# SEMANTICS AND WORD-FORMATION IN MODERN ENGLISH

#### Abstract

Semantic adalah salah satu cabang linguistik yang mengkaji makna, yang tataran kajlannya pada tingkat kata dan kalimat. Makna kata dan kalimat saling berhubungan: karena kata secara terpisah suiit dipahami maknanya, dan sebaliknya, kalimat tidak bisa dipahami sepenuhnya bila ada kata, khususnya kata kunci, yang secara individu tidak dipahami, terutama dalam bahasa Inggris. Salah satu upaya untuk memahami makna kalimat dengan bantuan makna individu adalah dengan cara mengenal proses pembentukan kata dalam bahasa Inggris, yang dalam bahasa Lyons disebut dengan "productive derivational rules of word formation". Dengan mengenali ciri-ciri atau bentuk dan menguasai aturan pembentukan kata bahasa Inggris, diharapkan pengguna bahasa tersebut, terutama mahasiswa jurusan bahasa Inggris, tidak saja bisa memahami makna teks bahasa Inggris dengan benar dan lebih baik tanpa `terlalu sering' membuka kamus, tetapi mereka juga bisa menyusun kalimat sendiri dengan menggunakan kata-kata baru yang dihasilkan dari pembentukan kata yang sama dari kelas kata yang lain. Empat kelas kata yang dibahas dalam kaitannya dengan word-formation di sini adalah nomina, verba, adjective, dan adverbia. Kajian word-formation, yang biasanya dikaji dalam morfologi, memang secara sekilas tidak ada hubungannya dengan tetapi sesungguhnya ia secara tidak langsung berhubungan. Pandangan ini, di antaranya dianut oleh Joan L. Bybee. Ia mengatakan bahwa kajian morfologi mendekati morfem sebagai unit (terkecil) lingusitik dengan kandungan semantik. Salah seorang Linguis Indonesia: Harimurti Kridalaksana, juga berpendapat senada bahwa subsistem fonologis, garamatikal, dan leksikal tidak bisa lepas darl aspek-aspek semantis.

### Key word: Linguistiks, Modern English, Part of Speech

#### A. INTRODUCTION

In any study of natural languages of human being, words, among other thing, have special position: it have both meaning and form. Most English word not only have more than one meaning but they also have more than one form. If words are put together, they can produce sentences, and sentences can produce paragraphs, and paragraphs can produce articles, chapters, books, and even volumes of encyclopedias. All words, of course, have form and meaning. One way to proceed in the study of word formation is to examine meaning first and examine forms second. Because of the difficulties of describing and classifying meaning, the procedures employed here is the reverse: first similarities and contrast of forms meanings are examined, and later on, similarities and contrast of meaning are examined.

The meaning of words, which constitutes one of the focuses of semantics<sup>2</sup>, present many special problems. The best aid in dealing with the problems of meaning is generally the dictionary. However, this will be very exhausted if we have to consult our dictionary each time we find new unfamiliar words. One of the efforts to solve the problem, i.e. knowing the meaning of words in a sentence, is by recognizing and analyzing their forms based on the rules of word formation.

This short paper, however, will limit itself to study word-formation in English. By recognizing certain characteristics of words and rules of the word-formation, in turn, we could determine more easily and accurately the meaning of the concerned word.

John Lyons, Lingusitics Semantics, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), p.23.

Semantics deals with the literal meaning of words and sentences', see Gerald P. Delahunty and James J. Garvey, Language, Grammar, Communication: A Coursefor Teachers of English, (New York: McGraw-Hill Inc., 1994). p.32.

#### B. DEFINITION OF WORD

Before dealing with the word formation in English, it is better to pay due attention to the definition of word itself in advance. In his now classic book, Language, Bloomfied considers word as the minimal independent unit of utterance.3 Whereas for Marchand "word is taken to denote the smallest independent, indivisible, and meaningful unit of speech, susceptible of transposition in sentence." In The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language Crystal defines word as the smallest unit of grammar that can stand alone as complete utterance, separated by space in written language and potentially by pause in speech." Meanwhile, word, in Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus, is defined as "a speech sound or combination of sounds which has come to signify and communicate a particular idea or thought, and which functions as the smallest meaningful unit of a language when used in isolation."6 Although these four definitions of word seem quite different, they actually, to a certain degree, are the same in terms of that they all touch upon word as the smallest meaningful unit.

