

**Ministry of Higher and Secondary
Specialized Education of the Republic of
Uzbekistan
Andijan State University named after
Z.M.Bobur**

Faculty of foreign languages

**Department of English phonetics and
lexicology**

Course paper

Theme: Nouns converted from nouns

Student: N. Aliyeva

Group: 407

Supervisor: Z.N.Juraev

Andijan – 2015

Plan:

Introduction

1. The definition of conversion
2. Conversion and other types of word-formation
3. Nouns converted from verbs
4. Types of conversion

Conclusion

Bibliography

Introduction

The people of Uzbekistan feel confident in their future. They rely, first of all, on their own abilities and the tremendous natural and economic resources of their nation. They will find their own way to a healthy life, filled with happiness, wealth and culture. A great future awaits us. And it instills us with vigor and energy to fulfill our common efforts for the benefit of the citizens of Uzbekistan.

The potential of the individual has a most favorable genetic base with the Uzbeks. The Republic is rich in capable, gifted people who have managed to associate themselves with the best achievements of the world in science, technology, philosophy, and law while retaining their affiliation with their people. They are the most enterprising section of the society and have the most positive impact on the whole of the nation, instilling confidence in its capabilities.

The inalienable right of the Uzbek people to self-determination was realized on August 31, 1991 with the proclamation of independence of the republic of Uzbekistan. An ancient dream has come true: Uzbekistan has peacefully, through parliamentary means, acquired genuine statehood. This is the most significant event in the century's long history of the nation.¹

It is hard to understand and justify a specialist, especially one holding a high post, who is unable to choose fine and appropriate words to express his idea, concisely and precisely, in his mother tongue. In our recent past, in most cases the Russian language but not mother tongue served as mediator in the study of foreign languages. That is why, in particular, until the present, English-Uzbek and Uzbek-English dictionaries had been available.

That is why it is necessary to improve the current situation, to provide Uzbek children with all the necessary conditions for the access to this amazing world of foreign languages.

Students should leave schools with the Uzbek language as a language of instruction experience while studying foreign languages. We should prepare in our

¹ Karimov I.A., UZBEKISTAN: The Road of Independence and Progress. -T: Uzbekistan, 1992. pp. 15-16

country in the shortest time the methods of intensive foreign languages learning based on our national peculiarities.

While reading a book, one should know the subjects as phonetics, grammar, lexicology and stylistics, because these subjects are very necessary in obtaining the foreign language. We analyzed one of the most important among them is lexicology because it can describe the words by their usage. The theme of our qualification paper is “Nouns converted from verbs.”

The actuality of the theme is that conversion was investigated a lot before but types of conversion, especially nouns converted from verbs are still disputable. We think that the theme nouns converted from verbs needs the further investigation.

The main aim of our course paper is to give information about the definition of conversion, the origin of conversion, the semantic relationships in conversion, conversion and other types of word-formation, nouns converted from verbs and types of conversion.

The main aim of our research puts forward the following **tasks** to fulfill:

- The definition of conversion;
- Nouns converted from verbs;
- Types of conversion.

Literature overview. While writing present course paper I used the books written by great scholars such as: The English Word by Arnold I.V, A Course of Lexicology by Ginsburg R.S, and A Course in Modern English Lexicology by S.R. Rakhimov and Course of Lexicology by Buronov J.B. Besides above

The object of this course paper is to study nouns converted from verbs.

Structurally the present course paper consists of – Introduction, the main part with three parts, Conclusion and Bibliography.

1. The definition of conversion

Conversion, one of the principal ways of forming words in Modern English is highly productive in replenishing the English word-stock with new words. The term *conversion*, which some linguists find inadequate, refers to the numerous cases of phonetic identity of word-forms, primarily the so-called initial forms, of two words belonging to different parts of speech. This may be illustrated by the following cases: *work* — *to work*; *love* — *to love*; *paper* — *to paper*; *brief* — *to brief*, etc. As a rule we deal with simple words, although there are a few exceptions, for example, *wireless* — *to wireless*. Here we'd like to give some more examples in Uzbek: *bog'*, *bor*, *och*, *oq*, *tiz*, *tik*, *til*, *ket*, *kez*, *qop*, *qoq*, *yoq*, *yoy* and others.

It is fairly obvious that in the case of a noun and a verb not only are the so-called initial forms (the infinitive and the common case singular) phonetically identical, but all the other noun forms have their homonyms within the verb paradigm, (*my*) *work* [*wə:k*] — (*I*)*work* [*wə:k*]; (*the*) *dog's* [*dogz*] (*head*) — (*many*) *dogs* [*dogz*] — (*he*) *dogs* [*dogz*] and others.

The conception of conversion as derivation with a zero-morpheme, however, merits attention. The profunder of this interpretation of conversion rightly refer to some points of analogy between affixation and conversion. Among them is similarity of semantic relations between a derived word and its underlying base, on the one hand, and between words within a conversion pair, for example,

1. Action — doer of the action: *to walk* — *a walker* (*affixation*) *to tramp* — *a tramp* (*conversion*);

2. Action — results of the action: *to agree* — *agreement* (*affixation*), *to find* — *a find* (*conversion*), etc.

They also argue that as the derivational complexity of a derived word involves a more complex semantic structure as compared with that of the base, it is but logical to assume that the semantic complexity of a converted word should manifest itself in its derivational structure, even though in the form of a zero derivational affix.

There are also some other arguments in favour of this interpretation of conversion, which for lack of space cannot be considered here. If one accepts this conception of conversion, then one will have to distinguish between two types of derivation in Modern English: one effected by employing suffixes and prefixes, the other by using a zero derivational affix.²

There is also a point of view on conversion as a morphological-syntactic word-building means, for it involves, as the linguists sharing this conception maintain, both a change of the paradigm and a change of the syntactic function of the word, for example *I need some good paper for my rooms* and *He is papering his room*. It may be argued, however, that as the creation of a word through conversion necessarily involves the formation of a new word-stem, a purely morphological unit, the syntactic factor is irrelevant to the processes of word-formation proper, including conversion.

Besides, there is also a purely syntactic approach commonly known as a functional approach to conversion. Certain linguists and lexicographers especially those in Great Britain and the USA are inclined to regard conversion in Modern English as a kind of functional change. They define conversion as a shift from one part of speech to another contending that in Modern English a word may function as two different parts of speech at the same time.

If we accept this point of view, we should logically arrive at the conclusion that in Modern English we no longer distinguish between parts of speech, i.e. between noun and verb, noun and adjective, etc., for one and the same word cannot simultaneously belong to different parts of speech. It is common knowledge, however, that the English word-stock is subdivided into big word classes each having its own semantic and formal features.

The distinct difference between nouns and verbs, for instance, as in the case of *doctor* — *to doctor* consists in the number and character of the categories reflected in their paradigms. Thus, the functional approach to conversion cannot be justified and should be rejected as inadequate.

