

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Linguistics is the systematic study of language, emphasizing the internal principles and structures that determine how language is used (Chomsky, 2006). Linguistics plays an important role in the life of humans since it examines how humans communicate. It examines the structural elements of language, like sounds in phonology, sentences in syntax, meaning in semantics, words in morphology, etc. All those parts of linguistics examine how it works and how people use it. One of the important parts of linguistics is morphology since it is the study of the smallest unit of communication, which is a word.

In linguistics, morphology studies the structure, formation, and internal composition of words. According to Katamba (1993), morphology concerns itself with the rules examining the combination of morphemes into words. A word is defined as a unit of meaning that can be spoken or written and is made up of one or more morphemes (Katamba, 1993). A morpheme is the smallest unit of a word that contains meaning in word creation. For example, the word “apples,” which contains two constituents called morphemes, “apple” and “s.” Other examples of two morphemes in word creation are “student-s, teach-er, govern-ment, etc.” A word can also contain more than two morphemes, like “nation-al-ity, un-document-ed, unforgive-able and so forth. These constituents “-al, -s, -ity, -ed, -able, -ment, -er” are

called affixes. An affix is a part of a word or a word's major part (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010: 19).

An affix cannot exist on its own and typically has an abstract meaning. Depending on where they are located within a word, morphologists frequently employ unique terminology for various affix types. In morphology, affixes that can be added include prefixes (in front of a word) and suffixes (behind a word). According to Katamba (1993), a suffix is divided into two categories, inflectional and derivational.

Lieber (2009) explains that inflectional suffixes in morphology involve altering the form of a word without changing its word class or core meaning. This means that modifying a word's grammatical structure does not affect its meaning, as seen in examples like “students,” “teachers,” and “cooks.” On the other hand, Yule (2010) defines derivation as a linguistic process where new words are formed by adding affixes to a root or base word. Examples of derivational suffixes include transforming “sad” into “sadness,” “kill” into “killer,” and “love” into “lovely.” This process allows for the creation of a wide range of new words that add depth and diversity to the English language, which can modify the base word. The base form of a word is the part to which a suffix is attached; for instance, the base of “farmer” is “farm.” When an inflectional suffix, rather than a derivational one, is added to a base, it is sometimes referred to as a stem. For example, in the word “students,” the inflectional suffix “-s” creates the stem. A root, however, is a base that cannot be further divided into smaller morphemes. For example, while “readable” serves as the base of “readability,” it is not the root. “Read” is the root of “readability” and also the base of “readable.”

Derivational suffixes play a significant role in word formation in morphology because they create new words or meanings by combining different morphemes. They are frequently used in both spoken communication, such as in podcasts, speeches, and radio broadcasts, and written formats like magazines, newspapers, and online threads. Derivational suffixes are vital for effectively conveying information and are commonly used in various news media, whether online articles or traditional newspapers. Since reading news is a daily activity that helps people stay informed about the world, especially news about politics, which delivers regulations about how people live in the future, it is essential to study derivational suffixes, particularly in news articles, as they are prevalent and easily recognizable in everyday life (Smith & Higgins, 2020). When the topic of the news is politics, words like “announcement,” “governmental,” and “political” demonstrate how derivational suffixes help journalists summarize complex information and maintain a professional tone. Therefore, the application of derivational suffixes is directly tied to the journalistic style, reflecting the need for formal, informative, and easily understood language.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary (2013), news is information about recent events or developments, usually shared through media channels like newspapers, television, radio, or online platforms. One of the most famous news channels in the world is VOA News, or Voice of America. This news channel is one of the biggest news platforms and widely influences the news online and offline in America and around the world. The article of VOA uploads many topics about health, social issues, culture, entertainment, and politics. There are many derivational suffixes found in VOA News, especially when the topic is about

politics. This study used the topic about Donald Trump's presidency in 2025 because this occasion is the hottest topic after the USA presidential election at the end of 2024, and many people are curious about this topic. Therefore, the media around the world, especially in America itself, deliver all the things that happen in the new era of Donald Trump's presidency in 2025. VOA News is the local and international news channel from America, which hardly updates regarding the politics in America, especially Donald Trump's presidency, which makes VOA News very suitable for this study. Therefore, it is important to explain types and functions of derivational suffixes from viral news.

