

## Affixation and Compounding in New Words in Primarily American English

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# Affixation and Compounding in New Words in Primarily American English\*

In recent years there have been several major published collections of new words and meanings, apart from the continuing fascicles of the Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada and preparations for the *Dictionary of American Regional English*. In 1972 and 1976 there were the Supplements of the *OED* covering the letters *A-N*. In 1973 there was *The Barnhart Dictionary of New English since 1963*, which advertised « 5 000 or so new entries and meanings ». Meanwhile, Merriam-Webster was adding Addenda Sections at five-year intervals after appearance of *Webster's Third New International Dictionary (W3, 1961)*. The 1966 one had 1 182 main entries : the 1971 one, 2 547, with some deletions of ephemeral new meanings and words. Then in 1976 there was *6 000 Words*, containing 4 881 main entries and 1 331 run-ons, run-ins, and inflected forms.

Though there are no dates even for the rather generous number of citations, so that *6 000 Words* cannot be a direct guide to historical usage like *Barnhart*, its data are an index to the proportions and kinds of word formation that has been going on mainly since 1961<sup>1</sup>. Inasmuch as affixation and compounding account for the bulk of the new words, in contrast to the 5% represented by borrowing, we will study the syntactic aspects of the 2 processes, with appropriate checks in *Barnhart* and the *OED* Supplements. The results will shed light on the dynamic nature of Present-Day English, the general processes by which words are formed, and questions of lexicography and dialectology which confront publishers of major dictionaries.

We will first consider the relevant 65 items in the 1966 Addenda which are omitted from *6 000 Words*, since these can hardly be included in the data underpinning this paper. Actually, the 16 proper nouns of nationality like *Angolan*, consisting of Noun + Suffix, have been incorporated into the body of the 1971 reprint of *W3*. *Sub-Saharan* has a prefix, and *Gaussian plane* and *ruly English* are compounds. All 19 proper-noun derivatives contain at least one

\* Paper read at the 5th International Congress of Applied Linguistics, August 1978, Montréal.

1. See Garland Cannon, « Statistical Etymologies of New Words in American English », *Journal of English Linguistics*, 12 (1978), 12-18. Also, see Cannon and Beatrice Mendez Egle, « New Borrowings in English », forthcoming in *American Speech*.

affix and at least one free form in straightforward combination. Next, there are 3 derivations of the type *gluconeogenic*, consisting of bound forms. Another 30 derivations have a free form and usually just one prefix or suffix. For example, the 6 prefixed nouns are typified by *subtopic*; the 5 adjectives, by *multination* (which was replaced by *multinational*); and the verb *depicture*. The 11 suffixed nouns are derived through 2 occurrences each of *-er* as in *waterskier*, *-ism* as in *polemicism*, and *-ing* as in *metalsmithing*, plus 5 other common suffixes. The 6 suffixed adjectives employ 5 different derivational suffixes like *-less* as in *spinless*, and *-ed* in *tenured*. The adverb is *ambulatorily*. A tabulation of all these derivational items reveals 10 affixes to be the most common: 3 *sub-* and 2 *multi-* and *non-*; 10 *-an*, 3 *-er* and *-ian*, and 4 suffixes with 2 occurrences. There are 13 noun compounds, of which 2 are syntactically ambiguous Adjective + Noun types like *exotic fuel*. The rest are Noun + Noun like *insert sentence* except in *overfatigue*.

Of these 65 Addenda items, *Barnhart* includes only *cosmonette*, *cushioncraft* and *hovercraft*, *OED* includes *antistatic*, 1938; *exotic fuel*, 1970; *extremal*, adj. 1432, n. 1901; *gluconeogenic*, n.d.; *hovercraft*, 1961; *misallocation*, 1950; *multiparty*, 1909; and 5 of the proper nouns of nationality dating back to 1804 (*Bechuana*). Of the 14 additional relevant items in the 1971 Addenda which do not appear in *6 000 Words*, *Barnhart* contains 5, including the variant *fertility drug* instead of *Webster's fertility pill*. *OED* gives *Afro-Asian*, 1955 *Newsweek*; *aquaplaning*, 1914; and *myofibrillar*, 1927. One of the 14, *Scientology*, is composed purely of bound forms. There are also proper-noun derivatives, 5 compounds mostly like *boilerplate*, and 6 affixed nouns, including 4 scientific items like *genoplasm* and the inflected *aquaplaning* and *baggies*.

