

Word Creation Styles in Fantasy Novels

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ABSTRACT

This article presents a study of word creation styles in fantasy novels focusing on Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and The BFG. Since these two children novels are well known all over the world, it is interesting to study Rowling and Dahl's word creation styles. To investigate their word creation styles, Robertson (1954), Bauer (1983), Yule (2000), Plag (2003), Stockwell and Minkova (2001), and O' Grady, Archibald, Aronoff and Miller (2005)'s theoretical frameworks are employed. Then, their styles are compared and contrasted. The results reveal that compounding is the main lexical creation in both novels. Both Rowling and Dahl create their own suffixes to use in their books. Although diminutives and blending in both books are similar in their structure, Dahl's Blending is more fanciful. Additionally, Rowling borrows some words from other countries, whereas Dahl does not borrow any foreign words in The BFG. Rowling uses shifted meaning technique as a type of the wordplay while Dahl uses lexical based-play technique. Moreover, reduplication is found only in Dahl's novel.

บทคัดย่อ

บทความนี้นำเสนอเกี่ยวกับรูปแบบการสร้างคำใหม่ในจินตนิยายโดยศึกษาจากจินตนิยายเรื่อง Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone และ The BFG เนื่องจากจินตนิยายสำหรับเด็กทั้งสองเรื่องนี้เป็นที่รู้จักกันทั่วโลก ดังนั้นรูปแบบการสร้างคำของ โรว์ลิง (Rowling) กับดาร์ล (Dahl) จึงน่าศึกษาเป็นอย่างยิ่ง การศึกษารูปแบบการสร้างคำดังกล่าวผู้วิจัยได้ใช้กรอบทฤษฎีของ โรเบิร์ตสัน (Robertson, 1954) บาวเออร์ (Bauer, 1983) ยูเล (Yule, 2000) พลัก (Plag, 2003) สต็อคเวลล์ และมินโควา (Stockwell and Minkova, 2001) โอเกรดี อาร์ชีบาลด์ อาโรนอฟ และมิลเลอร์ (O' Grady, Archibald, Aronoff and Miller, 2005) เป็นแนวทางในการวิเคราะห์ โดยนำรูปแบบการสร้างคำของนักเขียนทั้งสองคนมาเปรียบเทียบและวิเคราะห์หาความแตกต่าง ผลการศึกษาพบว่า การประสมคำ เป็นวิธีหลักในการสร้างคำใหม่

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ในจินตนิยายทั้งสองเรื่อง ทั้งโรว์ลิงและดาร์ลสร้างหน่วยคำเติม (suffix) ใหม่ขึ้นมาเพื่อใช้ในจินตนิยายของตน นอกจากนั้นยังมีวิธีที่นักเขียนทั้งสองคนใช้เหมือนกันคือการแผลงคำ (diminutives) และการรวมคำ (blending) โดยมีลักษณะโครงสร้างที่คล้ายคลึงกัน แต่การรวมคำของดาร์ลจะมีวิธีการที่แปลกกว่าในเรื่องคำยืม (borrowing) โรว์ลิงจะมีการยืมคำจากภาษาอื่นมาใช้ ขณะที่เรื่อง The BFG ของดาร์ลไม่มีการยืมคำจากภาษาอื่นเลย ในแง่ของการเล่นคำ (wordplay) โรว์ลิงจะใช้เทคนิคการเปลี่ยนความหมาย ในขณะที่ดาร์ลจะใช้วิธีสร้างคำโดยการสลับตำแหน่งคำใหม่ หนึ่ง วิธีการสร้างคำใหม่ที่พบคือวิธีการซ้ำคำ (reduplication) ซึ่งพบเฉพาะในจินตนิยายของดาร์ลเท่านั้น

Background of the Study

One characteristic of language is dynamic. Therefore, new words are frequently created in every language. Some words are used and become ordinary words while many words are used only for a short time and disappear. New lexicons can be created in many ways and books are one of those which record this phenomenon and present new lexicons to the readers.

