A Detailed Investigation and Perusal of Lexical Blends: Semantics in Blends and Types of Blends and Their Frequency

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Abstract:
Lexical blends have long been of interest to those studying English linguistics. There is something fascinating about a word in which different ideas are brought together into a new, integrated concept by simply fusing the corresponding words into a single lexical item. In English, lexical blending is an important source of neologisms, although it is probably true that derivation and compounding are much more frequent processes. Starting in the last few centuries, the creation of new lexical items by blending has become a productive morphological device in its own right, both in written and spoken language, and in recent years its popularity appears to have skyrocketed. The main aim of this paper is to sketch the basics of an explicit analysis of lexical blends in terms of schemas.
The source words of a blend can be indentified easily when there is a semantic relation between them. Blends are composed of two semantically similar words, reflecting a conjunctions of their concepts. A pug and a beagle both being a kind of dog combine to form the blend puggle. An exergame is a blend of exercise and game, both being types of activity. The source words of some blends are not semantically similar but are semantically related. The source words of slanguist (slang and linguist) are related in that slang is a type of language and a linguist studies language. The split of a source word into the prefix/suffix as it contributes to the blend and the remainder of the word occurs at a syllable boundary or immediately after the onset of the syllable.

Keywords: Lexical, blends, English, words, splinter, semantic, types of blends

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The source words of a blend can be indentified easily when there is a semantic relation between them (Lehrer's (2003). Blends are composed of two semantically similar words, reflecting a conjunctions of their concepts. A pug and a beagle both being a kind of dog combine to form the blend puggle. An exergame is a blend of exercise and game, both being types of activity. The source words of some blends are not semantically similar but are semantically related. The source words of slanguist (slang and linguist) are related in that slang is a type of language and a linguist studies language. The split of a source word into the prefix/suffix as it contributes to the blend and the remainder of the word occurs at a syllable boundary or immediately after the onset of the syllable. (Kubozono, 1990).

Blend Type	Frequency	Example
Simple 2-word sequential blends	351	digifeiter (digital counterfeiter)
Proper nouns	50	Japanimation(Japanese animation)
Affixes	61	Prevenge (pre- revenge)
Common 1-letter prefix	10	e-business (electronic business)
Non-source word material	7	aireoke (air guitar karaoke)
W_2 contributes a prefix	10	theocon (theological conservative)
Foreign word	4	sousveillance (French sous, meaning under, and English surveillance)
Non-sequntial blends	6	entertoyment (entertainment blended with toy)
W_1 contributes a suffix	5	Caponomics(salarycap economics)
Multiple source words	6	MoSoSo (mobile social software)
Other	5	CUV (car blended with initialism SUV

Creating a dataset of recent blends- New blends added to the language can have differing properties from fully established forms in a dictionary. *Meld* is a blend of melt and weld, the current frequency of the phrase melt and weld may not be as common as the source word co-occurrences for newly-coined expressions. Thus, an important step to support further judged to be lexical is to develop a dataset of recent neologisms that are judged to be lexical blends. For developing a dataset of recently-coined blends www.wordspy.com, is and important source e.g. Staycation a stay-at-home vacation n. stay-cation, Staycationer n., Wordspy contained 1,186 single-word entries studies as of 17 July 2008 which were mostly blends.

Out of 1,186 items, 515 words were judge to be blends, 351 simple two-word sequential blends whose source words are not proper nouns. The variety of blends encountered in the Wordspy data, organized according to a categorization scheme the simple two-word sequential blends of 324 items whose entries included a citation of their usage, not nonce-formations expressions used once that do not become part of the language.

Lexical Blends in Wordspy Data

The Structure of Blends- Examples of a full word followed by a splinter wintertainment-winter and entertainment; chatir-chat and satire; vodkatini-vodka and martini. Blends can also begin with splinter, followed by a full word: narcoma- narcotic and coma, cinemanance – cinema and mannace; squangle-square and angle Amerindia-Americal Indian, administrive – administration and trivia.

Blends may consist of two splinters of two types. First, the beginning of word is followed by the end of another e.g. psychery-psychic and energy, hurricane – typhoon or monsoon; cheriodical-cherry and periodical or Second, both splinters are the beginning of word e.g. biopic – biographical and picture, sitcome – situation and comedy, and cabsat cable and satellite. The splinter precedes a full word or another splinter, it must be the first part of the word. One cannot have a blend like glyson – ugly and person or ictionblem –addition and problem. Blog-web and log is a major exception.

