



SEMANTIC AND EVALUATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF PEJORATIVE AUGMENTATIVE SUFFIXES

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the semantic nature of augmentative suffixes and their evaluative function. It demonstrates that augmentative forms express excess beyond a normative measure and are frequently associated with negative, pejorative evaluation in discourse. The differences between diminutive and augmentative forms are analyzed on the basis of social and pragmatic criteria. The study also explores the semantics of excess formed through prefixes such as super-, mega-, ultra-, and hyper-, along with their ideological and discursive patterns of use. The findings argue that augmentativity is not merely a morphological phenomenon but a semantic category closely linked to social evaluation and normativity.

Augmentative suffixes denote excess beyond a normative measure in an object or quality, expressing extreme largeness or intensification. Semantically, augmentative forms are most often associated with negative, pejorative evaluation. Unlike diminutives, augmentation is not the result of a natural or biological process but rather a product of artificial and socially constructed evaluation.

In discourse, augmentative units generate connotations of roughness, awkwardness, and unnecessary excess. Objects that exceed the norm are frequently assessed as inconvenient or inefficient in everyday use, which strengthens negative semantic associations. The notion of “largeness” expressed by augmentatives is therefore often linked to aesthetic or functional incongruity.

According to David Crystal, augmentatives denote enormity; however, this largeness frequently carries additional meanings of coarseness or oddity. At the morphological level, augmentativity is primarily expressed through prefixes. Prefixes such as super-, mega-, ultra-, and hyper- add the semantic components of intensification and excess to the base word. While maxi-, mega-, and super- often convey positive intensity, hyper- in certain contexts denotes negative or pathological excess.

The prefix ultra- in ideological discourse expresses excessive belief or ideological commitment. Lexical items formed with ultra- are commonly associated with the semantics of radicalism and intolerance.

Thus, augmentative suffixes constitute not merely a grammatical phenomenon but a semantic category closely connected with evaluation and social normativity.

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