This study aims to examine the derivational suffixes found in the selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's presidency. This study examines the kinds of derivational suffixes based on the theory of Katamba (1993), Katamba (1994), and Hamawand (2011) and the functions of derivational suffixes based on the theory of McCarthy (2002). This study used the theory from Katamba (1993), Katamba (1994), and Hamawand (2011) to identify the kinds of derivational suffixes because it can provide the data based on three kinds of derivational suffixes: noun forming suffixes, verb forming suffixes, and adjective forming suffixes which are easy to understand. Meanwhile, the theory from McCarthy (2002) is used to determine the functions of the derivational suffixes based on two main categories: class changing suffixes and class maintaining suffixes, which can be classified practically. Finally, the data provided how the kinds and functions of the derivational suffixes found in the VOA News about Donald Trump's presidency. By doing so, this study highlights how derivational suffixes not only form words but

also reflect the stylistic and communicative goals of journalism, helping writers deliver information effectively, concisely, and professionally.

## **1.2 Problems of the Study**

In accordance with the explanation in the background section. This study brought two crucial problem formulations to be discussed:

1. What types of derivational suffixes are found in selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's presidency 2025?
2. What are the functions of derivational suffixes found in selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's presidency 2025?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The following objectives of this study be the points to deliver the answers from the problems above:

1. To identify the types of derivational suffixes are found in selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's presidency 2025.
2. To determine the functions of derivational suffixes found in selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's presidency 2025.

## **1.4 Limitations of the Study**

This study is focused on the examination of types and functions of derivational suffixes found in selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's presidency in 2025. There are several primary theories that are used in this study: Katamba (1993), Katamba (1994), and Hamawand (2011) provide theories for

determining the kinds of derivational suffixes. McCarthy (2002) provides the second theory that is utilized to investigate the role of derivational suffixes observed in VOA News: Donald Trump's Presidency 2025. This study is limited to the morphological analysis and does not address other factors in the articles, such as social or political issues.

### **1.5 Significances of the Study**

This study holds significance in two main aspects: theoretical and practical. It focuses on analyzing derivational suffixes within the scope of morphology. Theoretically, the research contributes to the development of linguistic theories and deepens our understanding of word formation. Practically, it offers benefits for educational practices and broader societal applications. Thus, the importance of this research is reflected through its theoretical contributions and practical implications, which are explained below.

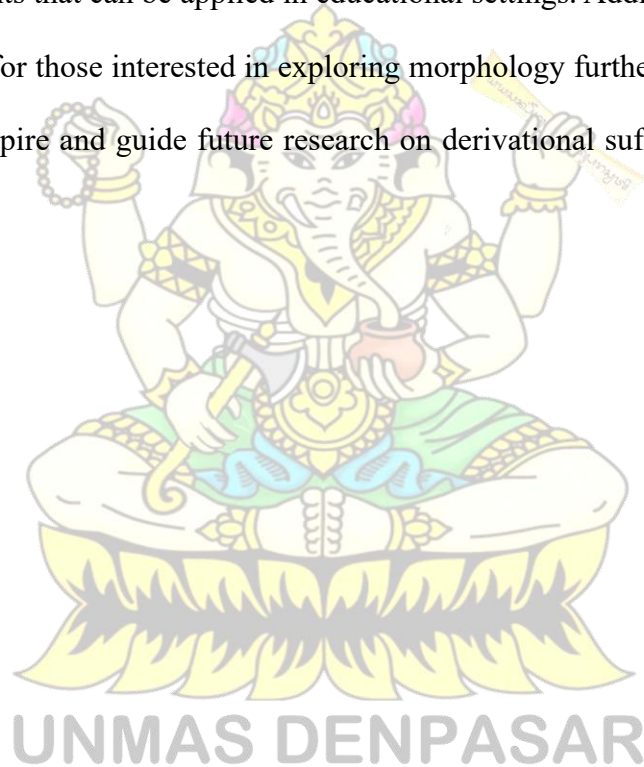
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#### **1.5.1 Theoretical Significance**

