

DIACHRONIC ASPECTS OF WORD - FORMATION SYSTEM IN GERMAN LANGUAGE

L. V. Shchyhlo, *PhD in Philology, associate professor*
Sumy State University,
2, Rymyskogo-Korsakova St., Sumy, 40007, Ukraine
E-mail: l.schiglo@gmail.com

The article deals with evolutionary processes in the language. Wide possibilities within learning mechanisms of self-regulation of word formation as an open unbalanced non-linear system is provided by synergetics – a self-organization theory aimed at discovering general development principles. The subject of the study is diachronic aspects of word-formation system in the German language. The origin and semantic spectrum of word-formation formants on the different periods of the German language development are described. Special attention is payed to the modeling of self-organization process of word-formation means from the perspective of synergetic science. 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.

Key words: *word-formation, diachronic aspect, synergetic methodology.*

Introduction. 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], 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perspective, “the current linguistics is getting close to the limit when the autonomic descriptive approach becomes out-of-date, 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” [3, p. 103–104].

A great potential for describing mechanisms of self-regulation of word-formation means in the language 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” [4, 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 [9].

Applying methods and principles of the synergetic paradigms as the most optimal way for describing evolutionary processes in the language makes **the relevance of the study**.

The specific topic of the article is modeling of the self-organization process of word-formation means from the perspective of the linguo-synergetic conception.

The research object of the article is word-formation suffixes of abstract nouns in the German language.

The subject matter is covering the diachronic aspects of word-formation system in the German language.

Results of the research. Language develops continuously. 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.

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” [10, p. 25], or “a class of lexemes characterized by a single derivational function” [11, p. 227]. Among the word-formation 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.

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 *adh. hōhī* “Höhe” – specific “height” of a certain mountain, and *hōchneit* (“height” in the figurative sense – “elevation”), between *sezzī* “position” (compare *ambahrtsezzi* “Amtsbesetzung”) and *sezzunga* (*das Setzen*) [12, p. 268–273; 13, p. 177; 14, 78–80].

The suffix -ung, -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 desposes the initial generic settlement of Germanic peoples: compare *Reutlingen, Solingen, Kissingen, Salzingen* and others. That's where the development of personal meaning of the ending -ing in the words *kunig* “König”, *ediling* “noble” (“by origin”), *arming, 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* “Jüngling” etc.; in the New German compare *Flüchtling, Fremdling, Liebling*; often with pejorative shade, that may have evolved from diminutive meaning of the formation with -l: compare *Klügling, Schwächling, Weichling* 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*, *Zusammenstellung*, *Verherrlichung*, *Verheimlichung*, *Regierung*, *Einquartierung* etc.; similar situation occurs with syntactic adhesions: *Grundsteinlegung*, *Instandsetzung* etc.

Some words in this group have lost their verbal character and turned into ordinary nouns: compare *Stimmung* “mood”, *Sitzung* “session”, *Dämmerung* “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“), *frauinnassus* “Herrschaft“ (from *frauinnōn* “herrschen“) etc. In Old High German the suffix has another form: *-nissa*, *-nissī* (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* “Verständnis” (lat. *intellectus*), *kihalthnissa* “Enthaltbarkeit” (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*, *Begrabnis* (from verbs); *Finsternis*, *Faulnis* (from adjectives), *Bildnis* (from nouns).

The suffix ahd. *-ida* (got. *-iþa*) was used mainly for the formation of abstract nouns from adjectives. Very often in Gothic: *daubiþa* “Taubheit”, *diupiþa* “Tiefe”, *weihiþa* “Heiligkeit” (from the adjective *weihs* “heilig“) etc.; in Old High German translated prose – both from the adjectives and verbs: compare *reinida* “Reinheit”, *heilida* “Heilung” 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*), *Gebärde* (ahd. *gibārīda*), *Beschwerde* (ahd. from separate words, are initially attached to preceding noun or adjective according to the type of *biswārīda*), *Freude* (ahd. *frewīda*) and a few others [12, p. 269–270; 13, p. 177–178; 14, 78–80].

