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Anna BOROWIAK 

Adam Mickiewicz University

annaboro@amu.edu.pl

REVOLUTION IN KOREAN MORPHOLOGY

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to inquire into the morphology of Contemporary Korean in order to verify whether the assumption that the *global language contact* may lead to borrowing of *non-lexical structural features*, that is *linguistic processes*, resulting in the existence of similar processes between *different distant languages* applies to Korean. The emergence of *new word-formation processes* in Korean under the influence of English offers the possible answer to this question. The research, using the example of Korean, will also try to show that the morphological system considered to be the most closed on the semantic plane begins to open, which could herald even further changes to the language. The multifaceted nature of the *new word-formation processes*, also referred to as the *non-morphemic word-formation processes* to which *clipping* and *blending* are included, compels the author to focus on one of them – clipping. As the number of various clipped forms, perceived as catchy and fashionable coinages, is constantly growing in Contemporary Korean, the research in Part 2 characterizes the nature of the process referring to descriptions of the process, terminology and possible classifications of the resultant forms. Part 3 presents Korean lexicon from the perspective of clippings with the division into the ‘imported clippings’ that is borrowed clippings and ‘Korean-made clippings’, that is, clippings coined in Korean. Part 4 discusses some of the semantic, morphological and syntactic properties of the forms under investigation.

Keywords: clippings, Korean, new word formation processes

INTRODUCTION¹

Morphology in Contemporary Korean undergoes abrupt changes on a previously unseen scale. The *global language contact* (henceforth *GLC*) brought about by strengthening global cooperation in many sectors appears to be the major factor here, however the *GLC* is also fortified by the enormous development of IT and a rush towards originality. Rapid advancement in communication and transportation conducive to the formation of the *global communicative community* (henceforth *GCC*)² facilitates cultural and scientific exchange, effectively reducing the geographical distance between the farthest parts of the globe.

This article will try to demonstrate how from a lingual point of view the formation of the *GCC* results not only in the growing number of the so-called *cultural borrowings* including *cultural novelties*³ and *professionalisms* testifying to the openness of the lexical system of a borrowing language, but also to a bigger integration indicative of changes in the morphological system, assumed to be the most closed language system on the semantic plane,⁴ as it starts to open.

Given the intense development of coinages formed in the so-called *non-morphemic word formation processes* (cf. p. 192) in English and their high frequency of use,⁵ the status of English as a *lingua franca*⁶ as well as close and multidimensional cooperation between South Korea and the USA commenced in 1950, not to mention the so-called phenomenon of ‘English fever’ related to the prestige factor associated with a good command of English, it is not a surprise that English is regarded as the language having the biggest influence on the lexicon of Contemporary Korean. The research on borrowings by Korean scholars confirm that too. According to the research, 36.4% of words coined between 2002-2004 have foreign origin, about 32.5% are hybrids, and 26% are Sino-Korean words.⁷ This means that only 5.1% are native Korean words. This

¹ In order to make the current research easier for non-Korean speakers to read, the author will transcribe each Korean example using the Revised Romanization method announced in 2000 by the then South Korea's Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Adjacent syllables will be separated with a dash, e.g. *chin-gu* (친구). Korean names appear in Western order, with the family name following the given name. In some cases, the spelling used by the Korean authors themselves has been retained.

² L. Zabrocki, *Wspólnoty komunikatywne w genezie i rozwoju języka niemieckiego*, vol. 1: *Prehistoria języka niemieckiego*, Wrocław–Warszawa–Kraków 1963, pp. 9-33.

³ L. Bloomfield, *Language*, London 1933/1962, p. 465.

⁴ L. Zabrocki, “Związki językowe niemiecko-pomorskie”, in Z. Stieber (ed.), *Konferencja Pomorska (1954). Prace językoznawcze*, Warszawa 1956, p. 370; L. Zabrocki, “Language Systems (Sphachsysteme)”, in *Sprawozdania PTPN za I i II kwartał 1957*, Poznań 1959, p. 52; A. Szulc, *Odmiany narodowe języka niemieckiego: Geneza – rozwój – perspektywy*, Kraków 1999, pp. 21-22.

⁵ C. Hamans, “A Lingo of Abbrevs”, *Lingua Posnaniensis*, vol. 38 (1996), p. 70.

⁶ *Lingua franca* is a jargon that has passed into ‘general use between persons of various nationality’ and as such it is ‘nobody's native language but only a compromise between a foreign speaker's version of a language and a native speaker's version of the foreign speaker's version (...) in which each party imperfectly reproduces the other's reproduction’ (cf. L. Bloomfield, *Language...*, p. 473).

⁷ Myeong-mi Jeon (전명미), Dong-ju Choi (최동주), “Sin-eo-ui dan-eo hyeong-seong-beob yeon-gu: 2002-2003-2004 sin-eo-leul dae-sang-eu-lo” <신어의 단어 형성법 연구: 2002-2003-2004 신어

research also shows that borrowings along with words coined from borrowings account for 57.5% of all neologisms under investigation. Another study on neologisms⁸ citing the data gathered by the National Institute of Korean Language (henceforth NIKL) shows that in 2001, 79.5% of new words contained Chinese characters, while borrowings accounted for only 25.9% of them. In 2002, however, the participation of foreign words rose to 64%. Furthermore, up until 2005 there were over 20,000 borrowings in Korean, 90% of which have English provenance.⁹ These three studies show the enormous impact of foreign languages, mainly English, on the Korean lexicon.

The structure of the Korean lexicon, in addition to *quantitative changes* (coining new words or borrowing from foreign languages) undergoes *qualitative changes*, which can be observed through the increasing proportion of the words coined from foreign components, most notably of English origin. The phenomenon of *Konglish*¹⁰ reflects this. Regardless of the opinions of scholars concerning its use, it has already become a language fact, as the existence of *Konglish* often revealing the *resemantization* of the source form is undeniable.

The above-mentioned qualitative changes include e.g. borrowing of *grammatical and lexical morphemes* such as **affixes** which is already noticed in Korean,¹¹ and using borrowed **bases** in word formation processes such as derivation¹² and compounding.¹³ It also concerns the formation of neologisms in word-formation processes previously not attested in Korean. In a practical sense this means borrowing **word-formation processes**, referred to as the new word-formation processes. This is what the current research will try to show. It is worth to note that the hypothesis about the possibility of the borrowing of linguistic processes such as the word-formation processes between geographically distant and typologically different languages was already put forward by Hamans¹⁴.

를 대상으로> (“A Study on the Word-formation of New Words in Modern Korean”), 韓民族語文學, vol. 50 (2007), p. 48.

⁸ Myung-hee Noh (노명희), “Oe-rae-eo dan-eo-hyeong-seong” <외래어 단어형성> (“The Word-Formation of Borrowed Words in Korean”), vol. 153 (2009), p. 5.

⁹ Jae Jung Song, *The Korean Language: Structure, Use and Context*, London & New York 2005, p. 84.

¹⁰ From a communication perspective, *Konglish* is not understandable to native English speakers but the communicative community consisting mainly of young people who actually use it, is constantly growing (for *language* and *communicative communities* see L. Zabrocki, *Wspólnoty komunikatywne...*, pp. 9-33).

¹¹ Natalya Kan (강나탈리아), “Oe-lae-eo yo-so-ga cham-yeo-han han-gug-eo dan-eo hyeong-seong-beob yeon-gu” <외래어 요소가 참여한 한국어 단어 형성법 연구> (“A Study on Elements of Foreign Origin Used in Korean Word-Formation”), MA diss., 서울대학교 대학원, 2008; A. Borowiak, “Borrowed Affixes in Contemporary Korean”, *The Polish Academy of Sciences, Yearbook of Oriental Studies*, vol. 75, no. 1 (2022), pp. 117-141.