Theoretically, the purpose of this research is to provide a detailed explanation of morphology, with a focus on derivational suffixes. It aims to enhance readers' understanding of how these suffixes function in language. By analyzing derivational suffixes found in news articles, the study offers concrete examples of their usage. This research is expected to help readers recognize different types of derivational suffixes. Moreover, the findings can be applied not only to news articles but also to various other sources.

### 1.5.2 Practical Significance

Practically, this study is expected to help readers improve their understanding of morphology, particularly derivational suffixes. It aims to support learners in developing their language skills more effectively. The research provides useful insights that can be applied in educational settings. Additionally, it serves as a reference for those interested in exploring morphology further. This study is also hoped to inspire and guide future research on derivational suffixes across various sources.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, AND THEORIES

This chapter focused on examining relevant literature, concepts, and theories. Results, similarities, and gaps between this study and the previous study were provided. There were two theses and three articles as the review of related literature.

#### 2.1 Review of Related Literature

The review of relevant literature required looking at published papers, books, articles, and other materials that are directly linked to the study issue. A study of relevant literature helped to justify the research's significance and relevance. In this part, the study examines some related literature on the morphology of derivational suffixes in order to find gaps and describe the link between this study and earlier research.

The first previous study was taken from an article entitled “An Analysis of Derivational Suffixes Found in CNN News: Entertainment Edition” by Ulan & Utami (2025). By using the theory from Plag (2002), the previous study focused on identifying and categorizing derivational suffixes found in news articles. A descriptive qualitative approach was used, and the data was taken by highlighting and identifying words containing derivational suffixes. The result of the previous study was 233 derivational suffixes. It identified 4 verb suffixes (1.7%), 88 adverb suffixes (37.8%), 79 nominal suffixes (33.9%), and 62 adjective suffixes (26.6%). The most prevalent type was adverb suffixes, which were notably used to describe

actions, states, or qualities in greater detail, reflecting the nature of entertainment news. The similarity between the previous study and this study is using news as the data source and examining the types of derivational suffixes as the topic. However, there are some gaps in the theory and problem of the study. The previous study used the theory from Plag (2002) to examine the types of derivational suffixes in CNN News: Entertainment Edition; meanwhile, this study used the theory from Katamba (1993), Katamba (1994), and Hamawand (2011) to provide the explanation of the types of derivational suffixes and the theory from McCarthy (2002) to examine the functions of derivational suffixes found in the article of VOA News about Donald Trump's Presidency 2025.

The second previous study, conducted by Wiranata & Putra (2024), is entitled “Derivational Suffixes in the Reading Textbook of Sixth Grade Elementary School by Evan Moor.” The previous article aimed to examine the types and process of derivational suffixes by using an observation method, and it was analyzed using a descriptive qualitative approach. The data were analyzed using theory from Plag (2003) and McCarthy (2002). The result of this study was 98 data points, including 58 nominal suffixes, 3 verbal suffixes, 22 adjectival suffixes, and 15 adverbial suffixes. Nominal suffixes were the most often occurring type, and verbal suffixes were the least prevalent type. The similarity between the previous study and this study is that both have the same topic and problem of study about examining the types of derivational suffixes. However, there are some gaps between the previous study and this study in the theory, problem of the study, and data source. The previous study used the theory from Plag (2003) and McCarthy (2002) to examine the types of derivational suffixes in the Reading Textbook of Sixth Grade

Elementary School by Evan Moor. Meanwhile, this study used the theory from Katamba (1993), Katamba (1994), and Hamawand (2011) to provide the explanation of the types of derivational suffixes and the theory from McCarthy (2002) to examine the functions of derivational suffixes found in selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's Presidency 2025.

