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## **A classification of blended words: Thematic aspect**

### **Abstract**

The article offers a classification of contaminated lexical units, also known as telescope words or blends. This issue was raised by some Russian and foreign linguists, but has not been studied systematically. To the best of our knowledge, researchers succeeded in studying certain aspects of this issue, however, no complex studies were performed to provide a coherent picture of the phenomenon. Therefore, this paper aims to summarize the available approaches and examples (mainly in English but also in other languages), and to design a complete and consistent thematic classification of words formed by means of fusion. The result is a classification of blends based on activity fields they denote, since each of them is created to designate a new object or phenomenon that combines the elements of two or more words already existing in the language. A number of areas were identified for the use of blends, particularly “science and technology” embracing three groups: “natural science terms and terminoids”, which correlate with various scientific realms (chemistry, biology, physics, etc.), “technical terms”, including the names of devices, “names of hybrids of living beings”, both real and fictional. Within the “everyday life” area, the “food” groups are presented, including the names of drinks, serving items, etc., “clothing”, as well as shoes and accessories, “home” and “recreation and entertainment”. We also identified a number of separate groups: “politics”, “economics”, “art”, “linguistics”, etc., each with subgroups. Most of the blends are represented by nouns, and therefore form the basis of each thematic group of words. However, two groups are formed almost exclusively by adjectives: “a person description”, including both appearance and character, and “features of an object or phenomenon”.

**Keywords:** word-formation, blending, telescoping, word-fusion, contamination, occasionalism

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