There are 246 items derived from proper nouns in *6 000 Words*, most of which ultimately involved affixation and / or compounding<sup>2</sup>. We will arbitrarily exclude what might be called preformed compounds like *Yellow Pages* and *Peck's bad boy*, the constituents of which George Wilbur Peck put together as his title. There are 58 items composed of a proper noun and one or more non-medial affixes. Of the 36 suffixed nouns, the most common suffixes are 7 *-ism* as in *Uncle Tomism*, 7 *-an* as in *Biafran* but also in the biological *pogonophoran*, and 4 *-in* as in *cephalosporin*. The 20 suffixed adjectives contain 12 occurrences of *-ian*, which is so productive that *Barnhart* gives it a main entry and lists 6 of the same items as in *Skinnerian*. There are also 3 *-an* as in *Chomskian* and 3 *-esque* as in *Kafkaesque*. The 2 prefixed items are *neo-Dada* and *destalinization*.

We find 30 occurrences of Proper Noun + Suffix + Word, of which 17 have the possessive form of the person's name as in *Parkinson's Law*. There are 5 *-ian* and 4 *-an* (*Cartesian plane* and *American dream*). We find 87 compounds without suffixes, all but 7 of the 73 nouns consisting of Name + Noun as in *Caesar salad* and *Jesus freak*. The 7 are of the type *Sapir-Whorf hypothesis*. The most common nouns are 8 *ware* as in *Chien ware* and 6 *effect* as in *Gunn effect*. Nouns like *law*, *model*, *theory*, and *principle* as in *Peter Principle* occur only

2. See Cannon, «New Proper-Noun Derivatives in American English», *Names*, 25 (1977), 213-20.

once each. There are 14 compounds of the type Word + Name. Except for the adjective *off off-Broadway*, all are nouns, 7 naming an entree like *chicken Kiev*.

As blends are a primarily phonological compound, with clipping of the initial word and aphaeresis of the terminal word, we will not treat the 35 blends. The affixation and/or compounding built upon abbreviations and initialisms perhaps falls within our purview. There are 22 items constructed from an abbreviation and a word, usually of the type *P Marker*. We also find a compound (*C-reactive protein*) and a prefix (*non-U*). There are 6 « and » items as in *C and W (country and western)*, the currency of which is indicated by *Barnhart's* including 5 of them (*OED* lists none). We find 6 initialisms with affixes, 4 of the type *DNase* and only *poly I. poly C* with a prefix. There are 6 compounds like *TV dinner* and 5 like *transfer RNA*; 3 items have an initial abbreviation as in *sRNA*. Syntactic classification of words like *bemegride* are a lexicographer's nightmare. It does not abide by the strict rules of the International Scientific Vocabulary (ISV), yet is derivationally clear (*beta ethyl methyl glutaric imide*).

Before we analyze the 1 443 derivations and 1 365 compounds which comprise the heart of this paper, the frequency of key affixes and combining forms might be noted. Some were so productive that the editors gave them main entries: *anatomico-*, *atto-*, *femto-*, *millimicro-*, *tera-*, *ventriculo-*, *vesico-*, *man-ship*, *-on*, *-tene*, *-tuple*, *-ville*, and *-voltine*. *Anti-* occurs 82 times, in traditional items like *antibusing* and in a productive new meaning as in *antielectron* that *Barnhart* places in a main entry. Next we find 44 *micro-*, 43 *non-*, 40 *de-*, 27 *bio-*, 21 *pre-*, and 18 *multi-*. There are also

- 15 cyto-, hydro-, immuno-, photo-, poly-
- 14 electro-, neuro-, para-, psyche-, re-
- 13 co-, hyper-, sub-
- 12 super-
- 11 cryo-, mini-
- 10 auto-, bi-, intra-, over-
- 9 counter-, mega-
- 8 inter-, magneto-, trans-, tri-
- 7 exo-, extra-, mono-, phosph-, phyto-, topo-, ultra-
- 6 astro-, chemo-, kilo-, peri-, retro-, semi-, thermo-
- 5 aero-, allo-, apo-, dis-, eco-, macro-, nucleo-, tele-, tetra-, turbo-

Lacking computer time, we have tabulated only the suffixes in items having one free form. For the noun suffixes we find 21 *-ism*, 19 *-er*, 17 *-y* and *-ing*, 15 *-ation* and *-ic(s)*, 14 *-ist*, 11 *-ity*, 10 *-ase* and *-in*, 8 *-or*, 7 *-on* and *-s*, and 8 others with at least 3 occurrences. The key adjective suffixes are 26 *-ic*, 14 *-ed*, 13 *-al*, 9 *-able*, 7 *-y*, 6 *-less*, and 5 others with at least 2 occurrences. Two free forms serve as terminals, viz., *-ass* as in *smartass* and *-in* as in *teach-in*, which are so productive that they are given main entries as new combining forms.