Generally speaking, following traditionally structuralists' approach to linguistics, words in English are grouped into eight classes or parts of speech: nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. However, among these eight major word classes, the first four ones, which are generally called content words and which John Lyons prefers to call them as full word-forms, are considered as the most important classes.

As far as the four main word classes concerned, Kenneth Croft states that "a very high percentage of English words-possibly as

<sup>3</sup> Leonard Bloomfied, Language, (London: Alien and Unwin, 1935), p.153.

Hans Marchand, The Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word-Formation, (Munchen: Verlag C.H. Beck, 1969), p.1.

David Crystal, The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990, 1987), p. 433.

Anonimous, Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus, (New York: PMC Publishing Co., 1992, 1994), p.1 133.

high as 90 percent fall into one or more of these classes." Furthermore, John C. Hodges and Mary E. Whitten believes that these four classes of words, which are also called as content words, make up more than 99 percent of all words listed in the dictionary. In line with this, the discussion of word formation will be especially limited to these four major classes of words only.

#### C. WORD-FORMATION

Word formation, according to Hans Marchand, is that branch of the science of language which studies the patterns on which a language forms a new lexical unit, ie. words. Word formation can only be concerned with composites which are analyzable both formally and semantically. As for Crystal, word formation is, in more practical way, considered as "the process of creating words out of sequences of morphemes." In the process of word-formation, there are generally known at least seven broad ways how English words are formed: affixation, conversion, compounding, reduplication, clipping, blending, and acronym. However, since the limitation of time and space, the discussion prevent to so doing. Consequently the discussion of this paper will even confine itself to the affixation system: inflectional and derivational.

Before dealing fully with the word formation, certain interrelated terms, such as affix, suffix, prefix, base, stem, and root of word<sup>12</sup>, employed here should be clarified in advance. English words are made from morphemes, which are the smallest unit of

Kenneth Croft, Reading and Word Study, (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1960), p. 227.

John C. Hodges and Mary E. Whitten, Harbrace College Handbook, (New York: Harcourt Brace Javanovich, 1977), p. 10.

Hans Marchand, The Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word-Formation, (Munchen: Verlag C.H. Beck, 1969), p.2.

David Crystal, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990, 1987), p. 433.

See, Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum, A University Grammar of English, (London: Longman, 1973), p.430-431, and Hans Marchand, The Categories and Types of Present Day English Word-Formation, (Munchen: Verlag C.H. Beck, 1969), p.2.

See, Laurie Bauer, English Word-Formation, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 20-21.

speech with any meaning. Being seen from the morphological point of view, therefore there are two kinds of morphemes: roots and affixes. Affixes which occur at the beginning of words are called prefixes, and affixes which occur at the end of words are called suffixes. A root is a form which is not further analyzable, either in terms of derivational or inflectional morphology. Meanwhile, a stem is of concern only when dealing with inflectional morphology. Inflectional, but not derivational, affixes can be added to it. It is thus the part of the word form which remains when all inflectional affixes have been removed. Whereas a base, which Matthews prefers to call it operand<sup>13</sup>, refers to a word from which a rule of word-formation is applied. This means that any root or any stem can be termed as a base.

Once a base has undergone a rule of word formation, the derived word itself may become the base for another derivation; and henceforth, by replication, it is possible to drive words of considerable morphological and semantic complexity. For instance, in word which only one affix, such as happiness, the root (happy) is also the base; happiness is the base, but not the stem, of unhappiness. The word happy which is adjective becomes noun after having been given suffix ness, happiness, but prefix un which is added to happiness, i.e. unhappiness, does not change the word class, it remains noun, i.e. abstract noun. In other word, while it is true that most affixes added to a base or a root can change the concerned word class, but they, in the case of English, do not always change of word class.

When the meaning of certain word, such as nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives, within an English sentence is to be identified appropriately, there are at least two ways can be employed so as to serve this purposes: by recognizing their inflectional affixes and derivational affixes.

Matthews, P.H., Morphology, 2nd ed., (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1974, 1993), p.12.

#### C.1. Noun

Noun, which is traditionally defined as part of speech that names person, place, thing, idea, animal, quality, action or idea<sup>14</sup>, can be recognized based on two ways: a) inflectional and derivational prefixes as well as inflectional and derivational suffixes. Prefixes are affixes which are placed before basic word forms, and suffixes are affixes which are placed at the end of basic word form. The basic word form or stem or root is morphologically called free morpheme and its affixes are called bound morpheme for they can stand alone.