A fourth type of blend involves complete overlap of one or more phonemes, often of whole syllables increasingly common. Sexploitation – sex and exploitation, sexpert – sex and expert; palimony- pal and alimony money paid to an unmarried partner after separation and cocacolonization coca cola and cashmere and miracle, netiquette (inter)net and etiquette; airobics air and aerobics (exercise during the travel). A word or clipping is embedded in part of another source word as an infix. Enterporneur entrepreneur and porn (ography); chortle – chukle and snort, created by Lewis Carroll; delinguancy delinquency and lingual misusing language. Blends often present partial overlap when letters or phonemes occur in both source words. In cinemanace, the 'm' belongs to both words and in communostolga communism and nostalga where the n belongs to both word, e.g. Astrocity – astronaut and atrocity, woofle – woof and waffle 'a waffle shape dog biscuit'.

The phonology of Blends- Kubozono (1990), Kelly (1998), Plag (2003), Gries (2004) Lopez Rua (2004) have examined phonological and prosodic characteristics of blends. Plag (2003) deals only with blends consisting of splinters and analyses the syllable nucleus and coda, the last two forming the rime. In monosyllabic blends the onset of the first word combines with the rimes of the second e.g. goat and sheep yields *geep* and smoke and fog yields smog. Polysyllabic blends follow the same patterns; the number of syllables in the blend tends to be the same as the number of syllables in each source word.

Orthographic Blends- Most blends are indentical in speech and writing. Some can be seen in written form. Shampagne – Sham and champagne; buyograpy – buy and biography, personality – purse and personality; awkward – awkward and word; fantesea fantasy and sea, boisterous – boy and boisterous. Typographic devices are also used to call attention to a part of the blend, in ARTstravaanza art and extravaganza and Eggs-exquisite (headline for an article) 3-peat – three repeat 'repeat three times'.

Blends with more than two splinters- Some blends have three source words e.g. Japornimation from Japanand porn and animation, skafrocuban- ska and A fro and Cuban(music). Once a blend is created, the splinter may be reused. *Frankfurter* gave rise to the blend *turkeyfurter, chickenfurter, srimpfurter. Jazzarcize- jazz and exercise.* Splinters often occur in groups. *Arkanauts, Arkeology, Arkansiana, SPlanguish : Spanish and English, Yidlish for code switching styles based on Japanese, Czenc, or Yiddish plus English, Globish, mochaccino-mocha and cappuccino* and *frappuccino – frappe and cappuccino. Cappuchillo – cappuccino and chill and machichillo – macchiato and chill.*

Splinters and bound morphemes – A splinter becomes common as a morpheme the transition from splinter to independent morphemehood is a diachronic process. *Gate-Watergate, (a)holic-alcoholic, than – marathon* at final position. *Irangate,* Conragate, Whitewatergate, Moncagate, Fajitagate and Memogate. *–(a)holic* added to a noun or verb to refer to people who overindulge in a substance or in the activity as addicts. *Workaholic, foodholic, durgahoic, readaholic, shopaholic, drivaholic, spedahoic, leisureholic, writaholic, reggaeholic, aquaholic, controlaholic, faxaholic, golfaholic, helpaholic, hockeyholic, holidayholic, huntahollic, leisureholic, operaholic, vodkaholic, waste-aholic and wordaholic. –Thon* refers to events that last a long time, fund raising for a good cause. *Marathon, walkathon, bikathon, jogathon, thrashathon, dancethon, paint-a-thon, performencethon, painothon, rockerthon, -licious delicious, applicious, bubblicious, piglicious. –Which in sandwich, bagewich, criossonwich, kemswich Umentary- documentar, mockumentory (*satirical play*) rockumentary-* documentary about rock music, soapmentary soap opera documentary. *Tel* occurs in two different sets of blends: hotel and telephone. In the first set hotel gave rise to motel. *Boatel-* a hotel on a boat, *Hometel- a hotel with home like suits, and Skytel near the airport, Nextel, Nortel and Skytel (*Telephone via satellite*) –Opoly.* Patent on the popular board game are *Havardapoly, Yalepoly, MITpoly, UCLApoly, Arixzonapoly Sooneroply Irishopoly.*

Two initial splinters that have acquired bound morphemes status are *Mc and e-, Mc – McDonald's , McMuffins, McNuggets, and McParking* to indicate "inexpensive, convenient, or easy but usually low quality or commercialized version of something" (MWOnline). *McMansions* are large assembly-line houses in new development; McJob refers to low-paying employment. *McGreedy, McDanger, and McGarbage.*

An initial splinter that occurs in more than one blend is *doc-, docudrama, docu-opera-documentary and soap opera.*