There are 289 items composed of bound forms. Most have one initial and one terminal, relating mainly to science and technology. Their general syntactic simplicity would lead one to speculate rightly that at least the simpler items are not in the ISV. Thus we find *allosteric* and the linguistic *basilect*, with a few analogized items like *monokini* (cf. the folk etymology *bi-* *-kini*) and *trimaran* (cf. *cata-*). Even some ISV items are composed of 2 clear morphemes as in *baryon* (*bary-* *-on*). There are a few new Adjective + Noun pairs like *hydronic-hydraulics*, where the subentry *hydronically* completes the set. The bulk of these 289 items are nouns, with some adjectives and 2 almost self-defining verbs (*deuterate* and *sonicate*). The adjective *xenic* is an interesting item created from a combining form and a suffix. Perhaps the most complicated « bound » item is *cyproheptadine* (*cyclic propyl hepta-* *piperidine*), which involves considerable clipping.

Another 1 154 derivations consist of one free form and at least one affix. These can be divided into 704 nouns (456 prefixed and 248 suffixed forms), 353 adjectives (261 prefixed and 92 suffixed), 69 verbs (52 prefixed and 17 suffixed), 25 mixed-affix items, and 3 adverbs — *countably*, *piecewise*, and *unitarily*. Eighteen of the combinations are Prefix + Word + Suffix structures, typified by the noun *oxotremorine*, where *tremor* is medial. The analysis is not always straightforward. Thus *disambiguate*, the only verb of this group, cannot be described as Prefix + Word, like *depollute*, since there is no *\*ambiguate*. The *-ate* must be analyzed as a suffix, leaving a medial root that is not a true free form. Nor can *disinsection* be persuasively analyzed as a prefixing of *\*insection*, though it is the semantic antonym. Most of these 18 items deal with science. So do the Bound Forms + Word items as in *neurohemal organ*, which, with suitable dated citations, could well be considered a compounding of an earlier initial word constructed from 2 bound forms + *organ*.

Some nouns formed by simple affixation pose similar etymological problems. For example, the development of items like *bachelorette* and *ranchette* might suggest that *couchette* « sleeping compartment on a European train » is another *-ette*, since the compartment is a couch during the day. But the etymology is given as « dim. of *couche* bed, fr. MF »; *Barnhart* assigns it to French, giving a 1964 citation with a French-train context that would seem to resolve the matter. *Psychopharmaceutical*, which has a 1969 citation in *Barnhart*, is incompletely etymologized in both dictionaries. Was there a functionally shifted noun *pharmaceutical*, to which *psycho-* was prefixed; or was there an original adjective *psychopharmaceutical*, of which we have no record, which functionally shifted? Neither dictionary indicates a shift, though the *-ic* form suggests it. The sequence is important in our understanding the process of word formation. *Audiovisuals* was clearly shifted from an earlier adjective and pluralized. *Teeny*, which takes a plural, is not etymologized because the derivation is equally clear, *teenager* was clipped and then took *-y*, to become homonymous with the existing adjective. Just a *zing* was suffixed to form *zinger* (and *zingy*), *bop* was suffixed to give *bopper*. Compounding then produced *teenybopper*, which is not pluralized as *\*teeniesbopper*.

Other sets of nouns have come into American English similarly, in chronologies which we can sometimes reconstruct with the help of *Barnhart's* dates. *Barnhart* specifies that the adjective *hip* came into the language in the 1950's, though it does not appear in *W3*. *Barnhart's* first citation for the slang noun *hip* and its verb is 1970. *Webster's* entered *hip* as a new noun meaning in 1971, never listing the verb. Evidently the earlier adjective functionally shifted. Meanwhile, *hippie* was formed by a suffix, *Barnhart* citing 1968 usages of the noun and the adjective (which *Webster's* does not list). This noun was next suffixed to give *hippiedom* by 1971, a form not in *Barnhart*, which supplies 2 other derivations, *hippiness* in 1968 and *hippyism* in 1970. *Barnhart* gives a 1971 citation for *hipdom*, described as an alternate of *hippiedom*. For *Webster's* the original form was still productive, giving *hipness* by 1971. A parallel step would seem to have produced a new synonym for *hipness* by 1976, *hipsterism* « the way of life characteristic of hipsters ». Thus *Webster's* found that the earlier, dated *hipster* had been dusted off to serve as a root, unlike *Barnhart*, which cites only *hippyism* as the perhaps predictable form in 1970.

