

Word-Building Methods of English Terms in Science Fiction Literature and Cinema: An Attempt of Classification

Maryna Zuyenko

Department of English and German Philology, Education and Research Institute of Foreign Languages, Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University, Poltava, Ukraine

Alla Kulichenko-Chugina*

Department of Foreign Languages, Zaporizhzhia State Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine

Ruslana Shramko

Department of English and German Philology, Education and Research Institute of Foreign Languages, Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University, Poltava, Ukraine

Mykhailo Rakhno

Department of English and German Philology, Education and Research Institute of Foreign Languages, Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University, Poltava, Ukraine

Oleksii Naumenko

Department of English and German Philology, Education and Research Institute of Foreign Languages, Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University, Poltava, Ukraine

Abstract—This paper deals with methods of creating terms in English science fiction using literature and cinema as the source. The units under study are classified according to their functional activity and lexical-semantic groups. The most active method applied in this research is statistical sampling which allows classifying grammemes according to the word-formation method used. The semantic method enabled the study of units through their explicit meaning and their representation in the context. Stylistic analysis has opened up prospects for studying word-play and secondary nomination processes. Among morphological methods of word formation, the prefix and suffix methods have the highest functional activity nominating humans (human-like beings or mechanisms) or machines in the futuristic reality. Compounding is a powerful way of coining grammemes which name equipment or machines used for exploration of distant worlds. Abbreviation is represented by a wide range of subtypes, one of which, namely acronyms, is actively integrated in the modern English language. Non-morphological means of word formation are generally represented by the lexical-semantic method as a means of reinterpretation of already existing lexemes by extending their primary semantics or using word-play. Other subgroups of non-morphological methods of word building are represented by sporadic examples.

Index Terms—science fiction, word building, method of word building, screen adaptation, author's coinage

I. INTRODUCTION

Science fiction has rooted deeply in the existence of the early 21st century person. It originated in the 18th century as an attempt of intellectuals and enthusiasts to open and to outline the scientific aspects of the future centuries to come. The science fiction of the 20th century has grown into a multi-layered synthesis of literary discourse with psychology, anatomy, engineering based on the cutting-edge discoveries in the technical field. The modern science fiction has opened the borders of the fiction proper transcending the limits of the literature and creating a specific multi-levelled matrix, a unique “parallel universe” where the attempts to solve the most important issues of the mankind in the 21st century were represented. They include the influence of religious or philosophical trends on the human behavior in the modern circumstances (in the deep space, or underground while performing extremely dangerous tasks – studying previously unknown biological samples, interaction with potentially dangerous extraterrestrial microorganisms, etc.). Additionally, it is about adhering to the principles of morality and ethics while creating new biological forms and samples analogous to the human body (clones, androids), the responsibility for these experiments to the next generations, and, most importantly, harmony of human activity in the new high-technology paradigm with fundamental

* Corresponding Author. Email: alla.kulichenko@gmail.com

tenets of the holy scriptures and personal conscience.

Nowadays, science fiction has gone beyond the innovative interpretation of objective reality by the writer. It synthesizes the literary discourse with the achievements of cinema and theatre art, graphic art, sculpture, and other artistic forms. All these factors made the genre immensely popular around the world and reflected humankind's aspiration to explore the unknown with the help of the 21st century scientific tools.

The holistic representation of this science-fiction "universe" in the literature and other artistic genres is impossible without a comprehensive linguistic toolbox. It enables to reflect the finest nuances of the modified meaning of the general lexis or to represent specificity of the newly-coined grammatical forms (hereinafter – grammemes) to get fully immersed into the text for the scenic (screen) image. So, that one can comprehend the general situation, context, subtext, or author's message. It is linguistics with its rich word-building capacity which provides the author of the science-fiction "canvas" with the set of word-building means to modify or create new lexical and grammatical forms. They will define new realia, phenomena, and objects within the matrix considering the cultural and historical experience of the nation, and their axiological reference points.

The preliminary analysis of the sources related to the above-mentioned topic has revealed the fact that there are several studies on the semantic range of terms in the science fiction field. Also, they cover the sphere of their functioning in the English language, and specific features of using these lexemes to mark the phenomena of the quasi-scientific or pseudo-scientific world. It should also be mentioned that the world-formation potential of the grammemes in the genre is still beyond the scope of the active academic interests of linguists. Thus, it calls for an in-depth systemic analysis, the need for which provides the foundation for the topicality and innovative nature of this paper.

The Aim

Considering the existing need for an in-depth characterization of the world-formation potential of the most significant grammemes in science fiction, the aim of this paper is to ascertain productive ways of word building which are used to coin the above-mentioned units, and to present their semantics. The implementation of the stated aim depends on reaching several objectives:

- 1) to select grammemes representing the specific features of science-fiction using a continuous sampling method on works of fiction;
- 2) to group and classify the selected units according to the word-formation method;
- 3) to represent the most active ways of English word-formation in the analyzed genre.

The focus of this study is texts belonging to science fiction and language patterns from works of cinema.