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”), *wisheit*, *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. *bloedekeit* “Blödigkeit”, *līhtekeit* “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*; 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* 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, *friuntschaf(t)* “*Freundschaft*”, *formuntschaf(t)* “*Vormundschaft*”, *nachburschaf*”, *liebschaf* “*Liebschaft*”; the designation of the state and occupation acquire collective sense: *priesterschaf* (originally “*Priesteramt*”), *riterschaf* (initially “*Ritterwurde*”); also *Burgerschaf*, *Bruderschaf*; in dialects – *Freundschaft* with the meaning of “*Verwandschaft*” (“relatives”). Acquiring abstract value, *-schaft* can compete with *-heit*: compare *Eigenschaf* “property”, *Knechtschaf* “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* – *Ritterschaf*, *Burgertum* – *Burgerschaf*. 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”, *Eigenschaf* – “attribute”, *Eigentum* – “Property”; *Meisterschaf* – “skill”, *Meistertum* – “position of the master”; *Christentum* – “Christianity”, *Christenheit* – “Christian nations” (collective).

Due to perservation 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*: *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 [12, 270–272; 13, 178–179; 14, 78–80].

So, the above-described meanings help to delve deeper into the polysemy nature of different variants of abstract semantics, which are expressed by a suffix on the different periods of language development.

Conclusions. The above-mentioned material allows making a conclusion that 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.

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”.

The main purpose of the diachronic study of German word-formation system is reconstruction of the development process of this system from the earliest ages to the modern state. We can hope that the description of German word-formation subsystems from the position of the lingvo-synergetic conception will facilitate the discovering of yet unrecognized regularities in the evolution of German word-formation system in general.

Using 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 our case – word-formation system of the German language) in particular.

ДИАХРОНІЧНІ АСПЕКТИ СИСТЕМИ СЛОВОТВОРУ В НІМЕЦЬКІЙ МОВІ

*Л. В. Щигло, канд. філол. наук, доцент
Сумський державний університет,
вул. Римського-Корсакова, 2, м. Суми, 40007, Україна
E-mail: l.schiglo@gmail.com*

Стаття присвячена еволюційним процесам у системі мови в діахронії. 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. Предмет дослідження становлять діахронічні аспекти системи словотвору в німецькій мові. Описуються генетичні та семантичні особливості словотворчих формантів абстрактних іменників у різні періоди розвитку німецької мови. Основна увага в статті сфокусована на моделюванні процесу самоорганізації словотворчих засобів з позиції лінгвосинергетичної концепції. Застосування принципів і методів синергетичної методології для вирішення лінгвістичних проблем відкриває нові горизонти у студіюванні мовної системи в цілому і її підсистем зокрема.

Ключові слова: словотвір, діахронічний аспект, синергетична методологія.

ДИАХРОНИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ СИСТЕМЫ СЛОВООБРАЗОВАНИЯ В НЕМЕЦКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

*Л. В. Щигло, канд. філол. наук, доцент
Сумский государственный университет,
ул. Римского-Корсакова, 2, г. Сумы, 40007, Украина
E-mail: l.schiglo@gmail.com*

Статья посвящена эволюционным процессам в системе языка в диахронии. Значительную роль в исследовании механизмов саморегуляции словообразовательной системы как открытой неравновесной нелинейной системы играет синергетика как теория самоорганизации, которая направлена на открытие универсальных законов эволюции. Предмет исследования составляют диахронические аспекты системы словообразования в немецком языке. Описываются генетические и семантические особенности словообразовательных формантов абстрактных существительных в разные периоды развития немецкого языка. Основное внимание в статье сфокусировано на моделировании процесса самоорганизации словообразовательных средств с позиции лингвосинергетической концепции. Применение принципов и методов синергетической методологии для решения лингвистических проблем открывает новые горизонты в изучении языковой системы в целом и ее подсистем в частности.

Ключевые слова: словообразование, диахронический аспект, синергетическая методология.