Some new nouns provide grammatical and other information. The appearance of *parietal* and *point* in the 1971 Addendum, which gave an -s plural, would seem to confirm that these items were soon used only in the plural, as listed in both *6 000 Words* and *Barnhart*, which disturbingly provides 1967 and 1968 citations, respectively. We find another aspect of number in *periapsis*, which reinforces the Greek plural *apsides* (and the adjective *apsidal*) that is already in English. The 1971 entry of *aposelene* provides an original Greek variant to the also-new *apolune* (*Barnhart*, 1969), a prefixed originally Latin root that receives the definition. Another interesting noun is *noncandidate*, which first appeared in the 1966 Addendum but was omitted in 1971, reappearing in 1976 without editorial indication of whether the omission was accidental or reflective of a temporarily dubious status.

There is a huge diversity of free forms in the 353 adjectives formed by addition of an affix. Each one is different in those which are derived by suffixation, but some which join with a prefix are productive :

active	(pro-, psycho-, vaso-)
electric	(acousto-, myo-, turbo-)
functional	(di-, mono-, tetra-, tri-)
nuclear	(anti-, chemo-, non-, peri-)
sensory	(chemo-, inter-, multi-, neuro-)
sexual	(mono-, para-, uni-)
vascular	(intra-, micro-, reno-)

The adjectives range from monosyllabic combinations like *non-* + *green* and *bra* + *-less* to the syllabically complex *histophysiological*. Only *antiauthoritarian*, *cardioaccelerator*, *immunohistochemical*, and *myeloproliferative* also have 8 syllables.

bles. Only 5 items like *polyunsaturated* are composed of a disyllabic prefix and a free form of 5 syllables. The 353 adjectives average almost 4 syllables each.

Of the 10 with at least 7 syllables, only *polyunsaturated* appears in *Barnhart* (1967). Only 8 of the many « anti- » items appear, though one could shed light on recent American social and political history by listing and dating words like *-black*, *-busing*, *-litter*, *-noise*, *-obscenity*, and *-war*. Nor does *Barnhart* list *bidialectal*, *sociolinguistic*, or *biunique*, of the recent linguistic terms. The latter is one of several potentially semantically unique items, *non-* being the most productive prefix in combining with words like *empty*, *identical*, and *negative*.

Some adjectives pose etymological problems like those observed in the derived nouns. There is no question about words like *biodegradable*, which derives from the prefixing of an adjective. But as some items were apparently created by the prefixing or suffixing of a noun, we often cannot know whether the derivation was first a noun that then functionally shifted to an adjective, the reverse of this process, or a roughly simultaneous development of both forms. For example, there are dual new listings of *multimedia* in the 1971 Addendum ; *Barnhart* gives a 1969 citation for each. Fortunately, *OED* gives a 1962 citation for the adjective ; a 1971 one, for the noun. *Multihull* appears in *Webster's* 1971 Addendum as an adjective ; *Barnhart* cites a 1971 passage for the noun form only. As *OED* gives a 1956 citation for *multihulled*, preceding its adjective *multihull* in 1972, this could be an instance of apocope and thus outside our scope. Other pairs such as *absurdist* and *psychedelic*, which, when we cannot know whether one shifted from the other, naggingly suggest that *Webster's* may have labeled as adjectives some modifying nouns appearing prenominaly. Since *6 000 Words* is not intended as a historical guide, any such lapse can mislead scholars.

*Webster's* sparingly employs the admittedly slippery term *slang* as the chief indication of language variety, especially so in regard to the derived adjectives. *Bombed* is labeled *slang* ; but none of the productive *-y* set is so marked. Thus we have *dicey*, *kooky*, *zingy*, and *ballsy*, of which the last may seem vulgar to some people. Unfortunately, the linguistically defensible practice of severely restricting the use of social labels means that *Webster's* is of lesser use to sociolinguists when no source is given (as from *Reader's Digest* vs. *Atlantic*).