The subject is the syntactic units (sentences, phrases) with such grammemes.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The academic space of the 20th – early 21st centuries offers the studies of the mechanisms of coining and functioning of fictional languages used in classical and modern science-fiction works. Among these papers, we can mention monographs (Meyers, 1980) and joint collections (Barr & Mustachio, 2014). Delany (1977) provides a general characteristic of the science fiction language, while Katysh (2019) focuses on using technical terms in the field. Wade (2013) studies etymological roots and semantics of derivative grammemes. Storrar (n.d.) makes an attempt to present the thesaurus of new words in the above-mentioned genre. Author's coinages as innovative nominations in science fiction are researched in the article by Fadicieva and Yurieva (2012). The stylistics of the literary work is of no less importance for conveying the author's message, and these stylistic aspects of using fictional languages in science fiction are scrutinized in the work by Noletto (2024). The translation transformations in the term system of the genre are presented in works by Glinka and Khmara (2010) and Movchan (2019). The specificity of using terms in teaching English is shown in the methodological work by Stockwell (2001).

III. METHODS

The paper used a set of methods on each stage of the research. At the preliminary stage (January-February, 2025), the team of authors analyzed texts of science-fiction, selected, and classified grammemes according to the active ways of word-formation. At the second stage (March, 2025), a similar selection was made using works of cinema. The third stage (April, 2025) involved systematization and analysis of functional activity of grammemes. The following methods were used at the first stage: continuous sampling, statistical analysis, analytical method. Distributive method, structural modeling method, and combinatorial analysis were used at the second stage. The third, final stage employed statistical method and synthesis.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The word building system of the English language of the 20th – early 21st centuries provided the science fiction writer with a wide range of resources for building and filling a new matrix with relevant lexical units. They signify the realia of the newly created or newly discovered world. Also, they characterize the human being of the future dealing with previously unknown tools used for uncovering the existential laws and setting a communicative link with other sentient beings in the Universe. Consequently, it unavoidably leads to the expansion of the vocabulary enriching the speakers in

the process. We have used a main classification of the ways of word-formation of morphological and non-morphological.

A. Morphological Word-Formation Methods

Within the main classification of the ways of word-formation into morphological and non-morphological ones, the potential of the morphological methods has been utilized most actively. It shows the desire of the lingual matrix creators to build upon already existing grammemes familiar to the reader (viewer) using word-formation sequences uncustomary for a certain word-formation model and changing the relations of the word-formation motivation (hereinafter WFM). We have divided the morphological methods into Affixation, Compounding and Abbreviation.

(a). Affixation

Within Affixation, we considered Suffixes, Prefixes and Truncation.

1. Suffixes

Among the morphological ways of word-formation, we will mention affixation as a productive tool of coining new words in the modern English language. Within it, we have primarily studied the suffix mechanism of creating terms in the sci-fi.

(1). Creatures

This way is the most functionally active to define creatures / entities with certain characteristics (features). The following word-building formants have been singled out:

-ant with WFM “performing an act” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 13) (*replicant* (Lam, 2001) as ‘a human-like creature created to replace a human in especially dangerous or harmful areas of work’);

-at with WFM “person or thing that is the object of an action” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 17) (*mentat* (Herbert, 2018) as ‘a creature possessing supernatural mental qualities due to transformations’ similarly to *acrobat, diplomat*);

-ian with WFM “relating to” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 65) (*Martian* (Scott, 2015) as ‘an explorer (colonizer) of Mars’; *genetician* (Huxley, 2006) as ‘a researcher in the field of genetics’);

-lier(s) with a potential WFM “weird, crazy” (Urban Dictionary, n.d.) (*langoliers* patterned after *gondolier, hotelier*): *He could hear the chew-crunch-chew sound of the langoliers much more clearly now, perhaps because his ears had become attuned to them, perhaps because they were closer* (King, 2021, p. 168);

-ling with WFM “person or thing belonging to or concerned with” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 76) as ‘a person who comes from and is related to a specific location’ (*earthling* (Wells, 2014) similarly to *godling*);

-oid with WFM “shape; like; resembling” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 91) (*graboid* (Underwood, 1990) as ‘a creature which main mode of hunting (eating) is to unexpectedly catch their victim from under the ground’, *humanoid* (Simak, 1972) as ‘one which is similar to a human being’): “No one has ever found another human race. Or have they? I’ve been gone so long my information is much out of date”. “No one has”, said Martha. “Many other creatures, but no **humanoids**” (Simak, 1972, p. 72).

(2). Objects

Naming of inanimate objects is performed according to their purpose. For instance, the description of mechanisms and gadgets is done with the help of such word-building formants as

-er with WFM “thing or action” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 48) (*blaster* (Lucas, 1977), *waster* (Cannon, 1995) which signify tools helping humans in the new world (removing obstacles or dangerous objects using explosions, removing waste, etc., i.e., *dumpster*): *Hokey religions and ancient weapons are no match for a good blaster at your side, kid* (Lucas, 1977);

-liner with WFM “linear, with ...formations ...rectilinear” (Partridge, 2006, p. 1794) (*heighliner* (Herbert, 2018) as “a huge interplanetary spaceship designed to carry cargo” similar to *airliner*; potentially related to the company name *Freightliner* that transports cargos): *A Heighliner is truly big* (Herbert, 2018, p. 46);

-pter with WFM “wing; wing-shaped” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 110) (*ornithopter* (Herbert, 2018) as ‘an aircraft with insect-like wings’ similarly to *helicopter*): *The ornithopter swept over a bare rock plain* (Herbert, 2018, p. 102).

