

## Derivational Morphology in English Language

Hayu Uswatun Khasanah<sup>\*1</sup>, Ega Dwi Adis S.<sup>2</sup>, Dewi Rukayah<sup>3</sup>, Madha Vesakha CPS<sup>4</sup>,  
Tigor Permana<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Islam Balitar; Jl. Majapahit 4 Kota Blitar, telp. (0342) 813145

<sup>3</sup>Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, FKIP Universitas Islam Balitar, Blitar

e-mail: <sup>1</sup>[hgestiantoro@gmail.com](mailto:hgestiantoro@gmail.com), <sup>2</sup>[egadwiadis11@gmail.com](mailto:egadwiadis11@gmail.com),

<sup>3</sup>[dewi.rukayah01@gmail.com](mailto:dewi.rukayah01@gmail.com), <sup>4</sup>[madhavesakha27@gmail.com](mailto:madhavesakha27@gmail.com),

<sup>5</sup>[tigorpermana@gmail.com](mailto:tigorpermana@gmail.com)

### Abstract

*This study deals with derivational of morphology. This research aims to discuss the understanding of morphology and types of morphology, this is derivational morphem, which has same aspects suffixes and prefixes and how they are categorized. This research is descriptive qualitative. The data was gained by using literature review. The researcher look for the data from the internet and e-book. The result of the data are; types of derivational morphemes are derivational prefixes (-un, -dis) while derivational suffixes (-ment, -ness, -ion, -able, -less, -en, -ize, -ly)*

*keyword : derivational, morphology, morphem, prefixes, suffixes*

### 1. Introduction

Morphology is the field of linguistics that studies morphemes and their combinations; it is component of the language structure that contains phrases and components of the term morpheme (Kridalaksana, 1993: 51). Language consists of two aspects namely form and meaning. According Burling (1992: 38) The smallest pieces, those that can no longer be divided into even smaller meaningful bits are called morphemes. Wheares, morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit has meaning (Chaer, 1994: 146) for example, teacher consists of three meaningful units or morphemes, *teach*, *-er*, and *-s*. The morpheme *teach* forming the word *teachers* has the lexical meaning; the *morpheme*-*er* means the doer of teaching; the morpheme *-s* has plural meaning.

The branch of morphemes are free morpheme and bound morpheme. Morpheme which can meaningfully stand alone are called free morphemes while the morphemes such as *-er* and *-s*, which cannot meaningfully stand alone are called bound morphemes. Bound morphemes must be attached to free

morphemes. Bound morphemes are also called affixes which can be classified into prefix, infix, and suffix. Derivational morphemes often change the part of speech of a word. Thus, the verb read becomes the noun reader when we add the derivational morpheme -er. It is simply that read is a verb, but reader is a noun. However, some derivational morphemes do not change the grammatical category of a word.

For example, such derivational prefixes as re- and un- in English generally do not change the category of the word to which they are attached. Thus, both happy and unhappy are adjectives, and both fill and refill are verbs, for example. The derivational suffixes -hood and -dom, as in neighborhood and kingdom, are also the typical examples of derivational morphemes that do not change the grammatical category of a word to which they are attached.

Second, when a derivational suffix and an inflectional suffix are added to the same word, they always appear in a certain relative order within the word. That is, inflectional suffixes follow derivational suffixes. Thus, the derivational (-er) is added to read, then the inflectional (-s) is attached to produce readers. There are not infixes in English. There are not infixes in English. Bound morphemes are classified into two namely derivational and inflectional morphemes. In this paper will discuss about derivational morphemes.

## **2. Research Method**

According to Prof. Dr. Sugiyono, research method is a scientific way of acquiring data with specific purposes and uses. Methods of research can be divided into various kinds. The different techniques of studies are as follows qualitative techniques, quantitative methods, techniques of study, techniques of factual exposure, and techniques of description.

