Tetyana Rubanets*, Svitlana Kiyko* and Yuriy Kiyko*

Models of conversion in Modern English

Abstract: The article under studies deals with the issue of the conversives structure and semantic characteristics in the models *noun – verb, verb – noun, noun – adjective* and *adjective – noun*. It consists of four stages. The first stage regards the main approaches to the phenomenon of conversion in line with system-structural, communicative-functional and cognitive paradigms, as well as elaborates the definitions, used in the work. The purpose of the second stage is to form the research material. By a continuous sample of three academic dictionaries *New Webster's Dictionary of the English Language* (2009. 5th ed. London: Pearson education), *Macmillian English Dictionary* (2006. In M. Rundell (ed.), *For advanced learners*. London: Palgrave Macmillan) and *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (2009. 5th ed. London: Pearson education), a total amount of 18,263 conversives was written out. To avoid repeating the conversives given in the dictionaries, we have developed a sample, in which every conversion pair occurred once. The total number of the studied conversives is 10,140 tokens, grouped into 5,070 conversion pairs. The third stage highlights the structural and semantic features of conversives in modern English. It describes the peculiarities of parts of speech and semantic transitions, as well as determines the conversives structural models and their modifications. In order to establish regular semantic changes, the conversion semantic models are singled out, quantitative characteristics of each model are established and the most productive transitions from the generative to the derivative are described. At the final stage, the results of the work are summarized and the prospects for further research are outlined. The obtained results will enrich the theory of nomination with the new systematized material of conversives, which are an integral part of natural languages, and the analysis of English language conversives will supplement the theoretical and methodological basis for further study of the phenomenon of conversion in other languages.

*Corresponding authors: Tetyana Rubanets, Svitlana Kiyko and Yuriy Kiyko, Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, 58012 Chernivtsi, Ukraine, E-mail: t.rubanets@chnu.edu.ua (T. Rubanets), s.kiyko@chnu.edu.ua (S. Kiyko), y.kiyko@chnu.edu.ua (Y. Kiyko). https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3217-0330 (T. Rubanets), https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4964-7043 (S. Kiyko), https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2251-2811 (Y. Kiyko)

1 Introduction

English as a language of analytical system has a great creative power for the development of such a linguistic phenomenon as conversion, which is highly productive and yet typical for this languistic way of word formation. The phenomenon of conversion has been in the spotlight of linguists for centuries. At the end of the eighteenth century, grammarians Greenwood (1968 [1753]), Ward (1967 [1758]), Buchanan (1968 [1762]), Hazlitt (1810) dwelt on the transition of parts of speech from one category to another. Later, in the late nineteenth century, linguists Morris (1875), Bain (1880), Sweet (1891) referred to this phenomenon as the use of the same word as different parts of speech. Kruisinga (1953), Bradley (1904) interpreted conversion as the transition of a word from one part of speech to another or as the use of the same word in the functions of different parts of speech. Bloomfield (1984), Marchand (1967), Ufimtseva (1968), Balteiro (2007) presented the phenomenon of conversion in English as an act of word formation, since the word, in their opinion, cannot belong to several parts of speech at once. Smirnitskiy (1957), Ivanova (2014) considered conversion as a morphological method of word formation, Kiyko (2014) perceived conversion as a morphological-syntactic method of word formation.

Despite the fact that the interpretation of conversion as a way of a zero-morpheme word formation has become quite widespread in linguistics, this theory is subject to significant criticism. The essence of conversion is not to broaden or narrow the basis, but to rethink it. In the framework of transposition theory, we regard the interpretation of conversion as a morphological transposition with a word-forming character. However, conversion can also be understood as a way to form a new unit of another part of speech without any formally expressed means, accompanied by a paradigm shift and syntactic compatibility, and consequently - by the acquisition of new categorical meanings that overlap with the semantic meaning of the original (formative) word.

We admit that the issue of the boundaries of conversion is debatable, as well as suppose that the process of conversion may involve words of both variable and invariable parts of speech, abbreviations, phraseological units and even whole sentences. The phenomenon of conversion affects any part of speech and one of its implementation prerequisite is the formation of a new word of another part of speech. Therefore, conversion is not possible within one part of speech.

Another controversial issue is the relationship between affixless word formation and conversion: some researchers consider them as different word-formation methods and emphasize the duration of affixless word formation process and the spontaneity of the act of conversion (Kharitonchik 1992: 16); others believe that conversion is one of the types of non-affixed word formation (Kubryakova 2004: 90; Martsa 2013). In this paper, we follow the second approach and admit that in the case of affixless word formation, several types of word-forming correlations can be distinguished. However, only one of them, the one marked with indistinct categorical (part of speech) affiliation of its components, is conversion. The semantics of a converted noun, adjective or verb is more complex and diverse than the semantics of the original (formative) nonderived word because it consists of two components: the meaning of the original (formative) word and the new meaning that constitutes the category meaning of the noun, adjective or verb as part of speech.

The study of word-forming processes in the framework of cognitive science expands the boundaries of the conversion study. Analysis of conversives as units with the double reference qualities – to the world of reality and to the world of words - allows linguists to interpret derived words more widely. Interpreting the conversion from a cognitive point of view, linguists point out that substantivization emphasizes the transition of verbs to the actant zone, and verbalization - the transition of nouns to the event-procedural (Talmy 1987: 88-92). Analysis of conversion in the framework of cognitive onomasiology on the basis of the stages of P. Stekauer's nomination (Štekauer 1999) allows to reveal its main distinctive features at each of the levels, such as: at the conceptual level - the required parts of speech re-categorization; semantically – the diversity of semantic processes that occur during conversion; at onomasiological level, it is impossible to single out onomasiological basis and sign in a derived word in conversion, whereas onomasiological connection defines logical-semantic connections between concept-source and concept-goal; at the morphological level - the coincidence of the initial form of the formative and converted derivative words. Other distinctive features that follow from the above are the similarity of the processes of increasing polysemy and conversion, high contextual stipulation (Kiyko and Rubanets 2020: 229-230).

Summarizing all the above, we are sure that conversion should be studied in the synthesis of its semantic, morphological, syntactic, as well as cognitive and discourse characteristics. Undoubtedly, only a multifaceted approach to the study of the phenomenon of conversion can give a clear idea of the linguistic nature of the phenomenon under study. However, linguists mostly study conversion on the basis of some of the most vivid examples. The analysis of quantitative and qualitative features of conversion in English on the basis end-to-end selection of

conversives from lexical sources has not been conducted so far. Thus, the relevance of the study has been stipulated by the general focus of modern linguistic research on the study of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors of language development, by the growing efficiency of conversion forms in English, by the lack of lexical, grammatical and semantic analysis of conversives and detection of shifts in the meaning of conversives in the process of their formation according to different models.

The objective of the study is to perform a systemic description of the structural and semantic parameters of conversives in modern English, which involves solving a number of basic theoretical and practical problems:

1) to study the theoretical and methodological basis of conversion description and different approaches to its interpretation;
2) to describe quantitatively the transposition in English on the basis of the through selection of conversives and classify formative and derived nouns, adjectives and verbs into lexical and semantic groups;
3) to determine the efficiency of semantic models of conversion in the structural models *noun ∕ verb, verb ∕ noun, noun ∕ adjective* and *adjective ∕ noun* and describe the semantic shifts that occur in conversives.

The object of the study is the structural and semantic peculiarities of conversives in the system of modern English language.

2 Material and methods

The source base for the study is the *New Webster`s Dictionary (2001)*, *Macmillan English Dictionary* (2006) and *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2009)*. In general, 18,263 conversives of structural models *noun ∕ verb, verb ∕ noun, noun ∕ adjective, adjective ∕ noun* have been written out by a continuous sample method from these dictionaries. To avoid repeating the pairs of conversives from the three dictionaries, there has been compiled a register, in which each pair occurred once. The actual material of the study forms a body of 10,140 lexemes, combined into 5,070 pairs of conversives.