¹² A. Borowiak, “Hybrid Derivatives in Contemporary Korean”, *Scripta Neophilologica Posnaniensia*, vol. 20 (2020), pp. 59-80.

¹³ Myung-hee Noh, “Oe-rae-eo dan-eo-hyeong-seong...”, pp. 5-29; A. Borowiak, “Formation of Isofixes in Contemporary Korean”, in A. Bareja-Starzyńska (ed.), *Challenges of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Approach: New Horizons in Oriental Studies*, Warszawa 2021, pp. 47-67.

¹⁴ C. Hamans, “Global Language Contact,” in P.P. Chruszczewski, R.L. Lanigan, J.R. Rickford et al. (eds), *Languages in Contact 2014*, Wrocław–Washington D.C. 2015, p. 159.

The main aim of this article is to inquire into one the *non-morphemic word-formation process*, that is clipping, present in Contemporary Korean, in order to show and confirm that it was introduced into Korean from English and fortified by its influence on Korean. This article also shows that if it was not for the enormous and undeniable influence of borrowings (mainly of English provenance), the youngest sublexicon of Korean, that is hybrids, would not have been formed and new word-formation processes would not have been introduced into Korean. Consequently, after borrowings have rooted into the language and became popular in Korean, they have started to be used in word formation processes as well. Borrowing loanwords in their already abbreviated shape enhanced the implementation of these processes into Korean, as Korean native speakers became aware of their structure, and with time have started to apply them into Korean. In the case of clipping, firstly with borrowings creatively cut in 'Korean way' and thus dynamically expanding the hybrid sublexicon (especially *Konglish*) and with time to words of Sino-Korean and native stocks. For the time being clippings of borrowings are the most numerous.

The following three passages referring to the phenomenon of borrowing in the context of the so-called *cultural borrowings*, and the question of the necessity of mere borrowing as well as its limits, are self-explanatory.

*[L]oan-words (...) bear witness to the cultural superiority of some nation in some one specified sphere of activity or branch of knowledge: such as the Arabic words relating to mathematics and astronomy (algebra, zero) (...) the Italian words relating to music (piano, allegro) (...) and commerce (bank, bankrupt) (...).*¹⁵

*In a great many cases linguistic borrowing must be considered a necessity, but this is not always so. When a nation has once got into the habit of borrowing words, people will very often use foreign words where it would have been perfectly possible to express their ideas by means of native speech-material, the reason for going out of one's own language being in some cases the desire to be thought fashionable or refined through interlarding one's speech with foreign words, in others simply laziness, as is very often the case when people are rendering thoughts they have heard or read in a foreign tongue. (...) But on the other hand, it cannot be denied that the imported words have in many instances enriched the language through enabling its users to obtain greater variety and to find expressions for many subtle shades of thought.*¹⁶

However, it is not just words that get borrowed, as the below passage indicates:

*all aspects of language structure are subject to transfer from one language to another, given the right mix of social and linguistic circumstances. (...) it is easy to find transfer in all areas of language structure – phonology (sound system), morphology (word structure), syntax (sentence structure) and lexical semantics. (...) and when human creativity comes into play, there is no discernible linguistic limits to the possibilities for transferring any linguistic feature from one language to another.*¹⁷

¹⁵ O. Jespersen, *Language: Its Nature, Development and Origin*, London 1923, p. 209.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 210-211.

¹⁷ S.G. Thomason, *Language Contact*, Edinburgh 2001, p. 11.

1. THE NATURE OF CLIPPING

This chapter, by recalling several studies taking up the subject of clipping and discussing it in a rather brief manner, reveals the possible ‘treatment’ of the process and shows ambiguous opinions concerning its status. In the following part of this chapter, the proposed explanations of this process with a focus on some of the properties of the resultant forms will also be given. Explanations available in Korean subject literature are rather short and only some of them provide English examples, which might suggest that the question of clipping is not that frequently touched upon in contemporary Korean elaborations on word-formation. Furthermore, the existence of numerous terms used to denote this particular kind of abbreviation in English and Korean reveal a kind of terminological inconsistency. The last part of this section presents possible classifications of clippings.

When it comes to explaining what the process of clipping is, the subject literature presents several views, among which are:

- (i) *clipping as a minor (lexical) word-formation process*,¹⁸
- (ii) *clipping as a kind of morphological process*,¹⁹
- (iii) *clipping as ‘the other’ word-formation process*,²⁰
- (iv) *clipping as a rule-governed morphological process* – the non-affixal word-formation process,²¹
- (v) *clipping as a non-morphemic process of word formation*,²²
- (vi) *clipping as word formation process based on the prosodic structure of words*,²³
- (vii) *clipping as extra-grammatical yet rule-governed grammatical process*,²⁴
- (viii) *clipping as a sociolinguistic process* changing the stylistic value of their base forms.²⁵

1.1. Definitions

Explanations concerning the process of clipping and the properties of its resultant forms available in rather brief passages of the subject literature mention that it is *the process by which a word of two or more syllables (usually a noun) is shortened without*

¹⁸ L. Bauer, R. Huddleston, “Lexical Word-formation”, in R. Huddleston, G.K. Pullum et al. (eds), *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*, Cambridge 2002, p. 1632.

¹⁹ Myung-hee Noh, “Oe-rae-eo dan-eo-hyeong-seong...,” p. 12.

²⁰ Hwa Sang Hwang (황화상), *Hyeon-dae-gug-eo hyeong-tae-lon <현대국어 형태론> (Morphology of Modern Korean)*, 서울: 지식과교양, 2018, p. 119.

²¹ I. Plag, *Word-Formation in English*, Cambridge 2003, p. 117.

²² I. Fandrych, “Submorphemic Elements in the Formation of Acronyms, Blends and Clippings”, *Journal in English Lexicology Lexis 2: Lexical Submorphemics* (2008), pp. 103-121; C. Hamans, *Borderline Cases in Morphology: A Study in Language Change*, Lewedorp 2021, p. 20.

²³ L. Bauer, R. Lieber, I. Plag, *The Oxford Reference Guide to English Morphology*, Oxford 2013, p. 25; C. Hamans, *Borderline Cases in Morphology...*, p. 20.

²⁴ W.U. Dressler, L.M. Barbaresi, *Morphopragmatics: Diminutives and Intensifiers in Italian, German, and Other Languages*, Berlin 1994, pp. 9-10.

²⁵ D. Minkova, R. Stockwell, *English Words: History and Structure*, Cambridge 2001, p. 15.

*a change in its function taking place.*²⁶ The source form undergoing truncation can be either a simplex or a complex, it retains *the same meaning and still is a member of the same form class*²⁷ unlike back-formation or conversion²⁸ *generally changing the part of speech or the word meaning.*²⁹ Mattiello, referring to clipping as one of the *subtractive techniques*, also mentions that it *creates shortened words from longer bases without changing their denotative meaning.*³⁰ In fact, with concern to the semantic properties of the resultant form it is not always so. Arnold convinces that the creation of clippings does not only concern the quantitative change due to the truncation of the initial, middle or final part of its respective source form, and points out that it cannot be perceived simply as *a part for the whole (...) because a shortened word is always in some way different from its prototype in meaning and usage.*³¹ A clipped form can sometimes 'supplant' its source form, which happened with e.g. *taxi* (← *taximeter*) or *cab* (← *cabriolet*).³²

Some explanations referring to the unpredictability concerning *the way in which the base lexeme is shortened* with respect to *how many syllables will be retained in the clipped form (except that there will be fewer than in the base lexeme)* indicate that the main pattern is for the beginning of the base lexeme to be retained e.g. *deli* (← *delicatessen*), *mike* (← *microphone*). In fact, the only constraint on clipping is that *the clipped word should be a possible word, and such forms are as much instances of word manufacture as of clipping* which in *the purest cases* of word manufacture are when a word has no *morphological, phonological or orthographic motivation whatsoever.*³³

Some studies refer to the 'ignorance' of *morphemic boundaries* frequently observed in clipping and its possible 'morphemegenic' or 'morpheme creative' role. As a consequence, clipping is referred to as the *non-morphemic word formation process.*³⁴

According to Algeo: *clipping can shorten a form by cutting between words (soap opera > soap) or between morphemes (biography > bio (...)) it often ignores lexical and morphemic boundaries and cuts instead in the middle of a morpheme (popular > pop, rehabilitate > rehab). In so doing, it creates new morphemes and thus enriches the stock of potential building material for making other words.*³⁵

²⁶ V. Adams, *An Introduction to Modern English Word-Formation*, London & New York 1973, p. 135.

