

THE FORMATION AND THE EVOLUTION OF SUFFIXATION IN THE SPHERE OF GERMAN SUBSTANTIVE WORD-FORMATION

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The article deals with the formation and the development of suffixation in the sphere of German substantive word-formation. Applying the principles of synergetic methodology within linguistic researches is regarded as a new tool for studying both the language system in general and its subsystems in particular. Wide possibilities within learning mechanisms of word-formation self-regulation as an open unbalanced non-linear system is provided by synergetics – a self-organization theory aimed at discovering general development principles. The main attention in the article is paid to analyzing the word-formation aspect of abstract nouns in the Old High German language. The origin and semantic spectrum of word-formation suffixes of German abstract nouns derived from notional lexemes are described.

Key words: word-formation, suffixation, noun.

Introduction. A great potential for researching mechanisms of word-formation self-regulation as an open unbalanced non-linear system is provided by synergetics – a self-organization theory aimed at “discovering common self-organization and development laws and at applying respective designed models widely” [1, p. 99–113]. Synergetics studies common self-organization and development principles of different complex systems explaining the appropriateness of existence of transient states, non-linear and unconventional decisions in terms of solving certain tasks [2].

The synergetics notion of self-organization and the following principle of circularity in living-matter organization perform a great role in understanding essence and functions of the language as a natural (mental and biological) sign system. One does not wonder that the problem of language systemacy, having drawn little interest of theorists at the end of the 20th century, attracts today linguists again [1–8, etc.], which conditions the relevance of our research. From A.E. Kibrik’s perspective, “the current linguistics is getting close to the limit when the autonomic descriptive approach becomes out-of-date, <...> linguistics begins to operate with quite involved complex language objects each of which consists of the infinite component set” [8, p. 103–104].

Applying methods and principles of the synergetic paradigms as the most optimal way for describing the formation and the evolution of German word-formation system makes **the relevance of the study.**

The specific topic of the article is describing the origin and the semantic spectrum of Old High German word-formation suffixes as the markers of German language evolution.

For reaching the above-mentioned purpose we are going to solve the following **tasks:**

- to describe the origin of word-formation suffixes of German nouns;
- to reconstruct the original semantics of word-formation suffixes of German nouns.

The objective of the given article is Old High German word-formation suffixes of nouns.

The **subject matter** is covering the formation and the evolution of suffixation in the sphere of German substantive word-formation.

Results of the research. By revealing the word-formation specificity of Old High German abstract nouns one could define a set of stable derivational elements performing a similar function – marking lexical units of the same semantic community, of the same single derivational space, namely of the abstract-noun lexical-semantic group. This set comprises representants of the word-formation abstractness category which is regarded as “a unity of word-formation meaning by different expressing means” [9, p. 25], or “a class

of lexemes characterized by a single derivational function” [10, p. 227]. Along with prefix formants that performed a certain role in marking abstract nouns, word-formation suffixes belonging to this category can be treated as main and dominant means of producing lexemes within the analyzed lexical-semantic group.

In the vocabulary of Old Germanic languages both abstract words and abstractness suffixes are widely known to have been secondary and later formations. Having appeared in the sphere of separate types of noun declension, abstract vocabulary was originally produced by stem-forming suffixes each of which had its own class of lexical units and was (as it is believed) a class indicator. The later appearance of more abstract nouns within these declension types proves the supposition of stem-forming-suffix semantics having served as a major factor by paradigmatic producing of the analyzed lexical layer. Consequently, primary abstract nouns marked in terms of word formation by stem-forming suffixes are a very old abstract-vocabulary layer and carry an explicit indication on a peculiar format of representing world knowledge. Further formation of separate abstract-noun word-formation elements (within different declension types), phonetically more distinct and stabler ones, promoted fixing the formats laid by stem-forming suffixes. Following development of abstract-noun suffixes from secondary word components had, probably, to fix the laid tradition still more formally and more distinctly.

The main problem is detecting genesis and providing subsequent reconstruction of original semantics of the defined suffix elements for further analysis of propositional structures of the abstract-noun word-formation category.