Crystal (1995) points out that the new lexemes in the books are generally created for specific purposes or areas and they may not be mentioned again. Consequently, creating new words are necessary especially in fantasy novels in which authors write about extraordinary things and places which do not exist in daily life to make their stories more interesting and different from others. Ordinary words or terms may not be able to attract readers' attention. For this reason, the authors have to create new words to name the objects, places, and situations in the stories. Moreover, some of those new words are created to make the stories more fanciful.

Among all the fantasy novels, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and The BFG are outstanding and well-known to the readers. Besides, they were made as films which have been recorded as one of the most top hit movies for several years. Moreover, The BFG was made into an animation in 1989. It has also been brought to the stage several times. Additionally, the created words from these two novels were collected and published for interested people. The new glossaries from The BFG were published in 2005 as a dictionary called Gobblefunk Dictionary. Additionally, words and terms written in Harry Potter and the

Sorcerer's Stone are published as a book of spell called The Harry Potter Spell Book (Harry Potter Guides) (Harry Potter Encyclopedia).

It is interesting to study how these two authors created new words in their fantasy novels. Therefore, this article focuses on comparing J. K. Rowling's and Roald Dahl's word creating styles to find out the technique and styles they use for creating new words in their books.

The following part presents J. K. Rowling and Roald Dahl's word creation styles.

J. K. Rowling's Word Creation Style

In Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, there are many words specifically created for places, objects and spells in the wizard's world, and those words do not exist in real life. According to Robertson (1954), Bauer (1983), Yule (2000), Plag (2003), Stockwell and Minkova (2001), and O' Grady, Archibald, Aronoff and Miller (2005)'s studies, there are nine lexical creation processes. They are compounding, affixation, blending, diminutive, borrowing, reduplication, wordplay, coinage, and abbreviation. It is noticed that Rowling used eight processes in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. They are compounding, affixation, blending, diminutive, borrowing, wordplay and coinage. The only process which is not included is abbreviation. This may be because abbreviation is difficult for children to understand as abbreviation shows only initial letters of phrases and each letter can be interpreted differently. Moreover, abbreviation stands for words which are too long for children to remember.

As investigated, it was found that Rowling used compounding as the main lexical creation style in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone for concrete nouns. Most of Rowling's compound words are existent words. This means each member maintains its original meanings. For example, the word 'thinking cap', is the word of which meaning is controlled by the second member.

Example:

Compounding	Meaning	1 st source word	Meaning	2 nd source word	Meaning
Thinking Cap (n)	A magical cap which chooses house for students	Thinking (n)	The process of using your mind to consider something carefully	Cap (n)	a covering made to fit the head, often with a brim

To make the reader understand their meanings, Rowling provides the definitions for the unclear words. For example, 'golden snitch' of which meaning is not controlled by the second member. Literally, 'snitch' means a kind of bird but 'golden snitch' means a kind of ball. Rowling (1999:138) explains 'golden snitch' as 'it was tiny, about the size of a large walnut. It was bright gold and had little fluttering silver wings'.

The second word creation process frequently appears in the book is borrowing. In English, new words are formed by using foreign words such as Latin. Rowling's borrowing words are divided into three types as follows:

1. Borrowing words with unchanged sound and meaning for example 'amigo' from Spanish which means 'friend'.

2. Borrowing words with changed meanings. Rowling borrowed some foreign words but changed their meaning to make them suitable to the objects or spells in the books. For example, 'knut' which is the name of a King of Denmark but in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone it means one of the currency units in the wizard world.

3. Borrowing words from Latin. It is also in the compounding category where one or both members can be borrowed from Latin. In case that one member is borrowed from Latin, the other member will be English, for example, 'Wingadium Leviosa', whose both members are from English and Latin. 'Wingadium Leviosa' can be separated into 'wing' + 'garduus' + 'levo'. 'Wing' is from English whereas 'garduus' and 'levo' are from Latin. 'Gaduss' means 'high' and 'levo' means 'to raise up'. But in the story 'wingadium Leviosa' is used as a spell to make objects float.