The following methods have been selected for the analysis and description of conversives: analysis of vocabulary definitions, componental, word-forming, structural-formal and semantic-cognitive analyses. Componental analysis made it possible to divide the semantic structure of formative and derived words into minimal meaningfull units and to divide on their basis all the studied nouns, adjectives and verbs into lexical-semantic groups. The analysis of vocabulary

definitions made it possible to compare the denotative meanings of formative and derived words and to establish differences in the semantics of conversives.

The study of English conversives was carried out in three stages. At the first stage the material under study is formed. The purpose of the second stage was to analyze the structural-semantic features of conversives in modern English. It regards the part-of-speech linguistic affiliation of conversives, as well as describes their semantics as formative and derived words. The third stage describes the peculiarities of semantic transitions and determines structural models of conversives and their modifications. The main focus is on the semantics of formatives and derivatives in convertible pairs. For this purpose, the studied nouns, adjectives and verbs are divided into lexical-semantic groups (LSG) according to the classifications of Kiyko (2014: 114-145) - a total of 34 LSG of nouns, 30 LSG of adjectives and 35 LSG of verbs. The number of formative and derived words is calculated in each LSG. In order to define regular semantic changes in the formation of conversives, semantic models of conversion are singled out in the structural models *noun / verb, verb / noun, noun / adjective* and *adjective ⁄ noun*, quantitative characteristics of each model are identified and the most efficient semantic transitions from the formative to the derived word are described.

3 Results and discussion

Studies of the structural parameters of conversion lexical units at the morphological level indicate that words of different parts of speech may be in conversion relationships. The noun occurs most often in our sample (8,277 lexical units), then follows the verb (7,774 lexemes). The adjective (2,212 lexemes) is the least represented.

All the studied conversives are divided into lexical-semantic groups. The number of formative and derived words is calculated in each LSG. We carry out the semantic division of conversives, taking into account their relative nature, i.e. first we make a division according to the semantics of formative words, then derivatives, and calculate the occurrence of formative and derived nouns in each of the lexical-semantic groups separately.

The semantic classification of words in the pairs of conversives shows that among the nouns, from which adjectives and verbs are formed by the method of conversion, the marking of social groups of people (317 lexemes), such as: *a barber* (n) - *barber* (adj) dominates. The second position is occupied by nouns that denote artificial things and substances (232 lexemes): *a glass* (n) - *glass* (adj), people and their groups (209 lexemes): *a family* (n) - *family* (adj). The smallest number of

nouns belongs to the LSG of "Spatial Objects" (33 lexemes), such as: *a yard* (n) - *yard* (adj), "Abstractions" (33 lexemess): *a model* (n) – *model* (adj), "Collective symbols of the inanimate" (36 lexemes): *a herbarium* (n) - *herbarium* (adj). All the other groups occupy an intermediate position (see Table 1).

The semantic division of derived nouns indicates that they are dominated by the symbols of processes (149 lexemes), such as: *to carry* (v) - *a carry* (n), states (133 lexemes): *burning* (adj) - *a burning* (n) and actions (116 lexemes): *corrective* (adj) - *corrective* (n). The smallest number of nouns-conversives is included in the LSG of "Measure" (9 lexemes): *whole* (adj) - *a whole* (n), "Symbols" (9 lexemes): *screaming* (adj) - *a screaming* (n) and "Form" (18 lexemes): *round* (adj) - *a round* (n).

Of the largest number of formative adjectives in the pairs of conversives are qualitative adjectives (751 lexemes), among which evaluative adjectives (182 lexemes), such as: *matey* (adj) - *matey* (n) predominate. To the next group belong adjectives that denote physical characteristics (77 lexemes): *stout* (adj) – *stout* (n) and psychophysical constitution (76 lexemes): *spiritual* (adj) – *spiritual* (n). Adjectives to denote age (14 lexemess): *juvenile* (adj) - *juvenile* (n) and social status (17 tokens): *civil* (adj) – *civil* (n) are the most rare.

Relative formative adjectives (385 examples) name a feature not directly, but by its connections, relations with various objects, signs and actions. The symbols of cultural and social realities (87 lexemes): *social* (adj) - *social* (n), materials (82 lexemess): *woolen* (adj) - *woolen* (n), science and technology (53 lexemess): *progressive* (adj) - *progressive* (n) dominate among them. Adjectives that denote countries and nationalities are infrequent (10 adjectives): *Ukrainian* (adj) – *Ukrainian* (n), as well as the origin adjectives (11 adjectives): *original* (adj) - *original* (n).

Reference adjectives are represented by 152 lexemess that denote local, modal and temporal relations, which are evenly distributed with a slight predominance of temporal adjectives (63 lexemes): *monthly* (adj) - *monthly* (n). The smallest number of formative adjectives is recorded among gradual adjectives (59 lexemes), with a significant predominance of adjectives that denote the completeness of a phenomenon or action (37 tokens): *partial* (adj) - *partial* (n). The ratio of different groups of adjectives which are formative words has been shifted towards qualitative adjectives (55.4% of the sample), which more than double the number of all other groups.

The number of derivative adjectives is 726 lexemes. Most conversives are represented by relative adjectives (432 lexemes), among which the most common are adjectives that denote materials (114 lexemes): *china* (n) - *china* (adj), science and technology (102 lexemess): *bumper* (n) - *bumper* (adj) and cultural and social realities (39 lexemes): *craft* (n) – *craft* (adj). Slightly smaller in volume are

Table 1: Semantic classification of formative and derived nouns.

Lexical-semantic groups	Number of formative nouns	Number of derived nouns	Examples
1. General marking of people and groups of people	209	85	*barbarian*,n – *barbarian*, adj
2. Social status of a person (profession, occupation, nationality, title, status, etc.)	317	83	*carpenter*, n – *carpenter*,v
. Human attributes (parts of body, clothes)	112	46	*hand*,n – *hand*, adj
4. Fauna (animals, parts of their bodies)	135	59	*whale*,n – *whale*, adj
5. Flora (plants, their components)	121	90	*cane*,n – *cane*,v
6. Nature (symbols of geographical and astronomical objects, physical phenomena)	86	87	*cliff*,n – *cliff*, adj
7. Time (symbols of time segments, days, seasons, periods of life)	107	41	*spring*,n – *spring*, adj
8. Objects, materials, phenomena of natural origin	84	57	*air*,n – *air*, adj
9. Artificial objects and substances	232	84	*cement*,n – *cement*,v
10. Mechanisms (devices, groups of mechanisms)	69	77	*blocking*,n – *blocking*, adj
11. Buildings, architectural structures	56	29	*church*,n – *church*,v
12. Spatial objects	33	82	*field*, n – *field*, v
13. Road (path, trajectory)	42	64	*track*, n – *track*, v
14. Condition of objects	45	133	*cold*,n – *cold*, adj
15. Food, drinks	75	83	*tea*,n „чай"– *tea*, adj
16. State (attributes of the state, state organizations, institutions, public services, documents)	52	54	*executive*,n – *executive*, adj
17. Geographical names of countries, localities, mountains and mountain ranges, rivers, lakes, seas and oceans	38	33	*North*,n – *north*,v
18. Terms, words from the professional activities of people	72	97	*aliment*,n – *aliment*,v
19. Art (attributes of art, art terminology, art works)	83	75	*music*,n – *music*,v
20. Actions (transformation, cases, circumstances, work)	110	116	*joining*,n – *joining*, adj
21. Modality (possibility, desirability, reality of the event)	44	58	*desire*,n – *desire*,v
22. Processes	101	149	*freezing*,n – *freezing*, adj

Table 1: (continued)