The third previous study is a thesis entitled “An Analysis of Derivational Suffixes Found in the Moby-Dick Novel by Herman Melville” by Ratna (2024). The previous study focused on examining the types and processes of derivational suffixes found in the novel Moby-Dick by Herman Melville. The previous study used a descriptive qualitative and quantitative approach, identified the derivational suffixes, and then classified them into the types of derivational suffixes by using the theory from Fromkin et al. (2007) and Plag (2003) and classified the processes of derivational suffixes by using the theory by Katamba (1993). The Moby-Dick novel, which was released in May 2023 with 785 pages, contained derivational suffixes. The result of the previous study showed all the types of derivational suffixes: noun to adjective with 49 data (15%), adjective to noun with 47 data (14%), verb to noun with 90 data (27%), verb to adjective with 110 data (33%), adjective to adverb with 8 data (2%), noun to verb with 15 data (5%), and noun to noun with 13 data (4%). The total data that were found were 322 data, and the most frequent appearance of derivational suffixes was from verb to adjective, with 110 data, or 33%. The similarity between the previous study and this study is that both have the same topic and problem of study about examining the types of derivational suffixes. However, there are some gaps between the previous study and this study in the theory, problem of the study, and data source. The previous study used the theory from Katamba

(1993) to examine the processes of derivational suffixes in a novel entitled *Moby-Dick* as a data source; meanwhile, this study used the theory from McCarthy (2002) to examine the functions of derivational suffixes found in selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's Presidency 2025.

The fourth previous study is an article entitled “The Types of Derivational Suffixes Found in The Dry Novel by Jane Harper” by Pramesti & Winarta (2024). The previous study focused on analyzing the types of derivational suffixes. The data was analyzed by using the theory from Plag (2003) and McCarthy (2002) with the descriptive qualitative method. The results of this study were 194 data, which consist of nominal suffixes with 66 data, verbal suffixes with 1 data, adjectival suffixes with 69 data, and adverbial suffixes with 58 data. The similarity between the previous study and this study is that both have the same topic about examining the derivational suffixes. In comparison, both used different theories, problems of the study, and data sources. The previous study used the theory from Plag (2003) and McCarthy (2002) to examine the types of derivational suffixes in a novel entitled *The Dry* as a data source, while this study used the theory from Katamba (1993), Katamba (1994), and Hamawand (2011) to provide the explanation of the types of derivational suffixes and the theory from McCarthy (2002) to examine the functions of derivational suffixes found in selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's 2025 presidency.

The last previous study, conducted by Putra (2023), was a thesis entitled “An Analysis of Derivational Suffixes Found in 2023 Nissan 400Z Blog by Carbuzz.” The previous study focused on analyzing types and processes of derivational suffixes found in 2023 Nissan 400Z Blog by Carbuzz. The previous study used a

descriptive qualitative method, identified the derivational suffixes, and then classified them into the types of derivational suffixes by using the theory from Fromkin (1991) and classified the processes of derivational suffixes using the theory by Lieber (2009). The result of the previous study was 169 data, which consist of various types of derivational suffixes. The most dominant type of derivational suffixes found was verb to noun, with 84 data or 42.21%, followed by noun to adjective with 55 or 27.64%, adjective to adverb with 38 data or 19.09%, and verb to adjective with 19 or 9.06%, and the least were derivational suffixes from adjective to noun with 3 or 1.50%. There was one type that was not found in this research, which was the derivational suffix from noun to verb.

The similarity between the previous and this study is the topic, which is about examining the derivational suffixes. However, there are some gaps between the previous study and this study in the theory, problem of the study, and data source. The previous study used the theory from Fromkin (1991) to examine the types of derivational suffixes and the theory from Lieber (2009) to classify the processes of derivational suffixes found in 2023 Nissan 400Z Blog by Carbuzz. Meanwhile, this study used the theory from Katamba (1993), Katamba (1994), and Hamawand (2011) to provide the explanation of the kinds of derivational suffixes. This study also used the theory from McCarthy (2002) to examine the functions of derivational suffixes found in selected articles of VOA News about Donald Trump's 2025 presidency.