(3). Processes

Processes or states within space and time are described with the help of the suffixes:

-ism with WFM “condition of being” or similarly “abnormal condition caused by” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 69) to mark certain (in particular, anomalous) states of existence of humans / human-like beings (*mutantism* (David, 2007), *androidism* (Pierce, 1982) similarly to *isomorphism*): “*Mutantism?*” *Is that even a word?* (David, 2007, p. 19); “*What is the nature of reality in this vital instance, authentic human behaviour? Dick answers his question indirectly by defining that which is not authentic or real, namely androidism* (Pierce, 1982, p. 49);

-stasis with WFM “standing still; balance” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 126) as a way of prolonging the human’s existence, therapy in search of longevity (immortality), represented either as a separate lexeme (*The D.N.A. sample has been taken out of frozen stasis*) (Cannon, 1995), or as a part of other grammemes (*cryostasis*), i.e., *Aftereffects of cryostasis were shocking...* (Miller, 2022, p. 13).

(4). *Governmental Systems*

Names of states / political machinery / systems of government are created using suffixes:

-acy with WFM “form of government” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 35) (*technocracy* (Bellamy, 1996) patterned after *autocracy*);

-ium with WFM “derivatives ...denoting the associated status or office” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.) (*Imperium* (Herbert, 2018)), which shows the multicomponent (all-encompassing) nature of the geopolitical structure, the name being patterned after *oceanarium*.

2. *Prefixes*

The prefix process of grammeme coining takes the second place according to its functional activity. All in all, we have detected more prefixes to designate inanimate objects than ones for humans / human-like beings.

(1). *Inanimate Objects*

The first group includes such word-building formants as

exo- with WFM “outside; outer part” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 50) (*exo-suit* (Haldeman, 1974) to mark the external military equipment which serves as a chassis for weapons, an ‘exoskeleton’ for a soldier);

hyper- with WFM “over; above; excessive” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 64) (*hyperdrive* (Lucas, 1980) as ‘a standard term for a faster-than-light flight engine for inter-galactic travels in science-fiction’ patterned after *hypermarket*): *We can still outmaneuver them... but I need time to get the hyperdrive back on line* (Lucas, 1980);

inter- with WFM “between; among” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 68) (*interstellar* (Nolan, 2014) to name an interplanetary route of a space craft, patterned after *interpolar*);

multi- with WFM “having many” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 85) (*multiverse* (Moorcock, 1999) to name a multidimensional space similarly to *multidimensions*);

nano- with WFM “one-billionth” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 87) (*nanobot* (Stephenson, 2000) to mark an extremely small gadget with a specific functionality similarly to *nanometer*);

over- with WFM “upper; superior” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 95) (*overmind* (Clarke, 2010) to signify a potentially possible ‘meta-consciousness’ as a product of a collective consciousness);

poly- with WFM “more than one” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 106) (*poly-alloy* (Cameron, 1991) to name a certain type of a substance, a ‘smart’ composite metallic alloy): *A mimetic polyalloy* (Cameron, 1991).

(2). *Human-Like Beings*

The prefix units to mark humans / human-like beings in science fiction are the morphs:

post- with WFM “after in time; following; later” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 107) (*posthuman* (Stross, 2005)) to mark the next evolutionary / developmental stage of the humankind): *...she’s in her midtwenties, but apparent age signifies little in a simulation space populated by upload minds, or in real space, where posthumans age at different rates* (Stross, 2005, p. 150);

pre- with WFM “before in time; earlier; prior to” (Sheehan, 2021, p. 108) (*prescient* (Herbert, 2018) as ‘a creature / person capable (or made to be able) of foretelling certain events’ similarly to *precautious*);

un- with WFM “opposite of ...in nouns formed from nouns” (Sohail, 2002, p. 57) (*unlife* (Rice, 1976–2018) as an *undead* (pseudo-alive dead).

3. *Truncation*

Truncation (an affixless word-formation process) shows the lowest functional activity among the affix word-formation methods (hereinafter the symbol ← is used to mark the derivational relationship to the base unit).

(1). *Anthropomorphic Mechanisms*

Truncation is used to name robots / anthropomorphic mechanisms. For instance, we located such lexical units as

droid (Lucas, 1977) ← ‘android’ has its basic WFM “commercial robot” unlike robots with domestic functionality (Wolf, 1952); later on, the WFM has been expanded to ‘a mechanism which help humans in the futuristic society’, i.e., *Willful sabotage of a public droid* (Cannon, 1995). We have located cases of secondary derivation from the newly-coined morph with a specified function, such as *servodroid* (Cannon, 1995) (Look the chapter “Compounding”);

scav ← scavenger with the primary WFM “a person who collects things discarded by others” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.), transformed in the language matrix of science-fiction to ‘a human / human-like creature with an antisocial way of life who opposes their contemporary society, a hermit / outcast with an antisocial streak’, f. i., *Well if you ain’t the weirdest bunch I ever saw, then call me scav bait!* (Newman, 2016, p. 262);

trog (Leinster, 1944) ← troglodyte with the primary WFM “someone who lives in a cave” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.) is used to name a cave dweller, or, more specifically, an inhabitant of the underground regions of post-apocalyptic / dystopian cities (“*I think he’s a trog*”, said Dick) (Leinster, 1944, p. 8).