Lexical-semantic groups	Number of formative nouns	Number of derived nouns	Examples
23. Objectified characteristics of objects (features, quality, sort, color)	51	70	*hoar*,n – *hoar*, adj
24. Psyche (abstractions denoting mental phenomena, emotions, feelings and human behavior)	58	35	*good*,n – good, adj
25. Matter and space	34	31	*space*,n – space, v
26. Measure (quantity, cost, value, units)	53	9	*ounce*,n „унція"– *ounce*,v
27. Abstractions (to denote the role, meaning, example, principle, method, factor, etc.)	33	63	*medium*,n – *medium*, adj
28. Form (structure, its elements, parts of the whole)	72	18	*square*,n – *square*, adj
29. Symbols (symbols, signs, signals; scope, type, source of information and knowledge)	42	9	*blazon*,n – *blazon*,v
30. Language (speech, texts, literary genres and works)	57	93	*speech*,n – *speech*, adj
31. Organizations and social trends	53	44	*party*,n – *party*,v
32. Doctrine, worldview, religion	71	67	*worldview*,n – *worldview*, adj
33. Classes, sports, crafts, games	50	98	*football*,n – *football*, adj
34. Collective marking of the inanimate	36	38	*herbarium*,n – *herbarium*, adj
Total	2,81☐	2,2☐7	

qualitative derived adjectives (205 lexemes), among which weather symbols (36 lexemess): *rainfall* (n) - *rainfall* (adj), feelings (25 lexemes): *calm* (n) - *calm* (adj) and evaluative adjectives (24 lexemes): *dainty* (n) – *dainty* (adj) predominate. Reference and gradual adjectives contain a small number of lexemes that denote local relations (33 lexemes): *midland* (n) – *midland* (adj), completeness of phenomenon or action (20 tokens): *maximum* (n) – *maximum* (adj) and temporal relations (19 lexemes): *weekday* (n) – *weekday* (adj) (see Table 2).

For the semantic classification of formative and derivative verbs, 35 LSG of verbs have been singled out on the basis of the semantic classification of Kiyko (2014: 132-148). Among the formative verbs, from which nouns are formed by the method of conversion, verbs of physical influence on the object (143 lexemes), such as: *hit* (v) – *hit* (n) predominate. The following are the verbs that denote active movement (232 lexemes): *fly* (v) – *fly* (n) and the verbs that denote causation of object changing (50 lexemes): *break* (v) – *break* (n). The smallest number of formative verbs belongs to LSG "Possession and belonging" (4 lexemes), "Animal Sounding" (6 lexemes), "Phase Verbs" (7 lexemes) and "Modal verbs" (8 lexemes). The semantic classification of derived verbs differs insignificantly from the corresponding division of formative verbs. The verbs of physical processing (198 lexemes): *salt* (n) - *salt* (v), concrete process (134 lexemes): *ballast* (n) - *ballast* (v) prevail here. There are also numerous verbs that denote causation of object changing (132 lexemes): *powder* (n) - *powder* (v), physical influence on the object (103 lexemes): *balloon* (n) - *balloon* (v). The smallest number of verbs-conversives belong to the LSG "Modal Verbs" (7 lexemes): *will* (n) – *will* (v), "Animal Communication" (13 lexemes): *moo* (n) - *moo* (v) and "Possession and belonging" (17 lexemes): *rent* (n) - *rent* (v). In the verb-forming process of nouns-non-beings, we observe the following scheme of semantic changes: the subject-meaning semas recede into the background, the sema "to act by the object" is added to them and just this becomes the basis of new meaning. Verbs converted of nouns-beings are formed according to the same schemes: weakening of the sema "person" and adding the sema "to act as a certain person", for example, *to butterfly* (see Table 3). This proves that during the conversives formation the meaning of the concept is enriched.

In modern English, the structural model "noun / verb" is most common (2,087 pairs of conversives), followed by the models "adjective / noun" (1,355 pairs), "noun / verb" (902 pairs) and "noun / adjective" (726 pairs).

In determining the conversion models, the following criteria were used: 1) the order of conversives in dictionaries (as a rule, derived words are given after the formative); 2) the criterion of frequency of use (a lower frequency of use of a conversive indicates its origin; the frequency of use is determined on the data basis of the English electronic frequency dictionary Word Frequency Data); 3) the

Table 2: Semantic classification of adjectives in pairs of conversives.

Lexical-semantic groups of adjectives	Creative adjectives (Adj ╱ N)	Derivative adjectives (N ╱ Adj)	Examples
Qualitative adjectives			
Color and lighting	53	12	*radiant,* adj – *radiant,*n
Shape and size	47	11	*spiral*, adj – *spiral*,n
Age	14	8	*juvenile*, adj – *juvenile*,n
Sounding	26	5	*loud*, adj – *loud*,n
Physical characteristics	77	13	*stout*, adj – *stout*,n
Evaluative adjectives	182	24	*matey*, adj – *matey*,n
Social status	17	12	*civil*, adj – *civil*,n
Weather	27	36	*overcast*, adj – *over cast*,n
Taste, smell	42	10	*sour*, adj – *sour*,n
Mental perception	64	14	*raving*, adj – *raving*,n
Psychophysical constitution	76	18	*spiritual*, adj – *spiritual*,n
Physical perception	53	9	*cold*, adj – *cold*,n
Feelings	40	25	*upset*, adj – *up set*,n
Defective adjectives	33	8	*deaf*, adj – *deaf*,n
The total number of qualitative adjectives	751	205	956
Relative adjectives			
Belonging and gender	24	13	*female*, adj – *female*,n
Residence	23	36	*rural*, adj – *rural*,n
Lifestyle	34	19	*homeless*, adj – *homeless*,n
Religion and ideology	41	23	*Christian*, adj – *Christian*,n
Cultural and social realities	87	49	*social*, adj – *social*,n
Science and technology	53	102	*modern*, adj – *modern*,n
Materials. stuff	82	114	*woolen*, adj – *woolen*,n
Countries and nationalities	10	18	*Ukrainian*, adj – *Ukrainian*,n
Origin	11	23	*original*, adj – *original*,n
Professions and professional qualities	20	35	*firm*, adj – fi*rm*,n
The total number of relative adjectives	385	432	817
Gradual adjectives			
Grade	14	2	*undersized*, adj – *undersized*,n
Completeness of the phenomenon or action	37	20	*partial*, adj – *partial*,n
Intensifiers	8	6	*pretty*, adj – *pretty*,n
The total number of gradual adjectives	59	28	87
Reference adjectives			
Temporal	63	19	*monthly*, adj – *monthly*,n
Local	47	33	*local*, adj – *local*,n
Modal	42	9	*usual*, adj – *usual*,n
The total number of reference adjectives	1□2	61	21□
The total number of adjectives	1,□□□	726	2081

Table 3: Semantic classification of verbs in pairs of conversives.

Lexical-semantic groups of verbs	Formative verbs (V ╱ N)	Derivative verbs (N ╱ V)	Examples
Verbs of the action			
Causation of movement	28	48	*cast*,v – *cast*,n
Active movement	61	87	*jump*,v – *jump*,n
Passive movement	31	33	*leak*,v – *leak*,n
Unrelated action	47	69	*make*,v – *make*,n
Correlated action	5	46	*support*,v – *support*,n
Sounding	12	23	*sound*,v – *sound*,n
Human communication	19	33	*talk*,v – *talk*,n
Animal sounding	6	13	*mew*,v – *mew*,n
Behavior	15	76	*lounge*,v – *lounge*,n
Achieving the goal	9	24	*gain*,v – *gain*,n
Processing of the object with the use of tools	27	65	*scrape*,v – *scrape*,n
Processing of the object with the use of material	32	47	*varnish*,v – *varnish*,n
Physical processing (treatment)	46	198	*wash*,v – *wash*,n
Intellectual influence	45	63	*attest*,v – *attest*,n
Physiological actions	18	46	*drink*,v – *drink*,n
Transfer and receipt (obtaining)	11	18	*give*,v – *give*,n
Causation of an object change	50	132	*crush*,v – *crush*,n
Physical influence on the object	143	103	*rub*,v – *rub*,n
Causation of the state	20	34	*put*,v – *put*,n
Abstract action	11	95	*support*,v – *support*,n
Moral influence	31	72	*demand*,v – *demand*,n
Sensory perception	12	43	*look*,v – *look*,n
Feelings	19	78	*boil*,v – *boil*,n
Mental activity	33	36	*guess*,v – *guess*,n
Modal verbs			
Modal verbs	8	7	*need*,v – *need*,n
Verbs of the state			
Organic being (existence)	9	47	*live*,n – *live*,v
Inorganic being (existence)	13	65	*shimmer*,v – *shimmer*,n
Location	22	73	*stand*,v – *stand*,n
Possession and ownership	4	17	*keep*,v – *keep*,n
Conformity	27	31	*link*,v – *link*,n
Temporary condition	16	54	*boil*,v – *boil*,n
Qualitative characteristics	10	66	*crease*,v – *crease*,n
Verbs of the process			
General process	29	68	*change*,v – *change*,n
Specific process	26	134	*hoar*,v – *hoar*,n
Phase verbs	7	41	*last*,v – *last*,n
Total	☐02	2087 2081	

criterion of synonymy (based on the comparison of a pair of words formed by conversion with a similar synonymous pair of words); 4) the criterion of semantic derivation (based on semantic derivation within a pair of words formed by conversion). We divided 5,070 examples of examples into 24 models of conversion, presented in Table 4, where the following abbreviations are used: *n* ‒ noun, *adj* - adjective, *v* - verb, *pron* - pronoun, *adv* - adverb, *conj* - conjunction, *prep* - preposition, *part* ‒ particle, *art* ‒ article, *and int* ‒ interjection (see Table 4).

