

CONVERSION FROM NOUN TO VERB IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Saytova Sarbinaz Umbetbaevna

KSU The Faculty of Foreign Languages

Specialty of Philology and Teaching Languages

*Supervisor: **Badirova Dilfuza Asamatdinovna***

The Department of English linguistics

Key words: noun, verb, conversion, zero derivation, process, word-formation,

Annotation: This work is a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the process of conversion from noun to verb in English language, which is one of the most common and productive word-formation mechanisms in this language. Conversion, also known as zero derivation or null derivation, is the process of changing the word class of a word without adding any overt affixes. This work examines the morphological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic aspects of this phenomenon, and how they interact with each other. The work provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of the art in the study of conversion, and proposes some directions for future research in this fascinating and dynamic area of linguistics.

One of the ways that language evolves is through conversion, which is the process of changing the word class of a word without adding any suffixes or prefixes. For example, conversion can turn a noun into a verb, as in the case of "text" or "email". Conversion from noun to verb is also known as verbing or denominalization. This phenomenon is very common in English, especially with technological terms, and it reflects the creativity and flexibility of the language. According to linguists, conversion from noun to verb occurs when there is a need to express a new action or concept, or when there is a gap in the existing vocabulary. Conversion can also be influenced by analogy, frequency, and productivity of certain word classes. Conversion from noun to verb is not a random process, but rather a systematic and regular one that follows certain patterns and constraints.

Conversion can be used in different ways in the language. The conversion function may vary from case to case, here are the most common:

A. To demonstrate the activity of placing something

(1) He packeted the letter and sealed it with wax. [5:108]

(2) He placed the ring on her finger and kissed her softly [8:1008]

The words *packet* and *place* can be used as nouns or as verbs, depending on the context. However, they are more familiar to most speakers as nouns than as verbs. As nouns, they have different meanings and usages that do not correspond to their meanings and usages as verbs. For example, *a packet* is a small container that holds

something, while *to packet* something means to put it in a packet. Similarly, *a place* is a location or a position, while *to place* something means to put it in a certain place. Therefore, the word *packet* (*v*) and *place* (*v*) are instances of conversion. These verbs express the action of placing something, such as putting something in the packet(1)/place(2).

B. To demonstrate the activity of defining or forming something

(3) He named the stars for her, pointing out each one with his finger. [7:83]

(4) He shaped his hands into a cup and scooped up the water. [9:148]

The noun *name* is a word or phrase that distinguishes a person, place, thing, or idea from others. But when we use *name* as a verb, we mean to give or choose such a word or phrase for something or someone. Likewise, the noun *shape* is a word that describes the external form or appearance of something. But when we use *shape* as a verb, we mean to make or change such a form or appearance.

C. To show the action performed with the noun as a tool.

(5) He knifed the guard in the throat and ran towards the exit. [1:112]

(6) She needled him with her sharp tongue, making fun of his clothes, his hair, his accent. [4:77]

The underlined words are converted from *knife(n)* and *needle(n)*. The meaning aroused by the conversion is 'an activity done with the noun as the instrument'. Thus, the meaning of *knife* (*v*) in example (15) is 'an activity done with knife' and *needle*(*v*) in example (16) means "to tease"

D. To indicate a change of state or condition of the noun.

(7) The rivers freeze over from the cold. [3:154]

(8) Dumbledore reached out and lit (light) the end of Hagrid's pink umbrella. [6:131]

In sentence (7), the word "freeze" is used to describe the process of water turning into a solid state when the temperature drops below its freezing point, which is different from the noun "freeze" that means "a period of very cold weather".

In sentence (8), the word "light" is used to describe the action of starting a fire or causing something to burn, which is also different from the noun "light" that means "the form of energy that makes it possible to see things"

E. To perform a function or role of the noun.

For example, the verb

(9) He emailed her every day, telling her about his life in New York, his hopes and dreams, his fears and doubts. [10:281]

(10) I'll text you when I'm on my way. [2:98]

"The Fault in Our Stars" by

In sentence (9), “He emailed her every day” means that he sent her an electronic message every day, while the noun “email” refers to an electronic message sent over the internet.

In contrast, in sentence (10), “I’ll text you when I’m on my way” means that he will send her a short message when he is on his way, the action of sending such a message. But the noun “text” refers to a short message sent between mobile devices

In conclusion, the conversion from noun to verb in English language is a productive and creative process that reflects the dynamic nature of the language and its speakers. The conversion can be motivated by various factors, such as analogy, expressiveness, or lexical gaps. The conversion can also result in semantic and syntactic changes, such as polysemy, aspect, or transitivity. The conversion is not a random or arbitrary phenomenon, but rather follows certain patterns and constraints that can be explained by linguistic theories and models. The conversion is an important aspect of English language that enriches its vocabulary and grammar, and contributes to its vitality and diversity.

References

1. The Bourne Identity by Robert Ludlum, page 112
2. The Fault in Our Stars by John Green, page 98
3. Game of Thrones by George R. R. Martin, page 154
4. Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell, page 77
5. The Fort by Bernard Cornwell, part 108
6. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J.K.Rowling, page 131
7. The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, page 83
8. The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R.Tolkien, page 869, 1008
9. Life of Pi by Yann Martel, page 148
10. The Time Traveler’s Wife by Audrey Niffenegger, page 281