



Derivational of Bound Morpheme



I Dewa Ayu Kurnia Martini ^a

Article history:

Received: 10 August 2015

Approved: 30 November 2015

Published: 31 January 2016

Keywords:

Derivational;

Morphemes;

Prefixes;

Smallest unit;

Suffixes;

Abstract

Morphemes are the smallest meaningful units of language. They are meaningful because they have either lexical or grammatical meaning. Morphemes can be classified into two namely free morphemes and bound morphemes. Free morphemes are those which can meaningfully stand alone while bound morphemes are the morphemes which cannot meaningfully stand alone. It means that bound morphemes must be attached to other morphemes. Bound morphemes are also called affixes which can be prefixes, infixes, or suffixes. Derivational morphemes are bound morphemes or affixes which derive (create) new words by either changing the meaning or the part of speech or both English only has prefixes and suffixes. Bound morphemes can be inflectional or derivational. In English, derivational morphemes can be prefixes and suffixes. In English, all prefixes are derivational but most of the prefixes in English do not change part of speech. Only several prefixes change the part of speech, on the other hand, most derivational English suffixes change part of speech. Only a small number of suffixes do not change part of speech.

2395-7492© Copyright 2018. The Author.

This is an open-access article under the CC BY-SA license

(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)

All rights reserved.

Author correspondence:

I Dewa Ayu Kurnia Martini,

Warmadewa University, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Email address: dewaayu_nia@yahoo.com

1. Introduction

Language consists of two aspects namely form and meaning. In relation to meaning, the smallest meaningful unit in language is morpheme. A morpheme is defined as the smallest meaningful unit of a language (Lim Kiat Boey, 1975: 37). Words are made up of morphemes. The word *teachers*, for example, 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. We can identify the meaning of the morpheme *teach* although it stands alone we cannot identify the meaning of morphemes *-er* and *-s* in isolation. We can identify the meaning of the morpheme *-er* and *-s* after they combine to the morpheme *teach*. Seidenberg & Gonnerman (2000), Tyler & Nagy (1989), the morphemes 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

^a Warmadewa University, Denpasar, Indonesia

morphemes. Bound morphemes must be attached to free morphemes. Bound morphemes are also called affixes which can be classified into prefix, infix, and suffix. Eling (1986), Taft & Zhu (1995), English only has two kinds of bound morphemes namely prefixes and suffixes. There are not infixes in English. Bound morphemes are classified into two namely derivational and inflectional morphemes. This article tries to discuss derivational morphemes. These morphemes are complicated so that understanding what derivational morphemes are is important.

2. Materials and Methods

The title of this article is Derivational of Bound Morpheme. I described the data with reading a blog from Mr. Suryasa. This article very helped me, it can improve the skill of English words. The data are taken from uad-courses blog.

3. Results and Discussions

As mentioned above, bound morphemes consist of inflectional and derivational morphemes. Inflectional morphemes are those which do not create new meaning. These morphemes never change the syntactic category of the words or morphemes to which they are attached (Bauer, 1988: 12). They only refine and give extra grammatical information about the already existing meaning of words which they are attached to. The word *books*, for example, consists of a free morpheme *book* and an inflectional morpheme *-s*. The bound morpheme *-s* does not change the syntactic category of the morpheme *book*. The bound morpheme *-s* does not change the lexical meaning of the *book*. It only gives grammatical meaning which shows that the word *books* is plural. *The book* is a noun and *books* is still a noun.

Different from the word *books* which contains the bound morpheme *-s* which does not create a new meaning of the word *book*, the word *happiness* contains a bound morpheme *-ness* which creates a new meaning of the word *happy*. The bound morpheme like *-ness* is called derivational morpheme. A derivational morpheme is a morpheme which produces a new lexeme from a base (Bauer, 1988: 12). Sari (1988: 82) says that derivational morphemes are bound morphemes which derive (create) new words by either changing the meaning or the part of speech or both. In the word *happiness*, the bound morpheme *-ness* creates a new word by changing both the meaning and the part of speech. *Happy* is an adjective but the derived word *happiness* is a noun. Some derivational morphemes create new meaning but do not change the syntactic category or part of speech. The word *unhappy*, for example, consists of the base *happy* and the derivational morpheme (prefix) *un-*. *Happy* is an adjective and the derived word *unhappy* is also an adjective.

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 *undo*, *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'. Most derivational suffixes change both the syntactic category and the meaning. Only a few of them do not change the syntactic category. The derivational suffixes which change the syntactic category can be noun-forming suffixes, verb-forming suffixes, adjective-forming suffixes, and adverb-forming suffixes.