² Arnold I.V. The English Word. –M: High School, 1986 pp. 101-110

Conversion pairs are distinguished by the structural identity of the root and phonetic identity of the stem of each of the two words. Synchronically we deal with pairs of words related through conversion that coexist in contemporary English. The two words, for example, *to break* and *a break*, being phonetically identical, the question arises whether they have the same or identical stems, as some linguists are inclined to believe.

It will be recalled that the stem carries quite a definite part-of-speech meaning; for instance, within the word-cluster *to dress — dress — dresser — dressing — dressy, the stem dresser — carries* not only the lexical meaning of the root-morpheme **dress-**, but also the meaning of substantivity, the stem *dressy-* the meaning of quality, etc. in Uzbek: the prefixes *qo'yin-*, *chaqin-*, *yig'in-*, *qo'shin-* can be used as conversion, for example, *qo'yin is a wind, chaqin is a thunderstorm, yig'in is a meeting, qo'shin is an army or force.*

These two ingredients — the lexical meaning of the root-morpheme and the part-of-speech meaning of the stem — form part of the meaning of the whole word. It is the stem that requires a definite paradigm; for instance, the word *dresser* is a noun primarily because it has a noun-stem and not only because of the noun paradigm; likewise, the word *materialise* is a verb, because first and foremost it has a verbal stem possessing the lexico-grammatical meaning of process or action and requiring a verb paradigm.

What is true of words whose root and stem do not coincide is also true of words with roots and stems that coincide: for instance, the word *atom* is a noun because of the substantival character of the stem requiring the noun paradigm. The word *sell* is a verb because of the verbal character of its stem requiring the verb paradigm, etc. It logically follows that the stems of two words making up a conversion pair cannot be regarded as being the same or identical: the stem *hand-* of the noun *hand*, for instance, carries a substantival meaning together with the system of its meanings, such as:

- 1) *The end of the arm beyond the wrist;*
- 2) *Pointer on a watch or clock;*

3) *Worker in a factory;*

Source of information, etc.; the stem **hand-** of the verb **hand** has a different part-of-speech meaning, namely that of the verb, and a different system of meanings:

1) *Give or help with the hand,*

2) *Pass, etc.*

Thus, the stems of word-pairs related through conversion have different part-of-speech and denotational meanings. Being phonetically identical they can be regarded as homonymous stems. A careful examination of the relationship between the lexical meaning of the root-morpheme and the part-of-speech meaning of the stem within a conversion pair reveals that in one of the two words the former does not correspond to the latter. For instance, the lexical meaning of the root-morpheme of the noun **hand** corresponds to the part-of-speech meaning of its stem: they are both of a substantival character; the lexical meaning of the root-morpheme of the verb **hand**, however, does not correspond to the part-of-speech meaning of the stem: the root-morpheme denotes an object, whereas the part-of-speech meaning of the stem is that of a process.

The same is true of the noun **fall** whose stem is of a substantival character (which is proved by the noun paradigm **fall** — **falls** — **fall's** — **falls'**, whereas the root-morpheme denotes a certain process.

It will be recalled that the same kind of non-correspondence is typical of the derived word in general. To give but two examples, the part-of-speech meaning of the stem **blackness** — is that of substantivity, whereas the root-morpheme **black-** denotes a quality; the part-of-speech meaning of the stem **eatable-** (that of qualitiveness) does not correspond to the lexical meaning of the root-morpheme denoting a process. It should also be pointed out here that in simple words the lexical meaning of the root corresponds to the part-of-speech meaning of the stem, cf. the two types of meaning of simple words like **black a**, **eat v**, **chair n**, etc.

Thus, by analogy with the derivational character of the stem of a derived word it is natural to regard the stem of one of the two words making up a

conversion pair as being of a derivational character as well. The essential difference between affixation and conversion is that affixation is characterised by both semantic and structural derivation (for example, *friend* — *friendless*, *dark* — *darkness*, etc.), whereas conversion displays only semantic derivation, i.e. *hand* — *to hand*, *fall* — *to fall*, *taxi* — *to taxi*, etc.; the difference between the two classes of words in affixation is marked both by a special derivational affix and a paradigm, whereas in conversion it is marked only by paradigmatic forms.

Conversion is the formation of new words by formation of new words by another class. This is a method of turning words of one part of speech to those of a different part of speech. These words are new only in a grammatical sense. Since the words do not change in morphological structure but in function, this process is also known as functional shift. Look at the word *round* in the following sentences:

He was knocked out in the first round.

Round the number off to the nearest tenth.

The neighbours gathered round our barbecue.

The moon was bright and round.

People came from all the country round.

In each sentence *round* is used as a different part of speech: noun, verb, preposition, adjective and adverb. Conversion is generally considered to be a derivational process whereby an item is adapted or converted to a new word class without the addition of an affix. Hence, the name zero-derivation. Take *single* and *simple* for example. Both are adjectives, but *single* can be used as a verb without changing the form, for example, 'the singler him out at once as a possible victim.' In contrast, *simple* cannot function as a verb without adding an affix, for example, 'continental quilts simplify (not simple) bed-making.' The first instance is a case of zero-derivation or conversion whereas the second is one of suffixation as the suffix *-ify* is added to make *simple* a verb.

Words produced by conversion are primarily nouns, adjectives, and verbs. The most productive, however, is the conversion that takes place between nouns and verbs. It deserves noting that conversion is not only a change of grammatical

function of the lexical item involved but with it the different range of meaning that it originally carried. For example, the word paper as a noun has four senses:

- a) *Material in thin sheets made from wood or cloth,*
- b) *A newspaper,*
- c) *A piece of writing for specialists,*
- d) *Wallpaper.*

When turned into a transitive verb, it is related only to d) as in 'the papered the room green.' Conversion involves mainly three classes of words: nouns, verbs and adjectives. As one of the two words within a conversion pair is semantically derived from the other, it is of great theoretical and practical importance to determine the semantic relations between words related through conversion. Summing up the findings of the linguists who have done research in this field we can enumerate the following typical semantic relations. For example: *oq*, *qo'sh*, *soch* and others.

This is the largest group of words related through conversion. The semantic relations between the nouns and verbs vary greatly. If the noun refers to some object of reality (both animate and inanimate) the converted verb may denote:

1) Action characteristic of the object, for example, ***ape*** *n* — ***ape*** *v* — '*imitate in a foolish way*'; ***butcher*** *n* — ***butcher*** *v* — '*kill animals for food, cut up a killed animal*';

2) Instrumental use of the object, for example, ***screw*** *n* — ***screw*** *v* — '*fasten with a screw*'; ***whip*** *n* — ***whip*** *v* — '*strike with a whip*';

3) Acquisition or addition of the object, for example, ***fish*** *n* — ***fish*** *v* — '*catch or try to catch fish*'; ***coat*** *n* — '*covering of paint*' — ***coat*** *v* — '*put a coat of paint on*';

4) Deprivation of the object, for example, ***dust*** *n* — ***dust*** *v* — '*remove dust from something*'; ***skin*** *n* — ***skin*** *v* — '*strip off the skin from*'; etc.

