</i>/<i>televisioner</i>, <i>television</i> etc.</p> <p><i>Tele-3</i> – ephemeral words (havingan ironical, funny character): <i>teleactept</i>, <i>telemania</i>, <i>teleparent</i>, <i>teleplicitis</i>.</p>	<p>J. Peytard makes an assessment on the affixoid meaning considering the functionality of <i>télé-</i> based on the motivation degree (there are being analyzed the lexemes being in circulation in the XIX – XX centuries):</p> <p>a) <i>tele-</i> – specific motivation; here are included terms made after the scheme: <i>télé-</i> + non-autonomous unit: <i>telescope</i>, <i>télévision</i>, <i>télésonic</i> etc.</p> <p>b) <i>télé-</i> – extended motivation; the scheme of the words formation being: <i>télé-</i> + autonomous elements: <i>télécommande</i> etc.</p>
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Tab. 2.

Semantic samples in the words containing the affixoid *tele-*

<p>Primary meaning <i>Tele-1</i> (66 terms) “far”</p> <p>a) <i>tele-</i> + non-autonomous unit: ex. <i>telepathist, telestesis, telescope, telealgie</i> etc.</p> <p>b) <i>tele-</i> + autonomous unit, formed of a prefixoid + suffixoid: <i>telecardiogram, teleautograph</i> etc.</p> <p>c) <i>tele-</i> + lexeme of general vocabulary: <i>telecompass, teleprocessing</i> etc.</p>	<p>Semantic changes <i>Tele-2</i> (55 terms) “refers to television”:</p> <p>a) <i>tele-</i> + autonomous lexeme: <i>teleencyclopedia, tele-center, teleafişaj(tele display)</i> etc.;</p> <p>b) the presence of portmanteau words: <i>tele/vision + electri/fica = telefica</i>;</p> <p>c) recruitment of non-autonomous units of specialized language: <i>-fagie</i> (gr. <i>phagein</i>, “to eat”, medicine): <i>telefagie</i> etc. <i>Tele-3</i> (7 terms), “refers to <i>telefizică</i>”: <i>tele-</i> + autonomous lexeme: <i>telecabină (cable car), teletransport, telesanie, telescaf/underwater cable car/</i> (in the maritime terminology) etc.</p> <p><i>Tele-4</i> (16 terms), “telephone; refer to telephone”: a) <i>tele-</i> + autonomous lexeme: <i>telemobile, teleselling, teletax</i>; b) derivative of the word <i>telephone</i>: <i>telephonometer, telephonogram</i> etc.</p> <p><i>Tele-5</i> (10 terms), “refer to telecommunications”: a) <i>tele-</i> + autonomous unit: <i>teleconference, teledialogue, telemarketing, teletype, teleprinter</i> etc.;</p> <p>b) <i>tele-</i> + non-autonomous unit: <i>telegraph, telegram</i>.</p>
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suffixoid: *tele-/tel* (the version *tele-4* by word truncation: *Eurotel* GSM Service (fast and qualitative repairs of phones, European standard) [Makler, 06.01.2006, p.118], consisting of *Euro/pa/ + tel/efon*. Another word *Voxtel*, the service of mobile phones with broad network in the Republic of Moldova: *vox*, lat. “voice”+ *-tel*;

c) certified in the median position: Mold *telecom*, in the words formed by the conjunction of several phonic segments.

This demonstrates the possibility of *tele-* to accommodate to different needs of denomination to which it delimitates its right to be used in different positions in a word: prime, median, final element; up to the freedom to constitute by itself an autonomous lexical unit.

Currently *tele-* penetrates the medicine domain, combining with autonomous lexical units: *telemedicine*, “distantly medical consultation and even the patient operation”; here the terms *telencephalon*, “*telediastolic* volume and *telesystolic* volume of the left ventricle” [Medical Courier, 2006, no. 3, p. 40] etc.

Conclusions: We consider the affixoidation a subprocedure of the composition. Each affixoid has at its origin a root and a concept (invariant). The concept attached to the language and social structure evolves in the penetration process of various domains of activity, adding new features. The evolution does not always substitutes the

concept, but it generates changes in its morphology: extension of the concept; restriction of the concept; partial or total change of the basic meaning. The inter- and intradisciplinary variability generate the semantic chameleonism that present itself in the degree of the increase of semantic flexibility of the words due to frequent actualization in different domains, but also due to the capacity of the affixoidal stock to be responsive and viable into new denominations.

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Information about author:

Eugenia Mincu – Ph.D., Associate Professor, Institute of Philology, Academy of Science of Moldova; address: Moldova, Chisinau city; e-mail: min-janne@rambler.ru