(2). *Outer Space*

A separate group includes the units with the semantics ‘space / interplanetary colonization’ which names the

perspective of the humanity on settlement of other planets as well as related phobia (predictions) of the contact with extraterrestrial life forms:

Sol (Scott, 2015) ← solar with the primary WFM “a solar day as measured on the planet Mars, equal to 24.65 hours” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.) to signify a Martian day as a unit of measurement used in space exploration;

The Hab (Scott, 2015) ← habitat with the primary WFM “the place in which a person, group, class, etc., is normally found” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.) as a name of a living (work) pod for astronauts during the exploration (colonization) of other planets (particularly Mars): *The wind’s gonna be rougher away from the Hab, so be ready* (Scott, 2015);

The Tet (Liman, 2014) ← tetrahedral with the primary WFM “A solid figure with four flat faces, which in a regular tetrahedron are equilateral triangles” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.) to name an alien space station of the corresponding shape as a piece of extraterrestrial technology.

Thus, the analysis of the affix methods of word-formation of lexical units in science-fiction works allows marking the suffix method as the most productive one.

(b). *Compounding*

Compounding as a method of word-formation plays an important role in the genre under study allowing combining the bases of grammemes belonging to different parts of speech. They, in turn, form a unit which components 1) show its purpose in the science-fiction universe, 2) signify a characteristic feature of a machine or 3) inform about the way people use it.

1. *Root Compounding*

Within the compounding process, we can single out root compounding as the former’s subtype. Actually, it is used in the lexical units either directly or with a help of interfixes.

(1). *Direct Usage*

The direct usage is presented by such grammemes as: *battleship* (Berg, 2012), *cyberspace* (Gibson, 1984), *deadlights* (King, 1986), *dropship* (Liman, 2014), *guildsman* (Herbert, 2018), *homeworld / home world* (Asimov, 1952), *Lawmaster* (Cannon, 1995), *sandworm* (Herbert, 2018), *stillsuit* (Herbert, 2018), *starship* (Heinlein, 1959), *stargate* (Emmerich, 1994): *This dropship is about to explode* (Liman, 2014); *Lawmaster, improved model, with dual on-board laser cannons...* (Cannon, 1995); *I want all you people back through the Stargate within the hour* (Emmerich, 1994); *Cyberspace. A consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of legitimate operators...* (Gibson, 1984, p. 52); *When they got here It would cast them, shrieking and insane, into the deadlights* (King, 1986, p. 1009); *I’m going to watch our screens and try to see a Guildsman* (Herbert, 2018, p. 46); *...a race of individuals able to build cities, starships, armies, may be even more mysterious to a hive entity than a hive entity is to us* (Heinlein, 1959, p. 176); *...he saw his home world conquered* (Asimov, 1952, p. 249).

Occasionally, coined grammemes allow to trace the historical background used by the author: the grammeme *Landsraad* is created using the base *lands* combined with a Dutch root *raad* meaning ‘council / advice’, describing the author’s coinage as ‘a council of territories – the highest advisory institution in the state’ similarly to *Bundesrat*: *...the Imperial Household balanced against the Federated Great Houses of the Landsraad...* (Herbert, 2018, p. 27).

(2). *Interfixes*

In the sci-fi works, interfixes (-o-) facilitate compounding, for instance: *Dredd, it’s just a servodroid* (Cannon, 1995).

2. *Root Compounding With Affixation*

As a compounding subtype, it has a lower functional potential in the language of science fiction, as it is represented with isolated samples of creating a term for a person (a machine) as a performer of certain activities (*starcaster* (Chaney & Maggert, 2020) ← star + cast + er with WFM ‘one who casts spells among the starts’ to mark magicians able to use spells in the open space; *Lawgiver* (Cannon, 1995) ← law + give + er with WFM ‘weapon for law enforcement in the futuristic society’: *He was a Starcaster, and an officer, and even more importantly, a human* (Chaney & Maggert, 2020, p. 104).

3. *Word Compounding*

Grammmemes created through word compounding have not been found in the lingual matrix of science fiction so far.

(c). *Abbreviation*

Abbreviation is a functionally active way of word-formation in the lingual matrix of science fiction. Grammmemes coined in this way are indispensable elements of the narrative forming the ‘zest’ of the genre and filling the characters’ speech with pseudo/scientific terminology. Thus, they provide a certain level of credibility to the otherwise made-up details.

Abbreviation is represented by a considerable number of facts. Our thorough analysis has detected grammemes which signify gadgets (mechanisms, machines), names of institutions, extra/terrestrial strains of varying nature. Units that name humans (or human-like beings) are represented by isolated samples.

1. Acronyms

It is also worth mentioning that among the subtypes of abbreviation, we have grouped and analyzed a considerable number of acronyms as highly active units of secondary derivation in the science-fiction narrative. Provided that a certain work of this genre becomes popular, they start to serve as an easily recognizable icon which creates a lasting reference to the correspondent work in the reader's / viewer's mind.

(1). Letter Abbreviation

The lowest functional activity can be attributed to the letter abbreviations which name gadgets or mechanisms as follows:

1) the acronym *hk / H-K* (Cameron, 1984) ← 'hunter-killer' describes the operating principle and simultaneously serves as a name for several types of autonomous AI-driven battle mechanisms for repressing the human resistance: *I grew up after. In the ruins. Starving. Hiding from H-Ks. Hunter-Killers. Patrol machines built in automated factories* (Cameron, 1984);

2) the acronym *MDV* (Scott, 2015) ← 'Mars Descent Vehicle' means a space craft used to transport astronauts from the interplanetary vessel to the Martian surface: *Now, I have hundreds of liters of unused hydrazine at the MDV* (Scott, 2015);

3) *ALSC* (Haldeman, 1974) ← Accelerated Life Situation Computer as a gadget generating online simulation for the brain): *They ... attached dozens of electrodes to my head and body, immersed me in a tank of oxygenated fluorocarbon, and hooked me up to an ALSC. That's an "accelerated life situation computer"* (Haldeman, 1974, p. 155).

