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# Confixal Verbs of Russian Language: Typology and Paradigmatics

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**Abstract:** The article deals with the status of confixation, determined for the first time, as a way of verbal derivation and form production, typical of languages, different in structure (Indonesian, Malay, Arabic, German, Japanese etc). We present a study of confixal verbs from the viewpoint of word-formative types and synonymic connections during the long historical period. The analysis results reveal common patterns of connection of word-formative formants with bases, quantitative and qualitative aspects of usage of word-formative types representatives and determine the interconnections of the derivative with the specific text blocks.

**Key words:** Word-formative type • Word-formative meaning • Verbal word formation • Confix • Word-formative verbal synonymy.

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to reconstruct the history of interaction of word-formative types of confixal verbs and conditions of convergence and divergence of these types, it means, the revealing of reasons of semantic distance of word-formative units during the long period of history of Russian language, the study of synchronic and diachronic synonymic parallels of confixal verbs.

A confixation is not the original, but it is the way of word formation in Slavonic languages. A confix is widely used in many languages, different in structure: Indonesian, Malay, Arabic, German, Japanese etc. In the Indonesian language, for instance, the verbs with the meaning of state are formed by means of the confix imbuhan): kedinginan - to feel cold (gabungan (from dingin - cold). The Arabic language is determined as the inflective one, with the elements of fusion and agglutination. In the second half of the 20th century, the native semitists and linguists prefer characterizing the way of internal flexion as an agglutinative way of connection of the broken consonant root with the broken vocalic affix - "diffix" (in combined cases - confix, transfix etc). The notion of "broken" morpheme comes from here [2: 98]. German scholars understand confix as a bind

producing base, as bio-, -therm-, -drom [3: 144-159]. A confix in the German language together with the lexeme/word or another confix produces the composites (Thermostat), with the suffix - derivatives (Thermik) [4]. The notion of confix as a foreign morpheme with the restricted co-occurrence is present in the works of E. Donalis [5], A. Zayfert [6]. The confixation is rarely met in German word formation, but is is productive in forming [7: 61]. The confixation problems in Russian language during the long period of time were gradually solved by the representatives of the Kazan Linguistic School (V.M. Markov, A.A. Aminova, G.A. Nikolaev, E. A. Balalykina, S.K. Chekmeneva, L.V. Vladimirova, L.B. Bubekova and others).

**Procedure:** In our work the confixal formations are studied, on the one hand, at the synchronous cut, thus, the specific peculiarities of definite periods of their existence, as well as the stylistic specificity, are taken into consideration; on the other hand, they are studied in diachrony, as the study takes into consideration the dynamics of development of language phenomena. The analysis of confixal formations in synchrony presupposes the use of *descriptive method* and the characteristic of semantic structure of formations, interesting to us,

presupposes the use of *method of component analysis*. The creation of interpretation models in comply with the word-formative meaning of the verbs under study is based on the *transformational method*.

Main Part: The verbal confixal word-formative types, as well as the nominal ones, are formed historically. For instance, in modern Russian language the word-formative types of verbs with the confix B(BO)...u(TE), BO3(BOC)...u(TE) are not distinguished, however, they are recorded in Old Russian language. Due to disappearance of the abovementioned verbal formations in modern Russian language, the word-formative types themselves were lost.

On the contrary, in modern Russian language there are word-formative types, which are not recorded in historical vocabularies of Russian language: the verbs with confix  $npo...\mu(TE)$ , motivated by the nouns, having the meaning "to endow (to saturate, to feed) with that, what is called a motivated noun: *промазутитБ*(*to endow* with heavy oil), прообио̂нтБ (to saturate with boiled oil), пробимитБ (to smoke); the verbs with confix npo...u(TB), motivated by the attributes, having the meaning "to endow with that characteristic, called by the motivated attribute: npoÿciutB (to clarify), npopåбитB (to thin out); the verbs with confix  $c...\mu(TE)$ , motivated by the numerals, having the meaning "to join into groups, consisting from that number of units, named by the motivated numeral": сбвоитБ «соавбиитБ по ввоа» (to double "to join two and two"), строитБ (to triple); the verbs with confix  $y...\mu(\tau B)$ , motivated by the numerals, having the meaning "to increase as much, as is named by the motivated numeral": убвоитБ (to double), утроитБ (to triple).

We can state that in the process of historical development, the number of verbal confixal word-formative models constantly increased. "The destroy of old prefixal and postfixal word-formative types and creation the new confixal ones on their basis promoted the transformation of confixation into more regular and productive way of verbal words creation" [8, 161-162].

The development of verbal confixation resulted in the homonymy of word-formative types, at which the phonetically coincident confixes are the bearers of different word-formative notions. Thus, the confix  $npo...c\ddot{y}$ , when related with the verb, can express the "return to normal state as a result of action, named by the motivated verb ( $npocnatEc\ddot{y}$  (to sleep it off) and "non-intense action, for rest or pleasure, named by the

motivated verb" ( $npo\tilde{a}yb\tilde{y}\tau Ec\tilde{y}$  (to take walk); the confix  $o...n(\tau E)$ , when related with the noun, expresses the wordformative meaning "to cause that, what is named by the motivated word" ( $ocb\mathring{a}sutE$  (to cover with tears)) and when related with the attribute - "to turn into that, what is named by the motivated word" ( $ot\mathring{a}mintE$  (to make dark)).