## 2.2 Concepts

This section delves into key elements directly related to the title of this research, with a particular focus on concepts and terms that are repeatedly mentioned throughout the study. By exploring these frequently referenced aspects in greater detail, this part of the discussion seeks to provide a clearer understanding and strengthen the overall coherence of the research. The main concepts of this investigation include:

### 2.2.1 Derivational Suffixes

Derivational suffixes are morphemes that connect to a base word and create a new word with a different meaning or grammatical function (Hamawand, 2011). These suffixes do more than simply change a word class or definition. They also reflect how speakers interpret and engage with the world around them. In this way, language becomes a window into broader cognitive frameworks and conceptual systems. For example, the suffix “-able” conveys the idea of potential or capability, suggesting that something can be done or achieved. In contrast, the suffix “-less” implies the absence or lack of something, highlighting how language encodes perception and understanding.

### 2.2.2 News

As defined by Cambridge Dictionary (2013), news refers to reports or information about current events that are shared through newspapers, television, radio, or the internet. This definition highlights that news revolves around recent happenings and is commonly distributed across multiple media channels. It can be

communicated in different ways, such as through written publications, mailed updates, television or radio broadcasts, verbal communication, or verbal and written communication in digital platforms. Written news in a digital platform refers to information of news presented online in articles, online newspapers, or social media threads. Additionally, news can also come from individuals who have directly witnessed an event.

## 2.3 Theories

Scientific writing relies heavily on theory, as it is derived from systematic data analysis. This study utilizes four foundational theories: the English Word theory by Katamba (1993), Katamba (1994), and Hamawand (2011) to identify various derivational suffixes in news articles and McCarthy's (2002) theory to explore their functions. By integrating these theoretical perspectives, the research examines words, affixes, types of derivational suffixes, and functions of derivational suffixes.

### 2.3.1 Word

Katamba (1993) states that a word is a part of language that has meaning and can stand alone. A word can have one or more morphemes. For example, the word “unhappiness” has three parts: “un-” (a prefix), “happy” (the root), and “-ness” (a suffix). In the study of affixation, the focus is on morphemes, roots, and bases. Katamba (1993: 20) explains that a morpheme is the smallest part of a word that has meaning or grammar. According to McCarthy (2002), there are two kinds of morphemes: free morphemes that can stand alone or function independently and

bound morphemes that must join with another word. Katamba (1994: 41) outlines that morphemes consist of four components: bases, stems, affixes, and roots.

Katamba (1994: 41) explains that a root word is the simplest form of a word and cannot be broken into smaller parts without changing its meaning. All base words can be grouped into four main word types: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Examples of these are “chair” (noun), “walk” (verb), “dirty” (adjective), and “now” (adverb). These kinds of words are called content words and are made from root morphemes, which can stand alone. Katamba (1993: 45) also stated that a base is any form that can take affixes. Some affixes change the meaning or word type (derivational), and others are used for grammar (inflectional). According to Katamba (1993), bases are sometimes called stems in grammar, and all roots can be used as bases of words. Words like “roads,” “governments,” and “schoolchildren” are stems because they use the plural suffix “-s.” Meanwhile, the root “quick” is a base in words like “quickly” and “quicker.” The suffix “-ly” shows how something is done, and “-er” shows a comparison. Katamba (1994: 47) stated that when affixes are added to bases, they can give new meaning or change the word type. This is why bases or stems that are added by affixes can create new meanings or new classes of words.

### 2.3.2 Affixes

Affixes are parts that can be added to a base or root to change its meaning or grammar or morphemes that cannot stand alone and must be joined to other words (McCarthy, 2002: 20). Affixation is divided into 3; they are prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. However, infixes are rarely used because they do not follow the usual

patterns of English word formation and are mostly found in informal or playful language, not in formal or standard English (Hamawand, 2011). Therefore, there are only 2 main affixes that are commonly used in formal English. Those main affixes are prefixes and suffixes.