There are separate cases of using acronyms to mark organizations or structures: *R.I.P.D.* (Schwentke, 2013) ← Rest in Peace Department as a name for a fictional police department staffed with killed-in-action policemen who track deceased criminals who avoided punishment. This one used NYPD as a template.

(2). Sound Abbreviations

Sound abbreviation shows the highest functional activity in the language matrix of sci-fi. All in all, 10 acronym units have been found and researched. These units have become iconic and provide a strong association with their source narrative. They are mostly used to mark futuristic equipment for scientific experiments in previously inaccessible locations:

1) The *TARDIS* (Sax, 1996) ← 'Time And Relative Dimension(s) In Space' is used to name a curious combination of a time machine and a spaceship for travelling different dimensions: *The TARDIS is my ship that carries me through time and space. T-A-R-D-I-S. It stands for Time and Relative Dimension in Space* (Sax, 1996);

2) *TIMMY* (Cunningham, 2005) ← 'Thermal Ionic Mass Incinerator', a machine designed to pierce the solid rock in order to access the Earth core;

3) *TAMMY* (Hyams, 2005) ← 'Time Analysis Machine for Multi-dimensional Yielding', a time machine with an analytic AI for self-analysis of its operations and making optimal solutions for time jumps: *Listen, lady, no offense but I think I'm qualified to offer an opinion. I work with TAMMY. I lead the jumps* (Hyams, 2005);

4) *MAV* (Scott, 2015) ← Mars Ascent Vehicle, a craft which lifts astronauts from the planet surface to the interplanetary spaceship on the orbit: *Commander, we're at 10 degrees, and the MAV is gonna tip at 12.3* (Scott, 2015);

5) *RABIT* (Toro, 2013) ← 'Random Access Brain Impulse Triggers' as a technology used to synchronize brain activity of pilots and to enable the merge of their consciousnesses;

6) *MIAB (miab)* (Miéville, 2011) ← 'message in a bottle', an unmanned spacecraft for transporting messages and / or cargos): *As always the miab was laid on a colossal flatbed...* (Miéville, 2011, p. 20).

Some sound abbreviation-acronyms have been singled out to mark names of institutions, structural departments of futuristic organizations:

1) *RIP* (Abnett, 2006) ← 'Reindoctrination Instruction Punishment', which is a training / penal unit for either training new recruits or rehabilitating minor offenders and rule-breakers: *RIP was an acronym, and it happened in the Basement. There were two hundred and forty-three scalps in the detail, the majority of them there for the 'P' part of the acronym* (Abnett, 2006, p. 6).

2) *CHOAM* (Herbert, 2018) ← 'Combine Honnete Ober Advancer Mercantiles' to mark an interplanetary organization controlling the trade.

We have found individual cases of using sound abbreviations for technical terms (*EVA* (Scott, 2015) ← Extra-Vehicular Activity as a human movement outside their craft (machine) in space, for instance: *Mark drove two hours straightaway from the Hab, did a short EVA, and then drove for another two* (Scott, 2015).

2. Mixed Abbreviations

Mixed abbreviations also show a high functional activity in the lingual matrix of the science fiction. The complex nature of these units shows their component structure and points at their multifunctional purpose in the depicted society. All in all, 10 units have been singled out and analyzed. Among them are 1) literal-digital names; 2) portmanteaux. Some of the mixed abbreviations are acronyms with a stable reference to their original work of art.

Among the mixed abbreviations, we have pointed out the names of machines (mechanisms) or their release series:

1) *T-800* (Cameron, 1984), *T-1000* (Cameron, 1991) ← terminator as a mechanical assassin with autonomous

artificial intelligence made in the image of a human with a metal chassis inside;

2) *cyborg* (Cameron, 1984) ← cybernetic organism (see above): *Flesh, skin, hair, blood. Grown for the cyborgs* (Cameron, 1984);

3) *SimPal* /*simpal* / *sim-pal* (Spottiswoode, 2000) ← simulated pal as a robotic or digital mechanism / technology of a synthetic companion with a mimicry ability): *sim-pals, the best friend that money you can buy* (Spottiswoode, 2000).

There are also names of weapons like *lasgun* (Herbert, 1984) ← laser gun as a high-energy laser weapon of a nearly-nuclear explosive power: “*What do you intend to do with that weapon?*” *Lucilla asked. She nodded at the antique lasgun in Teg’s hands* (Herbert, 1984, p. 285).

We have found several examples to describe laboratories (centres, factories) and equipment:

1) *resyk* (Smith, 2014) ← “recycling corpses” as a part of the city infrastructure – a processing plant for human remains): *Meanwhile, six users have ended up in Resyk, in all probability because of something they’d taken* (Smith, 2014, p. 44);

2) *HydroRig* / *hydrorig* / *hydro rig* (Owomoyela, 2012) ← hydrological rig as an industrial-sized equipment for extracting humidity from air or soil: *You’re Jordan Owole, right? You own the hydro rig?* (Owomoyela, 2012, p. 280);

3) *hydroplant* (Klenner & Faint, 1997) ← hydrological plant as an industrial-sized equipment for producing or supplying water): *...the hydroplant was set up ages ago to produce our own water* (Klenner & Faint, 1997).