The third word creation process frequently appears in the book is wordplay. Rowling uses wordplay to create humor among teenager conversation. According to Koponen's wordplay theory (2004) which focuses on semantic shift, wordplay in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone can be divided into two types as follows:

1. Words which exist in real world but their meaning are totally different from the original ones. For example, 'sickle' literally means 'a tool for cutting glass'. Its meaning is changed into 'one of wizard currency unit'.

2. Words which are replaced by other words with opposite meaning tempting to make them funny. For example, 'your bloodiness' derives from 'your highness'. The word is used to call a ghost who used to have a high rank when he was alive. Although those words are replaced with word of opposite meaning, their meanings are still the same.

The fourth process frequently found is diminutives. Plag (2002) states that diminutive words are usually used with children or when talking to children. It is regularly found that diminutive is used in the children novels. Diminutive is used to make the words sound like children language and to show the close relationship between the speakers and the listeners. Generally, Rowling creates diminutive words by adding suffixes '-ie', '-ey' or '-y', for example 'ghoulie' from 'ghoul' and 'ghosty' from 'ghost'.

There are three more word creation processes less frequently used in the two novels. Although, they are seldom used, each of them is very interesting. They are coinage, affixation and blending.

Coinage is the process for creating new words used for brand names. They do not exist in everyday language. Rowling purposively creates words 'muggle' to call 'non magical human' and 'Quiddich' to call one of the wizard's games.

The next process is affixation. Only one word found in the book but Rowling created a suffix just for this word. It is the word 'Slytherin' which is the name of a house in the school. The stem of 'Slytherin' is 'slither' which means moving like a snake because the house accommodates the children with special characters. They are intelligent and cunning; therefore, their characteristics are like the movement of snakes. The suffix '-in' is

Roald Dahl's Word Creation Style

Roald Dahl is an outstanding language player and word creator as he creates many new words in most of his fantasy children novels. The BFG is one of Dahl's novels that impress readers because of its funny and playful language. The story is about Sophie, a girl who is kidnapped to a giant world by a giant called BFG or 'Big Friendly Giant'. Dahl differentiates giant language from daily life language by creating various new words.

There are seven word creation processes frequently found in The BFG. They are compounding, affixation, diminutive, blending, reduplication, wordplay, abbreviation and coinage. The title of the novel The BFG comes from the name of the main character. BFG is the abbreviation of the word 'Big Friendly Giant'. Since abbreviation may be difficult to understand, there is only one word in the book. It is noticed that Dahl does not use borrowing process because he intends to convince his readers to use correct English.

From the investigation, compounding is the main word creation style in The BFG. It can be divided into three types as of the following:

1. Compound words with changed meanings, for example, 'wrapascal'. It is created from 'wrap' (v) which means to arrange or fold as a cover or protection and 'rascal' (n) which means a person who is playfully mischievous. Differently, 'wrapascal' in The BFG is an animal in the giant world.

2. Compound words which are created to differentiate the daily life language and giant language, for example 'giggle house' means girl school and 'bunkumhouse' means asylum.

3. Compound words which still maintain their meanings. Dahl inserts 's' between two original words to make the words more fanciful. For example 'whiffswiddle' is created from the word 'whiff' (a smell in a short time) and 'widdle' (urinate). It can be seen that an 's' is inserted between the two words. This word means the smell of urine or strong smell in a short time.

The second word creation process frequently found is affixation. This process can be divided into three types as of the following:

1. Words with suffixes and their meanings are totally changed. For examples, 'wigglish' is created from 'wiggle' with suffix '- ish'. 'Wiggle' originally means to move from side to side or up and down in short quick movements, but 'wigglish' means to speak the word in a wrong order or to use wrong vocabulary. However, Dahl does not give a clear definition for his words but he gives example so that readers can understand the meanings. For example, the BFG said to Sophie when he realized that he spoke many wrong and ungrammatical words "I know exactly what words I am wanting to say, ...I is speaking the most terrible wigglish" (Dahl, 2001:45)

2. Words with suffixes but unchanged meanings or part of speech. For example, 'digusturous' and 'digustive' derive from 'digust' with the suffixes '- erous' and '- ive'. The meanings and parts of speech of the two words are not changed.