### 2.3.2.1 Prefixes

According to Katamba (1994: 45), prefix is an affix added to the front of a word to change its meaning. A prefix is a bound morpheme which cannot stand alone and must be joined to a base word. For example, in the word “unhappy,” the prefix “un-” is added to the word “happy” to show the opposite meaning. Prefixes are added to make new words with different meanings. There are some prefixes which commonly used, such as “un-, re-, and dis-.”

### 2.3.2.2 Suffixes

A suffix is a part added to the end of a word to change its form or meaning (Katamba, 1994: 45). A suffix is a bound morpheme which cannot stand alone and must be joined to a base word. For example, in the word “teacher”, suffix “-er” is added to the verb “teach” to make a noun. There are some suffixes which commonly used “-ed, -ing, -ness, and -ful.” There are 2 types of suffixes, inflectional suffixes and derivational suffixes.

#### 1. Inflectional Suffixes

McCarthy (2002: 41) defined inflectional suffixes are endings added to words to show grammar, like tense or number. These suffixes do not make a

new word and do not change the word's type. For example, in the word "played," suffix "-ed" shows past tense of the verb "play." In continuous tense, the ending "-ing" is added to a verb to show the action is still going on. It means the action is happening now or was happening in the past. In "cats," suffix "-s" shows the plural form of "cat."

## 2. Derivational Suffixes

According to Katamba (1994: 47), derivational suffixes are endings added to a base word to make a new word. These suffixes can change the meaning or the type of the word. For example, the verb "teach" becomes the noun "teacher" when suffix "-er" is added. Another example is "happy" becoming "happiness" with suffix "-ness." These changes show how derivational suffixes work in word formation. There are different types of derivational suffixes, and each type has its own function.

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### 2.3.3 Types of Derivational Suffixes

According to Katamba (1994: 40), the process of word formation can be broadly classified into two main categories: derivation and inflection. These two linguistic mechanisms help in expanding vocabulary and modifying word structures. Within this classification, suffix morphemes are further divided into derivational and inflectional types. Derivational morphemes play a significant role in creating new words by either altering the original meaning of a base word or changing its grammatical category (Katamba, 1993: 47). This means that derivation

can transform a word from one part of speech to another, such as converting a noun into an adjective or a verb into a noun.

Hamawand (2011) further elaborated on this concept by emphasizing that the addition of a suffix to a bound morpheme can lead to the creation of a completely new word. This transformation occurs when a suffix changes the grammatical function of the base form, turning it into a different word class. For example, the noun "rain" can be modified by the addition of suffix "-y" to become "rainy," which is an adjective. Such morphological processes highlight the dynamic nature of language and its ability to generate an extensive lexicon through affixation. Suffixes can be grouped into three categories: noun forming, adjective forming and verb forming.

### 2.3.3.1 Noun Forming Suffixes

A bound morpheme that turns a free morpheme into a noun is a noun-forming suffix, sometimes referred to as a nominal suffix or nominalizer. These suffixes change free morphemes, which can function independently as nouns, verbs, or adjectives, to produce new meanings that are frequently connected to events, circumstances, or outcomes. For example, the noun "erasure," which denotes either the act of erasing or its result, is created when the verb "erase" is suffixed with "-ure" (Hamawand, 2011:123). Noun-forming suffixes come in a variety of forms, each serving a distinct linguistic function.

#### 1. Verb Roots

Depending on the base word and the particular suffix used, noun-forming suffixes can create a variety of noun types. These suffixes create nouns that

describe the action, result, or state associated with the verb when they are applied to verb roots. These suffixes include "-ion," "-ment," "-ee," "-ure," and "-er." For example, the verb “move” can be a noun “movement” with suffix “-ment”