Because of this study use portrays an event that is going on both in the present and in the past, and this study generates descriptive information composed of people's written or verbal phrases and observed research, the investigator utilizes quantitative descriptive as a technique studies.

### 3. Result

Morphology is the field of linguistics that studies morphemes and their combinations; it is component of the language structure that contains phrases and components of the term morpheme (Kridalaksana, 1993: 51). Whereas, morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit has meaning (Chaer, 1994: 146) for example, teacher consists of three meaningful units or morphemes, *teach*, *-er*, and *-s*. The morpheme *teach* forming the word *teachers* has the lexical meaning; the *morpheme*-*er* means the doer of teaching; the morpheme *-s* has plural meaning. The branch of morphemes are free morpheme and bound morpheme. Morpheme which can meaningfully stand alone are called free morphemes while the morphemes such as *-er* and *-s*, which cannot meaningfully stand alone are called bound morphemes. Bound morphemes are classified into two namely derivational and inflectional morphemes.

A derivational morpheme is the morpheme which produces a new lexeme from a base. Derivational morphemes are bound morphemes which create new words by either changing the meaning or the part of speech or both.

In English, derivational morphemes can be prefixes or suffixes. All prefixes in English are derivational. All prefixes in English modify the meaning although they do not modify the syntactic category. For examples, the derivational prefix *in-* in *inefficient*, *un-* in *unimportant*, *re-* in *rewrite*, *dis-* in *dislike* and *a-* in *amoral* modify the positive meaning to the negative meaning but do not change the syntactic category of the derived words; *efficient* is an adjective and the derived word *inefficient* is also an adjective; *do* is a verb and the derived word *undo* is also a verb; *write* is a verb and the derived word *rewrite* is also a verb; *moral* is an adjective and the derived word *amoral* is also an adjective. All the derivational prefixes explained above have the meaning 'not'. The derivational suffixes which change the syntactic category can be noun-forming suffixes, verb-forming suffixes, adjective-forming suffixes, and adverb-forming suffixes. In English, derivational morphemes can be both the prefixes and suffixes.

Based on the fact described above, the types of English derivational morphemes can be classified into two, derivational prefixes and derivational suffixes.

a. Derivational Prefixes

1. Prefix *un-*

There are two kinds of the prefix *un-* in English. The first is attached to adjectives to form new adjectives, and the second is attached to verbs to form new verbs. The two kinds of the prefix *un-* do not change the part of speech. The prefix *un-* attached to adjectives means 'not'. Fromkin (1990: 130) calls this derivation antonym or negative. Look at the following examples of prefix *un-* attached to adjectives.

Prefix	Base	Derived word (Adjective)	Meaning (Adjective)
<i>un-</i>	<i>able</i>	<i>unable</i>	'not able'
<i>un-</i>	<i>afraid</i>	<i>unafraid</i>	'not afraid'
<i>un-</i>	<i>aware</i>	<i>unaware</i>	'not aware'
<i>un-</i>	<i>free</i>	<i>unfree</i>	'not free'
<i>un-</i>	<i>happy</i>	<i>unhappy</i>	'not happy'
<i>un-</i>	<i>important</i>	<i>unimportant</i>	'not important'
<i>un-</i>	<i>lucky</i>	<i>unlucky</i>	'not lucky'

2. The prefix *un-* can also be added to the adjectives of the derived words that have been formed by morphological rules (Fromkin,1990 : 130). The examples are as follows.

Prefix	Base	Derived word (Adjective)	Meaning (Adjective)
<i>un-</i>	<i>acceptable</i>	<i>unacceptable</i>	'not acceptable'
<i>un-</i>	<i>believable</i>	<i>unbelievable</i>	'not believable'
<i>un-</i>	<i>predictable</i>	<i>unpredictable</i>	'not believable'
<i>un-</i>	<i>readable</i>	<i>unreadable</i>	'not readable'
<i>un-</i>	<i>sinkable</i>	<i>unsinkable</i>	'not sinkable'
<i>un-</i>	<i>touchable</i>	<i>untouchable</i>	'not touchable'

Based on the examples above the rule of the prefix *un-* attached to adjectives can be stated as: *un-* + Adjective = new Adjective. This rule says that the prefix *un-* attached to an adjective creates a new adjective. The new adjective is indicated by the change of meaning. In this case the prefix *un-* means 'not'.