²⁷ L. Bauer, *English Word-formation*, Cambridge 1983, p. 233.

²⁸ I.V. Arnold, *The English Word*, Moscow 1986, p. 135.

²⁹ L. Bauer, *English Word-formation...*, p. 233.

³⁰ E. Mattiello, *Extra-grammatical Morphology in English: Abbreviations, Blends, Reduplicatives and Related Phenomena*, Berlin & Boston 2013, p. 15.

³¹ I.V. Arnold, *The English Word...*, p. 135.

³² J. Algeo, *The Origins and Development of the English Language*, Wadsworth 2010, p. 235.

³³ L. Bauer, *English Word-formation...*, pp. 234, 239.

³⁴ Although clipping does not observe the morphological structure of the base word, it does observe the syllabic structure since it applies to rules of prosody (cf. W.U. Dressler, L.M. Barbarelli, *Morphopragmatics...*, pp. 9-10). In fact, stress plays a prominent role in clipping, since back clipping stops at the leftmost stressed syllable, secondary stress may be sufficient (cf. C. Hamans, *Borderline Cases in Morphology...*, p. 132).

³⁵ J. Algeo, *The Origins...*, p. 235.

Arnold convinces that clipping: *consists in the reduction of a word to one of its parts (whether or not this part has previously been a morpheme), as a result of which the new form acquires some linguistic value of its own. The part retained does not change phonetically, hence the necessity of spelling changes in some of the examples, e.g. mike : : microphone, trank : : tranquilizer.*³⁶

Fandrych perceives clipping along with acronymy, blending and onomatopœia as *non-morphematic word-formation* which she defined as: *any word-formation process that is not morpheme-based (...), that is, which uses at least one element which is not a morpheme; this element can be a splinter, a phonestheme, part of a syllable, an initial letter, a number or a letter used as a symbol.*³⁷

Another scholar for whom clipping along with blending and suffix reinterpretation is counted among the *non-morphemic processes of word formation* in which the concept of *traditional morpheme* plays an *insignificant role* because the boundaries of morphemes *become blurred* and are therefore *typically ignored*, is Hamans, who argues that although the processes in question *do not make use of the morpheme* [it] *does not mean that they cannot result in new morphemes.*³⁸

In fact, *every kind of shortening differs from derivation, composition and conversion in being not a new arrangement of existing morphemes but often a source of new ones. (...) that is why shortening [including clipping AB] may be regarded as a type of root creation because the resulting new morphemes are capable of being used as free forms and combine with bound forms. They can produce verbs by conversion e.g. a phone → to phone 'in which the semantic relationship with the prototype remains quite clear. They also serve as a basis for further word-formation by derivation or composition' e.g. fancy (← fantasy).*³⁹

The most comprehensive grammatical and semantic properties of clippings presents the following explanation. Consequently, clippings *often convey the in-group status of the speaker and are often restricted in the usage to sub-groups of the speech community at large. (...) they may express equal status or reduced social distance. Eventually, through the process of lexicalization, clippings may become the standard words for the relevant denotatum. Clippings may be formed from nouns, adjectives, verbs and phrases. They do not change the syntactic category of their bases and in the case of phrasal bases they have the category of the head of that phrase, even though the clipped word may not be the head and have a different syntactic category (e.g. pub_N [public_{ADJ} house_N]_{NP}). Clippings based on polysyllabic bases involve loss of phonological material in rather complex ways.*⁴⁰

Korean linguists describe the resultant forms of clipping with reference to studies e.g. by Marchand (1969), Aronoff (1976) etc. which might suggest the probability

³⁶ I.V. Arnold, *The English Word...*, p. 135.

³⁷ I. Fandrych, "Non-morphematic Word-formation Processes: A Multi-level Approach to Acronyms, Blends, Clippings and Onomatopœia", PhD diss., University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 2004, p. 18.

³⁸ C. Hamans, *Borderline Cases in Morphology...*, p. 20.

³⁹ I.V. Arnold, *The English Word...*, pp. 134-135.

⁴⁰ L. Bauer, R. Lieber, I. Plag, *The Oxford Reference Guide...*, p. 402.

of ‘importation’ of this process to Korean from a *prestigious language variety such as American English* as one of the results of globalization⁴¹. Consequently, clippings are explained in Korean subject literature as:

*Word(s) made by cutting off the first part, sometimes the middle part, and commonly the end part of a phrase or a compound word.*⁴²

*Word(s) formed through cutting out one or more syllables from a word and having the remaining part represent the meaning of the full form.*⁴³

*New word(s) formed by cutting off a segment of the original word and having the same meaning as the original word (...) [Clipping(s) AB] the same as blend(s) undergo truncation.*⁴⁴

*Clipped word(s) are created in the process of truncation in which a part of a word is being cut off.*⁴⁵

*Clipped word(s) are words in which part of an existing word is cut off and used with the same meaning as the original word.*⁴⁶

The explanations given by Korean linguists refer to the graphemic abbreviation of words that can undergo clipping. They also mention semantic properties which would allow the meaning of the clipped form to be associated with its full unclipped form. Nonetheless they fail to mention the phenomenon of clipping referring to cases in which the syllabic borders are being tacked or when the slight change in the

⁴¹ C. Hamans, *Borderline Cases in Morphology...*, p. 89; L. Zabrocki, *Wspólnoty komunikatywne...*, pp. 9-33.

⁴² Seok-teuk Kim (김석득), *Uli-malbyeong-tae-lon* <우리말 형태론> (*Korean Morphology*), 서울: 탑출판사, 1992, p. 315.

⁴³ Yeong-seok Kim (김영석), *Eong-eo-hyeong-tae-lon* <영어형태론> (*English Morphology*), 서울: 한국문화사, 1998, p. 173.

⁴⁴ Ho-seung Lee (이호승), “Jeol-dan-eo-wa hon-seong-eo-e gwan-lyeon-doen myeoch mun-je” <절단어와 혼성어에 관련된 몇 문제> (“On Several Questions concerning Clipped Words and Blends”), *개신어문연구*, vol. 33 (2011), pp. 80-81. Ho-seung Lee (cf. *ibid.*) points out that while in English clippings come from words or phrases (e.g. zoo < zoological garden), in Korean there are no examples of phrase truncation. The scholar also excludes from the category of clippings words formed through elision, e.g. *nel* (넌) < *nae-il* (내일) ‘tomorrow’. Jae Hyun Lee (이재현), *Hyeon-dae gug-eo chug-so-eo-hyeong-ui sa-yong yang-sang yeon-gu* <현대 국어 축소어형의 사용 양상 연구> (*A Study on the Usage Patterns of Shortened Forms in Modern Korean*), 서울: 도서출판 역락, 2010, pp. 148-149, and Sun Cheul Kim (김선철), “Tong-sin eon-eo jun-mal-ui hyeong-seong-e dae-han eum-un-lon-hyeong-tae-lon-jeoggo-chal” <통신 언어 준말의 형성에 대한 음운론·형태론적 고찰>, (“A Phonological and Morphological Study on the Formation of Korean Net Lingo”), *언어학*, vol. 61, 한국언어학회 (2011), p. 12, treat them as abbreviations. According to the author of this research, examples with a single vowel or consonant elision, as the *nel* exemplified above, can be treated as clipping cases, because one of the phonemes is actually truncated here.

