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## **ETYMOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF SOME TERMS IN THE ENGLISH CUSTOMS SPHERE**

*The author addresses essential issues of a word-building process as a way to enrich the English vocabulary of the Customs sphere. Examining the structural features of the suffixation process of one-component Customs terms in English, the author looks into the etymological process that influenced the functioning of one-word units of English Customs terminology. Special attention is given to some false derivational formants acting not as a suffix, but as a part of the root of the words borrowed from French.*

Given that a vocabulary of any language includes a great part of professional vocabulary and the number of terms is increasing along with globalization, linguists continue to study vocabulary development, namely formation of terms, their semantic structure as well as classification and translations.

Customs terminological system is among those systems which urgently need careful study, standardization and harmonization. This process is of great importance as the development level of Customs terminology, the correct translation and interpretation of some Customs-specific notions directly influence the efficiency of handling Customs papers and documents in compliance with international modernization standards.

Undoubtedly, many global and regional processes contribute to vocabulary enrichment and there exist many ways of enriching linguistic stock. However, not all word-formative resources are equally used in a word-building process. Anyway their aim is to form new words; so they all require equal attention while studying different methods of word building.

Morphological derivation is known to promote a full, thorough and accurate expression of a thought. Suffixation as a method of morphological word formation is one of the richest sources of vocabulary development of any language on the whole and terminological systems in particular.

As a linguistic analysis shows *-ion*, *-ment*, *-ance/-ence*, *-er/or* are considered the most productive suffixes whereas *-age*, *-ure* refer to less productive ones.

In this research we take into account the existence of dual function suffixes which can have transpositional properties, e. g. the suffix *-age*. Under a transpositional pattern (when one part of speech changes into a

different one by adding a suffix) this word-forming element is used to build nouns of process and action from transitive verbs with the help of suffix *-age*. This suffix is of French origin coming from Late Latin *-āticum* with the meaning 'belonging to, related to'. Originally in Proto-Indo-European Languages there was an adjectival suffix *-at* and the secondary suffix forming adjectives *-(i)ko* (in Modern English it is the suffix *-ic*).

Thus, we have substantive terms formed by adding the suffix *-age*. In this case we deal with the transpositional properties of the suffix: *to freight* 'to load with goods for transporting them' > *freightage* 'the commercial conveyance of goods; *to store* 'to place in a warehouse for safekeeping' > *storage* 'the act of depositing in a store or warehouse for keeping safe; *to stow* 'to arrange goods in a ship's hold' > *stowage* 'the act of stowing'; *to haul* 'to cart, to transport' > *haulage* 'the commercial transport of goods'.

At the same time this suffix can be added to nouns and do not have transpositional properties: *N + -age > N*. Terms formed in this way denote 'fee for providing service' (on the model of *post* 'the official system for carrying letters, packages etc.' > *postage* 'money charged for sending a letter or package etc.'): *freight* 'goods transported in bulk by train, ship, or aircraft' > *freightage* 'the price charged for transportation of goods'; *store* 'a place where the goods are kept: a warehouse' > *storage* 'the price charged for keeping goods in a store'; *wharf* 'a structure that is built out into the water so that boats can stop next to it' > *wharfage* 'the fee or duty paid for the privilege of using a wharf for loading or unloading goods'; *keel* 'the barge used on for carrying coal' > *keelage* 'the fee charged by certain ports to allow a ship to dock'. So we can see that some terms have already been formed in a previous pattern but with a different meaning.

Interestingly, studying the suffixation process we happened to come across a few "false" derivational formants. Thus, during a morphological and etymological analysis we found out that there are derivational formants that are not necessarily regarded as suffixes and used to build new words/terms. Some of them are just the part of the root of loan words. For example, there are a few terms with *-age* being not a suffix, but a part of the root of the words borrowed from the French language, so *-age* does not act as a derivational formant. Some linguists [1; 2] note that in these cases terms do not have derivative ties with the English language since they are considered loan words. Let us study these cases.