3.1 Types of English Derivational Morphemes

The rule of thumb to identify that the bound morphemes are derivational is the occurrence of new meaning creation or new word creation of the derived words. In dictionaries, the derivation word is generally listed as a separate word from its base. The new meaning or the new word which occurs in the derivation process can be accompanied by the change of part of speech or not. In other words, some derivational morphemes, as described above, change the part of speech and some of them do not change the part of speech. 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. The further description can be seen below:

a) Derivational Prefixes

All prefixes in English are derivational so that all the prefixes in English create new meaning or create new words. The creation of new meaning can be accompanied by the change part of speech or not. Most prefixes do not change part of speech. The prefix which changes the part of speech, for example, is the prefix *en-*. The prefix *en-* changes the bases into verbs. The word *enlarges* for example, consists of the prefix *en-* and the base *large*. The prefix *en-* changes the adjective *large* to the new verb *enlarge*. The prefix *en-* in the word *endanger* changes the noun to verb. The prefix *a-* in *aside* changes the noun *side* to the adverb *aside*. The other prefixes which do not change part of speech are explained as follows:

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	Meaning
<i>un-</i>	(Adjective) <i>afraid</i>	(Adjective) <i>unafraid</i>	'not afraid'

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:

<i>un-</i>	(Adjective) <i>acceptable</i>	(Adjective) <i>unacceptable</i>	'not acceptable'
------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------

2) Prefix *in-*

The prefix *in-* is the derivational bound morpheme mostly attached to adjectives. This prefix does not change the part of speech either. The meaning of this prefix is 'not'. Look at the examples below:

<i>in-</i>	(Adjective) <i>accurate</i>	(Adjective) <i>inaccurate</i>	'not accurate'
------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------

This rule says that the prefix *in-* attached to an adjective creates a new adjective. The new adjective is indicated by the change of meaning 'not' in the derived word.

3) Prefix *re-*

The prefix *re-* is the derivational bound morpheme attached to verbs to form new verbs. The meaning of the prefix *re-* is 'again'. Look at the examples below:

<i>re-</i>	(Verb) <i>adjust</i>	(Verb) <i>readjust</i>	'adjust again'
------------	-------------------------	---------------------------	----------------

This rule says that the prefix *re-* attached to a verb creates a new verb. The new verb as the derived word is indicated by the change of meaning 'again'.

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'

<i>dis-</i>	(Verb) <i>agree</i>	(Verb) <i>disagree</i>	'not agree'
<i>dis-</i>	<i>allow</i>	<i>disallow</i>	'refuse to allow'

The new verb is indicated by the change of meaning. In this case, the prefix *dis-* brings the basic meaning 'not' to the verb.

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

	(Noun)	(Noun)	
<i>dis-</i>	<i>comfort</i>	<i>discomfort</i>	‘absence of comfort’

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:

	(Adjective)	(Adjective)	
<i>dis-</i>	<i>able</i>	<i>disable</i>	‘make unable to do something’

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 are more productive than that attached to nouns and adjectives (Bauer, 1983 : 220).

5) Prefix *mis-*

The prefix *mis-* is the derivational bound morpheme attached to verbs to form new verbs. The new meaning created by this prefix is ‘wrong’. The following is the list of verbs to which the prefix *mis-* can be attached.

	(Verb)	(Verb)	
<i>mis-</i>	<i>direct</i>	<i>misdirect</i>	‘direct wrongly’

The new verb is indicated by the change of meaning. In this case, the prefix *mis-* brings the basic meaning ‘wrong’ to the verb.

6) Prefix *pre-*

The prefix *re-* is the derivational bound morpheme attached to verbs to form new verbs. The new meaning created by this prefix is ‘before’. The following is the list of verbs to which the prefix *pre-* can be attached.

	(Verb)	(Verb)	
<i>pre-</i>	<i>arrange</i>	<i>prearrange</i>	‘arrange before’

The new verb is indicated by the change of meaning. In this case, the prefix *pre-* brings the meaning ‘before’ to the verb.

7) Prefix *a-*

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

	(Adjective)	(Adjective)	
<i>a-</i>	<i>moral</i>	<i>amoral</i>	‘not concerned with

b) Derivational Suffixes

Most of the derivational suffixes in English change the part of speech. The derivational suffixes which do not change the part of speech are not as many as the derivational prefixes. The derivational suffixes which do not change the part of speech are *-ist* in *artist* and *dentist*; *-ian* in *musician* and *librarian*; and *-hood* in *childhood*, *neighborhood*, *brotherhood*, and *motherhood*. The following is the description of derivational affixes which change the part of speech.

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

2) Suffix *-er*

The suffix *-er* attached to a verb is a derivational morpheme which changes verbs to a noun. The suffix creates a new meaning ‘a person who performs an action’. The following are the examples of the suffix *-er* attached to verbs.