Recent research suggests that this regular or patterned or modelled homonymy has some characteristic features: statistical data obtained at Leningrad University show, for example, that it regularly involves monosyllabic words of a

simple morphological structure. Conversion from suffixed and prefixed words, although quite possible (cf. *commission* n: *commission* v is uncommon. This is easily accounted for, as a word of complete divisibility is already a member of certain structural correlations. There is, of course, no point in forming a verb from the noun *arrival* by conversion when there exists a verb of the same root, *arrive*.

As the percentage of root words among adjectives is smaller than in other parts of speech and as English adjectives mostly show a complex morphological structure, it is but seldom that they serve as basis for conversion.

On the other hand conversion may be considered to be the predominant method of English verb-formation. Actually, apart from the *stand up* type there are no competitive ways as far as English verbs are concerned: composition is almost non-existent, prefixation extremely scarce. One might think of the denominal verbs with the suffixes *-ale*, *-ify*, *-ize*, but these are stylistically limited to learned and technical formations.

One more debatable point has to be dealt with Prof. A.I. Smirnitsky and his school considers the paradigm to be the only word-forming means of conversion. A.I. Smirnitsky sees conversion as a case where a word is transferred from one paradigm to another and the paradigm is the only means at work. It is difficult to accept this view as it ignores the syntactic pattern which is in fact of great importance.

If we bear in mind that a new word coined in this way appears not in isolation but only in a definite environment of other words, we shall invariably come to the conclusion that conversion is a combined morphological and syntactic way of word-building. The following example will make it clear: *one struck lucky, one had a good buy* (C.P. Snow). Here *buy* is a noun, because it occupies the position of a noun and possesses the syntactical ties of a noun (it is preceded by the indefinite article and modified by an adjective) and not because being used in the plural it would take the ending *-s* and so enter the paradigm of nouns. Actually in this case the linguist can go by what he has before him. For example: *The bus*

stops. The conductor rips off the platform and round to the front for a lean on the radiator and a quick drag with the driver.

Conversion here is partly usual and partly occasional. Moreover, it is impossible to identify the paradigm in the isolated form. Having the form *buys* one cannot say whether it is the plural of a noun or the third person singular (Present Indefinite Tense) of a verb. Thus, even the paradigm can be recognized only on the evidence of distribution, i.e. by contrasting formal arrangements. It is the context that shows whether a word is to be taken as a noun or as a verb.

In the humorous complaint: *Why when quitting a taxi do I invariably down the door handle when it should be upped, and up it when it should be downed?* (O. Nash) the fact that *down* and *up* are verbs is signalled not by the possibility of *upped* and *downed* but by the syntactical function and syntactical ties.

It also seems illogical to introduce a paradigm in an argument about nonce-words or rare words when we have no proof that the word occurs in the other form involved in the corresponding paradigm. There seems no point in arguing for the probability of *madamed* or *madams*, although *she madams everybody* is acknowledged by the English as quite possible. Compare the following: *When he saw who it was, he condescended a sarcastic Thank you, but no Madam. He did not madam anybody, even good customers like Mrs Moore* (M. Dickens).

Also, if the paradigm is accepted as the only word-building means in conversion, it necessarily follows that conversion does not exist for the parts of speech or separate words where either the prototype or the derived word possess no paradigm, i.e. do not change. What is, for example, the word-building pattern in the following pairs? For example, *must* v — *must* n *why* adv — *why* particle *down* adv — *down* a and others.

These very numerous cases remain then completely out of the general system and there is no telling how they are to be classified. As has been mentioned above, the bulk of words coined by means of conversion are constituted by verbs. Among them we find those correlating not only with nouns (the predominating pattern) but with adjectives, adverbs and other parts of speech as well.

Among verbs derived from adverbs and other parts of speech there are some that are firmly established in the English vocabulary, for example: *to down*, *to encore*, *to pooh-pooh*.

This pattern is highly productive so that many neologisms can be quoted by way of illustration, for example, *to chair* 'to preside over a meeting'; *to campaign* 'to organise a campaign': *Communists in Newcastle are campaigning against rent increases* ("Morning Star").

Other examples are: *to microfilm* 'to make a photographic film of a document or a book, which can be enlarged in projection'; *to screen* 'to make a motion picture of a novel or play'; *to star* 'to appear, or to present as a star actor'; *to wireless* 'to send a message by wireless'; *to orbit* 'to travel in orbit, to put into orbit'.³

So, conversion is a very productive way of forming new words in Modern English, (ex. work—to work, pen—to pen, to walk—walk). The term «conversion» was first used by Sweet in his book «New English Grammar» in 1892. There are a lot of approaches to the study of conversion. Some linguists think that conversion is the formation of words without affixes. Others say that conversion is the formation of new words with the help of a zero morpheme. Conversion is also defined as a shift from one part of speech to another. These treatments of conversion cause some doubt.

The treatment of conversion as a non-affixal word building does not help us to distinguish the cases of conversion and sound interchange. For example, *sing—song* and *paper n — paper v*.

³ Ginsburg R.S. et al. A Course in Modern English Lexicology. -M., 1979 pp. 127-140

2. Types of conversion

Conversion is not an absolutely productive way of forming words because it is restricted both semantically and morphologically.

With reference to semantic restrictions it is assumed that all verbs can be divided into two groups:

a) Verbs denoting processes that can be represented as a succession of isolated actions from which nouns are easily formed, for example, *fall* *v* — *fall* *n*; *run* *v* — *run* *n*; *jump* *v* — *jump* *n*, etc.;

b) Verbs like *to sit*, *to lie*, *to stand* denoting processes that cannot be represented as a succession of isolated actions, thus defying conversion.

However, a careful examination of modern English usage reveals that it is extremely difficult to distinguish between these two groups. This can be exemplified in such pairs as *to invite* — *an invite*, *to take* — *a take*, *to sing* — *a sing*, *to bleed* — *a bleed*, *to win* — *a win*, etc. The possibility for the verbs to be formed from nouns through conversion seems to be illimitable.

The morphological restrictions suggested by certain linguists are found in the fact that the complexity of word-structure does not favour conversion. It is significant that in Modern English there are no verbs converted from nouns with the suffixes *-ing* and *-ation*. This restriction is counterbalanced, however, by innumerable occasional conversion pairs of rather complex structure, for example, *to package*, *to holiday*, *to wireless*, *to petition*, *to reverence*, etc. Thus, it seems possible to regard conversion as a highly productive way of forming words in Modern English.