⁴⁵ Hander Jeong (정한테로), *Bal-gyeon-eul wi-han han-gug-eo dan-eo-hyeong-seong-lon* <발견을 위한 한국어 단어형성론> (*Korean Word Formation Theory for Discovery*), 서울: 서강대학교출판부, 2019, p. 150.

⁴⁶ Seon-yeong Lee (이선영), Hui-chang Jeong (정희창), “Jeol-dan hyeon-sang-gwa ui-mi eung-chug-e dae-ha-yeo” <절단 현상과 의미 응축에 대하여> (“A study on Clipping and Semantic Condensation”), *한국학연구*, vol. 52 (2019), pp. 269-289.

semantic content is observed as the source form gets truncated. The semantic shift concerns connoting additional, sometimes more colloquial, emotive or emotional meaning, and thus using clippings in less formal contexts in which the use of the full form would occur less frequently or sound less natural. Since the presented explanations are rather brief they do not provide formal or semantic properties of this kind of abbreviation.

1.2. Terminology

There are several terms used to denote clippings in both English and Korean, in the former it is, e.g.:

- (i) *stump-words*⁴⁷,
- (ii) *elliptical words*⁴⁸,
- (iii) *clippings*⁴⁹,
- (iv) *clipped words*⁵⁰,
- (v) *clippings, curtailments or curtailed words*⁵¹.

In Korean among terms used to denote *clippings* are:

- (i) *ga-wi-jil-mal* (가위질말) *lit.* ‘a word cut with scissors’⁵²,
- (ii) *jeol-dan-eo* (절단어) *lit.* ‘a word that was cut off’⁵³,
- (iii) *chug-yag-eo* (축약어) *lit.* ‘an abbreviated word’⁵⁴,

⁴⁷ O. Jespersen, *Language...*, pp. 169-171. Cheon-bae Park, “A Study on the Rule of Clipping with Special Reference to the Phonological Structure of English Words”, *영학논집*, vol. 12 (1988), p. 168.

⁴⁸ K Sundén, *Contribution to the Study of Elliptical words in Modern English*, Upsala 1904, pp. 36-37. O. Jespersen, *A Modern English Grammar: On Historical Principles*, Part IV: *Morphology*, Copenhagen 1942, pp. 533-552.

⁴⁹ O. Jespersen, *Language...*, p. 170; J. Algeo, *The Origins...*, p. 235; C. Hamans, “Clipping in English and Latvian”, *Poznań Studies in Contemporary Linguistics*, vol. 35 (1999), pp. 153-163; E. Mattiello, *Extra-grammatical Morphology...*, p. 217; C. Hamans, “Between *Abi* and *Propjes*: Some Remarks about Clipping in English, German, Dutch and Swedish”, *SKASE Journal of Theoretical Linguistics*, vol. 15, no. 2 (2018), pp. 24-59 and others.

⁵⁰ Ch.B. Park, “A Study on the Rule of Clipping...”, p. 170.

⁵¹ I.V. Arnold, *The English Word...*, pp. 134-141.

⁵² Jae Hyun Lee, *Hyeon-dae gug-eo chug-so-eo-hyeong-ui sa-yong...*

⁵³ Hander Jeong, *Bal-gyeon-eul...*, pp. 147-152; Bo-yeon Park (박보연), “Hyeon-dae-gug-eo eum-jeol-chug-so-hyeong-e dae-han yeon-gu” <현대국어 음절축소형에 대한 연구> (“A Study on the Reduced Forms in Modern Korean”), MA diss., 서울대학교대학원, 2005. Ho-seung Lee, “Jeol-dan-eo-wa...”, pp. 79-103; S.Y. Lee (이선영), *Sin-eo-e-seo-ui il-eum-jeol jeol-dan-eo-e dae-ha-yeo* <신어에서의 일음절 절단어에 대하여> (“A Study on the Monosyllabic Clipped Words in New Words”), *우리말글*, vol. 70 (2016), pp. 49-71; Kil-im Nam (남길임), Hyun Joo Song (송현주) et al., *Hyeon-dae sin-eo yeon-gu* <현대 신어 연구> (*A Study on Modern Neologisms*), 서울: 한국문화사, 2022, p. 56.

⁵⁴ Hye Eun Auh (어혜은), “Kong-geul-li-si-ui jul-im-mal hyeong-seong: hyeong-tae-eum-un-lon-jeog yeon-gu-leul jung-sim-eu-lo” <콩글리시의 줄임말 형성: 형태·음운론적 연구를 중심으로> (“Shortened Words in Konglish: From the Perspective of Morphology and Phonology”), MA diss., 세종대학교 대학원, 2008.

- (iv) *dan-chuk eo-hwi* (단축 어휘) *lit.* 'a shortened vocabulary'⁵⁵,
- (v) *dan-chuk-eo* (단축어) *lit.* 'a shortened word'⁵⁶.

1.3. Classifications

Regardless of the unpredictable and unsystematic nature of clipping brought up and emphasized by numerous linguists, a few scholars, among them Marchand (1960), Bauer (1983), Arnold (1986), Park (1988), Matteillo (2013) and others made an attempt to create a taxonomy draft of their resultant forms in order to explore potential patterns with reference to the position of the truncated segment within the source word, which is reflected in such terms as 'back-clipping', 'fore-clipping' etc.

Marchand introduces the quadruple division of the clipped forms into:⁵⁷

- (i) *back clippings* (e.g. *lab* ← *laboratory*, *ad* ← *advertisement*, *pub* ← *public house*, *zoo* ← *zoological garden*),
- (ii) *fore-clippings* (e.g. *van* ← *caravan*, *plane* ← *aeroplane*),
- (iii) *words having the middle part retained* [fore and back clippings AB] (e.g. *flu* ← *influenza*, *tec* ← *detective*)⁵⁸, and
- (iv) *clipping compounds/ composites* (e.g. *oxy-* ← *oxygen* used in chemistry).⁵⁹

⁵⁵ Min-yeong Jeong (정민영), "Gug-eo dan-chug eo-hwi hyeong-seong – han-ja-eo-leul jung-sim-eu-lo" <국어 단축 어휘 형성 – 한자어를 중심으로> ("The Formation of Korean abbreviated vocabulary – with the focus on Sino-Korean Words"), *개신어문연구*, vol. 12 (1995).

⁵⁶ *The New World Comprehensive Korean-English Dictionary* (뉴월드 韓英大辭典), Seoul 1990, p. 530. A. Borowiak, "On Selected Problems of Korean Abbreviology", *International Journal of Korean Humanities and Social Sciences*, vol. 1 (2015), pp. 137-164.

⁵⁷ H. Marchand, *The Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word Formation: A Synchronic-Diachronic Approach*, Wiesbaden 1960, pp. 357-365.