According to Table 4, the selected conversives are classified by 24 models, which represent the existing relationships between different lexical and grammatical classes in English. Five of these models cover 98.5% of all conversives (5,034 examples). They are:

1) noun/verb: *an arm* (n) / *to arm* (v); *a book* (n) / *to book* (v);
2) adjective/noun: *annual* (a) / *an annual* (n); *comic* (a) / *a comic* (n);
3) verb/noun: *to buy* (v) / *a buy* (n); *to change* (v) / *a change* (n);
4) noun/adjective: *a key* (n) / *key* (adj); *a leather* (n) / *leather* (adj);
5) noun/verb/adjective: *a dust* (n) / *to dust* (v) / *dust* (adj).

They can be regarded as the core of conversion in English. All of them are represented by variable full-meaning parts of speech - noun, adjective and verb. As can be seen from the above examples, conversion relations within these parts of speech can occur not only between two components, i.e. there are series of three or more words which are related by derivation. Thus, in our sample we can distinguish series of 3-6 components, taking into account the conversion of transitive and intransitive verbs and vice versa, such as:

Table 4: Models of conversion in English.

№	Model	Number	№	Model	Number
1	*n/v*	1,916	13	*n/v/adv/int*	1
2	*adj/n*	1,355	14	*n/v/adj/adv/prep*	1
3	*v/n*	902	15	*n/v/prep*	1
4	*n/adj*	579	16	*n/v/adv/prep*	1
5	*n/v/adj*	282	17	*n/prep*	1
6	*n/v/int*	6	18	*n/v/adv/prep/conj/pron*	1
7	*n/int*	5	19	*n/adv/conj/pron*	1
8	*n/v/adj/adv*	4	20	*n/prep/art*	1
9	*n/v/adv*	3	21	*v/adv*	1
10	*n/adj/adv*	3	22	*v/adv/prep*	1
11	*v/adj*	2	23	*adj/adv*	1

1) three-component conversion according to the model "transitive verb / intransitive verb ╱ noun": *to mistake* "misunderstand" – *to mistake* "to make a mistake"- *a mistake* "mistake";

2) four-component conversion according to the model "transitive verb / intransitive verb / adjective / noun": *to trim* "to put in order"- *to trim* "adapt"- *trim* "neat"- *a trim* "order, decoration" etc.

The remaining 36 models cover only 1% of conversives and are represented by both variable full-meaning parts of speech (adjective/verb) and combinations of variable and invariable full-meaning parts of speech, such as:

1) adjective - adverb - noun - transitive verb - intransitive verb: *right* "straight"- *right* "directly"- *a right* "a free will"- *to right* "to correct, to protect rights, to even"- *to right* "to correct, to rehabilitate oneself";

2) adjective - noun - adverb - preposition - transitive verb - intransitive verb: *round* "circular" - *a round* "a circle, a ball, a ring" - *round* "around, all, whole"- *round* "around, around, on"- *to round* "to round, to complete"- *to round* "to express in round numbers".

The analysis of English conversion showed that the transposition is a subject to nine lexico-grammatical classes, singled out by the accepted classification: noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, conjunction, preposition, exclamation, article (see Table 5).

As can be seen from Table 5, noun is transpositionally connected with seven lexico-grammatical classes and has a wide range of transpositional possibilities: noun in English is far beyond the subject-meaning limits. This suggests that transposition as a cognitive phenomenon reflects a person's ability to establish simple causal relationships in the world, such as:

1) the activity is closely related to the tool with which it is carried out: *a hammer* ╱ *to hammer*, *a spade* ╱ *to spade*, *a knife* ╱ *to knife*;

2) human behavior resembles the corresponding actions of animals: *a fox* / *to fox*, *an ape* ╱ *to ape*; *a cock* ╱ *to cock*; *a dog* ╱ *to dog*;

3) the phenomena of the spiritual, emotional and physiological spheres cause the corresponding states: *a fear* – *to fear*, *a hunger* – *to hunger*.

At the same time, it was important to compare the old experience with the new, the known with the unknown, and thus to satisfy the need for new meanings by relating them to the existing ones. In addition, the convertible activity of nouns is caused by the desire of speakers to fold parts of information into more compact structures, as well as to distribute the flow of information in the text. Langacker (1987: 98) notes in this regard that lexical units such as English *an explosion* and

Table 5: Combinations of lexico-grammatical classes in models of conversion of the English language.

	Noun	Adjective	Verb	Adverb	Pronoun	Preposition	Conjunction	Interjection	Article
Noun	−								
Adjective	+	−							
Verb	+	+	−						
Adverb	+	+	+	−					
Pronoun	+	-	+	+	−				
Preposition	+	+	+	+	+	−			
Conjunction	+	+	+	+	+	+	−		
Interjection	+	+	+	−	−	−	−	−	
Article	−	−	−	−	+	−	+	−	−

explode can describe the same situation, cf. *something exploded* "something exploded" and "an explosion was heard". However, it is the semantics that contrasts here, because the same scene is presented differently in the minds of the speakers. Thus, the use of the noun leads to the representation of this scene as a single (one-moment) object of perception: *an explosion* is something limited, it corresponds to a separate (specific) state of the whole action (*explode*). The use of the verb makes you imagine everything that happens as something lasting or as a certain time event. Images activated by various language forms differ, so their meanings differ too.

Let us take a closer look at the most common models of conversion (see Figure 1).

I. Model "noun - verb" (N / V). Let us analyze the process of conversion on the example of verbalization according to the model "noun - verb" and define the features of semantic changes in English verbalization. The sample material comprised 2087 examples of verbalization according to the model "N / V". Based on the analysis of the studied material, we have identified the following semantic models of verbalization in English:

1. The semantic model "time period ✎ to be somewhere in this time period", for example: *weekend* (n) / *to weekend* (v). This example shows that the verb *to weekend* is formed by conversion of the noun *a weekend* with the meaning "the end of the week, the days off" and means "to spend the weekend", i.e. describes an action that means being in the time period described by the first
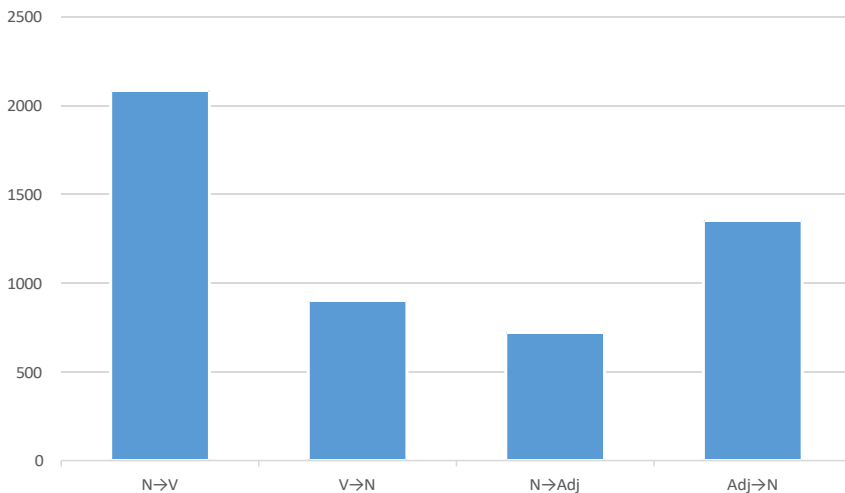

Figure 1: Models of conversation in Modern English: Quantitative characteristics.

meaning of the formative noun. Other meanings acquired in future independently, regardless of the formative noun meanings, are not identified.