Twenty-eight of the 69 derived verbs relate to science and technology ; words like *allotransplant* and *lysogenize* are unlikely to move into general usage. Yet several have the *-ize* that terminates 25 of the 69, or the *-ate* that terminates another 11. These figures are not true indicators of recent productivity, since the suffix was usually already part of a larger form that is then prefixed, as in the new *deacylate* (*de-* *acylate*). However, there are 16 instances of *-ize* in the type *containerize*, which includes all the new verbs constructed by means of a suffix except for the usually productive *-en* in *limpen*. The prefixes are more numerous, with *de-* added to 27 existing verbs like *intoxicate*, *re-* to 6 like *program*, and *pre-* to 5 like *soak*. No other prefix has more than 2 occurrences. *Demothball* shows the earlier functionally shifted verb serving as a root, and *deselect* is interesting for its euphemistic meaning « dismiss from a training program ».

When there are variant forms, the prefix is attached to both, as in *desalinize* or *desalinate*.

Finally, we turn to the 1 365 compounds. There are 1 166 nouns, 131 adjectives, 43 verbs, 6 adverbs, the interjection *right on* (which joins *zap* and the Italian *ciao* as the only interjections in the book), and 18 unlabeled nouns. The 18 are composed of Noun + Prepositional Phrase as in *point of no return*, continuing the practice of *W3* of not lumping them in the same form class as compound nouns, most of which can be inflected and modified. Thus *unexploded letter bombs*, but not *\*name of the football games*. All 6 adverbs employ an initial directional preposition except *one-on-one*. The 5 can be analyzed as prepositional phrases which have become new compounds, *upfield* joining the old football *downfield* as one example. But if we derive them that way, there is a deletion of the medial *the* to produce *downrange*.

Nineteen of the 43 verb compounds contain a preposition. None appears more than twice except in the 7 terminal occurrences of *out* as in *dry out* « detoxify ». All combine with common monosyllabic verbs except in *bottom out*, *underachieve*, and *upvalue*. Some have already become roots, as in the subentries *underachiever* and *underachievement*; *skinny-dip* gives *-er* and *-ing* forms. *Rip-off*, which is new in *6 000 Words* and carries a 1970 citation in *Barnhart*, has gained wide currency. *Paper-train* also has interesting implications, in that « the training of dogs » now has a verb entry, whereas *litter-train* for kittens is not yet in. It is syntactically similar to 17 other Noun + Verb types like *bottled-feed* and *bodysurf*. The remaining 5 verbs are Adjective + Noun, where the adjective is a high-frequency monosyllable as in *bad-mouth* and *lowball*.

It is in the 131 adjective compounds that the new words show the greatest syntactic creativity. Prepositions appear in 24 items, most in 2 general syntactic groups. Twelve are essentially prepositional phrases as in *on-line*, with 2 retaining the article as in *off-the-rack*. Six have an initial verb as in *drive-up*, with only *spaced-out* inflected. Three have an initial adjective or adverb as in *right-on*. Then there are *off-putting*, *uptight*, and *hands-on*.

Sixty-one other adjectives comprise 4 general groups. A terminal noun is in 27, often in a simple modifying relationship as in *open-circuit* and *redbrick*, all with common adjectives and with only 3 inflections — in *best efforts*, *floating point*, and *mixed-media*. There is a second adjective in 4, as in *normal orthogonal*. A Verb + *-ed* follows 7, as in *well-formed*. A noun precedes the adjective in 23. Sixteen of these are scientific terms like *radioprotective*; 7 are more general terms like *creditworthy*, which can be derived from a deep structure like *worthy of credit*.

Seven other sometimes loose groups account for 44 adjectives. Ten are of the type *knee-jerk*. Five are nouns conjoined by *and* as in *country and western*. Thirteen have a terminal inflected verb as in *card-carrying* or *tax-sheltered*. We find a verb and another form class in 5, as in *hang-loose* and *pop-top*, with only *laid-back* inflected. There are 5 syntactically ambiguous structures of Adverb + Adjective, as in *topologically equivalent*. A « group » of 4 contains



*no*, as in *no-fault*, with the only medial in *go-no-go*. Two are of the type *point-of-sale*.