The essence of word-formative act is, as known, in formation of innovation, internally contradictive process, emerging because of interaction of opposite tendencies [9, 19]. The analysis proves the irreducibility of semantics of confixal morpheme to the sum of notions, served as its basis - prefix and suffix. The historical development of confixal word-formative types conditioned the emerging of such meaning elements, which are connected only with their loss of semantic dividedness.

Let us turn our attention to verbal word-formative synonymy, the formation of which is especially complex and branched from our point of view. From the viewpoint of derivation, two main types of formations can be distinguished among the confixal verbs: substantival (оа́іовитБ - «сба́bатБ іовûм» (to renew - "to make new")) and verbal (іасмотра́тБсÿ - «повибатБ мі́оа́о ÷а́а́о-іиа́убБ» (to look fill - "to see a lot")).

Among the substantival confixal verbs in Russian language, rather branched paradigms are met. For instance, from the attribute nobiûé (full), the followings verbs are derived: ianobiutE (to fill), BocnobiutE (to supply), болоbiutE (to add), запоbiutE (to fill), nåpånobiutE (to overfill), nonobiutE (to refill); the noun мåсто (place) motivates the verbs вмаститЕ (to contain), смаститЕ (to displace), умаститЕ (to fit), помаститЕ (to place), размаститЕ (to locate).

Among the verbal derivatives, the most branched paradigm is formed by the following confixal verbs: ΒραάοτατΕςϋ, зαραάοτατΕςϋ (to be swamped with work), ματαστατΕςϋ (to get out of order), ίαραάοτατΕςϋ (to be tired of work), cpaάοτατΕςϋ (to feather in), motivated by the verb paάοτατΕ (to work); the verbs βατεςυ (to gaze), απατεςυ (to stare), ίαποτεςυ (to feast one's eyes), πριπατεςυ (to stare), ίαποτεςυ (to feast one's eyes), πριπατεςυ (to look); similar to it formations αποτράτεςυ (to be carried away by the sight of), ίακοτράτεςυ (to look fill), βεκοτράτεςυ (to peer), πρικοτράτεςυ (to take the measure of somebody), motivated by the verb cκοτράτε (to see) and others.

The verbal confixal derivatives in our material, as per the explanations, presented in the Large Explanatory Dictionary, edited by S.A. Kuznetsov, can be joined into several groups, based on word-formative characteristics, with the following meanings: 1) "a movement by means of action, named by the motivated verb" is expressed by the confix B3...cÿ, which points to the upward movement: взвитБсӱ (to fly up), взаромозбитБсӱ (to clamber up); 2) "the intense development of process of state, named by the motivated verb", the bearer of which is the confix вз...су: взааситБсу (to get narky), взауітоватБсу (to revolt); 3) "the exhaustiveness of action, named by the motivated verb": отвоаватБсӱ (to finish fighting); 4) "the unrestrained devotion to action, named by the motivated verb": завратБсÿ (to lie a lot), истосе̂оватБсÿ (to yearn), οάδοδοτατΕςÿ (to laugh one's head off); 5) "the false or unsuccessful performance of action, named by the motivated verb": оа́маритБсӱ (to be mistaken in оа́с÷итатБсӱ measurements), (to miscalculate), провороватБсу (to be caught stealing); 6) "the achievement of any result by means of action, named by the motivated verb": otmob÷atEcÿ (to keep silence); 7) "to return to normal state as a result of action, named by the motivated verb": отвисатБсу (to hang down), отоспатБсў (to sleep off); 8) "the mutually directed performance of action, named by the motivated verb": nåpåãbÿíутБсÿ (to exchange looks), nåpåмиãíутБсÿ (to give a wink); 9) "the non-intense performance of action, for rest or pleasure, named by the motivated verb": проа́асе ат Бсу (to go for a run), проа́у b ут Бсу (to go for a walk) [10: 55].

#### CONCLUSION

In the process of work over the word-formative types of confixal verbs, we revealed, that their total number in modern Russian language is 83, 41 of them belong to the type with final confix element -u(TB), 7 types with final confix element -å(TB) and 35 types have postfixal final element-cÿ(cE). Besides, in pre-national development period of Russian language, there were distinguished 17 more types of confixal verbs with the final confix element -и(тБ), not obtaining further development in national period. At the same time in modern Russian language, 6 new types with final confix element  $-\mu(\tau B)$  emerged. It is very important that all word-formative types of verbal confixal formations were formed only in modern Russian language (in Old Russian language they are represented by singular examples). It proves that the verbal confixal formations appeared in Russian language later than the denominative ones.

### **Summary:**

- From the moment of appearance and up to the present days, confixation, which is considered non-original way of Russian word formation, grew up to prefixation and suffixation in many parameters. Towards the modern times the number of confixal formation models of new verbs have been increasing. Alongside with that, there is a quantitative restriction of verbal confixes (as compared to the great variety of denominational ones), their greater formal stability and less formal convertibility.
- In the process of historical development of Russian word-formative system, the number of verbal confixal word-formative models constantly increased. At the present development stage of Russian language, the positions of verbal confixation are exclusively strong, what, however, became a result of not only growth of confixal verbal structures number, but also the change of confixation system status.
- In the sphere of confixal verbal synonymy, the same as in the history of any other variety of wordformative types, three types of evolution can be distinguished: 1) the formation of synonymous wordformative types; 2) "word equity" of stable synonymy; 3) differentiation of synonyms and destruction of synonymy.
- The disappearance of some synonymic parallels is conditioned by acquisition of absolute status by the synonyms, included to them. The historical development of word-formative system promoted the neutralization of previous semantic differences of confixal derivatives, what, in its turn, conditioned the loss of members of synonymic row, which became redundant.

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