The English word-stock contains a great many words formed by means of conversion in different periods of its history. There are cases of traditional and occasional conversion. Traditional conversion refers to the accepted use of words which are recorded in dictionaries, for example, *to age*, *to cook*, *to love*, *to look*, *to capture*, etc. The individual or occasional use of conversion is also very frequent; verbs and adjectives are converted from nouns or vice versa for the sake of bringing out the meaning more vividly in a given context only. These cases of

individual coinage serve the given occasion only and do not enter the word-stock of the English language. ⁴

In modern English usage we find a great number of cases of occasional conversion, for example, *to girl the boat; when his guests had been washed, mended, brushed and brandied; How am I to preserve the respect of fellow-travellers, if I'm to be **Billied** at every turn?*

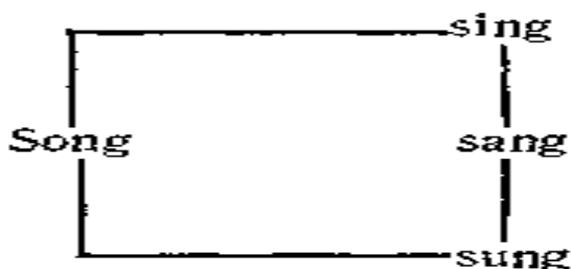
Sound-interchange in English is often combined with a difference in the paradigm. This raises the question of the relationship between sound-interchange and conversion. To find a solution of the problem in terms of A. I. Smirnitsky's conception of conversion the following three types of relations should be distinguished:

1) *breath — to breathe*

As far as cases of this type are concerned, sound-interchange distinguishes only between words; it does not differentiate word-forms of one and the same word. Consequently it has no relation to the paradigms of the words. Hence, cases of this type cannot be regarded as conversion.

2) *song — to sing*

In the above given example the vowel in *song* interchanges with three different vowels, the latter interchanging with one another in the forms of the verb *to sing*:



Like the previous type, the words *song — to sing* are not related by conversion: *song* differs from *to sing* (*sang, sung*) not only in the paradigm. Its root-vowel does not occur in the word-forms of the verb and vice versa.

⁴ Rakhimov S.R. A Course in Modern English Lexicology. -Andijon 2011 pp. 18-19

3) *house* — *to house*

In such cases the type of sound-interchange distinguishing the two words (verb and noun) is the same as that which distinguishes the word-forms of the noun, cf, *house* [haus]— *houses* [hauziz] and *to house* [hauz]— *houses* [hauziz]. Consequently, the only difference between the two words lies in their paradigms, in other words, word-pairs like *house* — *to house* are cases of conversion.

It is fairly obvious that in such cases as *present* — *to present*, *accent* — *to accent*, etc. which differ in the position of stress, the latter does not distinguish the word-forms within the paradigm of the two words. Thus, as far as cases of this type are concerned, the difference in stress is similar to the function of sound-interchange in cases like *breath* — *'to breathe*. Consequently, cases of this type do not belong to conversion.

There is, however, another interpretation of the relationship between conversion and sound (stress)-interchange in linguistic literature. As sound- and (stress-) interchange often accompanies cases of affixation, for example, *courage* — *courageous*, *stable* — *stability*, it seems logical to assume that conversion as one of the types of derivation may also be accompanied by sound- (stress-) interchange. Hence, cases like *breath* — *to breathe*; *to sing* — *song*; *present* — *to present*; *increase* — *to increase*, etc. are to be regarded as those of conversion.

So, conversion, an exceedingly productive way of forming words in Modern English, is treated differently in linguistic literature. Some linguists define it as a morphological; others as a morphological-syntactic way of forming words, still others consider conversion from a purely syntactic angle.

There are several criteria of semantic derivation within conversion pairs. The most universal are the semantic and the frequency criteria. On the synchronic plane conversion is regarded as a type of derivative correlation between two words making up a conversion pair.

As is often the case, a noun can be converted to a verb without any change. The use of the verb converted is both economical and vivid. For example, 'to elbow one's way through the crowd' is more concise and impressive than 'to push one's

way through the crowd with one's elbow'. Compare another two sentences to see the effect of using nouns as verbs. For example:

They now eat better food, live in better houses, and wear better clothes than ever before.

They are better fed, better housed, and better clothed than ever before.

I) Noun to verb. Verbs converted from nouns are semantically related to the original nouns in a variety of ways. Quirk et al sum up as follows:

(1) To put in or on N

to pocket the money to put money into the pocket

to can the fruit to put the fruit into cans

bottle, garage, corner, shelve

(2) To give N or to provide with N

to shelter the refugees to give shelter to the refugees

to oil the machine to provide the machine with oil

butter, fuel, grease, arm, finance, coat

(3) To remove N from

to skin the lamb to remove the skin from the lamb

to juice the oranges to remove the juice from the oranges

core, peel, feather, core, gut

(4) To do with N

to pump water to bring water with a pump

to knife the steak to cut the steak with a knife

brake, fiddle, finger, hammer, shoulder, glue

(5) To be or act as N

to nurse the baby to be the nurse for the baby

to captain the team to act as the captain for the team

father, parrot, pilot, referee, tutor

(6) To make or change into N

to cash the cheque to change the cheque into cash

to orphan the boy to make the boy an orphan

cripple, fool, knight, widow

(7) To send or go by N

to mail the letter to send the letter by mail

to bicycle to go by bicycle

helicopter, ship, telegraph, boat, motor

Verbs of this type are all transitive except: helicopter, bicycle, and boat, motor.

Look at the actual use of nouns as verbs.

That young writer pens gripping tales

Watching a television movie is really like watching commercials with a movie sandwiched in between.

Thumb through any dictionary and you find the word.

He can't stomach such an insult.

He Hamleted at the chance and then he regretted for it.

Let's weekend in the country.

Robert roomed next to me.

II) Adjective to verb. Conversion of adjectives into verbs is not as productive as that of nouns. The verbs thus converted are semantically simple, that is, they can be used either transitively to mean 'to make...adjective' or intransitively 'to become adjective', for example, *He walked carefully so as not to wet his shoes.*

The photograph yellowed with age.

In the first example the word *wet* is used as a transitive verb meaning 'make...wet', so the sentence can be paraphrased as '*He walked carefully so as not to make his shoes wet.*' The verb *yellow* in the second example does not take an object, obviously an intransitive use meaning 'become yellow', thus the sentence can be rephrased as 'the photograph became yellow with age.' Most verbs converted from adjectives have both transitive and intransitive functions, for example: *Two men carrying a wooden keg emptied its contents into the opening.*

The play was over and the auditorium began to empty.

Here are some more words: *dim, dirty, warm, cool, slow, clear, dry, and narrow*. Verbs restricted to transitive use are still, forward, free, bare, blind and so on. Those limited to intransitive use are by far fewer like sour, slim.

III) Miscellaneous conversion

The intellectuals are muched again.

We downed a few beers.

The students tut-tut the idea.

She will off and do her own thing.

But me no buts.

The engineers ahead and couched at the new car.