Inflectional suffixes which applies to nouns are pluralizers, such as s or es and the possessive makers, such -'s and -s'. These suffixes do not change the word classes.

Suffixes	Singular Nouns	Plural Nouns
- S	book	books
	computer	computers
	bag	bags
- es	box	boxes
1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	match	matches
	watch	watches
Suffixes	Common case	Possessive case
-'s	John	John's
-s'	boys	boys'
-'s	children	children's

Most derivational suffixes which can be added to verb forms to from nouns include -ment, -er, -ar, -or, ion, ation, -tion, -cation, -ance, -ence, -t, -ure, -ture, --y, -ery, -age, ing.

John E. Warriner, English Grammar and Composition: Complete Course, (New York: Harcourt Brace Javanovich, 1982), p.4, see also John C. Hodges and Mary E. Whitten, Harbrace College Handbook, (New York: Harcourt Brace Javanovich, 8th ed., 1977), p...

# Nouns with the underlying verb forms:

Suffixes	Verbs	Nouns
- ment	govern agree argue	government agreement argument
- er	teach sing hear	teacher singer hearer
- or	collect govern conquer	collector governor conqueror
- ar	beg lie	beggar liar
- ion	express discuss act	expression discussion action
- tion	attend describe reduce	attention description reduction
- ation	admire combine expect	admiration combination expectation
- cation	apply multiply classify	application multiplication classification
- ition	compose repeat	composition repetition
- ance	allow attend enter	allowance attendance entrance
- ence	confide	confidence

	prefer differ	preference difference
- <b>t</b>	complain join weigh	complaint joint weight
- al	approve arrive dismiss	approval arrival dismissal
- ure	enclose depart fail	enclosure departure failure
- ture	fix mix please	fixture mixture pleasure
- ature	sign	signature
- <b>y</b>	deliver discover injure	delivery discovery injury
- ery	bribe	bribery
- ary	bound	boundary
- age	carry pack spoil	carriage package spoilage
- ing	begin belong build	beginning belonging building
-ist	type	typist
-ior	behave	behavior
-ison	compare	comparison
-tred	hate	hatred
-th	heal	health

-ice	serve	service
-ter	laugh	laughter
-er	pray	prayer
-edge	know	knowledge

# Nouns with underlying adjective forms:

Most derivational suffixes which can be added to adjectives to from nouns include: ness, -y, -ty, -ity, -th, -ce, and -cy.

Suffixes	Adjectives	Nouns
-ness	conscious bitter happy	consciousness bitterness happiness
-у	honest modest jealous	honesty modesty jealousy
-ty	difficult royal safe	difficulty royalty safety
-ity	original peculiar responsible	originality peculiarity responsibility
-th	true warm strong	truth warmth strength
-ce	important obedient patient	importance · obedience patience
-cy	efficient frequent urgent	efficiency frequency urgency

## Noun base with prefixes:

Although these prefixes may be added to a noun, they do not their word-classes, These suffixes are: diss-, in-, im-, ir-, non-, mis-.

Prefixes	Nouns	Nouns
dis-	advantage	disadvantage
	agreement	disagreement
	comfort	discomfort
un-	attractiveness	unattractiveness
	employment	unemployment
	obedience	disobedience
in-	convenience	inconvenience
	equality	inequality
	justice	injustice
im-	morality	immorality
	purity	impurity
ir-	regularity	irregularity
	rationality	irrationality
non-	existence	nonexistence
	resistance	nonresistence
	interference	noninterference
mis-	behavior	misbehavior
	fortune	misfortune
	statement	misstatement

# Noun bases with suffixes:

These suffixes can be added to nouns but they do not change the word-class of noun. The change is only in meaning: -ess, -st, ship, -age, -cy, -ry, and -ian

Suffixes	Nouns	Nouns
-ess	actor	actress

	host waiter	hostess waitress
-st	art colony science	artist colonist scientist
-ship	friend owner member	friendship ownership membership
-age	bag	baggage
-cy	agent	agency
-ry	poet slave	poetry slavery
-ian	music	musician

#### C.2. Verbs

Verb, which is defined as "... a word that expresses action or otherwise helps to make a statement," 15 like noun, can be identified based on their inflectional and derivational suffixes and prefixes.