Some abbreviations are used to name:

1) strains (microorganisms, biosamples) (*739528 bacillus infernus* (Salomon, 2008) ← ‘Bacterium from Hell’ with double semantics (firstly, an indication of its lethality towards the mankind, secondly, a reference to the extreme conditions of its prior habitat);

2) substances (*G-23* (Whedon, 2005) ← a chemical component of the substance Paxilon Hydrochlorate, created to pacify (or repress) the population by order of the interplanetary government: *It’s the Pax. The G-23 Paxilon Hydrochlorate that we added to the air processors* (Whedon, 2005).

One should note that the coined abbreviations can undergo the secondary semantization (see the chapter “The Lexical-Semantic Way of Word-Formation”) and be perceived as onyms marking certain realia rather than abbreviations.

Thus, abbreviation is a highly productive morphological way of word-building which actively coins grammemes within the science-fiction narrative.

B. Non-Morphological Ways of Word-Formation

Non-morphological ways of word-formation have a significantly lower activity potential in the language of science-fiction works. Their usage is motivated by the general need to rethink the role of a unit or its purpose in the work.

(a). The Morphological-Syntactic Way of Word-Formation

Within the morphological-syntactic way of word-building (conversion), sporadic examples of substantivation have been detected. By their nature, these units are author’s coinages, which components retain their connection with the functional purpose of the lexeme. Generally, they are used to signify gadgets (*ansible* (Le Guin, 1974) ← association with ‘answer’ + ‘possible’ as a means of constant faster-than-light interplanetary communication) or states (*todash* (King, 2003) ← association with ‘movement towards nothingness’ as a certain plane of existence or a form of reality which a traveler crosses while moving across different dimensions: “*What is the ansible?*” “*It’s what he’s calling an instantaneous communication device*” (Le Guin, 1974, p. 222); *Dreaming. But not just dreaming. This was todash, the passing between two worlds* (King, 2003, p. 80).

We believe that the neologism reflects the influence of several stages of coining: 1) non-morphological lexical-syntactic way enables the agglutination of components, while 2) non-morphological morphological-syntactic way leads to the change in the part of speech.

(b). The Lexical-Semantic Way of Word-Formation

1. Expansion of the Associative and Semantic Field

Within the analyzed genre, the highest functional activity among non-morphological word-formation mechanisms is shown by the lexical-semantic method represented by 10 units. Its usage in the science fiction lingual matrix is primarily linked to the expansion of the associative semantic field of the correspondent lexeme resulting in the lexeme acquiring previously uncharacteristic meanings. The language of works of this genre has units to name.

1) mechanisms / technology: *drone* (Kosinski, 2013) ← with the primary WFM “a type of aircraft that does not have a pilot and is controlled by someone on the ground” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.), transformed into ‘equipment with a wide functionality used by an extraterrestrial civilization primarily for military, reconnaissance, and transportation purposes’: *You have two drones offline. Perimeter’s compromised* (Kosinski, 2013);

2) terrestrial creatures: *navigator* (Herbert, 2018) ← with the primary WFM “person whose job is to work out the direction in which the aircraft or ship should be travelling” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.), expanded to ‘a creature which has acquired a supernatural ability to calculate a safe interplanetary route for a spaceship due to the influence of certain substances’: *The Guild navigators, gifted with limited prescience, had made the fatal decision: they’d chosen always the clear, safe course that leads ever downward into stagnation* (Herbert, 2018, p. 392);

extraterrestrial creatures: *mimic* (Liman, 2014) ← with the primary WFM “a person who is able to mimic people or animals” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.), reinterpreted as ‘a creature-colonizer of planets from an extraterrestrial civilization possessing a supernatural connection with a dominating predator creature’ in the following examples: “*You killed a mimic?*” “*Yes*”. “*Describe it*”. “*It was different. It was bigger. Bluish*”. “*And you got covered in its blood*”. “*As a matter of fact, I did*” (Liman, 2014);

3) substances: *spice* (Herbert, 2018) ← with the primary WFM “any of a variety of aromatic vegetable substances... used as flavourings” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.), which acquired the association with ‘a psychoactive substance which provides the humanity with supernatural abilities for survival or performing specific tasks and leads to addiction’: *The spice, chiefly noted for its geriatric qualities, is mildly addictive when taken in small quantities. ...Muad'Dib claimed the spice as a key to his prophetic powers* (Herbert, 2018, p. 904);

4) human character / skills: *voice* (Herbert, 2018) ← with the primary WFM “the natural and distinctive tone of the speech sounds characteristic of a particular person” (Collins Dictionary, n.d.), represented as ‘a special modulation of voice developed by a long psychomental practice and used to control other beings as a sign of the next step in the human evolution’: *Using the Voice on me, he thought* (Herbert, 2018, p. 14).

2. Secondary Nomination

Secondly, within this method of word-formation, a mechanism of secondary nomination can be observed when the newly-coined unit is represented in the science-fiction lingual matrix as an onym for certain realia of existence. The process of language play makes the grammeme look as not as a letter or sound abbreviation, but as a proper name given to the gadget (mechanism, technology): *TIMMY*, derived from *TIMI* (Cunningham, 2005) ← Thermal Ionic Mass Incinerator; *TAMMY* (Hyams, 2005) ← Time Analysis Machine for Multi-dimensional Yielding.