A similar example is *winter* (n) / *to winter* (v). The verb *to winter* is converted from the noun *a winter* with the meaning "winter, year, old age, period of misfortune, disaster" and first acquires the meaning "to spend the winter", it means the action that occurs during the time specified by the first meaning of the formative noun. Later, in the process of independent functioning, the verb acquired an independent meaning of "to freeze", which does not coincide with any meaning of the formative noun.

The other examples of this semantic model are *fast* (n) ➚ *to fast* (v), *holiday* (n) / *to holiday* (v), *honeymoon* (n) / *to honeymoon* (v), *summer* (n) / *to summer* (v), *vocation* (n) ➚ *to vocation* (v) and so on.

2. The semantic model "animal names ➚ human behavior similar to the behavior of these animals", such as: *fox* (n) / *to fox* (v). This example shows that the verb *to fox*, converted of the noun *a fox* with the main meaning "fox, vixen", first acquires the meaning "to cheat, to deceive", which means human behavior similar to the behavior of an animal denoted by the formative noun. Later, the verb acquires an independent meaning "to fade, to mold", which does not correspond to the meanings of the derived verb and denotes a new phenomenon. It can be assumed that there is a reverse conversion of the verb to the noun denoting a person who behaves like a fox, that is, the noun acquires the meaning "cunning person".

A similar semantic connection is observed in a pair of conversives *wolf* (n) ➚ *to wolf* (v). This example shows that the verb *to wolf* is converted from the noun *a wolf* with the basic meaning "wolf" and acquires the meaning "to devour, to chew up with thirst, without satiety", it means a person's way of eating food similar to the manner of this animal. This verb has also acquired the meaning "to live lewdly", associated with the second meaning of the noun "womanizer, lecher, suitor", and now denotes human behavior, named by a formative noun. Other meanings not related to the meanings of the formative noun are not recorded.

Some more examples of this semantic model are *ape* (n) / *to ape* (v), *cock* (n) ➚ *to cock* (v), *dog* (n) ➚ *to dog* (v), *monkey* (n) ➚ *to monkey* (v), *peacock* (n) / *to peacock* (v), *snake* (n) / *to snake* (v), *tomcat* (n) / *to tomcat* (v) and others.

3. The semantic model "tools ➚ actions performed with them", such as: *hammer* (n) / *to hammer* (v). The example shows that the verb *to hammer,* which is converted from the noun *a hammer* with the main meaning "a hammer, a sledgehammer, a gavel", acquires the meaning of "to beat, to nail, to strike, to forge, to mint", that is, it denotes the action for which just the formative noun is intended as a tool or means. In the process of further independent functioning in

speech, the verb acquires the meaning of "to make noise, to thunder, to buzz", that is, it denotes the actions of physical objects or parts of mechanisms.

A similar semantic development is observed in the conversives *nail* (n) ╱ *to nail* (v). Derived verb denotes an action for which the noun is intended as a tool or means, while the verb includes in its meaning the artifact by means of which the action takes place: *nails* can be driven *with a hammer*. In the process of independent functioning in speech, the verb acquires another meaning: "to attract attention", which reflects the typical functions of the formative noun; "to chain", and "to discredit", which is not related to any meaning of the formative noun.

Some more examples of this semantic model are *poker* (n) / *to poker* (v), *spade* (n) / *to spade* (v), *bat* (n) / *to bat* (v), *knife* (n) / *to knife* (v), *axe* (n) / *to axe* (v), *rivet* (n) / *to rivet* (v), *sandpaper* (n) / *to sandpaper* (v), *scythe* (n) / *to scythe* (v).

4. The semantic model of "place ╱ place in a similar (alike) place". For example: *bottle* (n) ╱ *to bottle* (v). This example shows that the verb *to bottle* is converted from the noun *a bottle* with the basic meaning "a bottle; a phial; a flask", acquires the meaning "to store in bottles, to pour into bottles" and means actions for which the formative noun is intended as a tool or means to place something. Then, in the process of independent functioning, the verb acquires the meaning of "catch at the crime scene, catch while doing the crime (on hot)", which is used in a colloquial language.

The semantics of conversives *pocket* (n) ╱ *to pocket* (v) changes in a similar way. This example shows that the verb *to pocket* is converted from the noun *a pocket* with the meanings "pocket; pot", acquires the following meanings "to put in a pocket; to drive a ball into a pot", which denote the action for which the formative noun is intended as a means, that is "a pocket; a pot" are used to place an object in them. In the process of independent functioning, the verb acquires other meanings "to calm emotions; to endure something patiently; to limit freedom; to form cavities and swellings", which do not coincide with any meaning of the derived noun.

This semantic model can also include the conversives like: *corner* (n) / *corner* (v), *floor* (n) / *to floor* (v), *plate* (n) / *to plate* (v), *prison* (n) / *to prison* (v), *can* (n) ╱ *to can* (v), *house* (n) ╱ *to house* (v).

5. Semantic model "result ╱ actions leading to the result" such as: *league* (n) / *to league* (v). The verb *to league* denotes the action required to achieve the result named by the formative noun. Other meanings not related to the meanings of the noun are not recorded.

The conversives *match* (n) - *to match* (v), *patch* (n) - *to patch* (v) can also be included to this semantic model.

6. Semantic model "person ∕ action characteristic to this person", such as: *cook* (n) - *to cook* (v). The verb *to cook* denotes an action characteristic to a formative noun. In the future, the verb acquires independent meanings, "to be exposed to sunlight" and "to create something", which do not correspond to any meaning of the formative noun.

A similar semantic development is observed in the conversives *witness* (n) - *to witness* (v). The verb *to witness* denotes the manifestation, disclosure of a characteristic or class-forming feature of a formative noun. In the process of independent functioning, the verb acquires the meaning of "being a place or time", not similar to any meaning of the formative noun.

This semantic model can also include conversives *judge* (n) - *to judge* (v), *father* (n) - *to father* (v).

7. Semantic model "phenomena of the spiritual, emotional and physiological spheres / to cognize (experience) these phenomena", such as: *fear* (n) – *to fear* (v). The verb *to fear* means "to cognize (experience, expose) the phenomenon named by the formative noun." Other meanings not related to the meanings of the formative noun are not recorded.

The similar semantic transitions are noted for conversives *hunger* (n) – *to hunger* (v), *wonder* (n) – *to wonder* (v), *scare* (n) – *to scare* (v) etc.

The analysis of the above examples of the verbs converted from nouns allows us to identify basic models of lexical conversion, which demonstrate regular semantic changes. These include the following models: time period ∕ being somewhere in this time period; names of animals / human behavior similar to the behavior of these animals; tools ∕ actions performed with them; place ∕ to place in a similar (alike) place; result ∕ actions that lead to the result; person ∕ action characteristic of this person; phenomena of the spiritual, emotional and physiological spheres / to cognize (experience) these phenomena. In general, it is possible to conclude that all models of lexical conversion N ∕ V are somehow united around the idea of implementation: the most common direction of the conversion of this type aims to represent actions that show a certain characteristic feature (property, quality, function) of the formative nouns.

Now, let us try to explain the difference in the semantics of initial and derived words in the above models. Thus, the representative of cognitive linguistics L. Talmy (1987: 88-92) notes that the units that exist in space - both discrete and non-discrete (substances) - are mainly actions and events. Conversion is such an action that provides a link between them. As a result, the action or event denoted by the verb can be reinterpreted by nominalizing them. Such cognitive rethinking is referred to as reification (objectification). With the help of the specified cognitive operation, the procedural referent is conceptualized as an object or substance, matter, mass, etc., while it is involved in the activity as its participant (see Table 6).