Last, there are *do-it-yourself* (*OED*, 1845 syntactic citation : 1952 hyphenated form in *Time*) and *peek-a-boo*, which differ greatly from the many traditional types like *hard-core* and *planeside*. A generative-transformational investigation of the adjective compound shows that some of the more unfamiliar structural types are near-sentences which have been pressed into service as an adjective. *Do-it-yourself* retains the verb, and *go-no-go* implies a retrievable *do* in « go ; do not go ». *Peek-a-boo* « document retrieval where desired documents are identified by light shining through matching holes in index cards » not only contains verb, but reminds us of the game for amusing a baby. From another point of view we might analyze the item as a functional shift from the noun. The *and* quintet could be transformationally derived through conjunction and adjectival embedding, where something like « mom has a store -a store sells candy ; pop has a store -a store sells candy » can give the cited « a mom-and-pop candy store ». The British *home and dry* « safe » (*OED*, 1930 ; *Barnhart*, 1970) is distantly similar, being roughly equivalent to the baseball image in *Webster's home free*. The Adjective + Noun *straight-arrow* may derive ultimately from the cliché *straight as an arrow*. We will not elaborate upon the etymological problems posed by some of the adjectives, beyond saying that the original source of items like *major-medical* is perhaps unresolvable until we know more dates. It is an adjective in 1965. *Barnhart* gives a 1965 citation for the noun, with no adjectival entry ; *OED* has no listing.

The 1 166 noun compounds, comprising almost 24% of all main entries in *6 000 Words*, are so numerous as to constitute almost a separate topic. Yet in some ways they are syntactically simpler than the 131 adjective compounds. Thus we find 638 fairly straightforward Noun + Noun types as in *access time* and *zip code*, which could be divided into many subgroups on Robert Lees's model in *The Grammar of English Nominalizations* (1963). The group includes items like *Black English* with the linguistically untenable definition « the non-standard dialect of English held to be spoken by a majority of American blacks », and 4 « soul » words like *soul brother*. Though blacks have written extensively in informal English since the early 1960's, *Webster's* reading program which collected their terms was obviously weak to have collected so few. Another 34 items are Noun + Verb + *-ing* as in *data processing* and *revenue sharing*.

The second largest general group is Adjective + Noun. First, there are 277 items like *abscisic acid* and *beautiful people*. The uninformed will find the latter and numerous other items like *deep structure* and *general term* syntactically ambiguous. Three other groups are essentially Adjective + Noun. Twenty-nine items employ a verb and *-ing* as in *answering service* and *matching funds*. Another 20 have a verb and *-ed* as in *cleft sentence* and *programmed instruction*, to which we might add *saturated diving*, a unique item containing 2 inflections. Eight items employ the possessive as in *chef's salad*.

Prepositions occur in 39 simple items. Thirteen have an initial preposition as in *downtick*, with 5 having a terminal verb as in *underkill*, instead of a noun.

There are 4 *over-*, 3 *under-*, and 4 others. The 26 terminals have initial verbs in all but 3 as in *drop-in* and *splashdown*. The trio are *diner-out* (with an infixed plural), *end around*, and *sick-out* (with a regular plural). There are 8 *-out*, 6 *-off*, 4 *-in*, 2 *-down*, and 6 others with single occurrences.

Seventeen other items are also composed of rather common forms primarily of two morphemes. The clearest group is perhaps the 6 Verb + Noun types as in *pull date* and *think tank*. *Slap shot*, *stuff shot*, and *slam dunk* compose a semantic group. We find at least one verb in *pass-fail*, *flash-forward*, and *skinny-dip*. Then there are *cloud nine* (presumably with a medial *number* deleted, from Dante's ninth heaven), *one-liner*, *well-ordering*, *no-no*, and *no-tillage*.

Though some of the latter items are syntactically unique among the noun compounds in *6 000 Words*, the remaining 102 are syntactically the most complicated. Seventy-seven words have an embedded compound preceding a one-noun headword. Of these, twenty-five are of the type *big bang theory*, with double modification in a twenty-sixth, *quasi-stellar radio source*. Twenty-seven are of the type *day-care center*, with another 7 related items — *tow-away zone*, *trickle-down theory*, *morning-after pill*, *read-only memory*, *right-to-work law*, *surface-to-air missile*, and *end-of-day glass*. A third « group » has 17 items, with 4 like *battered child syndrome*, 2 like *declining-balance method*, 2 like *one-tailed test*, 3 like *value-added tax*, 2 like *thyroid-stimulating hormone* (and so an indefinite number of plant *X-stimulating hormone* items), and 4 like *alpha-adrenergic receptor*.