3. Word with suffixes '- le', '-ling' (-le + - ing) and '- eling'. These suffixes are created by Dalh and found only in The BFG. However, these suffixes do not affect meanings or their parts of speech.

Example:

Affixation word	Meanings	Stems	Dahl's suffix	Meanings
Swiggle	to swallow hurried	Swig	-le	to swallow hurried
snortle	inhale through the nose	Snort	le	inhale through the nose

The third word creation process frequently found is wordplay. Dahl's wordplays can be divided into four types as of the following:

1. Words with the first consonant is changed. The new words are pronounced differently but with the same meanings. For example, 'dillion' from 'billion', 'frumpkin' from 'pumpkin' and 'bellypopppers' from 'helicopter'.

2. Words with the plural forms are ungrammatical. For example, the word 'micies' derives from 'mice' which is already plural but 's' is still added to indicate plural form in giant language. Moreover, past tense is another point which is mischievously changed, for example 'seed' is the past tense of 'see'. In reality the past tense of 'see' is 'saw' but Dahl adds 'ed' to 'see' so the giants use the word 'seed' instead of 'saw'.

2. The unpredictably rearranged pattern is called Carroll's blending. For example, 'scrumdiddlyumptious' is created from 'scrumptious', 'diddly' and 'yummy'. This word is formed by three existing words, but it is rearranged with unpredicted structure; therefore, it is notable to identify how they are blended together.

The fifth word creation process frequently found is diminutives. Usually, diminutives are used by children or while talking with children to make language cute and soft. However, diminutive words used in *The BFG* are the language used by the giants in their daily life not for talking to children, for example, 'girlsie' and 'boysie'. All giants are adults but they use 'girlsie' and 'boysie' instead of the words 'girls' and 'boys' without any sense to make language cute.

The sixth word creation process frequently found is reduplication. Dahl duplicates words to make the giant's language different from everyday language. It is similar to children language but it is spoken by the giants who are recognized as adults but not ordinary men. Dahl's reduplication can be divided into two types as follows:

1) Words which part of them are duplicated, for example, 'cracketycrack', 'clumpety-clumptey-clump' and 'thing-aling-aling'. Moreover, some words are created by duplicating the whole word, for example, 'telly-telly'.

2) Words which the vowel sounds are duplicated, for example 'ucky-mucky'. The vowel sound is duplicated and 'm' is added.

The last word creation process frequently found is coinage. The use of coinage makes *The BFG* outstanding and attracts the readers all over the world. Some words in Dahl's novel are especially coined for *The BFG*. Some created words are with examples or situations to make the readers understand. For example, 'swishfiggler' with no exact meaning but it is used as an insulting word. From the book, it is found only in the giants' arguments.

Rowling VS Dahl's Styles

The similarities and differences in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *The BFG* of J. K. Rowling and Roald Dahl's word creation are presented in the following part.

Compounding is the main lexical creation in both *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *The BFG*. Compound words are found more than half of other created lexicons in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *The BFG*. Rowling's compounding is simple and easy to understand because most of them are concrete nouns. The readers can understand the context easily. In *The BFG*, compound words are also verbs and adjectives. Most of them are created to replace the existing words in order to differentiate the contents between daily life and imaginative life. The compound words themselves are complicated as their meanings are not related to the original words. Beside, some compound words are intended for rhyming.

In affixation, both Rowling and Dahl create their own suffixes for their novels. Rowling creates her own suffix which is '-in' and added it to change verb into a proper noun. In *The BFG*, Dahl's affix is more playful. He creates '-le', '-ling' and '-eling' as suffixes to add to the end of word. However, those suffixes do not change any meaning or part of speech of the words.

As both of the stories are for children and teenagers, diminutives are used in different purposes. Rowling creates diminutive words for her colorful characters in order to make their language different from others. The purpose of using diminutive words is for teasing and to make the listeners younger than their ages. Differently, diminutive words in *The BFG* are used as verbs in giant language talking in daily life, not for teasing people. The speakers use them to everyone. The diminutive words in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* are used as children language, whereas diminutive words in *The BFG* are used to make the readers feel that the giants speak like children and lack of knowledge.

