

Inna Borolis

Senior Lecturer of the Department of Philology and Translation
Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (Kyiv)

TELESCOPING AS AN INDEPENDENT PROCESS OF WORD FORMATION IN MODERN ENGLISH

Telescoping is a method of word formation in which a new word is created from several lexemes by merging parts of at least two original words, in which either one word is shortened during the merging process and/or there is a phonemic or graphemic overlap of the original words. Today, telescoping is a dynamically developing productive way of word formation. The considered word-formation model is actively used in the language of advertising, economics, and politics, as well as in modern English fiction.

Studies of this phenomenon began at the beginning of the 20th century and have been actively carried out throughout the century until now. The process of telescoping was studied by N. Paul, 1880; H. Sweet, 1892; G. Bergström, 1906; H. Wentworth, 1934; H. Marchand, 1960, 1969; I. M. Berman, 1960; L. Soudek, 1967; T. R. Timoshenko, 1976; J. Algeo, 1977; Yu. A. Zhluktenko, 1983; G. Cannon, 1986; S. Zh. Nukhov, 1997; A. A. De Bolt, 1998; P. Frath, 2005, and others. Telescopic formations have always been present in the English language, however, their number was scarce. Their active formation occurred in the middle of the 20th century.

At first, telescopic lexemes were of an occasional, comic nature, however, later linguists appreciated their ability to express concepts, for the nomination of which several words are required, using ‘undivided naming’, as a result of which a number of telescopic formations of the English language turned into international units. The most famous are *modem*, *motel*, *smog*, *spam*, *sitcom*.

The high productivity and popularity of the telescopic method even caused the spread in recent years in the English language of such a neologism, which is actually a symbolic designation of the very method of formation of such language units – *franken-word* (Frankenstein words). This unit consists of a part of the word *Frankenstein* and the designation of the concept of ‘word’ in English – *word*.

There are many different descriptions of the structural and semantic features of telescope formations. The first and most important feature is the fact that telescopings are most often formed by combining two (rarely more) lexemes due to the process of truncation of the original words and their possible overlap.

The following units take part in the process of forming telescopic lexemes:

1) independent parts of speech (noun, adjective, verb, adverb, pronoun): *geep* = goat + sheep; *spork* = spoon + fork;

2) auxiliary parts of speech (preposition, particle, interjection): *internot* = Internet + not; *oogly* = ooh + ugly;

3) elements of an onomatopie nature: *waambulence* = waa + ambulance;

4) individual borrowed prefixes: *antiversary* = anti + anniversary (Kelly, 1998).

For the structure of a telescopic formation, an important role is played by the definition of its basis, the signs of which, in turn, can be the arrangement of elements in telescoping. Formally, the basis for telescoping is the last motivating component, but this only works when telescoping goes back to a phrase or if the first component acts as an attribute of the second one; the basis can also be considered a word that is present in a larger volume in telescoping (Gries, 2004).

It should be noted that recently the participation of abbreviations as fragments of telescopings can be considered a fairly common phenomenon, which means that the process of merging occurs either simultaneously with the process of abbreviation, or precedes this process. A similar phenomenon can be illustrated by the neologism *lolbertarian* (derogatory slang for ‘libertarian’, usually used to make fun of self-proclaimed libertarians who are apathetic to or support government expansion) – the

merger of the abbreviation *LOL* (laugh out loud) and the word *libertarian* (freedom supporter).

It can be concluded that telescopic lexemes are an integral part of the modern vocabulary of the English language. Based on the principle of their formation, which consists in adding two (sometimes more) lexemes, they are characterized by high semantic richness. So, in order to descriptively reveal the content of the meaning of a particular telescoping, it will be necessary to use a phrase or even a sentence, which gives reason to say that telescopings are characterized by high semantic and cognitive density. It should also be noted that the existing abbreviations of words, contaminated lexemes, and suffixes can act as components of telescopings.

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