In some cases, conversion is accompanied by certain changes which affect pronunciation or spelling or stress distribution. The most common changes are:

(1) Voiceless to voiced consonant

Noun	Verb
<i>house</i> /-s/	<i>house</i> /-z/
<i>use</i> /-s/	<i>use</i> /-z/
<i>mouth</i> /-u/	<i>mouth</i> /- e/
<i>shelf</i> /-f/	<i>shelve</i> /-v/
<i>sheath</i> /-u/	<i>sheathe</i> /-e/

(2) Initial to end stress

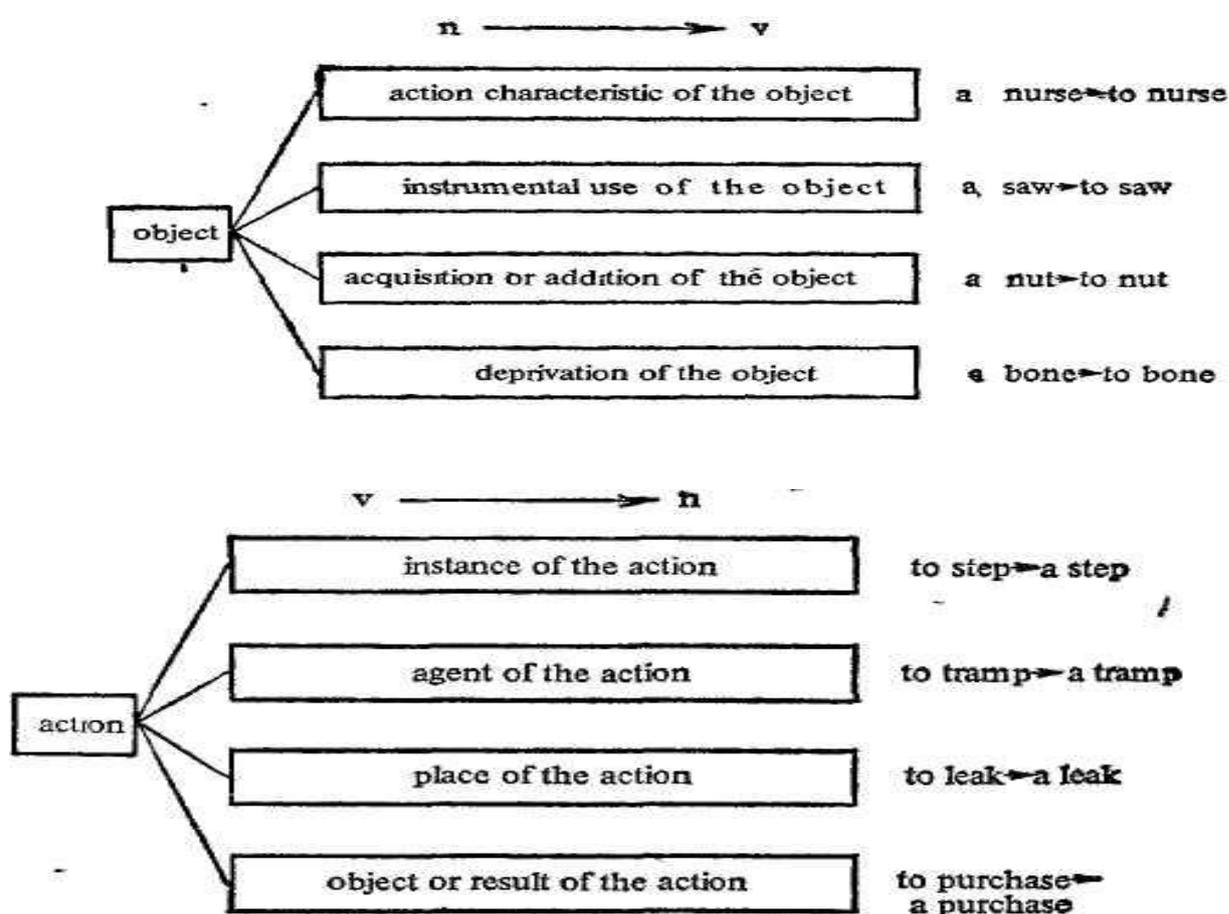
This stress shift occurs usually in two syllable words. When used as a noun, the stress falls on the first syllable whereas as a verb, the stress moves onto the second syllable, for example, *`conduct (n) - con`duct (v)*, *`extract (n) - ex`tract (v)*, *`permit (n) - per`mit (v)* and so on. In some rare cases, a big change of pronunciation may happen as in *breath /e/- breathe /i:/*, *bath /a:/ -bathe /ei/*, *food-feed*, *blood-bleed*.

3. Nouns converted from verbs

Nouns converted from verbs (deverbal substantives). The verb generally referring to an action, the converted noun may denote:

- 1) Instance of the action, for example, **jump** *v* — **jump** *n* — 'sudden spring from the ground'; **move** *v* — **move** *n* — 'a change of position';
- 2) Agent of the action, for example, **help** *v* — **help** *n* — 'a person who helps'; it is of interest to mention that the deverbal personal nouns denoting the doer are mostly derogatory, for example, **bore** *v* — **bore** *n* — 'a person that bores'; **cheat** *v* — **cheat** *n* — 'a person who cheats';
- 3) Place of the action, for example, **drive** *v* — **drive** *n* — 'a path or road along which one drives'; **walk** *v* — **walk** *n* — 'a place for walking';
- 4) Object or result of the action, for example, **peel** *v* — **peel** *n* — 'the outer skin of fruit or potatoes taken off'; **find** *v* — **find** *n* — 'something found,' especially something valuable or pleasant'; etc.

For convenience the typical semantic relations as briefly described above may be graphically represented in the form of a diagram.



In conclusion it is necessary to point out that in the case of polysemantic words one and the same member of a conversion pair, a verb or a noun, belongs to several of the above-mentioned groups making different derivational bases. For instance, the verb *dust* belongs to Group 4 of Denominal verbs (deprivation of the object) when it means ‘remove dust from something’, and to Group 3 (acquisition or addition of the object) when it means ‘cover with powder’; the noun *slide* is referred to Group 3 of Deverbal substantives (place of the action) when denoting ‘a stretch of smooth ice or hard snow on which people slide’ and to Group 2 (agent of the action) when it refers to a part of an instrument or machine that slides, etc.

It follows from the foregoing discussion that within conversion pairs one of the two words has a more complex semantic structure, hence the problem of the criteria of semantic derivation: which of the two words within a conversion pair is the derived member?

The first criterion makes use of the non-correspondence between the lexical meaning of the root-morpheme and the part-of-speech meaning of the stem in one of the two words making up a conversion pair.

In cases like *pen* *n* — *pen* *v*, *father* *n* — *father* *v*, etc. the noun is the name for a being or a concrete thing. Therefore, the lexical meaning of the root-morpheme corresponds to the part-of-speech meaning of the stem. This type of nouns is regarded as having a simple semantic structure.