Table 6: Examples of reification.

Events	Reification in the form of objects
John called me	*John gave me a call* (cf. *John's call*)
"John phoned me"	
Actions	Reification in the form of mass
John helped me	*John gave me some help*
"John assisted me"	"John helped me"

The reverse process, i.e. verbalization, is also possible, when the object becomes an "internal actant" of the action, such as English *I pitted the cherry* from English *pit* "cherry stone" (Talmy 1987: 92).

This interpretation of conversion in line with the cognitive approach differs a little from its traditional understanding (cf. Kiyko 2014: 359), but the main attention is paid to the transition to the actant zone in nominalization and to the procedural zone in verbalization. In other words, this interpretation brings us back to the understanding that "the whole nominative space of nouns is the cognition of objects and substances as participants in certain activities, while the space of verbal vocabulary is a space that belongs to the situations space and events or actions" (Kubryakova and Gureyev 2002: 33).

II. Model "verb ∕ noun" (V ∕ N). Converted may be not only verbs from nouns, that is, verbalization of nouns (N / V), but also nouns from verbs, that is nominalization of verbs (V / N). The study was based on 902 pairs of conversives, formed by the model V / N. If the lexico-semantic content was combined with subject-meaning, then after the conversion, the verb acquired the features of the noun. In the examples we have studied the verb usually indicates the performance of a certain action, and the converted noun can mean:

1) moment of action: *break* (n); *glimpse* (n);
2) person performing the action: *bore* (n); *cheat* (n);
3) place of action: *walk* (n); *stop* (n);
4) state or process: *nap* (n); *jog* (n);
5) result of action: *peel* (n); *wash* (n).

The study was based on the analysis of the conversion model V / N. The following semantic models of nouns converted from verbs are identified as well:

1. Semantic model "random, one-moment action – one-time action", when the noun means the moment of action or random manifestation of what is transmitted by the formative (original) verb: *jump* (v) - *jump* (n), *cry* (v) - *cry* (n), *glance* (v) - *glance* (n), *hug* (v) - *hug* (n), *move* (v) - *move* (n), *snap* (v) - *snap* (n).

2. Semantic model "action aimed at the result – the result of the action", when the derived noun indicates the result of the action, which is transmitted by the formative basis of the verb: *find* (v) - *find* (n), *peel* (v) - *peel* (n), *purchase* (v) - *purchase* (n), *tear* (v) - *tear* (n), *swell* (v) - *swell* (n).
3. Semantic model "state – state marking". Verbs of state express the state (condition) of people, animals and phenomena of the world, which lasts for some time, whereas verbal nouns describe the state of people, animals and objective phenomena of reality as its carriers, such as: *hiccup* (v) - *hiccup* (n), *sleep* (v) – *sleep* (n), *nap* (v) – *nap* (n).
4. Semantic model "process – process marking", when process verbs express the process, the change that the subject undergoes and that change the state of the subject, pass into nouns that denote the process, such as: *jog* (v) – *jog* (n), *walk* (v) – *walk* (n), *contest* (v) -*contest* (n).
5. Semantic model "local verbs – nouns to indicate the place of action or location", when the derived noun names the place where the action takes place, such as: *stand* (v) - *stand* (n), *stop* (v) - *stop* (n), *drive* (v) - *drive* (n).
6. Semantic model "a certain performer, producer acting – producer of action", when the noun acquires the meaning of agency, such as: *bore* (v) - *bore* (n), *cheat* (v) - *cheat* (n), *tramp* (v) - *tramp* (n).

These examples show that the name of derived nouns reflects not only their genetic but also semantic feature, it means that nouns converted from verbs combine a part-of-speech substance identifier - subjectivity and categorical feature of formative verbs - action as an additional component of semantic structure, which complicates the meaning of the converted nouns and gives them unique semantics and, consequently, functional originality.

III. Model "noun ╱ adjective" (N ╱ Adj). Each word in a sentence refers to a specific part of speech. Parts of speech in English are a broader concept, as there are much wider transition zones between them, where the boundaries between parts of speech are not just blurred but erased. Often, nouns in English act as relative adjectives, they are sometimes called nouns-determinants, which in the sentence precede the noun to which they belong, such as: *football match*, *winter sports*, *home relations*. When forming an adjective from a noun, the semantic structure of the adjective changes significantly. The study singles out the following semantic models of transition of nouns into adjectives:

1. Semantic model "person (group of people) – anthroponymic characteristics": *male* (n) - *male* (adj), *female* (n) - *female* (adj), *man* (n) - *man* (adj), *group* (n) - *group* (adj), *gang* (n) - *gang* (adj).
2. Semantic model "social status of a person (profession, occupation, title, etc.) / status characteristics": *earl* (n) - *earl* (adj), *lord* (n) - *lord* (adj), *assistant* (n) - *assistant* (adj), *artisan* (n) - *artisan* (adj).

3. Semantic model "body parts, human clothing ╱ meronymic characteristics": *knuckle* (n) - *knuckle* (adj), *flesh* (n) - *flesh* (adj), *ankle* (n) - *ankle* (adj), *jacket* (n) - *jacket* (adj), *costume* (n) - *costume* (adj).

4. Semantic model "matter and space / substantial characteristics": *material* (n) - *material* (adj), *space* (n) - *space* (adj).

5. Semantic model "nature (natural phenomena, fauna and flora) ╱ naturalistic characteristics": *animal* (n) - *animal* (adj), *jaw* (n) - *jaw* (adj), *stem* (n) - *stem* (adj), *branch* (n) - *branch* (adj), *flood* (n) - *flood* (adj), *thunder* (n) - *thunder* (adj), *rainbow* (n) - *rainbow* (adj).

6. Semantic model "time / temporal characteristics": *morning* (n) - *morning* (adj), *hour* (n) - *hour* (adj), *age* (n) - age (adj), *era* (n) - *era* (adj), *season* (n) - *season* (adj), *childhood* (n) - *childhood* (adj).

7. Semantic model "objectified actions (processes) ╱ procedural characteristics": *conversion* (n) - *conversion* (adj), *circulation* (n) - *circulation* (adj).

8. Semantic model "geographical names / toponymic characteristics": *Pacific* (n) - *Pacific* (adj), *Carpathians* (n) - *Carpathian* (adj).

9. Semantic model "objects and materials of natural origin ╱ material characteristics": *clay* (n) - *clay* (adj), *sand* (n) - *sand* (adj), *stone* (n) - *stone* (adj), *oil* (n) - *oil* (adj).

10. Semantic model "mechanisms and devices ╱ belonging": *computer* (n) – *computer* (adj), *engine* (n) - *engine* (adj), *spring* (n) - *spring* (adj), *video* (n) - *video* (adj).

11. Semantic model "form and structure / spatial characteristics": *square* (n) - *square* (adj), *ball* (n) - *ball* (adj), *cathedral* (n) - *cathedral* (adj), *skyscraper* (n) - *skyscraper* (adj).

12. Semantic model "food (foodstuffs, beverages) / food characteristics": *food* (n) - *food* (adj), *meat* (n) - *meat* (adj), *milk* (n) - *milk* (adj), *cereal* (n) - *cereal* (adj).

13. Semantic model "state (organizations, services, institutions, social movements, government papers) ╱ legal characteristics": *charter* (n) – *charter* (adj), *cabinet* (n) - *cabinet* (adj), *trial* (n) - *trial* (adj).

14. Semantic model "doctrine, worldview, religion ╱ ontological characteristics": *Bible* (n) - *Bible* (adj), *Christian* (n) - *Christian* (adj), *saint* (n) - *saint* (adj), *worldview* (n) - *worldview* (adj), *doctrine* (n) - *doctrine* (adj).

15. Semantic model "human behavior (mental phenomena, emotions, feelings) ╱ psychophysical characteristics": *beast* (n) – *beast* (adj), *maniac* (n) - *maniac* (adj), *ideal* (n) - *ideal* (adj), *luxury* (n) - *luxury* (adj), *balm* (n) - *balm* (adj).