(Verb)		(Noun)
<i>box</i>	<i>-er</i>	<i>boxer</i>

3) 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.

(Verb)		(Noun)
<i>agree</i>	<i>-ment</i>	<i>agreement</i>

4) 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.

(Adjective)		(Noun)
<i>bright</i>	<i>-ness</i>	<i>brightness</i>

5) 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.

(Verb)		(Noun)
<i>educate</i>	<i>-ion</i>	<i>education</i>

6) 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

7) 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:

(Verb)		(Adjective)
<i>eat</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>eatable</i>
(Noun)	(Adjective)	
<i>comfort</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>comfortable</i>

8) Suffix –ful

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

(Noun)		(Adjective)
<i>beauty</i>	<i>-ful</i>	<i>beautiful</i>

9) 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:

(Noun)		(Adjective)
<i>home</i>	<i>-less</i>	<i>homeless</i>

10) 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

11) Suffix –en

(Adjective)		(Verb)
<i>wide</i>	<i>-en</i>	<i>widen</i>

12) Suffix –ify

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

(Adjective)		(Verb)
<i>clear</i>	<i>-ify</i>	<i>clarify</i>

(Noun)		(Verb)
<i>identity</i>	<i>-ify</i>	<i>identify</i>

13) 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:

(Noun)		(Verb)
<i>apology</i>	<i>-ize</i>	<i>apologize</i>

(Adjective)		(Verb)
<i>real</i>	<i>-ize</i>	<i>realize</i>

14) 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

(Adjective)		(Adverb)
<i>clear</i>	<i>-ly</i>	<i>clearly</i>

4. Conclusion

Morphemes are the smallest meaningful units of language. They are meaningful because they have either lexical or grammatical meaning. Morphemes can be classified into two namely free morphemes and bound morphemes. Free morphemes are those which can meaningfully stand alone while bound morphemes are the morphemes which cannot meaningfully stand alone. It means that bound morphemes must be attached to other morphemes. Bound morphemes are also called affixes which can be prefixes, infixes, or suffixes. Derivational morphemes are bound morphemes or affixes which derive (create) new words by either changing the meaning or the part of speech or both. English only has prefixes and suffixes. Bound morphemes can be inflectional or derivational. In English, derivational morphemes can be prefixes and suffixes. In English, all prefixes are derivational but most of the prefixes in English do not change part of speech. Only several prefixes change the part of speech. On the other hand, most derivational English suffixes change part of speech. Only small number of suffixes do not change part of speech.

The English prefixes which change the part of speech, for example, are *en-*, which changes the bases into verbs, *en-* which changes the noun to verb and *a-* which changes noun to adverb. The other prefixes which do not change the part of speech are *un-*, *in-*, *dis-*, *re-*, *mis-*, *pre-*, and *a-*. The English suffixes which change part of speech can be noun-forming suffixes such as *-er*, *-ment*, *-ness*, and *-ion*; adjective-forming suffixes such as *-full* and *-less*; verb-forming suffixes such as *-en*, *-ify*, and *-ize*; and adverb forming suffixes such as *-ly*.

Conflict of interest statement and funding sources

The author declared that (s)he has no competing interest. The study was financed by scholarly funding.

Statement of authorship

The author has a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The author has approved the final article.

Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the English Department Faculty of Letters Warmadewa University. I am willing to present my thanks for everyone who has helped me, especially in this article. Then I sincerely thank lecturer I Wayan Suryasa SS, Mhum. for his supported and understanding during this article complete. This article is far from being perfect, but it is expected that this article will be useful not only for the researcher but also the readers. For this reason, constructive thought full suggestion and critics are well come to make this article better.

References

- Bauer, L. (1988). *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*. Edinburgh : Edinburgh University Press.
- Bauer, L., & Laurie, B. (1983). *English word-formation*. Cambridge university press.
- Boey, L. K. (1975). *An introduction to linguistics for the language teacher*. Singapore University Press for Regional English Language Centre.
- Eling, P. (1986). Recognition of derivations in Broca's aphasics. *Brain and language*, 28(2), 346-356.
- Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2018). *An introduction to language*. Cengage Learning.
- Sari, N. (1988). An introduction to linguistics. *Jakarta: DepartemenPendidikandanKebudayaan*.
- Seidenberg, M. S., & Gonnerman, L. M. (2000). Explaining derivational morphology as the convergence of codes. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 4(9), 353-361.
- Taft, M., & Zhu, X. (1995). The representation of bound morphemes in the lexicon: A Chinese study. *Morphological aspects of language processing*, 293-316.
- Tyler, A., & Nagy, W. (1989). The acquisition of English derivational morphology. *Journal of memory and language*, 28(6), 649-667.