The grammatical inflections of English verbs change word forms but not word classes.

Suffixes	<b>Present Tense</b>	Past Tense
-ed	walk	walked
-d	live	lived
-ied	by	tried
Suffixes	Root	Particle
-ing	sleep	sleeping
-ed	rain	(has) rained

John E. Warirner, English Grammar and Composition, (New York: Harcourt Javanovich, 1982), p.10.

-en	fall	(has) fallen
-n	know	(has) known
-t	build	(has) built
Suffixes	root	3rd person singular
<b>-</b> S	smile	smiles
-ies	cry	cries
-es	go	goes

#### Verbs with underlying Noun Forms:

Most derivational suffixes which can be added to noun forms to from verbs include: -en, -ize, -ze, -fy, -ify, and -efy.

Suffixes	Nouns	Verbs
- en	fright	frighten
	haste	hasten
	threat	threaten
- ize	colony	colonize
	standard	standardize
	critic	criticize
- ze	memory	memorize
	symphaty	sympathize
	apology	apologize
- fy	beauty	beautify
- ify	class	classify
	solid	solidify
	terror	terrify
- efy	liquid	liquefy

# Verbs with underlying Adjective Forms:

Most derivational suffixes and prefixes which can be added to adjectives to from verbs include: -ize, - en, and en-.

Suffixes	Adjectives	Verbs
-ize	civil	civilize
-en	equal modern bright	equalize modernize brighten
-611	sharp weak	sharpen weaken
Prefixes	Adjectives	Verbs
en-	able	enable
	large	enlarge
	rich	enrich

## Verb with underlying Noun Forms:

. Most derivational prefixes which can be added to nouns to from verbs include: -en

Prefixes	Noun	Verbs
- en	cam circle	encamp encircle
	force	enforce

# Verb bases with prefixes:

These prefixes, though can be added to verbs, they do not change the word-class of the concerned verbs. Among of these prefixes are: dis-, un-, and mis-.

Prefixes	Verbs	Verbs	
dis-	arrange continue prove	disarrange discontinue disprove	
un-	button fold lock	unbutton unfold unlock	
mis-	count	miscount	

judge	misjudge	
pronounce	mispronounce	

## C.3. Adjectives

An adjective is a word used to modify a noun or a pronoun. 16

## Adjectives with underlying Noun Forms:

Most derivational suffixes which can be added to nouns to from adjectives include: -y, -ly, -ful, -less, -ous, -al, tal, -tial, -ic, -ish, -like, -ed, -en, -ious, -are; -ate, -ory, -etic, and -atic.

Suffixes	Nouns	Adjectives
-у	anger greed thorn	angry greedy thorny
-ly	coward friend order	cowardly friendly orderly
-ful	doubt beauty power	doubtful beautiful powerfui
-less	harm heart home	harmless heartless homeless
-ous	courage danger mountain	courageous dangerous mountainous
-ious	envy mystery space	envious mysterious spacious

John E. Warirner, English Grammar and Composition, (New York: Harcourt Javanovich, 1982), p.8.

-al	conversation education critic	conversational educational critical
-tal	horizon accident coast	horizontal accidental coastal
-tial	influent confidence	influential confidential
-ic	artist poet base patriot	artistic poetic basic patriotic
-ish	book child self	bookish childish selfish
-like	child life war	childlike lifelike warlike
-ed	horn salary skill	horned salaried skilled
-en	wood wool gold	wooden woolen golden
-ious	ambition suspicion religion	ambitious suspicious religious
-ar	circle	circular
-ate	fortune	fortunate
-ory	satisfaction	satisfactory
-etic	sympathy	sympathetic
-atic	system	systematic

## Adjectives with underlying Verbs Forms:

Most derivational suffixes which can be added to verb forms to from adjectives include : -ent, -ant, -able, -ible. -ive, -tive, -ed, -en, and -ing.

Suffixes	Verbs	Adjectives
-ent	confide depend differ	confident dependent different
-ant	observe please	observant pleasant
-able	avoid depend explain	avoidable dependable explainable
-ible	sense defend	sensible defensible
-ive	act create effect	active creative affective
-tive	destroy sense attend	destructive sensitive attentive
-ed	curve complicate advance	curved complicated advanced
-en	swell	swollen
-ing	amuse entertain astonish	amusing entertaining astonishing

## Adjectives bases with prefixes:

These prefixes, though added to adjectives, they do not change the word-class of the concerned adjectives, but their meanings. These include: dis-, un-, in-, im-, ir, and non-.