3. Word Play and Reinterpretation

It is also necessary to present occasional appellatives coined through wordplay and abbreviations like *RABIT* (Toro, 2013) ← Random Access Brain Impulse Triggers, similar to the word ‘rabbit’: *We're not in the simulator now, Mako. Remember, don't chase the rabbit. Random access brain impulse triggers. Memories. Just let 'em flow, don't latch on* (Toro, 2013).

We rarely came across commonly used acronyms with reinterpreted semantics as follows:

1) *R.I.P.D.* (Schwentke, 2013) ← Rest in Peace Department from the original RIP ← Requiescat in Pace as the last words during the funeral ceremony;

2) *RIP* (Abnett, 2006) ← Reindoctrination Instruction Punishment ← with a potential link to RIP ← Routing Information Protocol as a process of re-routing information in the computer network. The last unit can also be a dark humorous allusion to “Rest in Peace / Requiescat in Pace” as well.

Thus, the lexical-semantic way of word-formation shows an active functional potential among other non-morphological word-coining processes in the lingual matrix of science fiction.

(c). The Lexical-Syntactic Method

Cases of using the lexical-syntactic method of word-formation have not been located.

C. Lexical Processes as a Prospect of Vocabulary Enrichment

The in-depth analysis of the lexical level of the science-fiction lingual matrix enables us to detect a range of active changes caused by the need for reconsidering the component structure of the names of realia in the futuristic society represented in the genre. It encompasses the borrowings (*jaeger, kaiju* (Toro, 2013)), synonymic replacement of units (*xenomorph* (Cameron, 1986)) and formation of a wide spectrum of collocations (*plasma rifle, phased plasma pulse-gun, foosh gun, pulse rifle, memory balm, mimetic polyalloy, infiltration unit, Force Field, parallel universe, tractor beam, hive mince, space opera, terraforming event, the 6th day Law*, etc.). Studying the specificity of these processes calls for a separate thorough analysis.

V. CONCLUSION

We can conclude that the analysis performed in this study proves the active usage of both morphological and non-morphological processes of word-formation within the lingual matrix of science fiction.

Figure 1 exhibits the statistical analysis of grammemes due to the functional activity of word-formation processes.

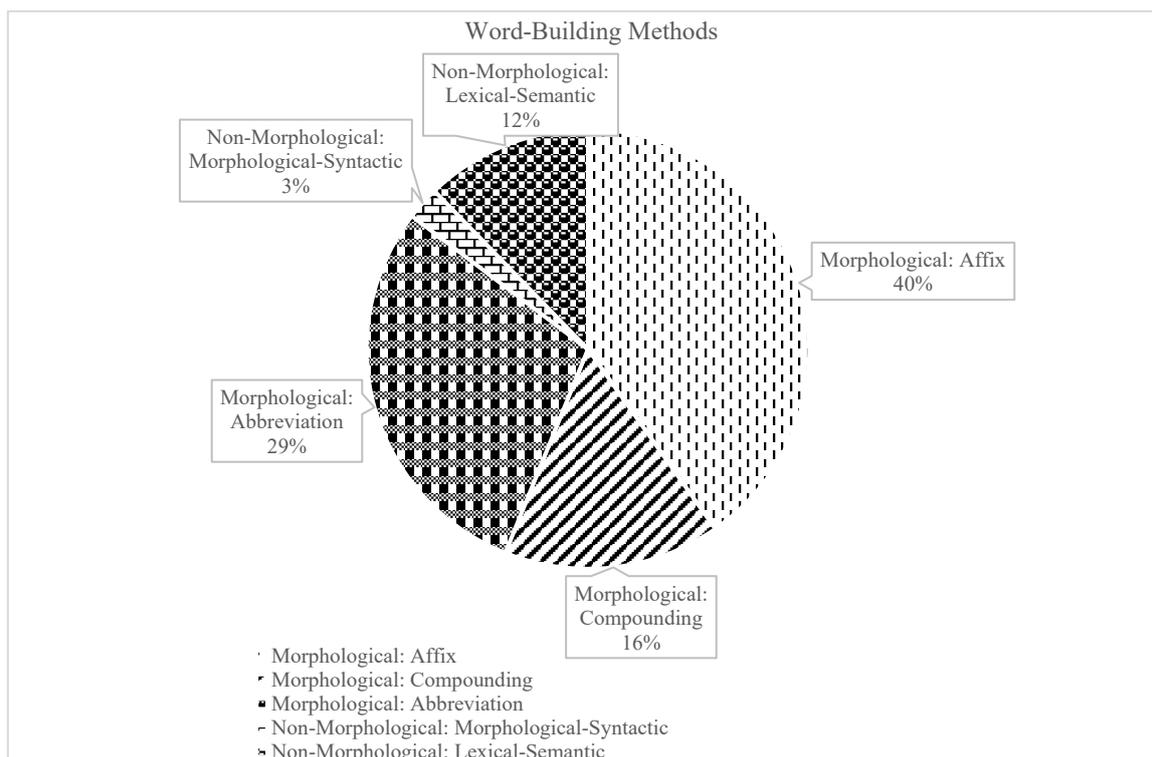


Figure 1. Statistical Analysis of Grammmemes Due to the Functional Activity of Word-Formation Processes

Among the morphological processes, we have singled out prefix, suffix, zero derivation methods, compounding, and abbreviation which show an active potential for usage. Using non-morphological word-formation mechanisms is generally represented by lexical-semantic and, occasionally, morphologic-syntactic mechanisms. Phenomena of the secondary nomination and language play have been singled out as ones expanding and reinterpreting the semantics of the coined grammemes.