The OED – Online classifies – *gate –holic, -thon* as suffixes, but Mc- and e- as combining forms. The Merriam Webster Online lables e-as a prefix and the other four as combining forms. Neo- classical compounds like *psychology* or *sociopath* consist of two combining forms. *Path* occurs of in *pathology and anthrop* is of in *anthropology, misanthrope, Scape* from *landscape, Mountainscape, forescape, moonscape, bridgescape, cityscape and streetscape.* Many *–scape* words are names of paintings or kinds of paintings, *abscape, - abstract and landscape* and have produced neologisms such as *mindscape, soundscape.*

There are homonyms of independent words related to them with a special meaning, 'Speak', *fare, case and quake.* 'Speak' refers to a kind of jargon, derived from *newspeak, coined by* Georg Orwell in 1984. *Doublespeak*, *geekspeak, nounspeak, sportspeak, blandspeak, computerspeak and bolgspeak- weband log, valspeak – valley Girl. Fare* meaning 'public' assistance to the poor', comes from welfare generated workfare and learnfare. *Cast, broadcast* provide *telecast, sportscast, colorcast, narrowcast,* recently *padcast, -I-pad and broadcast. Quake-earthquake, moonquake, timequake (*a novel by Kurt Vonnegaut*).*

Burgers- *Burgers* is a resegmentation of humburger, named after the German city of Hamburg, just as *frankfurter.* It has given rise to dozens of blends: cheeseburger, ciliburger, baconburger, Cali-fornaiburger, fishburger, chickenburger or veggieburger. Burger has now become an independent word, most splinters tend to remain bound morphemes. Plag (2003:122) classifies blend as shortened or abbreviated compounds, the first element modifies the second. Mocamp – motorandcamp, breathalyzer, analyzer e.g. A mountainscape is a kind of landscape. A croissanwich is a kind of sandwich. A swimathan is a kind of marathaon. But they reject the creations such as A skyscape is a kind of landscape. A meatitarian is a kind of vegetarian. Warnography (war and pornograph) is a kind of pornography.

The condition that contributes to the identification of the source words making up the blend and to facilitate and interpretation are context, the number and percentage of letter (or phonemes) of the source word present in the splinter, the frequency of the source words of the splinter, the number of neighbors of the source words, the semantics of the blend. The commonest places for blends to occur are in product names, advertisements, newspaper and magazine headlines and titles. Blends are found primarily in print and later in speech. Nonce forms are items produced for a specific context and occasion. Hybrids are Beefalo- beef and buffalo, broccoflower- broccoli and cauliflower, infotainment- information and entertainment, informercail- information and commercial, edutainment – education and education and entertainment,

Blends related to places- Ameeurope, America and Europe / Aropean – Africa and European, Proper Names and companies, stores, organization, etc. Preventronics R sells security systems, Petcetera- petant et cetera a pet store, Cosmodrom – cosmonaut and hippodrome Russian space center, Massport – Massachusetts and Transport Restaurants and brand names of food and drink, Kabob-Que – kabob and barbecue barbecued vegetables, FrutopiaR – fruit and utopia a beverage, Count ChoculaR- chocolate and Drekula a cereal. KempswichR – kempsR (icecream) and sandwich Grandscapes- Grand Marnier and landscape and advertisement with a picture of a bottle of Marnier on an artificial landscape.

Blends like Genethics C- gene or (genetics) and ethics are for Technical Intervention in Human Reproduction as Philosophical Problem by Kurt Bayertz. Affluenza (The Book) – affluence and influenza by J. de Graff, D. Wann, T.H. Naylor, & D. Horsey. Pornocrates- pornography and Socrates the title of a painting of a blindfolded nude woman; the painting has Greek letters Blends inspired by the Internet blog – web and log, 'personal website full of commentaries'. This blend has become a verb, which has generated blogger and blogging e.g. Webliography – web and bibliography, netiquette – (inter)net and etiquette, netizens- net and citizens or denizens, Miscellaneous blends are dogbella-dog and umbrella (for dog) communostalgiacommunism and nostalgia, frenemies, friends and enemies "people sometimes forced to spend time but heartly dislike", coined by Jessica Mittford 1977, shrimply delicious – shrimp and simply.

Novel blends have become increasingly common. When a splinter becomes common, it can take on the status of a morpheme. Blends are most frequently used where the creator wants to call attention to something by using a novel word or a misspelling, as in advertisement, titles, newspaper and magazine captions and headlines, in product and company names. In advertisements, blends are often accompanied by pictures, photographs, or other graphic devices that facilitate identification of the source words, thus allowing the reader to provide a meaning.

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