Prefixes	Adjectives	Adjectives
dis-	honorable respectful loyal	dishonorable disrespectful disloyal
un-	changeable educated clear	unchangeable uneducated unclear
in-	dependent _ expensive direct	independent inexpensive indirect
im-	practical perfect possible	impractical imperfect impossible
ir-	regular responsible rational	irregular irresponsible irrational
non-	destructive educational explosive	nondestructive noneducational nonexplosive

#### C.4. Adverbs

An adverb is a word used to modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.<sup>17</sup>

John E. Warirner, English Grammar and Composition, (New York, Harcourt Javanovich, 1982), p.14.

## Adverbs with underlying Adjective Forms:

Most derivational suffixes and prefixes which can be added to adjectives to from adverbs include: -y , -ly , and a-.

Sufixes	Adjectives	Adverbs
-у	favorable humble sensible	favorably humbly sensibly
-ly	intentional immediate plain	intentionall immediately plainly
Prefixes	Adjectives	Adverbs
<b>a-</b>	broad round long	abroad around along

# Adverbs with underlying Noun Forms:

Most derivational suffixes and prefixes which can be added to nouns to from adverbs include: -ly, -ward, -wards, and a-.

Suffixes	Nouns	Adverbs
-ly	former month instant	formerly monthly instantly
-ward(s)	back north front	backward northward frontward
Prefixes	Nouns	Adverbs
<b>a-</b>	ground cross shore	aground across ashore

#### Adverb bases with prefixes:

These prefixes, when added to adverbs, they do not change their word classes, but their meanings. The suffixes include ; un-, -in-, im-, ir-, and dis-.

Prefixes	Adverbs	Adverbs
un-	intentionally naturally happily	unintentionally unnaturally unhappily
in-	correctly formally	incorrectly informally
-im	perfectly possibly	imperfectly impossibly
-ir	rationally regularly	irrationally irregularly
dis-	agreeably honestly	disagreeably dishonestly

#### D. AFFIXES AND THEIR MEANINGS

If in the preceding section, the emphasize is given more on the word-formation in terms of adding prefixes and suffixes to word bases with consequence of both changing and maintaining word classes, now it is time to touch upon them in terms of their meanings. A base may be followed by more than one suffix, each contributing to and extend the meaning. Henceforth, it worthwhile to know their meaning individually:

Suffices	Function and Meaning	Examples
-able / -	makes adjectives meaning able to, likely to etc.	accountable, adaptable, eligible
-acy	makes nouns of quality or condition from adjectives	aristocracy, diplomacy, privacy

makes nouns meaning collection or service	acreage, coinage, storage
makes nouns and adjectives meaning of, pertaining to connected with	accidental, appraisal, conjectural
makes adjectives and nouns meaning of or from a group country, doctrine	Indonesian, Asian, American
makes nouns from adjectives and adverbs meaning state or	abundance,
condition	ce
makes noun and adjectives meaning process or one who	absorbent, applicant, stimulant
makes adjectives and nouns meaning occupation, sect or one who believe in	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
makes noun meaning related to	dignitary, granary, monetary
makes adjectives from nouns meaning possessing or denotes a function	
makes nouns meaning action, process of or the result of	accusation, damnation, authorization
makes nouns meaning an act of killing	•
makes nouns meaning state of or rank	earldom, freedom, officialdom
makes adjectives meaning having, resembling etc.	bare-legged, hard- headed, spectacled
	makes nouns and adjectives meaning of, pertaining to connected with makes adjectives and nouns meaning of or from a group country, doctrine makes nouns from adjectives and adverbs meaning state or condition makes noun and adjectives meaning process or one who makes adjectives and nouns meaning occupation, sect or one who believe in makes noun meaning related to makes adjectives from nouns meaning possessing or denotes a function makes nouns meaning action, process of or the result of makes nouns meaning an act of killing makes nouns meaning state of or rank makes adjectives meaning