The verbs *pen*, *father* denote a process, therefore the part-of-speech meaning of their stems does not correspond to the lexical meaning of the roots which is of a substantival character. This distinction accounts for the complex character of the semantic structure of verbs of this type. It is natural to regard the semantically simple as the source of the semantically complex, hence we are justified in assuming that the verbs *pen*, *father* are derived from the corresponding nouns.

This criterion is not universal being rather restricted in its application. It is reliable only when there is no doubt that the root-morpheme is of a substantival character or that it denotes a process, i.e. in cases like *to father*, *to pen*, *a fall*, *a drive*, etc. But there are a great many conversion pairs in which it is extremely

difficult to exactly determine the semantic character of the root-morpheme, for example, *answer* *v* — *answer* *n*; *match* *v* — *match* *n*, etc. The non-correspondence criterion is inapplicable to such cases.⁵

The second criterion involves a comparison of a conversion pair with analogous word-pairs making use of the synonymic sets, of which the words in question are members. For instance, in comparing conversion pairs like *chat* *v* — *chat* *n*; *show* *v* — *show* *n*; *work* *v* — *work* *n*, etc. with analogous synonymic word-pairs like *converse* — *conversation*; *exhibit* — *exhibition*; *occupy* — *occupation*; *employ* — *employment*, etc. we are led to conclude that the nouns *chat*, *show*, *work*, etc. are the derived members.

We are justified in arriving at this conclusion because the semantic relations in the case of *chat* *v* — *chat* *n*; *show* *v* — *show* *n*; *work* *v* — *work* *n* are similar to those between *converse* — *conversation*; *exhibit* — *exhibition*; *employ* — *employment*.

Like the non-correspondence criterion the synonymy criterion is considerably restricted in its application. This is a relatively reliable criterion only for abstract words whose synonyms possess a complex morphological structure making it possible to draw a definite conclusion about the direction of semantic derivation. Besides, this criterion may be applied only to deverbal substantives (*v* - > *n*) and not to denominal verbs (*n* -> *v*).

Of more universal character is the criterion based on derivational relations within the word-cluster of which the converted words in question are members. It will be recalled that the stems of words making up a word-cluster enter into derivational relations of different degrees. If the centre of the cluster is a verb, all derived words of the first degree of derivation have suffixes generally added to a verb-base. The centre of a cluster being a noun, all the first-degree derivatives have suffixes generally added to a noun-base.

⁵ Akhmanova O.S. Lexicology: Theory and Method. -M. 1972 pp. 78-81

Proceeding from this regularity it is logical to conclude that if the first-degree derivatives have suffixes added to a noun-base, the centre of the cluster is a noun, and if they have suffixes added to a verb-base, it is a verb.

It is this regularity that the criterion of semantic derivation under discussion is based on. In the word-cluster *hand* *n* — *hand* *v* — *handful* — *handy* — *handed* the derived words have suffixes added to the noun-base which makes it possible to conclude that the structural and semantic centre of the whole cluster is the noun *hand*.

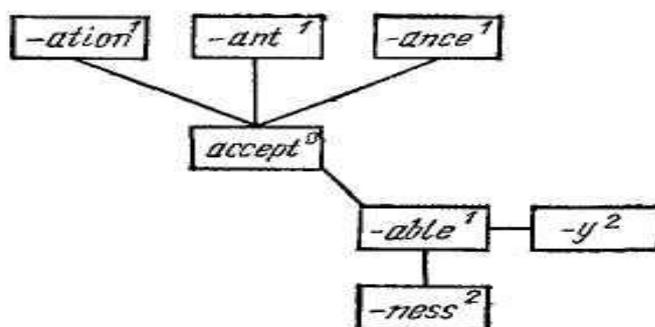
Consequently, we can assume that the verb *hand* is semantically derived from the noun *hand*. Likewise, considering the derivatives within the word-cluster *float* *n* — *float* *v* — *floatable* — *floaters* — *floatation* — *floating* we see that the centre is the verb *to float* and conclude that the noun *float* is the derived member in the conversion pair *float* *n* — *float* *v*.

The derivational criterion is less restricted in its application than the other two described above. However, as this criterion necessarily involves consideration of a whole set of derivatives it can hardly be applied to word-clusters which have few derived words.

Of very wide application is the criterion of semantic derivation based on semantic relations within conversion pairs. It is natural to conclude that the existence within a conversion pair of a type of relations typical of, for example, denominal verbs proves that the verb is the derived member.

Likewise, a type of relations typical of deverbal substantives marks the noun as the derived member. For instance, the semantic relations between *crowd* *n* — *crowd* *v* are perceived as those of an object and an action characteristic of the object, which leads one to the conclusion that the verb *crowd* is the derived member; likewise, in the pair *take* *v* — *take* *n* the noun is the derived member, because the relations between the two words are those of an action and a result or an object of the action — type of relations of deverbal substantives, etc.

This semantic criterion of inner derivation is one of the most important ones for determining the derived members within a conversion pair, for its application has almost no limitations.



To sum up, out of the four criteria considered above the most important are the derivational and the semantic criteria, for there are almost no limitations to their application. When applying the other two criteria, their limitations should be kept in mind. As a rule, the word under analysis should meet the requirements of the two basic criteria. In doubtful cases one of the remaining criteria should be resorted to. It may be of interest to point out that in case a word meets the requirements of the non-correspondence criterion no additional checking is necessary.

Of late a new criterion of semantic derivation for conversion pairs has been suggested. It is based on the frequency of occurrence in various utterances of either of the two member-words related through conversion. According to this frequency criterion a lower frequency value testifies to the derived character of the word in question. The information about the frequency value of words although on a limited scale can be found in the available dictionaries of word-frequency with semantic counts.

To give an illustration, according to M. West's *A General Service List of English Words*, the frequency value of four verbs — noun conversion pairs in correlative meanings taken at random is estimated as follows: to answer ($V = 63\%$) — answer ($N = 35\%$), to help ($V = 61\%$) — help ($N = 1\%$), to sample ($V = 10\%$) — sample ($N = 90\%$), to joke ($V = 8\%$) — joke ($N = 82\%$).

By the frequency criterion of semantic derivation in the first two pairs the nouns (*answer and help*) are derived words (deverbal substantive's), in the other

two pairs the verbs (*to sample and to joke*) are converted from nouns (denominal verbs).

Of interest is also the transformational criterion of semantic derivation for conversion pairs suggested in linguistic literature not so long ago. The procedure of the transformational criterion is rather complicated; therefore only part of it as applied to deverbal substantives is described here.

The transformational procedure helping to determine the direction of semantic derivation in conversion pairs is the transformation of nominalisation (the nominalising transformation). It is applied to a change of a predicative syntagma into a nominal syntagma.