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Maryna Zuyenko was born in 1981 in Poltava (Ukraine). Her qualification is M.A. in Secondary Education (English Language and World Literature, Poltava V. G. Korolenko State Pedagogical University, Poltava, Ukraine, 2004), Doctor of Philological Sciences (World Literature, 2021, Oles Honchar Dnipro National University, Dnipro, Ukraine, 2021). She was a fellow of “Visiting International Professional Program” (USA).

She has been working at Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University since 2002. She is a Full Professor at the Department of English and German Philology, the Head of the Education and Research Institute of Foreign Languages. She is also a President of the Scientific and Methodological Center for the English language and World Literature Quality Control at Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University. Her research interests focus on Literature and TEFL. Now she has more than 200 publications

(including 2 papers in peer-reviewed journals, particularly “Holistic Education in the European Socio-Cultural Space in the Early Modern Period”). She is an author of the monograph “Myth in the English Baroque Literature”. She was a coordinator of the international projects by Erasmus+ “Foreign Language Teacher Training Capacity Development as a Way to Ukraine’s Multilingual Education and European Integration/MultiEd”, BOOST.

Prof. Zuyenko is a member of TESOL, IATEFL professional societies since 2020. Email: iflanfzuienkomo@gsuite.pnpu.edu.ua



Alla Kulichenko-Chugina was born in 1988 in Dnipropetrovsk Region (Ukraine). Her qualification is M.A. in Philology (English Language and World Literature, 2010, Ukraine), M.A. in Higher Education Pedagogy (2011, Ukraine), Ph.D. in Pedagogy (General Pedagogy and History of Pedagogy, 2014, Ukraine), Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences (General Pedagogy and History of Pedagogy, 2022, Ukraine).

She has been working at Zaporizhzhia State Medical and Pharmaceutical University since 2013. She is a Full Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages. Her research interests focus on general pedagogy, higher education didactics, and language teaching methodology. She has published more than 230 scholarly works, including articles in national and international peer-reviewed journals. She is a member of the editorial boards of “Pedagogical Sciences: Theory, History, Innovative Technologies”, “Pedagogy of Forming a Creative Personality in Higher and General Education”, “AD ALTA: Journal of Interdisciplinary Research”, and “International Science Journal of Education & Linguistics”.

Prof. Kulichenko-Chugina is a member of professional societies in education and linguistics. Email: alla.kulichenko@gmail.com



Ruslana Shramko was born in 1984 in Poltava (Ukraine). Her qualification is Ph. D. in Philology (Ukrainian Language, H. S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University, Kharkiv, Ukraine, 2015), M.A. in Philology (Translation and Interpreting, Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University, Poltava, Ukraine, 2019). Additionally, she completed her FCE in 2019.

She has been working at Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University since 2006. She is an Associate Professor at the Department of English and German Philology and Vice-Dean for research at the Education and Research Institute of Foreign Languages. Her research interests focus on teaching Ukrainian as a Foreign Language, teaching English as a Foreign Language, pragmalinguistics. In the last 5 years she was a member of ERASMUS+ KA2 international projects MultiED, BOOST, and BEAUCOUP. Now she has more than 40 publications (including 6 papers in international peer-reviewed journals, particularly “Two-dimension educational resistance in the modern Ukrainian tertiary educational establishment”, “Information technology in language teaching methodology course at pedagogical university”) and is an author of the monograph “Isosfunctional paradigms in the modern Ukrainian”.

Prof. Shramko is a member of UALTA and IATEFL-UA professional societies since 2021. She was awarded by Honorary Certificate of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (2025). Email: shramen1atk02006@gmail.com



Mykhailo Rakhno was born in 1988 in Poltava (Ukraine). His qualification is Ph. D. in Philology (General Linguistics, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine, 2015), M.A. in Secondary Education (English Language and World Literature, Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University, Poltava, Ukraine, 2011). Additionally, he completed CELTA course in 2017.

He has been working at Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University since 2011. He is an Associate Professor at the Department of English and German Philology of the Education and Research Institute of Foreign Languages. His research interests focus on Scandinavian and Ukrainian folklore, English literature, and TEFL. Now he has more than 30 publications (including 5 papers in peer-reviewed journals, particularly “Plots of Gothic Origin in Ukrainian Folklore Prose”, “re-Christian Eschatological Motifs in the Ukrainian Dumas and Spiritual Verses and Their Germanic Parallels”, “Mind maps to boost the learning of English as L2 at higher education institutions in Ukraine”) and is an author of the monograph “Lingual and Stylistic Means of Slavonic-Scandinavian Parallels in the Epic Discourse” and a chapter “Animals and Birds of Prey in the Ukrainian Epic and Analogues in the Germanic and English Traditions” in the collective monograph “ANIMAL. A Book of Non-Humans and Humans. Cultural Bestiary Part III”.

Prof. Rakhno is a member of IATEFL-UA professional societies since 2021. Email: mrakhno@gmail.com

Oleksii Naumenko is a Ph. D. student of the Department of English and German Philology of Education and Research Institute of Foreign Languages, Poltava V. G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University. The topic of his research is “Structural and Semantic Specificity of Translation of Ukrainian Ethnically Marked Lexemes into English”. Email: anaumenko1989@gmail.com