The topic of my report is specific features of productive and non-productive affixes. The etymology of affixes.

New requirements which rise before language as a result of development of these or those parties of human activity, lead to enrichment of dictionary structure of language by different means. To these means belongs affixation.

Affixes (from armor. affixus — attached) — an function morpheme, the minimum construction element of language attached to a base of the word in processes of a morphological derivation and the employee to transformation of a base in the grammatical or word-formation purposes; the most important means of expression of grammatical and word-formation meanings; the part of the word opposed to a base and focusing its grammatical and/or word-formation meanings.

The following characteristic signs are inherent in live affixes:

a) Joining to a derivate basis, the affix expresses a certain abstract value.

b) The affix is easily allocated as a reformative element, and in consciousness speaking clearly is realized as part of the word, and the basic morpheme at office of this affix has to possess ability to be used in language without affix or to make new words by means of other affixes.

c) The affix is used for formation of new words not only from origin bases, but also from bases of other origin. If it is the borrowed affix, it has to educate on the English soil.

d) The affix possesses a certain frequency of the use. The more educates of this or that affix, the more productive it. This sign needs to be considered because many affixes arise from independent words in the course of a composition.

e) The live affix has to give new growths. It is known that development of dictionary structure of language is very long process and formation of new words happens rather slowly.

It is necessary to carry to new growths not only words which are already registered by dictionaries of neologisms and lists of new words, but also potential words, i.e. such new growths which are created in the course of the speech from the material which is available in dictionary structure of language, on samples existing in language.

Under the become lifeless affixes we mean such affixes which aren't allocated as the morpheme standing behind limits of a base morpheme (for example, ancient verbal suffixes - le, - er, nominal suffixes - d, - l (-le), - en, - ing, - kin, - osk, and prefix and-), or are realized as separate morphemes, but lost the independent lexical meaning (prefixes of with-, for-, and - suffixes - red, - some and others).

Among the affixes which were constantly operating and continuing to some extent to work in English, it is possible to call such prefixes, as mis-, over-, under-, out-, up- and such suffixes, as - ed, - ful, - ish, - less, - at in adjectives, - еr, - ness, - ing in nouns, - ly, - ward (-wards) in adverbs and some other.

Old English prefix of and- (and-, anda- ant-) remained in such words, as answer, along.

Old English prefix a- (a reduction from or-, аr-; us-, ur-; еr-) already in the early Middle English lost efficiency and it is nowadays presented as a part of only several verbs: to arise (Sffsan), to awake (awacan), to abide (abldan). Existence of verbs of to rise, to wake, to bide supports understanding of an element and - in derivative verbs as special morpheme though its semantic role is already not clear.

As examples it is possible to call suffixes of degrees of comparison - еr and - est, a suffix - s forming regular forms of plural of nouns, a suffix - ing in the verbals etc.

The verbal suffix - l-(in modern spelling - le), is etymologically not clear, attached once to verb significance of recurrence, frequency of action, i.e. bore on itself a certain grammatical meaning. Such verbs as to twinkle, to wrestle, to nestle reached from the Old English period (Twinclian "flicker", wrestlian "fight", nestlian "twist a nest").

The suffix - kin is for the first time noted only in Middle English language (XIII) and originally only in proper names (Janekin, Wilekin, etc.).

Word-formation affixes don't possess universality though at first sight and are applicable rather regularly at creation of new words of the same base. For example, the suffix - ess is easily identified by carriers as a suffix with value of a feminine gender in the words tigress, actress, hostess, lioness, etc., however universal it isn't that is well visible at least on impossibility to form words cattess or guestess on the same model.

Unlike productive affixes, non-productive affixes are limited in formation of new words; the derivative words formed by means of unproductive affixes, often belong to number of little-used words or are result of individual creativity of certain authors.

As non-productive affixes are called such which don't participate in formation of new words in modern English. In dictionary structure of the modern language derivative words with non-productive affixes can be presented in a large number, but all these words inherited from previous, sometimes of very remote periods stories of English.

As dead affixes are called such which during historical development of language were archaized owing to what they merged with a base and at the present stage of development of language for - in the word forbid "forbid" aren't allocated as word-formation morphemes, for example. The number of productive affixes in modern English is insignificant but, nevertheless, formation of new words by affixation ranks high among other productive ways of replenishment of dictionary structure of modern English.