By analogy with the transformation of predicative syntagmas like “The committee elected John” into the nominal syntagma “*John’s election by the committee*” or “*the committee’s election of John*” in which the derivational relationship of *elect and election* is that of a derived word (*election*) to its base (*elect*) the possibility of transformations like *Roy loves nature* -> *Roy’s love of nature*; *John visited his friend* -> *John’s visit to his friend* *She promised help* -> *her promise of help* proves the derived character of the nouns *love, visit, promise*. Failure to apply the nominalising transformation indicates that the nouns cannot be regarded as derived from the corresponding verb base, for example, *She bosses the establishment* -> *her boss of the establishment* *I skinned the rabbit* -> *my skin of the rabbit* *He taxied home* -> *his taxi home*.

1) Verb to noun. Almost all mono-morphemic verbs can be used as nouns, which are semantically related to the original verbs in various ways according to Quirk et al:

(1) State (of mind or sensation)

doubt *the state of doubting*

want *what is wanted*

desire, love, hate, smell, taste

(2) Event or activity

search *the activity of searching*

laugh *the act of laughing*

attempt, hit, release, swim, shut-down, teach-in

(3) Result of the action

catch *what is caught*

find *what is found*

reject, buy, hand-out, answer, bet

(4) Doer of the action

help *one who helps*

cheat *one who cheats*

bore, coach, flirt, scold, stand-in

(5) Tool or instrument to do the action with

cover *used to cover something*

wrap *used to wrap something*

cure, paper, wrench

(6) Place of the action

pass *where one has to pass*

walk *a place for walking*

divide, turn, drive, retreat, lay-by

Many simple nouns converted from verbs can be used with *have*, *take*, *make*, *give* etc. to form phrases to replace the verb or denote a brief action, for example: *have a look* (*smoke, swim, try, wash*); *take a walk* (*ride, glance, rest, shower*); *give a cry* (*grant, start, laugh, shudder*); *make a move* (*guess, offer, slip, attempt*).

Look at the following examples:

You'd better have another think.

There's no come and go with her.

I dutifully recoded a 2-1 win for the guest team.

Words like *hand-out*, *stand-by*, *lay-by*, *teach-in*, *shut-down* are all converted from phrasal verbs. Such conversion is very common in English. The examples cited here keep their original order, *hand-out* from *hand out*, *stand-by* from *stand by*. Sometimes, when a phrasal verb is turned into a noun, the verb and particle

should be inverted, for example, flow over to overflow, break out to outbreak, fall down to downfall, take in to intake, etc.

2) Adjective to noun. It is not unusual to have nouns converted from adjectives. Unlike verbs, not all adjectives which are converted can achieve a full noun status. Some are completely converted, thus known as full conversion, others are only partially converted, hence partial conversion.

(1) Words fully converted. A noun fully converted from an adjective has all the characteristics of nouns. It can take an indefinite article or -(e)s to indicate singular or plural number. They can be

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| a) | common | adjectives: |
| | <i>a white</i> | <i>a liberal</i> |
| | <i>a native</i> | <i>Republican</i> |
| | <i>finals</i> | <i>necessaries</i> |
| | <i>drinkables</i> | <i>valuables</i> |
| b) | participles and others: | |
| | <i>a given</i> | <i>a drunk</i> |
| | <i>young married</i> | <i>newly-weds</i> |

Look at the actual use of adjectives as nouns.

a) *Come to the fire and have a warm.*

b) *The inexperienced young hopefuls were pushed aside in the scramble for places.*

c) *Poor innocents!*

d) *I'm one of his familiars.*

(2) Words partially converted. Nouns partially converted from adjectives do not possess all the qualities a noun does. They must be used together with definite articles. What's more, they retain some of the adjective features, for example, the poor, the rich, the young, the wounded, the poorer, the more affluent, the most corrupt.

Words of this class generally refer to a group of the kind, the young = young people, *the wounded* = *wounded soldiers*. But such nouns can refer to a single

person as well, for example, the deceased (departed, accused, deserted, condemned).

Look at the actual use of partially converted adjectives.

a) *The old man is the poorest among the poor.*

b) *The young should not look down upon the old.*

3) Miscellaneous conversion. This covers nouns converted from conjunctions, modals, finite verbs, prepositions, etc.

Would you like a with or a without-

Better to be an also-ran than a never-was.

His argument contains too many ifs and buts.

Life is full of ups and downs.

Rubber gloves are a must if your skin is sensitive to washing powders.

Patriotisms, nationalisms, and any other isms you'd like to name.

Such phrases as ups and downs, ins and outs, pros and cons are well established and should always be used in plural forms.

The question now arises whether such cases when words with an adjective stem have the paradigm of a noun should also be classified as conversion, for example, *a private, the private's uniform, a group of privates*. Other examples of words that are completely substantivized (may have the plural form or be used in the Possessive case) are *captive, conservative, criminal, female, fugitive, grown-up, intellectual, male, mild, native, neutral, radical, red, relative* and many more.

Completely substantivized adjectives may be associated with determinatives, for example: *Swinton combed out all the undesirables* (Lindsay).

There is no universally accepted evaluation of this group. E. Kruisinga speaks of conversion whenever a word receives a syntactic function which is not its basic one.

The prevailing standpoint among Leningrad linguists is different. L.P. Vinokurova, I.P. Ivanova and some other scholars maintain that substantivation in which adjectives have the paradigm and syntactic features of nouns differs from conversion, as in substantivation a new word arises not spontaneously but

gradually, so that a word already existing in the language by and by acquires a new syntactic function and changes its meaning as a result of a gradual process of isolation. There are other scholars, however, who think this reasoning open to doubt: the coining of a new word is at first nothing but a fact of contextual usage, be it a case of recognized conversion or substantivation. The process of conversion is impossible outside a context. No isolated word can ever be formed by conversion.

L.P. Vinokurova distinguishes two main types of substantivation:

(1) It may be the outcome of ellipsis in an attributive phrase, for example, *the elastic (cord)*,

(2) It may be due to an unusual syntactic functioning. For example: *I am a contemplative, one of the impossibles*.

It may be argued, however, that there must be a moment of the first omission of the determined word or the first instance when the adjective is used in speech in a new function.

There is one more point to be considered, namely a radical difference at the synchronic level: whereas words coined by conversion form regular pairs of homonyms with words from which they are derived, no such regular pattern of modelled homonymy is possible in substantivation of adjectives. It has already been emphasized that in nouns and verbs it is the morphologically simple words that form the bulk of material used in conversion. The predominance of derived adjectives prevents this class of words from entering modelled homonymy.

A noun of the same type may also be due to a more complicated process, i.e. composition, conversion and ellipsis, for example, *drive in: a drive-in theatre: a drive-in*. R.S. Rosenberg points out that semantically these nouns keep a certain connection with the prototype verbal phrase. They always reflect some verbal notion in their meaning and are clearly motivated. In case of polysemy their various meanings are often derived from different meanings of the verb-adverb combination and enter its semantic structure so that the resulting relationship is similar to what has been described for the word *bank*.