-ee	makes nouns meaning one who	divorcee, escapee; trustee
-eer	makes nouns and verbs meaning one who works with or one who makes	• •
-en	makes verbs from adjective and nouns meaning to make	ashen, blacken, deafen
-er	makes nouns meaning one who practices or one who lives in	adviser, Montrealer, commander
-ery,-ory, -ry	makes noun meaning a business, place, behavior, art, trade	discriminatory, brewery, lavatory, masonry, tapestry
-ese	makes nouns and adjectives meaning inhabitant, langauge, or style of a group or people	
-esque	makes adjectives meaning having the style of	arabesque, statuesque, picturesque
-ess	makes noun feminine	countess, goddess, heiress
-ette	makes noun into diminutive	cigarette, laundrette, novelette
-fold	makes adjectives meaning having x parts	hundredfold, manifold, tenfold
-full	makes adjectives meaning full of or having the character of	awful, cupful, tearful
-hood	makes nouns meaning the state of being	boyhood, brotherhood, manhood

-ie	makes adjectives meaning connected with	alcoholic, heroic
-ical	makes adjectives meaning connected with	biological, comical, historical
-ician	makes nouns meaning one who is killed in or engaged in	beautician, statistician
-ics	makes nouns denoting an art, science or activity	acoustics, athletics
-ie, -y	makes nouns denoting familiarity, or forming nicknames, diminutives	
-ify,-fy	makes verbs meaning to cause., to be or become	amplify, deify, intensify
-inc	makes adjectives meaning like	alpine, equine, feline
-ing	make nouns and participles denoting activity or state	
-ise, -ize	makes verbs meaning to make	criticise, dramatise, fertilize
-ish	makes adjectives meaning like or tending towards	biggish, childish, girlish
-ism	makes nouns denoting beliefs, act, process, or characteristics	
-ist	makes nouns meaning one who works with or one who practice	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
-ite	make nouns meaning native of, follower of, and make adjective form nouns	•
-ition	makes nouns meaning doing something, ability or state	abolition, demolition, position

-itious	makes adjectives meaning state or quality	ambitious, repetitious
-ity	makes nouns meaning state or quality	ability, charity, sanity
-ive	makes adjectives meaning quality of	attractive, creative, demonstrative
-less	makes adjective meaning free from. without	colourless, lawless, useless
-let	makes nouns meaning little or an ornament	booklet, bracelet, starlet
-like	makes adjectives meaning resembling	gentlemanlike, lifelike, warlike
-ling	makes nouns meaning young	earthling, seedling, yearling
-logy	makes nouns meaning a branch of science	biology, sociology, theology
-ly	makes adverbs and adjectives meaning state or quality	cautiously, correctly, lovely
-ment	makes nouns meaning the product of or the state of	
-most	makes adjectives superlative	furthermost, innermost
-ness	makes nouns meaning state or quality	carelessness,
-ous	makes adjectives denoting quality	nervous, suspicious, adventurous
-ship	makes noun meaning the quality of	kinship, friendship
-some	makes adjectives meaning	handsome,

	tending to be, and makes nouns meaning a group consisting of	•
-ster	makes nouns meaning one who makes or belongs to	gangster, teamster, jokester
-ward, -wards	makes adverbs meaning toward	homeward, onward, upwards
-wise	makes adverbs meaning in relation to	clockwise, moneywise, otherwise

#### E. CONCLUDING REMARKS

As Palmer, a professor of Linguistic Science from University of Reading, has already pointed out that "...the word is, in some sense at least, one of the basic unit of semantics," it deserves special attention from any student of linguistics, including those of English as a second or foreign language. While it is true that both pragmatics and semantics deals with meanings, but they quite differ. Pragmatics deals with the meaning within the linguistic context as well as the situational or metalinguistic context, whereas semantics focuses especially to the meaning at the level of words and sentences.

This paper, constitutes one of efforts to relate the meaning in the sphere of semantics and word-formation in the sphere of morphology. This effort is hoped more or less to help the students of English as a second or a foreign language to understand English better as Lyons rightly points out that word-formation will "...enable their users to construct new word expression out of pre-exiting lexically simpler expression." For example, 'politeness' is constructed from lexically simple expression 'polite', by means of a productive rule of English word formation.

F.R. Palmer, Semantics: A New Outline, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 197fi). p.37.

John Lyons, Lingusitics Semantics, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995). p.51.

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**Ilzamudin Ma'mur,** dosen bahasa Inggris dan Islamic Studies pada Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri "Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten", Serang.