СПИСОК ВИКОРИСТАНИХ ДЖЕРЕЛ

1. Иmeeв В. О. К вопросу о системной сущности языка / В. О. Иmeeв // Язык образования и образование языка : Материалы III Всероссийской научно-практической конференции. – Великий Новгород : НовГУ им. Ярослава Мудрого, 2003. – С. 57.
2. Карпов В. А. Язык как система / В. А. Карпов. – М. : Едиториал УРСС, 2003. – 304 с.
3. Кибрик А. Е. Константы и переменные языка / А. Е. Кибрик. – СПб. : Алетейя, 2003. – 720 с.
4. Князева Е. Н. Саморефлективная синергетика / Е. Н. Князева // Вопросы философии. – 2001. – № 10. – С. 99–113.
5. Кобозева И. М. Обзор проблематики конференции «Лингвистика на исходе XX века: итоги и перспективы» // Вопросы языкознания. – 1996. – № 2. – С. 6–18.
6. Пятеева Н. В. Принципы и методы синергетики в динамическом исследовании сложных лексических систем / Н. В. Пятеева // Вестник Башкирского университета. – 2006. – № 1. – С. 64–67.
7. Стоянович А. Язык как изменяющаяся система [Электронный ресурс]. – Режим доступа : <http://language.psu.ru/bin/view.cgi?art=2004&th=rus>.
8. Тираспольский Г. И. Система языка и системность в языке / Г. И. Тираспольский // Научные доклады высшей школы. Филологические науки. – 1999. – № 6. – С. 45–53.
9. Лайонз Дж. Язык и лингвистика. Вводный курс / Дж. Лайонз. – М. : Едиториал УРСС, 2004. – 320 с.
10. Земская Е. А. Словообразование как деятельность / Е. А. Земская. – М. : Наука, 1992. – С. 25.
11. Stekauer P. The Handbook of Word-formation / P. Stekauer, P. Lieber. – Springer, 2005. – С. 227.
12. Жирмунский В. М. История немецкого языка / В. М. Жирмунский. – М. : Изд-во лит-ры на ин. языках, 1948. – С. 268–273.
13. Shchyhlo L. V. The evolution of German abstract noun suffixes / L. V. Shchyhlo // Філологічні трактати. – 2016. – Том 8, № 2. – С. 177–179.
14. Shchyhlo L. V. The formation and evolution of suffixation in the sphere of German substantive word-formation / L. V. Shchyhlo // Філологічні трактати. – 2016. – Том 8, № 3. – С. 78–80.

LIST OF REFERENCES

1. Imeev, V. O. (2003) *The Issue of Systemic Language Essence* [Yazyk Obrazovaniia i Obrazovaniie Yazyka]. Materialy III Vserossiiskoi nauchno-prakticheskoi konferentsii [Proc III All-Russian Scientific Conference in Velikii Novgorod], Velikii Novgorod: NovgGU imeni Yaroslava Mudrogo, 57 p.
2. Karpov, V. A. (2003) *Language as a System*, Moskow: Editorial URSS, 304 p.
3. Kibrik, A. E. (2003) *Language Constants and Variables*, SPb: Aleteia, 720 p.
4. Kniazeva, E. N. (2001) Self-Reflecting Synergetics, *Voprosy Filosofii*, n. 10, pp. 99–113.
5. Kobozeva, I. M. (1996) Reviewing Problematics of the Conference “Linguistics at the End of the 20th Century: Results and Prospects”, *Voprosy Jazykoznavia*, n. 2, pp. 6–18.
6. Piateeva, N. V. (2006) Synergetic principles and methods within dynamical researching of complex lexical systems, *Vestnik Bashkirskogo Universiteta*, n. 1, pp. 64–67.
7. Stoianovich, A. Language as a Changeable System [Online], Available: <http://language.psu.ru/bin/view.cgi?art=2004&th=rus>.
8. Tiraspol'skii, G. I. (1999) The Language System and Language Systemacy. *Philological Sciences. Scientific Essays of Higher Education* [Philologicheskie Nauki. Nauchnye Doklady Vyschei Shkoly], n. 6, pp. 45–53.
9. Lyons, J. (2004) *Language and Linguistics. Introduction Course*, Moscow: Editorial URSS, 320 p.
10. Zemskaja, E. A. (1992) *Word Formation as Activity*, Moscow: Nauka, 25 p.
11. Stekauer, P. and Lieber, P. (2005) *The Handbook of Word Formation*, Springer, 227 p.
12. Zhirmunskii, V. M. (1948) *The History of the German Language*, Moscow: Izdatel'stvo Literaturnykh i Inostrannykh Yazykakh, pp. 268–273.
13. Shchyhlo L. V. (2016) The evolution of German abstract noun suffixes, *Philological Treatises*, Sumy State University Publ., vol. 8, n.2, pp. 177–179.
14. Shchyhlo, L. V. (2016) The formation and evolution of suffixation in the sphere of German substantive word-formation, *Philologichni Treatises*, Sumy State University Publ., vol. 8, n. 3, pp. 78–80.

Received: January, 23, 2017