3. Prefix *un-* joins with verbs to form new verbs. In this case the prefix *un-* means 'to do the opposite of' (Hornby, 1986: 935). The following are the examples of the prefix *un-* which combines with verbs:

Prefix	Base	Derived word (Verb)	Meaning (Verb)
<i>un-</i>	<i>bind</i>	<i>unbind</i>	'to do the opposite of binding'
<i>un-</i>	<i>cover</i>	<i>uncover</i>	'to do the opposite of covering'
<i>un-</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>undo</i>	'to do the opposite of doing'
<i>un-</i>	<i>dress</i>	<i>undress</i>	'to do the opposite of dressing'
<i>un-</i>	<i>load</i>	<i>unload</i>	'to do the opposite of loading'
<i>un-</i>	<i>lock</i>	<i>unlock</i>	'to do the opposite of locking'

From the examples above, the rule of prefix *un-* attached to verbs can be stated as: *un-* + Verb = a new Verb. This rule says that the prefix *un-* attached to a verb creates a new verb. The new verb is indicated by the change of meaning namely 'to do the opposite of'.

#### 4. Prefix *dis-*

The prefix *dis-* is a derivational morpheme which can be attached to verbs to form new verbs. This prefix has several meanings but its basic meaning is 'not'.

Prefix	Base	Derived word (Verb)	Meaning (Verb)
<i>dis-</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	'not agree'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>allow</i>	<i>disallow</i>	'refuse to allow'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>appear</i>	<i>disappear</i>	'be seen no more'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>believe</i>	<i>disbelieve</i>	'refuse to believe'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>dislike</i>	'not like'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>close</i>	<i>disclose</i>	'allow to be seen'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>connect</i>	<i>disconnect</i>	'take apart'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>continue</i>	<i>discontinue</i>	'give up'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>obey</i>	<i>disobey</i>	'not obey'

Based on the examples above, the rule of the prefix *dis-* attached to verbs can be stated as: *dis-* + Verb = new Verb. The new verb is indicated by the change of meaning. In this case, the prefix *dis-* brings the basic meaning 'not' to the verb.

5. The prefix *dis-* can be attached to nouns to form new nouns. The following are the examples.

Prefix	Base	Derived word	Meaning
		(Noun)	(Noun)
<i>dis-</i>	<i>advantage</i>	<i>disadvantage</i>	'unfavorable condition'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>comfort</i>	<i>discomfort</i>	'absence of comfort'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>harmony</i>	<i>disharmony</i>	'lack of harmony'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>honor</i>	<i>dishonor</i>	'absence of honor'

Based on the examples above, the rule of the prefix *dis-* attached to nouns can be stated as: *dis-* + Noun = new Noun. The new noun is indicated by the change of meaning. In this case, the prefix *dis-* brings the basic meaning 'not' to the noun.

The prefix *dis-* can also be attached to adjectives to form new adjectives. The examples are as follows:

Prefix	Base	Derived word	Meaning
		(Adjective)	(Adjective)
<i>dis-</i>	<i>able</i>	<i>disable</i>	'make unable to do something'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>honest</i>	<i>dishonest</i>	'not honest'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>similar</i>	<i>dissimilar</i>	'not similar'

Based on the examples above, the rule of the prefix *dis-* attached to adjectives can be stated as: *dis-*+ Adjective = new Adjective. The new adjective is indicated by the change of meaning. In this case, the prefix *dis-* brings the basic meaning 'not' to the adjectives. The prefix *dis-* attached to verbs is more productive than that attached to nouns and adjectives.

b. Derivational Suffixes

1. Noun-Forming Suffix

Noun-forming suffixes are the derivational suffixes which change the words or morphemes to nouns. The following is the explanation of derivational suffixes which form nouns.

a. Suffix *-ment*

The suffix *-ment* is the derivational morphemes which can be attached to some verbs to form nouns. This suffix brings the new meaning 'abstract noun'. The following are the examples of the suffix *-ment* attached to verbs.