## **2. Noun roots**

Simple nouns and agent nouns are the two primary categories into which nouns derived from other nouns fall. Simple nouns, which are frequently created with suffixes like "-age," "-dom," "-hood," "-ism," "-(e)ry," and "-ship," express ideas, states, or the outcome of actions. For instance, “child” becomes “childhood” with suffix “-hood”. Conversely, agent nouns are usually formed with suffixes such as “-(i)an, -ist, and -ster.” For example, the noun “magic” be “magician” with suffix “-(i)an”

## **3. Adjective Roots**

Suffixes like "-ce," "-cy," "-ity," and "-ness" are frequently used to turn adjectives into nouns. By adding particular meanings, these suffixes enable readers to completely comprehend the meaning of the derived noun. For example, an adjective “sad” becomes “sadness” with suffix “-ness”

### **2.3.3.2 Adjective Forming Suffixes**

A minor linguistic unit that adds to the end of a base word to change it into an adjective is known as an adjective-forming suffix (Hamawand 2011: 137). Combining a bound morpheme with a free morpheme results in this transformation. For instance, the adjective "breakable," which means "capable of being easily

broken or damaged," is created when the word "break" is suffixed with "-able." As explained, a base word can also be changed into a noun, adjective, or verb.

### 1. Verb Roots

Verb roots can be adjective by adding suffixes like "-able," "-ant," "-ed," "-en," "-ible," "-ing," "-ive," and "-ory". For example, the verb "touch" can be an adjective "touchable" by adding suffix "-able". Among these, "-en" turns verbs into adjectives. For example, adding "-en" to the verb "broke" produces "broken," so highlighting the special function of this suffix in word transformation unlike that of others that might adjust different base forms.

### 2. Noun Roots

A noun base can be attached suffixes like "-al," "-ary," "-ful," "-ic," "-ical," "-ish," "-ly," "-ous," "-some," "-y" to produce adjectives. Every suffix adds a different meaning, so enhancing language expression. As in "meaningful," suffix "-ful" suggests abundance or a defining quality. This diversity in suffixes allows for better precision in communication.

### 3. Adjective Roots

Additionally, by adding particular suffixes, some adjectives can be changed to form new adjectives with distinctive meanings. For this, suffixes like "-y," "-ish," and "-ly" are frequently employed, enabling an adjective to change into another with a distinct meaning.

#### 2.3.3.3 Verb Forming Suffixes

Hamawand (2011: 149) explains that a bound morpheme can act as a verb-forming suffix when appended to a base word. For instance, suffix "-en" can be

added to the adjective "bright," transforming it into the verb "brighten," which means "to add light to something" or "to make something clearly visible with light." This example demonstrates how a bound morpheme added a base word to create a verb.

### **1. Noun Root**

Suffixes "-ate," "-ify," and "-ise" can be added to nominal base words, transforming their word class or meaning to signify an action or activity.

### **2. Adjective Root**

Suffix "-en" can be used to create an adjective, enhancing its meaning and transforming it into a new verb.

## **2.3.4 The Function of Derivational Suffixes**

McCarthy (2002) explained that derivational morphemes were divided into two primary functions: class changing suffixes and class maintaining suffixes. The impact of each type depends on the specific derivational suffix applied, which determines whether the word class changed or remained the same. The explanations were explained below.

### **2.3.4.1 Class Changing Suffixes**

McCarthy (2002: 48) highlights that derivational processes differ from inflection as they can alter the word class of the base words they modify. Derivational suffixes have the ability to change both the grammatical category and the meaning of a base word. Some suffixes function as class changing suffixes by altering the grammatical category of words in different ways. They can turn nouns

and adjectives into verbs, verbs and nouns into adjectives, adjectives into adverbs, and adjectives or verbs into nouns.

### 1. Adverbs Derived from Adjectives

McCarthy (2002: 48) explains that adverbs are initially taught as words ending in "-ly" when learning English grammar. However, widely used adverbs like "often," "never," "seldom," "soon," "nowhere," "everywhere," "yesterday," and "today" do not fit this pattern. Suffix "-ly" is frequently used to transform adjectives into adverbs, but it also functions to change the grammatical category of the base word.

For example: "kind" (Adjective) + "-ly" = "kindly" (Adverb).