At times of seafaring and trade growth (in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century) the term *primage* came into English from French without any changes in spelling. The word still bears the meaning 'a charge in addition to the freight; originally, a gratuity to the captain for his particular care of the goods (sometimes called hat money)' [3]. Collins English Dictionary de-

finer *primage* as ‘tax added to customs duty’ [4], which confirms its belonging to Customs terminology. Etymological analysis proved this word to be derived from *prime* – ‘prize, fee, surcharge’ which in its turn came from Latin (*primāgium* – ‘fee, award, benefit’) [5].

The term *demurrage* denoting ‘a charge payable to the owner of a chartered ship in respect of failure to load or discharge the ship within the time agreed’ [6] is also of a French origin: OF *demorage* (n) < *demorer*, *demur* (v) meaning ‘to linger, to delay’ and initially came from Latin *demorari* denoting ‘to linger, to tarry’ [7].

The etymology of *rummage* meaning ‘a thorough search of a vessel by a customs officer’ [6] turns out to be of great interest. According to the *Etymology Dictionary*, the word probably came from Germanic, to be more precise from Old Norse *rum* ‘compartment in a ship’ or Old High German *rum* ‘space’ which later appeared in Old English with a meaning ‘room’. We still have in English the word *room* with two main meanings ‘room’ and ‘space’. If we continue to study the etymology of the word *rummage* we can see that in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century in Middle French it was a shortening form from *arrumage* ‘arrangement of cargo’ which was derived from *arrumer* ‘to stow goods in the hold of a ship’. Later, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century there appeared a verb *to rummage* with a meaning ‘to search closely the hold of a ship, especially by moving things about’ and in 1803 *rummage sale* which meant ‘sale of unclaimed goods at docks’ was firstly recorded [7].

Having studied the etymology of some Customs terms, we encountered this phenomenon again. For instance, the suffix of French origin *-ure* (to *seize* > *seizure* ‘confiscation’) does not necessarily act as a derivational formant either. In a term *debenture* ‘a customs certificate providing for a refund of excise or import duty’ [4] *-ure* acts as a part of a root. Originally this word denoting ‘written acknowledgement of a debt’ came to French from Latin at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century: *debentur* is a Latin verb form of the third person plural Passive Indicativi Praesens from an infinitive form *debere* which in Latin denotes ‘to owe (about a debt)’ [7]. So, there is an evident root connection between *debenture* ‘a certificate issued by Customs’ and *debt* ‘money owed to be paid back’ that comes from the medieval times.

One more case concerning “false” derivational formants refers to *-ance* in a term *surveillance* ‘close observation’ [6]. As the *Etymology Dictionary* says, this word came to English from French in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century without any changes in spelling and consisted of two parts: the prefix *sur* denoting ‘over’ and the verb *veiller* denoting ‘to watch’ [7]. At times of Terror in France there were the so-called *surveillance committees* formed in every French municipality in order to monitor actions of suspect persons and

outsiders. Today this word is associated with the careful watching of someone, especially by an organization such as the police and this term can be used in Customs sphere in case of searching for smuggled goods.

Research findings have confirmed that some derivational formants such as *-age*, *-ance*, *-ure* used to form terminological units can occasionally be false and act as a part of a root not as a suffix. These terms mostly denoting Customs examination (*surveillance*) or types of Customs payment (*primage*, *demurrage*, *debenture*) were borrowed from French during the 16-18<sup>th</sup> centuries when it was a language of science, culture and international negotiation. Thus, loan words also play their specific role in enriching vocabulary of any language. Yet if we immerse ourselves in the history of the English language we can see that throughout all its history a multitude of French loan words, including terms, entered English. And it can be explained by the usage of French as a language of communication for many centuries. English finally became the only global language code and the language of leadership only in the 20<sup>th</sup> century [8]. The spread of English began at times of the Industrial Revolution and the Technological Revolution. Every new sphere of a machine building (shipbuilding, carriage building, automobile manufacturing or aircraft building) expanded a professional technical vocabulary basing on the language of the country that was a leader in this area, be it Britain, France, or the USA. The same situation was in the service sector. The main carriers at that time were the ship owners of “colonial” countries – Britain, France, Holland. Therefore economic, transport and correspondingly Customs terminological vocabulary of these countries has greatly developed due to this fact.

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