⁵⁸ This type of clipping is also referred to as *edge-clipping* (cf. E. Mattiello, *Extra-grammatical Morphology...*, p. 75), *ambiclippling* (cf. L. Bauer, R. Huddleston, "Lexical word-formation...", p. 1635), *middle-retaining clipping* (cf. Cheon-bae Park, "A Study on the Rule of Clipping...", p. 169) or *'mixed' clipping* (cf. B. Szymanek, *Introduction to Morphological Analysis*, Warszawa 1998, p. 99), and as Mattiello (cf. E. Mattiello, *Extra-grammatical Morphology...*, p. 75) notes '*its transparency is highly endangered*'. I.V. Arnold, *The English Word...*, p. 139, notices the retaining of the stressed syllable in them (cf. *fridge* ← *refrigerator*). O. Jespersen, *A Modern English Grammar...*, p. 547, attributes their formation to '*a rapid pronunciation, in which the first vowel was syncopated*' e.g. (*tec* ← *detective* ← *detective*).

⁵⁹ *Clipping-compounds* are at times formally indistinguishable from syllable word acronyms (e.g. *Bene-lux* ← *Belgium*, the Netherlands and *Luxemburg*) (cf. B. Szymanek, *Introduction...*, pp. 99, 101). E. Mattiello, *Extra-grammatical Morphology...*, p. 76, notes that *clipped compounds* '*reduce a compound to one of its parts*' and includes to this category back-clippings such as *exec* ← *executive officer*, *stereo* ← *stereophonic system*, *mobile* ← *mobile (tele)phone*. She also convinces that '*[t]hey are kept separate from the usual patterns of clipping because, like blends, they are made up of two or more bases. At the same time, however, they differ from blends because, while in blends the bases have an autonomous sense, in clipped compounds they have a composite meaning*' (ibid., p. 76). *Clipping-compounds* are also referred to by Hamans, as *stub compounds*. The author notes that they follow the compound stress rule (cf. C. Hamans, "Blends: an Intermediate Category at the Crossroads of Morphology and Phonology", *Yearbook of the Poznań Linguistic Meeting*, vol. 7 (2021), pp. 99-128).

Marchand's taxonomy laid the foundation for further researches conducted on this subject by other linguists, such as Arnold (1986), Park (1988), Mattiello (2013) and many others.

Park, in his research devoted to English clippings apart from *back-*, *fore-* and *middle-retaining clipping*, distinguishes a subclass of *irregular clipping* (e.g. *parylene* ← *paraxylenn*).⁶⁰ Mattiello, apart from *back-*, *fore-* and *edge-clipping*, also distinguishes *mid-clipping*,⁶¹ *random-clipping* in which some scattered letters or parts of the word are deleted (e.g. *hrn* ← *heroin*) and *suffixed clipping*.⁶² In the last case some part of the word is deleted and a suffix is added (e.g. *barbie* ← *barbecue*).

Some researchers⁶³ go even one step further and distinguish apart from the so-called *plain clippings* consisting of *just the residue from clipping* comprised of *back-*, *fore-* and *ambiclippings* e.g. *flu* ← *influenza* formed solely in the clipping process, also the *embellished clippings* where the resultant forms apart from clipping also undergo subsequent suffixation where, as authors explain, *suffixes have mainly rhythmic or decorative function, hence the term 'embellished'* e.g. *Honkers* ← *Hong Kong* (-er + -s → -ers), *garbo* ← *garbage collector*.⁶⁴

Korean scholars writing about English, such as the already mentioned Park, briefly discuss the subject of clipping referring to classifications by Western scholars.⁶⁵ Among the relatively often cited studies are Marchand (1969), Aronoff (1976) and Bauer (1983).⁶⁶

Inalienable properties of clippings used in Korean enable us to divide clippings with reference to:

- (i) the formal, and
- (ii) the semantic criteria.

Consequently, from the formal point of view Korean clippings can be classified according to:

- (i) the type of process they are coined in, that is: back-, fore-clipping etc.
- (ii) their syllabic structure, that is the number of syllables clippings are composed of: mono-, di-, trisyllabics etc.,

⁶⁰ Cheon-bae Park, "A Study on the Rule of Clipping...", p. 169.

⁶¹ When the middle part is truncated we may speak of *mid-clipping*, *median clipping* or *contraction* (cf. D. Jamet, "A Morphological Approach to Clipping in English: Can the Study of Clipping be Formalized?", *Journal in English Lexicology*, Special Issue 1 (2009), p. 18). It is 'the rarest type [of clipping AB], and the least transparent due to the discontinuity of the base' e.g. *ana* ← *anorexia*, *proctor* ← *procurator*, *secy* ← *secretary*, *miss* ← *mistress*. There are also 'other peripheral mid-clippings' which include apostrophes or hyphens e.g. *B'ham* ← *Birmingham*, *B-way* ← *Broadway*, *Jo'burg* ← *Johannesburg* (cf. E. Mattiello, *Extra-grammatical Morphology...*, pp. 75-76).

⁶² E. Mattiello, *Extra-grammatical Morphology...*, p. 72-82.

⁶³ L. Bauer, R. Huddleston, "Lexical word-formation...", pp. 1635-1636.

⁶⁴ For detail information on clipped forms with final -o see C. Hamans, *Borderline Cases in Morphology...*

⁶⁵ E.g. Cheon-bae Park, "A Study on the Rule of Clipping..."

⁶⁶ Myung-hee Noh, "Oe-rae-eo..."; Jae Hyun Lee, *Hyeon-dae gug-eo chug-so-eo-hyeong-ui sa-yong...*; Min-yeong Jeong, "Gug-eo dan-chug eo-hwi..." and others.

- (iii) the possibility of resyllabification related to the status of a truncated part – whether it coincides with syllable borders, that is whether clipping follows the syllabic division of words or not,
 - a. if it does, it does not bring about the resyllabification
e.g. *a-pa-teu* (아파트) ← *a-pa-teu-meon-teu* (아파트먼트) ‘an apartment’,
 - b. if it violates the syllable borders which occurs when it is smaller or bigger than a syllable, it causes resyllabification
e.g. *de-mo* (데모) ← *de-mon-seu-teu-re-i-syeon* (데몬스트레이션) ‘a demonstration’,
- (iv) the complexity of the process the clippings are coined in:
 - a. *one-time clipping* – clippings as resultant forms of ‘simple clipping’
e.g. *sju-peo* (슈퍼) ← *sju-peo-ma-ket* (슈퍼마켓) ‘a supermarket’, and
 - b. ‘*re-clipping*’ – clippings as a result of previous clipping
e.g. *Tok* (톡) ‘Talk’ ← *Ka-tok* (카톡) ‘KaTalk’ ← *Ka-ka-o-tok* (카카오톡) ‘Kakao Talk’,^{67, 68}
- (v) the morphological status of the source form⁶⁹
 - a. simplex
e.g. *in-peu-ra* (인프라) ← *in-peu-ra-seu-teu-lag-cheo* (인프라스트락처) ‘an infrastructure’, *men-teu* (멘트) ← *ko-men-teu* (코멘트) ‘a comment’,⁷⁰
 - b. complex (derivatives, compounds etc.)
e.g. *saeng-eol* (생얼) ← *saeng-eol-gul* (생얼굴, 生얼굴) ‘a bare face with no makeup’, *hel-seu* (헬스) ← *hel-seu-keul-leop* (헬스클럽) ‘a health club’, *hil* (힐) ← *ha-i-hil* (하이힐) ‘high heels’.

From the semantic point of view clippings used in Korean can be classified according to the following criteria:

- (i) the membership in the lexico-semantic class
e.g. school, economy, workplace, society etc.,
- (ii) the possible acquisition of a less-official meaning
e.g. *tel-le-bi* (텔레비) ‘a telly’ versus *tel-le-bi-jeon* (텔레비전) ‘a television’,
- (iii) social familiarity
 - a. clippings used by speakers of the Korean language community
e.g. *mel-lo* (멜로) ← *mel-lo-deu-ra-ma* (멜로드라마) ‘a melodrama’, *da-kyu* (다큐) ← *da-kyu-men-teo-ri* (다큐멘터리) ‘a documentary’,

⁶⁷ This is a South Korean application providing free calling and texting services for smartphones and computers, operated by the Kakao Corporation and launched in 2010. For detailed information on this application, see “KakaoTalk,” *Wikipedia*, at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KakaoTalk>, 24 II 2024.