There is a kind of double process when first a noun is formed by conversion from a verbal stem, and next this noun is combined with such verbs as *give, make, have, take* and a few others to form a verbal phrase with a special aspect characteristic, for example, *have a wash/a chat/a swim/ a smoke/a look; give a laugh/a cry/a whistle; give the go by.*

A noun of this type can also denote intermittent motion: *give a jerk/a jump/a stagger/a start; take a ride/a walk/the lead; make a move/a dive.*

There are a great number of idiomatic prepositional phrases as well: *be in the know, in the long run, of English make, get into a scrape.* Sometimes the elements of these expressions have a fixed grammatical form, as for instance in the following, where the noun is always plural: *It gives me the creeps (or the jumps), You can have it for keeps (for good).* In other cases the grammar forms are free to change. Phrases or even sentences are sometimes turned into nouns and adjectives by a combination of conversion and composition. For example: *Old man what-do-you-call-him's book is on sale.*

On the synchronic level conversion is considered as a type of forming new words by means of paradigms. The two words differ only in their paradigms. Synchronically the most common types of conversion are the creation of verbs from nouns and the formation of nouns from verbs:

1) Verbs converted from nouns: *ape — to ape. a face — to face, a butcher — to butcher, a dust — to dust, a doctor — to doctor etc.*

2) Nouns converted from verbs: *to jump — a jump, to move — a move, to help — a help, to drive — a drive, to walk — a walk etc.*

Derivations from the stems of other parts of speech are less common. For example, *wrong (adj) — to wrong, up (adj) — to up, down (adv) — to down.*

Nouns may be also formed from verb + postpositive phrases. For example, to make up – a make up, to call up – a call up, to take off – a take off and others.

Conclusion

In the conclusion section I'd like to write brief information about conversion, especially nouns converted from verbs.

In our course paper we attempted to investigate about the definition of conversion, the origin of conversion, the semantic relationships in conversion, conversion and other types of word-formation, nouns converted from verbs and types of conversion. We chose “Nouns converted from verbs” as the theme of our qualification work because we were interested in it. We used different kinds of references to investigate nouns converted from verbs.

Conversion, one of the principal ways of forming words in Modern English is highly productive in replenishing the English word-stock with new words. The term *c o n v e r s i o n*, which some linguists find inadequate, refers to the numerous cases of phonetic identity of word-forms, primarily the so-called initial forms, of two words belonging to different parts of speech.

Conversion is characterised not simply by the use of the paradigm as a word-building means, but by the formation of a new word solely by means of changing its paradigm. Hence, the change of paradigm is the only word-building means of conversion. As a paradigm is a morphological category conversion can be described as a morphological way of forming words.

The treatment of conversion as a non-affixal word-formation process calls forth some criticism, it can hardly be accepted as adequate, for it fails to bring out the specific means making it possible to form, for instance, a verb from a noun without adding a derivational affix to the base. Besides, the term a non-affixal word-formation process does not help to distinguish between cases of conversion and those of sound-interchange, for example, *to sing* — *song*; *to feed* — *food*; *full* — *to fill*, etc. which lie outside the scope of word-formation in Modern English.

Conversion pairs are distinguished by the structural identity of the root and phonetic identity of the stem of each of the two words. Synchronically we deal with pairs of words related through conversion that coexist in contemporary English. The two words, for example, *to break* and *a break*, being phonetically

identical, the question arises whether they have the same or identical stems, as some linguists are inclined to believe.

Conversion is the formation of new words by formation of new words by another class. This is a method of turning words of one part of speech to those of a different part of speech. These words are new only in a grammatical sense. Since the words do not change in morphological structure but in function, this process is also known as functional shift.

Conversion is a very productive way of forming new words in Modern English, (ex. work—to work, pen—to pen, to walk—walk). The term «conversion» was first used by Sweet in his book «New English Grammar» in 1892. There are a lot of approaches to the study of conversion. Some linguists think that conversion is the formation of words without affixes. Others say that conversion is the formation of new words with the help of a zero morpheme. Conversion is also defined as a shift from one part of speech to another. These treatments of conversion cause some doubt.

On the synchronic level conversion is considered as a type of forming new words by means of paradigms. The two words differ only in their paradigms. Synchronically the most common types of conversion are the creation of verbs from nouns and the formation of nouns from verbs:

1) Verbs converted from nouns: *ape—to ape, a face—to face, a butcher—to butcher, a dust—to dust, a doctor—to doctor etc.*

2) Nouns converted from verbs: *to jump—a jump, to move—a move, to help—a help, to drive—a drive, to walk—a walk etc.*

Derivations from the stems of other parts of speech are less common. For example, *wrong (adj) — to wrong, up (adj) — to up, down (adv)—to down.*

The present material can be used at the lessons of lexicology, practical course of English language, seminars in lexicology, and speech practice in both: universities and English classes at schools. This paper can help to create the teaching aids, textbooks, and others. Teachers and students might use the results of the present work for the further investigations.

Bibliography:

1. Karimov I.A., UZBEKISTAN: The Road of Independence and Progress. -T: Uzbekistan, 1992. pp. 15-16
2. Karimov I.A. Independent Uzbekistan Today. –Toshkent: Uzbekiston, 1993. p.10
3. Adams V. Introduction to Modern English Word Formation. -L., 1973. p. 78
4. Akhmanova O.S. Lexicology: Theory and Method. -M. 1972 pp. 78-81
5. Arnold I.V. The English Word. –M: High School, 1986 pp. 101-110
6. Bankevich L. English Word-Building. -L., 1961. p. 109
7. Buranov, Muminov Readings on Modern English Lexicology. –T: O’qituvchi 1985 pp. 67-69
8. Burchfield R.W. The English Language. -Lnd., 1985. p. 84
9. Canon G. Historical Changes and English Word formation: New Vocabulary items. -N.Y., 1986. p. 93
10. Dubenets E.M. Modern English Lexicology (Course of Lectures) –M: Moscow State Teacher Training University Publishers. 2004. p. 103
11. Ginsburg R.S. et al. A Course in Modern English Lexicology. -M., 1979 pp. 127-140
12. Jespersen O. Linguistics. -London, 1983. p. 45
13. Jespersen, Otto. Growth and Structure of the English Language. -Oxford, 1982. p. 77
14. Mednikova E.M. Seminars in English Lexicology. -T., 1978 pp. 123-127
15. Rakhimov S.R. A Course in Modern English Lexicology. -Andijon 2011 pp. 18-19
16. Ullmann S. Semantics. An Introduction to the Science of Meaning. -Oxford, 1962. p. 129
17. Internet: [http://www mpsttu.ru/works/english philology/](http://www.mpsttu.ru/works/english_philology/) Э.М. Дубенец. Курс лекций и планы семинарских занятий по лексикологии английского языка
18. <http://www.ledonline.it/mpw/>
19. www.academia-research.com