In 27 items the headword is a compound. Thus we find 2 like *community antenna television*, 3 like *fractional orbital bombardment system* and 9 like *rapid eye movement*, 3 like *imported fire ant*, 3 like *initial teaching alphabet*, 4 like *modified American plan*, 2 like *relative biological effectiveness*, and *citrus red mite*.

Finally, there are 2 items with *and* as in *nuts and bolts*, and an apocated *and* in an item that is almost a blend, *rockabilly* (*rock and roll* + *hillbilly*). Two are near-sentences, *shoot-'em-up* and *do-it-yourselfer*. The last item is *one-on-one*.

A comparison of the forms of noun compounds in the Addenda Sections with those in *6 000 Words* reveals inconclusive, little change. We find *arc-jet engine* in 1971, whereas in 1976, though the full form remains, there is the synonymous main-entry noun *arc-jet*. In 1966 the main entry is *conservation of baryon number*, which is simplified to *baryon number* in 1976. However, the *dual fund* of 1971 expands to *dual-purpose fund* in 1976. Both *chairperson* and *chairone* are new in 1976, though *Barnhart* has a 1971 citation for the former; *OED* lists neither. *Webster's* enters *litmus test* « figurative litmus test » in 1976. *Barnhart* gives a 1970 citation; *OED Supplement*, a 1957 « cultural litmus test » one. *W2*, *W3*, and *OED* do not list this old attributive compound. *Wheeler-dealer* is entered in 1966; *Barnhart* provides a 1968 citation for the *-ing* form only. The item is an alteration of *wheel* and *deal*. A final interesting pair are *division sign* and *times sign*, both new in 1976 though they are old terms.

*Subtraction sign* is in *W2*. Can the *addition* and *multiplication* ones be far behind, in this age of reading?

If we widen our horizons to include all initial free forms in the new words in *6 000 Words*, we find the following frequencies; 18 *black*; 14 *air*; 13 *radio*; 11 *hard* and *up*; 10 *linear* and *off*; 9 *open* and *under*; 8 *moon*, *new*, *point*, and *self*; 7 *double*, *free*, *in*, *power*, *soft*, and *time*; 6 *body*, *brown*, *high*, *no*, *soul*, and *space*; and 5 *blue*, *central*, *field*, *heat*, *light*, and *work*. Even out of context at least 10 of these relate to science and technology, and actually up to half of the items employing these 31 free forms are technical terms. But the semantic aspects must be reserved for another paper.

In summary, we have observed the syntactic creativity of the new derivations and compounds, especially among the adjectives, some of which may be syntactically unique in a spirit perhaps unparalleled since Chaucer's time. Even if we exclude the 16 proper nouns of nationality that have been incorporated into the body of *W3*, the 175 proper-noun derivations, the 79 items dropped since the 1966 and 1971 Addenda Sections, and the 48 combinations from abbreviations or initialisms, all of which are technically within our corpus, we find 1 443 affixations, or about 30% of the main entries, in *6 000 Words*. There are also 1 365 compounds, or almost 28%, so that these two processes account for almost 58% of all new entries. If we exclude the meanings, the figure rises to 70% of all the new words.

Not only do we find intense productivity among primarily Latin and Greek affixes borrowed centuries ago, but also there is such rising utility among other usual morphemes that numbers of new combining forms have developed. Derivations composed purely of bound forms account for only 289 items, which still exceed the 249 borrowings. The items containing at least one free form show the greatest dynamism. Nouns are by far the most numerous form class, with adjectives trailing behind, and verbs even further with only 115 items. In short, the word-stock of English is now rich enough to accommodate the majority of the new meanings and words required for the language to remain adequate for its speakers in a literate, technological society that is rapidly changing. This change in the historical development of English, which makes it again more of a compounding language like its sister, German, poses challenging and important questions for historical linguistics as the new words of other languages are etymologized, and for lexicographic science, which must collect and record them, particularly in English once the Supplements of the *OED* covering the letters *O-Z* are completed. Then when these lexical items are added to the perhaps 9 000 total in *6 000 Words* and *Barnhart*, and once enough decades have elapsed so that we can be more certain as to which items have survived, we can more confidently apply historical principles in our analysis of the many new items, perhaps even make tentative formulations as to survivability forces which operate upon each new lexical item, and advance beyond vague theoretical speculating as to what constitutes a « new word » and what constitutes a dictionary entry.