According to the researching of V. M. Zhirmunskii, Old High German stage is characterized by increased development of a whole number of new word-formative categories that express the needs of developing abstract thinking. This process is accomplished in German translated prose under the influence of more developed Latin language. On the one hand, to express abstract notions, some old suffixes are used (-ung, -nis, -ida), on the other hand, absolutely new suffixes are created from initially separate words with general meaning: -heit, -scaft, -tuom (“kind”, “image”, “property”, “state”). These new formations initially expressed higher degree of logical abstraction, while earlier categories of abstract words had more objective character. This is what the difference between ahd. *hōhī* “Hohe” - specific “height” of a certain mountain, and *hōchneit* (“height” in the figurative sense – “elevation”), between *sezzi* “position” (compare *ambahtsezzi* “Amtsbesetzung”) and *sezzunga* (das Setzen) etc. [11, p. 268–273; 12, p. 177].

The suffix -ing, -ing occurs in all Germanic languages in patronymic meaning (generic names): compare *Amalungi* (of Goths), *Carolingi* (of Franks). Its patronymic meaning is connected to its usage in local names ending with -ingen, -ungen (Dat. plural ahd. -ingum, -ungum), that designates the initial generic settlement of Germanic peoples: compare *Reutlingen*, *Solingen*, *Kissingen*, *Salzungen*, *Morungen* and others. That's where the development of personal meaning of the ending -ing in the words *kunig* “Konig”, ediling “noble” (“by origin”), arming “бедняк”, mahting “mighty person” etc. It is preserved in the Modern German language in the extended form of the suffix -ling, distracted from the words that already contained the suffix -l, as ahd. ediling (from *edili* “Edel”): compare got. *gadiliggs* “relative”, ahd. *jungiling* “Jungling” etc.; in the New German compare *Fluchtlings*, *Fremdling*, *Liebling*, *Lehrling*; often with pejorative shade, that may have evolved from diminutive meaning of the formation with -l: compare *Frommling*, *Klugling*, *Schwachling*, *Weichling*, *Romling* etc.

The suffix -ing in the abstract meaning is not found in the Gothic language. In Old High German it has the form -unga (feminine). In poetry, for example by Otfried (IX century) it is found only a few times in verbal nouns with more substantive meaning: for example, *manunga* (“reminder”), *samanunga* (“meeting”) and a few others. The development of proper abstract nouns with the ending -ung is deployed with extreme intensity in Old German clerical prose in VIII–X centuries in translation from Latin: compare *sceidunga* “division” (lat. *divisio*), *wirkunga* “action” (lat. *operatio*), *zeigunga* “definition” (lat. *determinatio*), *korunga* “test” (lat. *probatio*); from verbs with the suffixes: *wehsilunga*

“change” (lat. mutatio), from wehsilōn “wechseln”, heilagunga “sanctification” (lat. sanctificatio) from heilagōn and many others. In the further development of the German language this category becomes the general form of the formation of abstract nouns and reigns in the scientific and technical vocabulary of the XIX and XX centuries on a par with substantivized infinitives. Such formations from verbs with prefixes and suffixes are commonly used: compare Erbauung, Betretung, Versuchung, Absetzung, Aufklärung, Zusammenstellung, Beglaubigung, Beschädigung, Berichtigung, Verherrlichung, Verheimlichung, Regierung, Einquartierung, Sozialisierung etc.; similar situation occurs with syntactic adhesions: Grundsteinlegung, Instandsetzung, Beschlagnehmung etc.

Some words in this group have lost their verbal character and turned into ordinary nouns: compare Stimmung “mood”, Sitzung “session”, Dammerung “twilight” etc.

The suffix -nis is found in the Gothic language in the form of -assus, which is expanded into -nassus after verbs and nouns ending with -n: compare got. Ibnassus “Gleichheit” (from ibns “eben“, gaibnjan “ebnen“), frauinassus “Herrschaft“ (from frauinōn “herrschen“) etc. In Old High German the suffix has another form: -nissa, -nissi (feminine), -nissi, -nessi (neuter). The duality of the genus is preserved till our days: compare Geheimnis (neuter) - Besorgnis (feminine), etc. The development of this form also occurs in Old High German translated prose, for example, virstandnissi “Verstandnis” (lat. intellectus), kihalttnissa “Enthaltlichkeit” (lat. pudicitia), forlāzznessi “absolution” (lat. remissio) etc. Besides the formations from verbs and especially from strong participles, to which this category probably owes its -n, there initially are the abstract formations from adjectives and nouns: compare heilagnissa “Heiligkeit” (lat. sanctitas) from heilag, gotnissi “Gottheit” from Gott and others. In the New German the lexical composition of this group is significantly changed, but there are also the formations from the same grammatical categories (if possible - with umlaut): Erkenntnis, Gestandnis, Begrabnis (from verbs); Finsternis, Faulnis (from adjectives), Bildnis (from nouns).