Base	Suffix (Verb)	Derived word (Noun)
<i>agree</i>	<i>-ment</i>	<i>agreement</i>
<i>develop</i>	<i>-ment</i>	<i>development</i>
<i>argue</i>	<i>-ment</i>	<i>argument</i>
<i>commit</i>	<i>-ment</i>	<i>commitment</i>
<i>govern</i>	<i>-ment</i>	<i>government</i>
<i>move</i>	<i>-ment</i>	<i>movement</i>

b. Suffix *-ness*

The suffix *-ness* is the derivational morphemes which can be attached to adjectives to form nouns expressing a state or a condition. The following are the examples of the suffix *-ness* attached to adjectives.

Base	Suffix (Adjective)	Derived word (Noun)
<i>bright</i>	<i>-ness</i>	<i>brightness</i>
<i>bitter</i>	<i>-ness</i>	<i>bitterness</i>
<i>happy</i>	<i>-ness</i>	<i>happiness</i>
<i>hard</i>	<i>-ness</i>	<i>hardness</i>
<i>lonely</i>	<i>-ness</i>	<i>loneliness</i>
<i>sad</i>	<i>-ness</i>	<i>sadness</i>

c. Suffix *-ion*

The suffix *-ion* is the derivational morpheme which can be attached to verbs to form nouns. The following are the examples of the suffix *-ion* attached to verbs.

Base	Suffix	Derived word
	(Verb)	(Noun)
<i>educate</i>	<i>-ion</i>	<i>education</i>
<i>discuss</i>	<i>-ion</i>	<i>discussion</i>
<i>act</i>	<i>-ion</i>	<i>action</i>

2. Adjective-Forming Suffixes

Adjective-forming suffixes are the derivational suffixes which change the words or morphemes to adjectives. The following is the explanation of derivational suffixes which form adjectives.

a. Suffixe *-able*

The suffix *-able* is the derivational morpheme which changes the bases to adjective. In this case, the bases can be either verbs or nouns. The following are the examples:

Base	Suffix	Derived Word
	(Verb)	(Adjective)
<i>eat</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>eatable</i>
<i>predict</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>predictable</i>
<i>read</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>readable</i>
<i>sink</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>unsinkable</i>
<i>understand</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>understandable</i>
<i>wash</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>washable</i>
<i>write</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>writable</i>

Base	Suffix	Derived Word
	(Noun)	(Adjective)
<i>comfort</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>comfortable</i>
<i>market</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>marketable</i>
<i>profit</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>profitable</i>



b. Suffix *-less*

Like suffix *-ful*, the suffix *-less* is the derivational morpheme which changes the bases to adjective. In this case, the bases are nouns. The following are the examples:

Base	Suffix	Derived Word
	(Noun)	(Adjective)
<i>home</i>	<i>-less</i>	<i>homeless</i>
<i>use</i>	<i>-less</i>	<i>useless</i>
<i>care</i>	<i>-less</i>	<i>careless</i>

3. Verb-Forming Suffixes

Verb-forming suffixes are the derivational suffixes which change the words or morphemes to verbs. The following is the explanation of derivational suffixes which form verbs.

a. Suffix *-en*

Base	Suffix	Derived Word
	(Adjective)	(Verb)
<i>wide</i>	<i>-en</i>	<i>widen</i>
<i>ripe</i>	<i>-en</i>	<i>ripen</i>
<i>sharp</i>	<i>-en</i>	<i>sharpen</i>
<i>short</i>	<i>-en</i>	<i>shorten</i>

b. Suffix *-ize*

The suffix *-ize* is the derivational morphemes which change the base to verb. The base can be nouns and adjective. The examples are as follows:

Base	Suffix	Derived Word
	(Noun)	(Verb)
<i>apology</i>	<i>-ize</i>	<i>apologize</i>
<i>memory</i>	<i>-ize</i>	<i>memorize</i>
<i>victim</i>	<i>-ize</i>	<i>victimize</i>
Base	Suffix	Derived Word
	(Adjective)	(Verb)
<i>local</i>	<i>-ize</i>	<i>localize</i>
<i>real</i>	<i>-ize</i>	<i>realize</i>

---

<i>mobile</i>	<i>-ize</i>	<i>mobilize</i>
<i>vocal</i>	<i>-ize</i>	<i>vocalize</i>

#### 4. Adverb-Forming Suffixes

Adverb-forming suffixes are the derivational suffixes which change the words or morphemes to adverbs. The following are the examples of derivational suffixes which form adverbs.

Bass	Suffix	Derived Word
	(Adjective)	(Adverb)
<i>clear</i>	<i>-ly</i>	<i>clearly</i>
<i>beautiful</i>	<i>-ly</i>	<i>beautifully</i>
<i>careful</i>	<i>-ly</i>	<i>carefully</i>
<i>angry</i>	<i>-ly</i>	<i>angrily</i>
<i>loud</i>	<i>-ly</i>	<i>loudly</i>
<i>slow</i>	<i>-ly</i>	<i>slowly</i>
<i>happy</i>	<i>-ly</i>	<i>happily</i>

#### 4. Conclusion

1. A derivational morpheme is the morpheme which produces a new lexeme from a base. Derivational morphemes are bound morphemes which derive (create) new words by either changing the meaning or the part of speech or both.

2. Types of derivational morphemes are (1) derivational prefixes: *un-*, *in-*, *re-*, *dis-*, *mis-*, *pre-*, *a-*; (2) derivational suffixes: noun-forming suffix (*-er*, *-ment*, *-ness*, *-ion*), adjective-forming suffixes (*-able*, *-ful*, *-less*), verb-forming suffixes (*-en*, *-ify*, *-ize*), adverb-forming suffixes(*-ly*).

#### 5. Acknowledgement

Alhamdulillah rabil'amin, the researcher expresses his highest gratitude to Allah SWT for blessings, love, opportunity, health, and mercy to complete this journal. In arranging this journal, a lot of people have provided motivation, advice, and support for the researcher. In this valuable chance, the researcher intended to express his gratitude and appreciation to all of them. First, the researcher present his sincere appreciation to Mrs. Miza Rahmatika Aini, S.S,M.A, who gives support,

help, and advice. Second, thanks to all of students' English Education Department 2017. Finally, the researcher thank to everybody who was important to the successful realization of this journal. This journal far from perfect, but it is expected that will be useful not only for the researcher, but also for the readers. For this reason, constructive thoughtfull suggestion and critics are welcomed.

## References

Angga, Guru. "Pengertian Morfologi menurut para ahli". Materibelajar.co.id. (accessed July 3, 2019).

Twain, Mark. "Morphology: The Words of Language". Pdf morfologi. Nordquist, Richard. "Derivational Morpheme in Grammar". ThoughtCo. (accessed July 3, 2019).

Jarble. "Morphological Derivation". Wikipedia. (accessed July 3, 2019).

Aarotians, "Analisis Sufiks Pembentuk Nomina". Wordpress. (accessed July 3, 2019).

S, Endang "Publication Article". Pdf The Analysis of Derivational and Morphology (accessed July 3, 2019)

Semantic Morphology "Inflectional and Derivational Morpheme" (accessed July 3, 2019)

Rugaiyah, R "A Morphological Analysis" (accessed July 3, 2019)