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**Word forming operations in English and Internetese
(or Weblish?)**

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Abstract

Building on evidence obtained from the analysis of a set of data derived from Word Spy (an online dictionary of novel words), the article argues that the motivation of structure, and to some extent, the meaning of complex words created in the lexical domain of the Internet tend to be based on word-to-word relationships among lexical items rather than on syntactic relationships between the word's constituents. Word-to-word associations in creating new words seem to operate on more than one level of lexical representation, involving similarity of phonetic segments, morphological form, prosodic structure as well as semantic extensions. It has been found that the examined novel words formed by means of non-morphological processes such as blending, clipping or analogical extensions are not ungrammatical because they are governed by the requirements of phonological well-formedness.

Keywords: *compounding, blending, suffixation, word-to word associations, lexicon*