The suffix ahd. -ida (got. -i.a) was used mainly for the formation of abstract nouns from adjectives. Very often in Gothic: daubi.a “Taubheit”, diupi.a “Tiefe”, weihi.a “Heiligkeit” (from the adjective weihs “heilig”) etc.; in Old High German translated prose - both from the adjectives and verbs: compare reinida “Reinheit”, heilida “Heilung”, mihhlida “Gro.e” and others. This suffix was mostly distributed in the scientific prose. In Middle High German is supplanted by formations with -heit and others. In New German only a few isolated words survived, that have lost their original abstract meaning: compare Gemeinde (ahd. Gimeinida), Gebarde (ahd. gibārida), Beschwerde (ahd. from separate words, are initially attached to preceding noun or adjective according to the type of biswārida), Freude (ahd. frewida) and a few others [11, p. 269–270; 12, p 177–178].

New suffixes formed compound words. In the Gothic language the suffixes of such origin has not yet occurred. Their emergence in Old High German shows the failure of the old language means for the needs of the complicating abstract thought.

The word heit (got. haidus (masculine), ahd. mhd. heit (feminine)) means “person”, “position”, “kind” in an independent use. In Old High German, it can be attached to nouns and adjectives. For example, ahd. scalcheit “slavery” from scalc “Slave” (lit.: “the position of slave”), magatheit “virginity”, tōrheit “stupidity”, frīheit (lit.: “free state”), wīsheit, hōchheit and others. It is characteristic that in contrary to the old, more specific suffix -ī, the suffix -heit that competes with it, is very often attached to adjectives that have abstract meaning, especially derivatives: compare ahd. gelīchheit “Gleichheit”, einicheit “Einigkeit”, stetecheit “Stetigkeit”, sālicheit “Seligkeit” and others. In the Middle High German the new ending -keit is formed from the combination -ic + heit (mhd. -ekeit.): compare mhd. bloedikeit “Blodigkeit”, līhteikeit “Leichtigkeit” etc. Later on, it is transferred to the words that did not have the suffix -ig: compare mhd. itelkeit “Eitelkeit”, lūterkeit “Lauterkeit” etc. The distribution of -keit and -heit in the modern language fluctuates. After the suffix -n goes -heit: Offenheit, Nuchternheit; after -er - usually -keit: Bitterkeit, Magerkeit, as well as after the suffixes -bar, -sam, -lich and some others: Fruchtbarkeit, Duldsamkeit, Herrlichkeit. A double formation -ig + keit is formed with the

suffix -ig: Traurigkeit, Beständigkeit etc. This ending is distributed independently later on: compare Bangigkeit, Dreistigkeit - besides bange, dreist; with certain variations that allow further differentiation of meanings: Neuigkeit (Neuheit), Reinigkeit (Reinheit), Feuchtigkeit (Feuchtheit), Kleinigkeit (Kleinheit) and others.

The word schaf (schaf), an abstract feminine noun formed from ahd. Scepfen "schaffen", meant "the state" ("Beschaffenheit"). Compounds with -schaft are less numerous than with -heit, and often refer to the state, occupation and character of human relations (usually from nouns, rarely from adjectives): for example, vrientschaf(t) "Freundschaft", formuntschaf(t) "Vormundschaft", nachburschaft "Nachbarschaft", liebschaft "Liebschaft"; the designation of the state and occupation acquire collective sense: priesterschaft (originally "Priesteramt"), riterschaft (initially "Ritterwurde"); also Burgerschaft, Bruderschaft; in dialects - Freundschaft with the meaning of "Verwandschaft" ("relatives"). Acquiring abstract value, -schaft can compete with -heit: compare Eigenschaft "property", Knechtschaft "slavery" and others.

