



THE USE OF AFFIXATION IN CREATING NEW WORDS IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH

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Annotation: Affixation is a morphological phenomenon that plays a significant role in the word-formation process. This process is accomplished through prefixes, suffixes, and various affixes. Affixes are used in conjunction with the linguistic base and, although they cannot act as independent words, as separate morphemes, they impart a new meaning or grammatical form to the word. Thus, through affixes, words can be used in different parts of speech or their meaning can be strengthened. Currently, affixes are actively used in almost all areas of language. Many new words can be created by applying different affixes to a single linguistic base. This significantly simplifies the process of naming new ideas, objects, and actions. Affixation plays a significant role in vocabulary learning and facilitates the memorization of difficult words.

Key words: Affixation, Morphology, Prefixation, Suffixation, Derivational affixes, Inflectional affixes.

Introduction

This article discusses the importance of affixes in modern language, dictionary updates, and the transformation of affixes on the meaning and content of words, emphasizing their importance for language development and fluency. Affixes are learned as an important linguistic tool in the process of create new words. This study analyze the role of each affix in the formation of new words from various corners and study the developing of words resulting from this process (Bauer, 2003). Affixation is studied as a morpheme, occupying a key position in the system of grammatical rules and influencing the meaning of the word-formation base. Therefore, issues of semantic stability and morphological connections in words through affixes are analyzed in depth.

One of the main functions of affixation is word formation, playing a crucial role in transferring units belonging to one word-formation family to another. In English, vocabulary expansion through affixation facilitates the dynamic development of the language. This process aids learning English,



especially for non-native speakers, as well as understanding and memorizing the lexical base. Systematic study of affixes simplifies language acquisition and enhances comprehension of word structure, leading to a solid theoretical understanding of word formation mechanisms in English.

Methods (Methodology)

This study is descriptive and theoretical in nature. The research centers on examining affixation through recognized morphological theories, specifically the categorization of derivational and inflectional affixes (Bauer, 2003; Plag, 2002). Data sources include academic textbooks on morphology, research articles, English dictionaries, and selected lexical examples from standard English usage. The examples analyzed (e.g., *happy–happiness*, *teach–teacher*, *dog–dogs*, *walk–walked*) demonstrate different types of affixes. The study employed morphological analysis and classification techniques (Aronoff, 1976). Affixes identified, delved into derivational and inflectional types, and examined according to their semantic and grammatical functions. Concepts of productivity and regularity were applied to assess the affixes that selected (Bauer, 1983). Furthermore, the analysis is extended by systematically comparing the behavior of affixes across different word classes, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, in order to identify patterns of usage and structural consistency. Special attention is given to how derivational affixes contribute to word formation by creating new lexical items and potentially changing word classes, while inflectional affixes are examined in terms of their role in expressing grammatical relationships without altering the core meaning or category of the base word. In addition, the study evaluates the frequency and distribution of selected affixes within common usage to determine their level of productivity in modern English. The methodological approach also includes cross-referencing findings with established linguistic frameworks to ensure theoretical validity and reliability. Through this comprehensive analytical process, the research aims to provide a clearer understanding of the functional distinctions and practical applications of affixation in English morphology.

Results

The analysis indicates that suffixation is more productive than prefixation in Modern English, especially in creating new lexical items and changing word classes (Plag, 2002). Prefixation main functions as a semantic modifier (Yule, 2010), transforming the meaning of a word while maintaining its grammatical category. Derivational affixes significantly contribute to vocabulary expansion, whereas inflectional affixes work grammatical functions (Fromkin et al., 2014) such as tense and number marking. The degree of productivity range among affixes; certain suffixes (e.g., *-ness*, *-ize*) show high productivity, while inflectional affixes display high regularity but limited lexical innovation.



Affixation plays an essential role in both academic and daily language, although suffixation is more prominent in academic and technical vocabulary development.

Discussion

In Modern English, prefixation continues to function as a semantic enhancer. Common used prefixes include *un-*, *re-*, *pre-*, *dis-*, and *mis-*. Prefixes generally do not change the grammatical class of the base word but modify meaning (Plag, 2002) (*happy* → *unhappy*, *write* → *rewrite*, *understand* → *misunderstand*). They are widely used in technological and social contexts, e.g., *repost*, *preorder*, *disconnect*, *misinformation*.

Suffixation, in contrast, frequently changes the grammatical category of the word and forms new lexical items (Bauer, 2003). Examples include:

- *happy* → *happiness* (-ness)
- *teach* → *teacher* (-er)
- *modern* → *modernize* (-ize)

Suffixation is also crucial in creating academic and technical vocabulary (*globalization*, *digitalization*, *creativity*), whereas simpler suffixes (-er, -y, -ish) are more common in everyday speech (*worker*, *cloudy*, *childish*). Thus, prefixation primarily modifies meaning, while suffixation both alters word classes and facilitates lexical expansion. This distinction highlights the functional differences and productivity levels of affixes in Modern English.

Conclusion

This study aimed to examine the role of affixation in Modern English and to determine how prefixation and suffixation contribute to word formation. The findings confirm that suffixation plays a more productive role in changing word classes and forming new lexical items (Plag, 2002), while prefixation mainly modifies meaning without significantly changing grammatical categories (Yule, 2010).. Additionally, derivational affixes were found to contribute more to vocabulary expansion, whereas inflectional affixes primarily serve grammatical functions. Affixation have a crucial role in the development of Modern English by facilitating lexical growth (Bauer, 2003), semantic variation, and grammatical organization. It supports both academic and daily communication and serves as a key mechanism in the dynamic evolution of the language. The scientific contribution of this study lies in its comparative analysis of prefixation and suffixation within a unified morphological framework, highlighting their functional differences and levels of productivity. Future research may focus on corpus-based quantitative analysis of affix productivity or investigate affixation patterns in emerging digital and social media vocabulary.



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