⁶⁸ Clippings can also be classified with respect to the type of the subsequent process following clipping – it may be derivation (generally suffixation) and composition (cf. Part 3.2), or another *non-morphemic word-formation process* such as clipping and blending. Since the last two processes are abbreviation processes we can be talking about the *re-abbreviation* or *successive abbreviation*.

⁶⁹ Borrowings used in their respective source language as derivatives or compounds, are usually imported into Korean as simple words (cf. Myung-hee Noh, “Oe-rae-eo...”, p. 29).

⁷⁰ Cf. *ibid.*, p. 13. According to the DKS this abbreviated form comes from ‘an announcement’.

- b. clippings used by specific subcommunities
 e.g. *di-peul-le* (디플레) ← *di-peul-le-i-syeon* (디플레이션) ‘deflation’, *aem-peu* (앰프) ← *aem-peul-li-pa-i-eo* (앰플리파이어) ‘an amplifier’
- (iv) the existence of homonymic clippings
 e.g. *nae-bi* (내비) ← *nae-bi-ge-i-syeon* (내비게이션) ‘a car navigation’ versus *peu-ro* (프로) ← *peu-ro-pe-syeo-neol* (프로페셔널) ‘a professional’ / *peu-ro-geu-raem* (프로그램) ‘a program’ / *peu-ro-deok-syeon* (프로덕션) ‘a (film) production’.

2. CLIPPINGS IN KOREAN LEXICON

Clippings present in the lexicon of Contemporary Korean, with consideration to the way in which they have entered it, can be divided into two basic categories:

- (i) ‘**imported clippings**’, that is, clippings borrowed mainly from English, often when their respective source forms were already used in Korean, and
- (ii) ‘**Korean-made clippings**’, that is, clippings coined in Korean.

2.1. Borrowed clippings

Words borrowed as clippings are truncations of words and phrases and can be divided into *back-clippings*, *fore-clippings*, *edge-clippings* and *mid-clippings*, which the below examples respectively illustrate. The number of the last two types of clippings is relatively rare in comparison to the first two types. Some forms e.g. (1c), (2a) are used only in their abbreviated shape. In fact, clipping is particularly productive with words of foreign origin.⁷¹

- (1) Back-clippings
 - (1a) *ae-peul* (애플) ‘an app’ ← *ae-peul-li-ke-i-syeon* (애플리케이션) ‘an application (for smartphones, computers etc.)’
 - (1b) *de-mo* (데모) ‘a demo’ ← *de-mon-seu-teu-re-i-syeon* (데몬스트레이션) ‘a demon-stration’,
 - (1c) *paen* (팬) ‘fan’ ← ‘fanatic’.
- (2) Fore-clippings
 - (2a) *beo-seu* (버스) ‘a bus’ ← ‘an omnibus’,
 - (2b) *chel-lo* (첼로) ‘a cello’ ← *bi-ol-lon-chel-lo* (비올론첼로) ‘a violoncello’.
- (3) Edge- and mid-clippings
 - (3a) *peul-lu* (플루) ‘flu’ ← *in-peul-lu-en-ja* (인플루엔자) ‘influenza’,
 - (3b) *ma-i-keu* (마이크) ‘a mike’ ← *ma-i-keu-ro-pon* (마이크로폰) ‘a microphone’.⁷²

⁷¹ Cf. *ibid.*, p. 153.

⁷² In sporadic cases the consonant or vowel modification takes place e.g. *bike* ← *bicycle* where *c* is pronounced as /k/, or *pram* ← *preambulator*, where the vowel *e* is lost (cf. L. Bauer, R. Huddleston, “Lexical word-formation...”, p. 1635).

2.2. Clippings coined in Korean

Scholars traditionally divide the Korean lexicon into the following three sublexicons:

- (i) the sublexicon of Sino-Korean words (henceforth SKWs),
- (ii) the sublexicon of native Korean words (henceforth NKWs),
- (iii) the sublexicon of loanwords (henceforth LWs).⁷³

As the number of borrowings is constantly growing we can observe the formation of the fourth sublexicon, that is *hybrids*.⁷⁴ Considering the complex structure of the Korean lexicon, it is not a surprise that clippings are present in all of the specified sublexicons. Nonetheless, the largest group of clippings are creatively truncated borrowings. This may confirm that the process was 'imported' or 'borrowed' from English into Korean.

Clippings of borrowings mainly of English origin are examples of *Konglish*, that is 'Korean-style English', and are the most numerous. The term *Konglish*, as already noted (cf. p. 189), refers to vocabulary, which looks like English LWs but the English native speakers may have problems in understanding their meaning after the truncation took place. Among the clipped coinages are *back-*, *fore-* and *mid-*clippings, in the majority of which with the exception of ex. (4c), clipping coincides with the syllable borders, as illustrated below:

(4) Clipping of LWs

- (4a) *keom* (컴) ← *keom-pyu-teo* (컴퓨터) 'a computer',
- (4b) *a-pa-teu* (아파트) ← *a-pa-teu-meon-teu* (아파트먼트) 'an apartment',
- (4c) *aem-peu* (앰프) ← *aem-peul-li-pa-i-eo* (앰플리파이어) 'an amplifier',
- (4d) *da-i-ya* (다이아) ← *da-i-ya-mon-deu* (다이아몬드) 'a diamond',
- (4e) *di-peul-le* (디플레) ← *di-peul-le-i-syeon* (디플레이션) 'deflation',
- (4f) *ke-i-seu* (케이스) ← *syu-teu-ke-i-seu* (슈트케이스) 'a suitcase'.

Clipping is also applied to SKWs, as the below examples illustrate. Among the resultant forms being both *back-* and *fore-clippings* are coinages in which the truncation coincides with syllable borders (ex. (5a)-(5d)) and those in which the *resyllabification* took place as a result of vowel truncation, as in ex. (5e).

(5) Clipping of SKWs

- (5a) *jeo-im* (저임, 低賃) ← *jeo-im-geum* (저임금, 低賃金) 'law wages',
- (5b) *go-sok-cheol* (고속철, 高速鐵) ← *go-sok-cheol-do* (고속철도, 高速鐵道) 'a high-speed train/ rail',
- (5c) *eo-hag* (어학, 語學) ← *eon-eo-hag* (언어학, 言語學) 'linguistics',
- (5d) *gyun* (균, 菌) ← *se-gyun* (세균, 細菌) 'a germ, a bacterium',
- (5e) *yum-cha* (음차) ← *yu-mo-cha* (유모차, 乳母車) 'a stroller'.

⁷³ Cf. Ho-min Sohn, *The Korean Language*, Cambridge 2001, p. 87; Ji-ryong Lim (임지룡), Eun-kyu Lee (이은규) et al., *Hak-gyo-mun-beop-gwa mun-beop-gyo-yuk* <학교문법과 문법교육> (*School Grammar and Grammar Education*), 서울: 박이정, 2005, p. 205; Jae Jung Song, *The Korean Language...*, p. 83. Miho Choo, Hye-young Kwak, *Using Korean – A Guide to Contemporary Usage*, New York 2008, p. 85; R. Huszycz, "Wschodnioazjatycki krąg cywilizacji pisma – lingwistyczna analiza pojęcia", in L. Sudyka (ed.), *Orientalia Commemorativa*, Kraków 2011, p. 119.

⁷⁴ A. Borowiak, "Hybrid Derivatives...", p. 61.