Blended words in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *The BFG* are similar in their structure, but Dahl's blending is more fanciful than Rowling's. Additionally, some of Dahl's blended words do not follow any particular patterns, such as 'scrumdiddlyumptious' (scrumptious+ diddly +yummy). It is considered as unpredictable blending called 'Carroll's blending'.

Considerably, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is the book about witches and wizards so many foreign language words especially Latin words are borrowed and

used as spells. Latin is usually associated with religion and the words themselves sound really important and more magical than other English words (the readers are familiar with). Rowling also borrows the words from other countries for wizard currency units which do not exist in the real world. Differently, Dahl does not borrow any foreign words in *The BFG* as he intends to teach the readers how to use English language correctly.

According to the types of the wordplay created by Rowling, she uses shifted meaning technique by changing meaning of the existing words. This type of words is used for teasing. To create proper nouns, Rowling uses alliteration which is the technique of duplicating consonant such as 'Dinky Duddydums'. Another technique found in Rowling's novel is coinage to name new objects and to replace the existing words. Differently, Dahl's uses lexical based-play technique to create new words. His style is more playful than Rowling's because the original words are changed by switching the position of the consonant in order to change the sound or to make them different from the original words. However, the meanings are unchanged. Most of Dahl's created words are used in the giant daily life. Reduplication is also found in Dahl's novel. Those created words are used in serious situations but the reduplication technique makes the sound more like childish language. Additionally, reduplication technique is used to make vowels rhyme the words. It is also found that meanings of coinage in Dahl's novel are unclear but they are used as insulting words.

Conclusion

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone is the first book of the series so the created lexicons are new for readers. Rowling creates words carefully for her fantasy book. They may be recognized as nonce words. Those lexicons can be observed as names of things, places and others which do not exist in the real world. Additionally, this book is very well-known among the readers from all over the world. *The BFG*, is full of extraordinary words which cannot be found in daily life. This story has been used in the classroom for spelling practice. It is interesting to explore how the two writers created those words and quite challenging to see how they used the new lexicons in their stories and made them wonderful for readers.

Randall and Colorado (2001: 2-7) collects vocabulary and names of the characters in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in *Verbatim Wizard Words: The Literary, Latin, and Lexical Origins of Harry Potter's Vocabulary in The Language Quarterly*. They remark that Rowling makes use of Latin, French, and German words, poetic devices, and language jokes to name her characters, beasts, spells, places and objects. To reveal her opinion, Rowling confirms that all of the words used in Harry Potter's series are drawn from her experience. From their survey the authors found that the word 'muggle' is widely used as everyday word and going to be recorded in Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary for the next edition. This article provides many new created lexicons in Harry Potter's series and also investigates the root and meaning of each word. The result of the analysis indicates that Rowling employs borrowing technique to call objects, places and names including some borrowed words from the other foreign countries such as Spain.

The BFG is one of Roald Dahl's children literature which is famous for its strange and ridiculous words. Wood (2007:5), the playwright, states in his theater review that Roald Dahl loves playing with word creation. He is famous for new words in many books but *The BFG* is the book that outstandingly shows his talent. There are more than two hundred new words in *The BFG*, known as 'goblefunks', collected and published in *Gobblefunk Dictionary* in 2005.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and *The BFG* entertain the readers by their interesting content and imaginary words used in the book. They challenge the audience to discover meanings and understand new words along the story. Rowling and Dahl appeal readers' imagination and creativity by introducing new words which the readers need to understand the meanings and imagine object's appearance or situations. It cannot be denied that word creation styles make both books popular all over the world. *The BFG* was written many years ago but it is still best-selling. Since *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* written by Rowling has been introduced in 2001, the book world was aroused by this fantasy book. The audience all over the world appreciates *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and also the rest of the book series. Moreover, Rowling inspires many people to be children's fantasy authors. Nowadays, there are increasing numbers of magical fantasy books at least other series of 'Harry Potter' to be published in the future.

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