16. Semantic model "occupation, sport ╱ characteristics of physical activity": *jogging* (n) - *jogging* (adj), *boxing* (n) - *boxing* (adj), *racing* (n) - *racing* (adj), *swimming* (n) - *swimming* (adj).

17. Semantic model "measure, quantity, cost, value ╱ quantitative characteristics": *number* (n) - *number* (adj), *rate* (n) - *rate* (adj), *tariff* (n) - *tariff* (adj), *liter* (n) - *liter* (adj), *ounce* (n) - *ounce* (adj).

18. Semantic model "language, signs, symbols, markings / semiotic characteristics": *signal* (n) - *signal* (adj), *letter* (n) - *letter* (adj), *label* (n) - *label* (adj), *dialect* (n) - *dialect* (adj).

On the whole, adjectivation expresses the semantic transformation "object (subject, object or phenomenon) / its characteristic (feature, property, quality)". The process of adjectivization of nouns means that objectivity becomes a feature that characterizes the subject.

IV. Adjective – noun model (Adj ╱ N). Adjectival vocabulary forms a special layer of vocabulary, which is marked with its own categories that express the feature, property, quality, recorded in the act of nomination. Adjectives in English do not have categories of gender, number, endings or articles. The specifics of the syntactic behavior of adjectives is their ability to be converted into nouns.

Forming a noun from an adjective is a more complicated process than converting an adjective from a noun. This is due to significant changes in the semantic structure of the adjective: the meaning of quality is not easy to convert to the meaning of the subject. Adjectives in English have a wide range of associative potentials, on the basis of which various figurative meanings are formed. The process of transition of adjectives into nouns is traditionally called substantivization, i.e. adjectives accept the paradigm and syntactic functions of the noun. There are two types of substantivization: complete and partial. Fully substantivized adjectives take the paradigm of the noun, singular and plural forms. They can be associated with different determinants (definite, indefinite and zero articles, demonstrative and possessive pronouns), for example *an official, the official, official, official's, officials', this official, our official*. In the case of partial substantivization, adjectives do not accept the full noun paradigm.

Substantivization is interpreted in Akhmanova's (2020) *Dictionary of Linguistic Terms* as the process of transition to the category of nouns of another part of speech due to the acquired ability to indicate directly the subject, but not just by its feature. This is one of the types of morphological-syntactic word formation, in the course of which there occurs a change in the syntactic function and paradigm of the word. This change is accompanied by changes in the semantic nature. Semantic motivation is established on the basis of the relationship between the formative and derived word, covering all figurative and secondary meanings.

Taking into consideration all the above mentioned, the following semantic models of substantivization, based on the analysis of the studied material, are singled out in the paper:

1. Semantic model "adjectives that denote sensation, perception ╱ subject or object with appropriate psychophysical characteristics". Among the total number of adjectival units with rich semantics, a group of adjectives that denote sensations stands out. The high potential of this semantic category is explained by the fact that the concepts, which reflect sensations, are fundamental in the knowledge of the world, in the formation of ideas about the external properties of objects, their shape, color, size, such as:

   1.1. Visual sensations (color, brightness): *bright* (adj) - *bright* (n), *dark* (adj) - *dark* (n), *red* (adj) - *red* (n), *black* (adj) - *black* (n).

   1.2. Taste sensations: *acid* (adj) - *acid* (n), *sour* (adj) - *sour* (n), *sweet* (adj) - *sweet* (n).

   1.3. Sensation of touch: *dry* (adj) - *dry* (n), *soft* (adj) - *soft* (n), *wet* (adj) - wet (n).

   1.4. Temperature sensations: *warm* (adj) - *warm* (n), *cool* (adj) - *cool* (n), *hot* (adj) – *hot* (n).

2. Semantic model "characteristics of spatial relations ╱ objects denoting space, location, direction, distance, origin, shape, dimensions". Space is a fundamental concept of language and thinking, and despite the variability of this concept, a person uses it at all stages of historical development. The following lexical units that denote spatial relationships form the most of the adjectives with high semantic potential:

   2.1. Location: *external* (adj) - *external* (n), *domestic* (adj) - *domestic* (n), *foreign* (adj) - *foreign* (n).

   2.2. Direction, distance: *far* (adj) - *far* (n), *near* (adj) - *near* (n), *oblique* (adj) - *oblique* (n).

   2.3. Shape: *round* (adj) - *round* (n), *circular* (adj) - *circular* (n).

   2.4. Size: *narrow* (adj) - *narrow* (n), *wide* (adj) - wide (n), *portable* (adj) - *portable* (n).

   2.5. Origin: *original* (adj) - *original* (n).

   2.6. Boundary: *detached* (adj) - *detached* (n), *insulated* (adj) - *insulated* (n), *partitive* (adj) - *partitive* (n).

3. Semantic model "characteristics of temporal relations / subject or object with temporal characteristics".

   3.1. General temporal relations: *antique* (adj) - *antique* (n), *late* (adj) - *late* (n), *modern* (adj) - *modern* (n).

   3.2. Age: *junior* (adj) - *junior* (n), *aged* (adj) - *aged* (n), *young* (adj) - *young* (n).

   3.3. Speed, pace: *quick* (adj) - *quick* (n), *slow* (adj) - *slow* (n), *stormy* (adj) - *stormy* (n).

4. Semantic model "characteristics of a person / a person with these characteristics".
    4.1. Appearance: *handsome* (adj) - *handsome* (n), *curly* (adj) - *curly* (n), *bald* (adj) - *bald* (n), *dandy* (adj) - *dandy* (n), *vulgarian* (adj) - *vulgarian* (n).
    4.2. Character: *sympathetic* (adj) - *sympathetic* (n), *perverse* (adj) - *perverse* (n), *patient* (adj) - *patient* (n).
    4.3. Emotions: *glunch* (adj) - *glunch* (n), *happy* (adj) - *happy* (n).
    4.4. Health: *sick* (adj) - *sick* (n), *allergic* (adj) - *allergic* (n), *morbid* (adj) - *morbid* (n).
    4.5. Physical and physiological characteristics: *intellectual* (adj) - *intellectual* (n), *husky* (adj) - *husky* (n), *mute* (adj) - *mute* (n).
    4.6. Relationships among people: *bastard* (adj) - *bastard* (n), *associate* (adj) - *associate* (n), opponent (adj) - *opponent* (n), *criminal* (adj) - *criminal* (n).
5. Semantic model "characteristics (features) of the state of living beings / the state of living beings". Here are the following examples: *quiet* (adj) - *quiet* (n), *somnolent* (adj) - *somnolent* (n), *dead* (adj) - *dead* (n), *vital* (adj) - *vital* (n), *wild* (adj) - *wild* (n).
6. Semantic model "characteristics of things and general relations ╱ concepts and relations that denote the relevant features", such as: *right* (adj) - *right* (n), *wrong* (adj) - *wrong* (n).
7. Semantic model "signs of presence, equipment, fullness / the concepts that denote the corresponding features", such as: *empty* (adj) - *empty* (n), *full* (adj) - *full* (n), *fourfold* (adj) - *fourfold* (n).
8. Semantic model "characteristics of natural phenomena ╱ nature (fauna, flora), weather, season", such as: *blowing* (adj) - *blowing* (n), *fading* (adj) - *fading* (n), *grassing* (adj) - *grassing* (n), *green* (adj) - *green* (n), *yellowing* (adj) - *yellowing* (n), *wet* (adj) - *wet* (n).
9. Semantic model "characteristics of quantitative relations ╱ quantity (measures, units of measurement, cost, value) marking". The activity of this model is objectified by the nature of cognitive processes, the means of their explication in the linguistic picture of the world. The lexical-semantic field of quantity is inherent primarily in numerals. The loss of quantitative content of numerals, especially in English phraseological combinations, leads to their desemantization. Complete desemantization of numerals promotes the nomination of qualitative features. Semantic modifications of numerals in the context of phraseological environment include the transition from the abstract number to complete neutralization and obtaining quality-semas, typical for adjectives, such as: *dual* (adj) - *dual* (n), *centigrade* (adj) - *centigrade* (n), and so on. This semantic model also covers just the vocabulary of an

adjectival origin: *cheap* (adj) - *cheap* (n), *precious* (adj) - *precious* (n), *valuable* (adj) - *valuable* (n), *small* (adj) - *small* (n).