Native Korean clippings apart from truncation coinciding with the syllable borders concerning both *back-* and *fore-clippings* (cf. (6a)-(6b)), can be coined through vowel or consonant truncation (e.g. *u* (우), *i* (이), *eu* (으)). Here, we would have to talk about *mid-clipping*, where truncation of a letter leads to *resyllabification*. In consequence tri-syllabics become disyllabics, and disyllabics become monosyllabics, as the examples (6c)-(6e) illustrate.

(6) Clipping of NKWs

- (6a) *kkang* (강) ← *kkang-da-gu* (강다구) ‘guts, tenacity, persistence’,
- (6b) *jeol-lo* (절로) ← *jeo-jeol-lo* (저절로) ‘naturally, automatically, by itself’,
- (6c) *gom-sin* (곰신) ← *go-mu-sin* (고무신) ‘rubber shoes’,
- (6d) *jae-mi* (잼) ← *jae-mi* (재미) ‘fun, interest’,
- (6e) *dam* (담) ← *da-eum* (다음) ‘the next, the following’.

In Korean clippings are chiefly represented by back-clippings. Lesser numerosity of fore-clippings can be observed. Edge clippings where the middle of the word is retained are infrequent.

3. PROPERTIES OF CLIPPINGS

The present chapter will discuss the main semantic, morphological and syntactic properties of clippings used in Korean.

3.1. Semantic properties

Clippings, regardless of the reduced form, inherit certain semantic properties of their respective source forms. Without such an association the message listener would not have been able to understand the clipped equivalents. The fact that clippings tend to be used in informal contexts was noted by Noh, who also argues that *a clipped word does not differ in meaning from its [respective] source word*.⁷⁵ Nonetheless, in the author’s opinion, it is the additional meaning it may connote that makes it stylistically marked equivalent of the source form and as such it is generally used in less official language registers.

Clippings are handy coinages and thus are eagerly used by young Koreans as far as the following fields are concerned:

- (i) ‘technical novelties’: e.g. *keom* (컴) ← *keom-pyu-teo* (컴퓨터) ‘a computer’, *nae-bi* (내비) ← *nae-bi-ge-i-syeon* (내비게이션) ‘car navigation’, *aep* (앱) ‘an app’ ← *ae-peul* (애플) ← *ae-peul-li-ke-i-syeon* (애플리케이션) ‘an application’, *mel* (멜) ← *me-il* (메일) ← *i-me-il* (이메일) ‘an e-mail’, *tel-le-bi* (텔레비) ← *tel-le-bi-jeon* (텔레비전),
- (ii) school: e.g. *saeng-eol* (생얼) ← *saeng-eol-gul* (생얼굴) ‘a bare face with no make-up’, *al-ba* (알바) ← *a-reu-ba-i-teu* (아르바이트) ‘a part-time job’, *beom-saeng*

⁷⁵ Myung-hee Noh, “Hon-seong-eo hyeong-seong bang-sig-e dae-han go-chal” <혼성어(混成語) 형성 방식에 대한 고찰> (“A Study on the Formation of Blends in Korean”), 국어학, vol. 58 (2010), p. 257.

- (범생) ‘a nerd’ (a teasing remark about a model student) ← *mu-beom-saeng* (모범생) ‘a model student’, *tta* (따) ← *wang-tta* (왕따, 王-) ‘an outcast’, *sup* (습) ← *su-eop* (수업) ‘a class(es),’
- (iii) entertainment: e.g. *da-kyu* (다큐) ← *da-kyu-men-teo-ri* (다큐멘터리) ‘a documentary’, *mel-lo* (멜로) ← *mel-lo-deu-ra-ma* (멜로드라마) ‘a melodrama’, *ae-ni* (애니) ← *ae-ni-me-i-syeon* (애니메이션) ‘an animated cartoon’, *gem* (겜) ← *ge-im* (게임) ‘a (computer) game’,
- (iv) places: e.g. *sju-peo* (슈퍼) ← *sju-peo-ma-ket* (슈퍼마켓) ‘a supermarket’, *sam-sil* (삼실) ← *sa-mu-sil* (사무실) ‘an office’, etc.

As far as the cut-off point is concerned, the remnant of the source word which is in fact the confusive segment between the source and the resultant forms, should provide semantic recoverability which significantly facilitates the apprehension of the meaning. Furthermore, the syllabogramic structure of Hangeul requires the clippings to be at least monosyllabics.

While referring to the semantic properties of clippings, it is worth noting the phenomenon of homonymy (*homonymization*) which may but does not have to lead to miscommunication. Mattiello explains that the *[i]nput may be ambiguous because of homophony, ambiguity or vagueness may involve source words which belong to different syntactic classes*⁷⁶:

- (7) English homonyms
- (7a) *spec* ← ‘a speculation’, ‘a specialist’, ‘a specification’ (nouns),
- (7b) *op* ← ‘optical’, ‘an operator’, ‘an opportunity’ (adverb and nouns),
- (7c) *fash* ← ‘fashion’, ‘fashionable’ (noun and adjective),
- (7d) *glam* ← ‘glamour’, ‘glamorous’, ‘glamorize’ (noun, adjective and verb).

The phenomenon of homonymy is also present within the set of abbreviated forms in Korean. However, in Korean unlike in English, these forms generally belong to one particular word class – e.g. nouns (cf. ex. (8a)-(8b)). Which means, that they are not as *syntactically ambiguous* as English clippings, as there are no examples which could function as a noun, an adjective or a verb, as it is in English. Some of the Korean homonymic clippings are exemplified below.

- (8) ‘Korean-made’ homonyms
- (8a) *kil-lo* (킬로) ← *kil-lo-geu-ream* (킬로그램) ‘kilogram’, *kil-lo-mi-teo* (킬로미터) ‘kilometer’,⁷⁷
- (8b) *sam-sil* (삼실) ← ‘hemp yarn’ or ‘linen thread’, ‘the 3rd wife’, ‘office’ (*sa-mu-sil*, 사무실),
- (8c) *na* (나) ← *na* (나) ‘I’ or ‘me’, *na-i* (나이) ‘age’.

⁷⁶ E. Mattiello, *Extra-grammatical Morphology...*, p. 74.

⁷⁷ Although *kil-lo* for ‘a kilometer’ was coined in Korean, *kil-lo* representing ‘a kilogram’, that is, ‘kilo’ was borrowed from English.

3.2. Morphological properties

From the word-formation point of view clippings result from truncation of the source forms being:

- (i) simple words,
- (ii) compound words,
- (iii) rarely phrases e.g. noun phrases (for examples see Part 2, p. 196).

Clipping, as already noted, is a word formation process that may subsequently result in the formation of new morphemes which as bases can take part in other word formation processes such as derivation or compounding, which the examples (9)-(10) respectively illustrate. It can be said then that the *resemantization* is accompanied by the *remorphemization* thanks to which the above-mentioned semantic recoverability is possible. Furthermore, considering the syllabogramic structure of Korean words and the fact the elision of a vowel or consonant may lead to *resyllabification*, the formation of a new syllable is very probable. In fact, it takes place in both of the following examples (cf. (9)-(10)). Consequently, the newly formed disyllabic morphemes differ formally from their respective source forms, nonetheless they generally convey the meaning assigned to them.

- (9) *eop-geul* (업글) ← *eop-geu-re-i-deu* (업그레이드) ‘an upgrade’
 - (9a) *eop-geul-ha-da* (업글하다) ‘to upgrade’,
 - (9b) *eop-geul-byeong* (업글병) ‘an upgrade disease’,
 - (9c) *eop-geul-in-gan* (업글인간) ‘a person oriented to self-development paying less attention to success’.
- (10) *al-ba* (알바) ← *a-reu-ba-i-teu* (아르바이트) ‘a part-time job’,
 - (10a) *al-ba-ha-da* (알바하다) ‘to work a part-time job’,
 - (10b) *al-ba-nam* (알바남) ‘a man working a part-time job’,
 - (10c) *kkul-al-ba* (꿀알바) *lit.* ‘honey part-time job’, ‘temporary well-paid job with good working conditions.’