The word ahd. mhd. tuom (masculine/neuter), (got. dōms (masculine/neuter), eng. doom "judgement") is used in the sense of "custom", "law", "power". In compound words, it meant "state", "social position": cp. munichtuom "Monchtum" (letters. "state of monk"), magettuom "Jungfraulichkeit" (also -heit, -schaft). In this sense it competes with -schaft and may also have a collective meaning: compare Rittertum - Ritterschaft, Burgertum - Burgerschaft. From the meaning of "state" and "custom", abstract nouns as Irrtum, Christentum, Luthertum are developed that indicate the way of thinking, religion, and so on. In some cases, the meaning of all three suffixes are crossed, and the difference between them requires special lexical interpretation: compare Eigenheit - "originality", Eigenschaft - "attribute", Eigentum - "Property"; Meisterschaft - "skill", Meistertum - "position of the master"; Christentum - "Christianity", Christenheit - "Christian nations" (collective).

Due to preservation of the developed system of word-formation in the German language, the formation of new suffixes from independent words continued in the modern language. Compare -mann: Edelmann, Amtmann, Bauersmann, Biedermann; -vogel: Spä.vogel, Nachtvogel, Spottvogel, Rachvogel; -werk: Schuhwerk, Backwerk, Triebwerk, Raderwerk; -zeug: Viehzeug, Schreibzeug, Fischzeug. These words, losing their independent objective value, are getting closer to the type of derivational suffixes: the first two of them are the names of the persons, the last two are close in meaning to the collective nouns [11, 270-272; 12, 178-179].

Conclusions. Summarizing the above-mentioned material allows making a conclusion that all considered suffix components originating from separate words and performing the function of suffixes show the trend to broaden its content till the most generalized semantics of state, image, appearance and shape, property, manner and behavior.

The analyzed Old High German suffix formants of abstract nouns are the youngest among abstractness suffixes in terms of their origin. Their inherent single function of an absolutizing abstract-content marker allows supposing that development of semantic content of word-formation formants of the abstract-noun lexical-semantic group was led to broadening till the most generalized meaning "a certain property, a certain characteristic".

Thus, the using of the principles and the methods of the synergetic paradigm in linguistic researches will provide a new insight into the language system and its subsystems. Advanced researches within the synergetic methodology can comprise researches of such complex systems as word nests, especially in terms of their diachronic analyzing as etymologic nests and genetic paradigms which are a good example of super-complex multi-component dynamic self-developing systems.

СТАНОВЛЕННЯ ТА РОЗВИТОК СУФІКСАЦІЇ У СФЕРІ НІМЕЦЬКОГО СУБСТАНТИВНОГО СЛОВОТВОРУ

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Стаття присвячена питанню становлення та розвитку суфіксації в сфері німецького субстантивного словотвору. Застосування принципів і методів синергетичної методології для вирішення лінгвістичних проблем проливає нове світло як на мовну систему в цілому, так і на її підсистеми зокрема. Значну роль у вивченні механізмів саморегуляції словотвірної системи як відкритої нерівноважної нелінійної системи відіграє синергетика як теорія самоорганізації, яка спрямована на відкриття універсальних законів еволюції. Основну увагу в статті сфокусовано на аналізі словотвірного аспекту абстрактних іменників у давньверхньонімецькому періоді розвитку мови. Описується генезис та семантичний спектр словотвірних суфіксів абстрактних іменників давньверхньонімецької мови, утворених із самостійних лексем.

Ключові слова: словотвір, суфіксація, іменник.

СТАНОВЛЕНИЕ И РАЗВИТИЕ СУФФИКСАЦИИ В СФЕРЕ НЕМЕЦКОГО СУБСТАНТИВНОГО СЛОВООБРАЗОВАНИЯ

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Статья посвящена вопросу становления и развития суффиксации в сфере немецкого субстантивного словообразования. Применение принципов и методов синергетической методологии для решения лингвистических проблем проливает новый свет как на языковую систему в целом, так и на ее подсистемы в частности. Значительную роль в изучении механизмов саморегуляции словообразовательной системы как открытой неравновесной нелинейной системы играет синергетика как теория самоорганизации, которая направлена на открытие универсальных законов эволюции. Основное внимание в статье сфокусировано на анализе словообразовательного аспекта абстрактных существительных в древневерхненемецкий период развития языка. Описывается генезис и семантический спектр словообразовательных суффиксов абстрактных существительных древневерхненемецкого языка, образованных из самостоятельных лексем.

Ключевые слова: словообразование, суффиксация, существительное.

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