10. Semantic model "characteristics of social, institutional and religious relations ╱ designation of these relations or their bearers", such as: *orthodox* (adj) - *orthodox* (n), *political* (adj) - *political* (n), *social* (adj) - *social* (n).

Studying the semantic structure of adjectives, we have identified the feature that forms the basis of the nomination, that is, the core of the word structure. The vast majority of adjectives are specific, most of their main meanings describe certain aspects of the basic concepts of both everyday life and science.

In general, the results of the study of the main structural models of conversives do not cover all the issues, because the language is constantly enriched and undergoes certain changes. The implementation of these changes is determined by the factors related to its functioning. The volume of meanings of conversives (derived word), as a rule, is greater than the volume of the formative word. And this proves the efficiency and activity of the conversion at the present stage.

4 Conclusions

The structural studies of conversed lexical units at the morphological level indicates that words of different parts of speech may be in conversion relationships. Nouns occur most frequently in our sample (8,277 types), followed verbs (7,774 types). Adjectives (2,212 lexical units) are the least represented.

In modern English, the structural model *noun* / *verb* (2,087 pairs) is the most represented. This is followed by the decline of the model *adjective* / *noun* (1,355 pairs). Nouns formed of verbs according to the model V / N occurred in 902 cases. Adjectives converted from nouns are the most rare (726 examples). Conversion relationships can take place not only between two components, but also between more words, that is, there are series of two to six words which are in the derivative relations. As it is necessary in such cases each time to identify formative and derived word, we have reduced these examples to conversion pairs, the total number of which is 5,070 examples, combining 10,140 types (16% of all vocabulary in dictionaries).

The semantic classification of formative and derived words as components of conversion pairs is carried out and includes 34 LSG. The distribution showed that among the formative nouns of which adjectives and verbs are formed by conversion, the designations of social groups of people (317 types), artificial things and substances (232 types), people and their groups (209 types) dominate. The smallest

number of nouns belong to the LSG "Spatial objects" (33 types), "Abstractions" (33 types) and "Collective definitions of the inanimate" (36 types). The results of the semantic classification of the derived nouns is somewhat different: among the derived nouns, the definitions of processes (149 types), states (133 types) and actions (116 types) predominate. The smallest number of nouns-conversives belong to the LSG "Measure" (9 types), "Symbols" (9 types) and "Form" (18 types).

The semantic division of adjectives into qualitative, relative, reference and gradual has been fulfilled. Among the qualitative formative adjectives, evaluative adjectives (182 types) predominate, followed by adjectives denoting physical characteristics (77 types) and psychophysical constitution (76 types). Adjectives that denote age (14 types) and social status (17 types) were the least frequent in our sample. The relative formative adjectives are dominated by the definitions of cultural and social realities (87 types), materials (82 types), science and technology (53 types). Adjectives that denote countries and nationalities (10 adjectives) and origin (11 adjectives) are rare. Reference adjectives are represented by 152 lexical units to denote local, modal and temporal relations, which are evenly distributed with a slight predominance of temporal adjectives (63 types). The smallest number of formative adjectives is recorded among gradual adjectives (59 types), with a significant predominance of adjectives defining the completeness of the phenomenon or action (37 types). The ratio of different groups of adjectives, which perform the function of formative words, has been shifted towards qualitative adjectives (55.4% of the sample), which more than double the number of all the other groups.

Convertible adjectives consist of 726 lexemes. The largest number of conversives is represented by relative adjectives that denote materials (114 types), science and technology (102 types) and cultural and social realities (39 types). Qualitative derived adjectives (205 lexemes), among which the symbols of weather (36 types), feelings (25 types) and evaluative adjectives (24 types) predominate, are somewhat smaller in volume. Reference and gradual adjectives contain a small number of lexemes that denote local relations (33 types), completeness of a phenomenon or action (20 types) and temporal relations (19 types).

Verbs in the conversion pairs are divided into 35 LSG. Among the formative verbs, verbs of physical influence on the object (143 types), active movement (232 types) and the verbs of the object-change causation (50 types) predominate. The smallest number of formative verbs belong to the LSG "Possession and Belonging" (4 types), "Animal Communication" (6 types), "Phase Verbs" (7 types) and "Modal Verbs" (8 types). All the other groups occupy an intermediate position.

The semantic distribution of verbs-conversives differs insignificantly from the corresponding distribution of formative verbs by semantics: here verbs of physical processing (198 types), concrete process (134 types) prevail, but the verbs of the

object-change causation (132 types), physical influence on the object (103 types) are also quite numerous. The smallest number of verbs-conversives belong to the LSG "Modal Verbs" (7 types), "Animal Sounding" (13 types) and "Possession and Belonging" (17 types).

The study identified 24 structural models of conversion, which represent the existing in English language relationships between different lexical and grammatical classes. Five of these models cover 98.5% of all conversives (5,034 examples), namely: noun/verb, adjective/noun, verb/noun, noun/adjective, noun/verb/adjective. They can be considered the core of conversion in English. All of them are represented by variable full-meaning parts of speech - noun, adjective and verb.

In total, nine lexico-grammatical classes (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, conjunction, preposition, interjection, article) are subject to transposition. Noun is transpositionally connected with seven lexico-grammatical classes and has a wide range of transpositional possibilities: noun in English goes far beyond the subject-meaning limits. This suggests that transposition as a cognitive phenomenon reflects a person's ability to establish simple causal relationships in the world. In addition, the convertible activity of nouns is stipulated by the desire of speakers to fold parts of information into more compact structures, as well as to distribute the flow of information in the text.

Regular semantic transitions of the models under studies are identified in the paper. In this way, the model *noun / verb* (N / V) covers the following semantic models of verbalization in English: "period of time ⁄ to be somewhere in this period of time", "names of animals / human behavior similar to the behavior of these animals", "tools ⁄ actions they perform", "place ⁄ to put in a similar (alike) place", "result ⁄ actions that lead to the result", "person ⁄ action characteristic of this person", "phenomena of spiritual, emotional and physiological spheres ⁄ to know (experience) these phenomena". The *verb ⁄ noun* model (V ⁄ N) is represented by the following regular semantic changes: "random, one-moment action / oneness of action", "result-oriented action / result of action", "state / state designation", "process / process designation", "local verbs ⁄ nouns to indicate the place of action or location", "actions of a certain performer, producer / producer of action". The model *noun / adjective* (N ⁄ Adj) covers the following regular semantic changes: "person (group of people) / anthroponymic characteristics", "social status of a person (profession, occupation, title, etc.) / status characteristics", "body parts, human clothing / meronymic characteristics", "matter and space / substantial characteristics", "nature (natural phenomena, fauna and flora) / naturalistic characteristics", "time / temporal characteristics", "objectified actions (processes) / procedural characteristics", "geographical names / toponymic characteristics", "objects

and materials of natural origin / material characteristics", "mechanisms and devices ╱ affiliation", "form and structure ╱ spatial characteristics", "food (foodstuffs, beverages) / food characteristics", "state (organizations, services, institutions, social currents, government papers) ╱ legal characteristics", "doctrine, worldview, religion / ontological characteristics", "human behavior (mental phenomena, emotions, feelings, feelings) / psychophysical characteristics", "occupations, sports / characteristics of physical activity", "measure, quantity, cost, value / quantitative characteristics", "language, signs, symbols, markings ╱ semiotic characteristics". In general, adjectivation expresses the semantic transformation "object (subject, object or phenomenon) / its characteristic (feature, property, quality)". The process of noun-adjectivation implies that objectivity becomes a feature that characterizes the subject.

We consider as promising the comparative study of conversion in different languages, which will identify common features and differences in the structure and number of conversives, determine the nature of formal-semantic relations between them, compare ways and means to enrich the vocabulary of lexical units formed by conversion, and to find out the features of self-organization and self-regulation of conversion as a universal phenomenon in line with the synergetic scientific paradigm.

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