Considering the above, there are at least two reasons confirming that if clippings exemplified in the current research, or by analogy all clippings, had not been assigned a *morphemic status* or have not been reinterpreted as morphemes by the Korean native speakers, they:

- (i) would not have been understandable to the listener and thus used in everyday conversations due to the lack of semantic recoverability,
- (ii) they would not have been used as bases in other word-formation processes.

3.3. Syntactic properties

Grammatically, the borrowed form is subjected to the system of the borrowing language, both as to syntax (some rouge, this rouge) and as the indispensable inflections (garages) and the fully current ‘living’ constructions (rouge-pot) and word formation (to rouge; she is rouging her face).⁷⁸

⁷⁸ L. Bloomfield, *Language...*, p. 453.

Clippings used in Korean, regardless of the origin of their respective source forms, which in the case of borrowings upon *Koreanization* and assigning them to a particular part of speech used in Korean, take grammatical morphemes (particles, endings) similarly to their unclipped full forms. Consequently, abbreviated forms of nouns will take particles, while clipped forms of verbs and adjectives take various endings, as the rest of verbs and adjectives in Korean do. Since the abbreviated forms, as already mentioned, are more colloquial, they will be used in less official language registers, which means that particles as well as final endings indicating the honorification towards the listener such as *-a/-eo-yo* (-아/어요) can be omitted, as the examples (11)-(12) illustrate. Part (a) in each of these examples illustrates full, unclipped form and a predicate in polite speech level, while (b) illustrates their respective clipped equivalents and a predicate in intimate speech level.

(11)

(11a) 카카오톡을 보냈어요?

Ka-ka-o-tok-eul bo-naess-eo-yo?

Did you send a KakaoTalk message?

(11b) 카톡 보냈어?

Ka-tok bo-naess-eo?

Did you send a KaTalk (message)?

(12)

(12a) 사실은 마음이 너무 아파요.

Sa-sir-eun ma-eum-i neo-mu a-pa-yo.

‘The truth is, it breaks my heart.’ (*lit.* ‘The truth is, my heart suffers too much.’)

(12b) 실은 맘이 넘 아파.

Sir-eun mam-i neom a-pa.

‘Actually, I’m so heartbroken.’ (*lit.* ‘Actually, my heart hurts too much.’)

CONCLUSIONS

The main aim of this research was to confirm the hypothesis by Hamans⁷⁹ concerning the possibility of borrowing the *linguistic processes* between distant languages such as English and Korean by showing clipping as one of the ‘borrowed’ *non-morphemic word-formation processes*. There are a few main reasons or factors standing behind the author’s assumption concerning the origin of this particular morphological phenomenon in Korean, among them are lingual and extra-lingual factors:

- (i) clipping has become popular and frequent only recently and most likely under the AmE influence,⁸⁰
- (ii) tightening wide-ranging economic and cultural cooperation between South Korea and the US since the Korean War (1950-1953), the so-called ‘English fever’

⁷⁹ C. Hamans, “Global Language Contact,” in P.P. Chruszczewski, R.L. Lanigan, J.R. Rickford et al. (eds), *Languages in Contact 2014*, Wrocław–Washington D.C. 2015, p. 159.

⁸⁰ C. Hamans, *Borderline Cases in Morphology...*, p. 89.

- as a result of associating the good command of English with prestige and success (as it was previously with Chinese characters),
- (iii) the increasing number of borrowings, most notably of English origin, which with time has led to the formation of the youngest sublexicon – *hybrids* with English loanwords actively participating in word-formation processes, which the phenomenon of *Konglish* also confirms,
 - (iv) some of the loanwords were borrowed in their already abbreviated shape, the so-called ‘imported clippings’ have accustomed young and creative Koreans to clipping, who with time have started to apply this process firstly to other borrowings, coining English-sounding neologisms incomprehensible to native speakers of English which gave rise to the formation of ‘the Korean-made clippings’,
 - (v) as the number of clipped forms grew, the process has started to be used also with reference to words of Sino-Korean and native origin, although for the time being their number is relatively small compared to *Konglish* examples,
 - (vi) truncation violating the syllable borders results in *resyllabification*, previously generally observed in inflection of verbs and adjectives,
 - (vii) Korean scholars referring to clipping often give English examples and cite researches by Western scholars.

In order to present the phenomenon of clipping in Contemporary Korean the research refers to English literature and examples, without which showing the possible influence of English on the formation of clippings (on morphology) in the Korean language would not have been possible.

In Part 2 the nature of clipping was characterized, the terminology concerning the resultant forms as well as their classifications were referred to. The multitude of terms used to denote this particular kind of abbreviation in English and Korean reveals some kind of terminological confusion. In the last section of this part the author proposed the draft classification of clippings used in Korean according to the formal and semantic criteria.

Part 3 presented Korean lexicon through the prism of clippings with a distinction between the ‘imported clippings’, that is, borrowed clippings and ‘Korean-made clippings’, that is, clippings coined in Korean. With respect to the latter clippings were divided and exemplified according to the sublexicons they belong to. The existence of clippings in these sublexicons may be perceived as confirmation of the ongoing *qualitative changes* within the Korean lexicon, occurring alongside the obvious *quantitative changes*.

The last Part, touched upon some selected properties displayed by the clipped coinages under investigation with respect to their semantic, morphological and syntactic properties. The semantic recoverability of clippings ensuring that the intended meaning is conveyed regardless of the abbreviated shape presupposes the *resemantization* accompanied by *remorphemization*. Although the residue may not initially have the status of a word, it must be interpretable morphemically to be understandable to the recipient. The participation of new morphemes being ‘Korean-made clippings’ of foreign origin may imply possible changes in the Korean morphological system regardless of the informal status of the clippings themselves, or their relatively small number. Their

existence may, like the borrowing of affixes, suggest the opening up of the Korean morphological system under the influence of English.

To sum up, Korean language users, especially the younger generation whether bilinguals or not, well-accustomed to the use of English especially to the AmE perceived as the prestigious language variety, and being under the influence of American culture, noticed various clipped forms which have entered the Korean lexicon within the last few decades, and have started to invent new ones – firstly on the basis of English borrowings (enhancing *Konglish* vocabulary), and with time on the basis of the SKWs and NKWs. This intense contact with the English language community has certainly helped to transfer the process into Korean.

Abbreviated forms discussed in this paper, such as clippings, are seen as handy and speech-economizing words, and are widely used especially in the so-called new media. When they find their way into the official language, they can lose their colloquiality, although their use may also indicate an increase in the colloquialization of the language as their social knowledge and acceptance grow. Regardless of the miscommunication risk that every abbreviation process, including clipping, generates, short forms of words are continuously being created, and it appears that in the foreseeable future the trend will not change.

The present article is an introduction to further research on the subject of Korean clipping and other kinds of abbreviation, as the question of semantic fields, semantic inheritance, analogy etc. definitely deserve more attention, not to mention the question of their social acceptability, the use of clippings in the light of language policy and co-processuality of clipping with both traditional and the so-called *non-morphemic word formation processes*. Therefore, the author intends to continue the research in the near future.

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Anna BOROWIAK – a graduate of the Department of Korean Language and Literature at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, PhD in Korean linguistics. A Koreanist and a linguist. Currently chiefhead of Korean Language Department, Faculty of Ethnolinguistics, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and a director of the King Sejong Institute Poznań.