### 2. Nouns Derived from Adjectives

McCarthy (2002: 50) mentions that it is very common for nouns to be created from adjectives and verbs. Suffixes like "-ness," "-ity," and "-ism" are often used to form nouns from adjectives. When X serves as the base adjective, each of the previously mentioned examples effectively expresses the "state or characteristic of being X" (McCarthy, 2002: 50). For instance:

- 1) "-ity, as in the words fatality"
- 2) "-ness, as in the words sadness"
- 3) "-ism, as in the words feminism"

### 3. Nouns Derived from Verbs

McCarthy (2002: 51) explains that certain suffixes can convert verbs into nouns. For example:

- 1) "-ment," as in "treatment," derived from "treat."
- 2) "-ing," as in "finding," from "find."

3) "-er," as in "dancer," from "dance."

These suffixes generally create abstract nouns that express "the action or result of X-ing." However, they are not interchangeable, as shown by examples like "-ation" forming "celebration," with no equivalent forms like "celebrateation" or "celebrationment." Similarly, while words like "establishment" and "embellishment" exist, "establishance" does not. Among these suffixes, "-er" is one of the most commonly used to form agent nouns, identifying a person who performs an action. Suffixes like "-ist" and "-ant" perform a similar role, as exemplified by words such as "artist" and "consultant."

#### 4. Adjectives Derived from Verbs

McCarthy (2002: 53) states that adjectives formed from verbs can be created using affixes such as "-ed," "-en," "-ing," "-able," "-ent," "-ant," and "-ive." While these affixes primarily serve inflectional purposes, they also contribute to the formation of adjectives from verbs. For instance:

- 1) Break (V) + "-able" = Breakable (Adj), meaning capable of being broken
- 2) Depend (V) + "-ent" = Dependent (Adj), which describes relying on someone or something.

This illustrates how verbs can be transformed into adjectives with unique meanings by adding specific suffixes.

#### 5. Adjectives Derived from Nouns

McCarthy (2002: 53) explains that noun can be transformed into verb by adding specific suffixes to nouns to describe qualities or relationships

connected to the original noun. Common suffixes include "-al, -ous, -ful, -less, and -y." Each suffixes changes the meaning slightly for example, "-ful" means "full of," while "-less" means "without." For example:

- 1) Nation (N) + "-al" = National (Adj), meaning relating to a nation.
- 2) Beauty (N) + "-ful" = Beautiful (Adj), meaning full of beauty.
- 3) Hope (N) + "-less" = Hopeless (Adj), meaning without hope.

#### 6. Verb Derived from Nouns and Adjectives

McCarthy (2002: 55) noted that various suffixes can convert adjectives into verbs, highlighting that "-ise, -en, -ify" are applicable to both adjectives and nouns. Examples include:

- 1) "modernise," from "modern."
- 2) "justify," from "just."
- 3) "harden," from "hard."

#### 2.3.4.2 Class Maintaining Suffixes

McCarthy (2002: 49) points out that not all derivational processes lead to a change in word class. Some derivational morphemes function as class maintaining morphemes, allowing a word to shift its grammatical sub-class without altering its overall word class. For example, certain affixes are used to form nouns from other nouns, some derive adjectives from existing adjectives, and others modify verbs to create new verbs while maintaining their word class.

##### 1. Noun Derived from Noun

McCarthy (2002: 49) explains that nouns can be derived from other nouns in English by applying specific prefixes or suffixes that add particular

meanings, such as indicating an inhabitant, a female entity, a smaller version, a devotee, or a state of being. Examples include:

- 1) Inhabitant of X: Suffixes "-er" and "-(i)an" (e.g., Londoner, Canadian, New Yorker)
- 2) Female X: Suffixes "-ess" and "-ine" (e.g., actress, lioness, heroine)
- 3) Small X: Suffixes "-let," "-ette," and "-ie" (e.g., piglet, cigarette, birdie)

## 2. Adjectives Derived from Adjectives

McCarthy (2002: 52) highlights that many prefixes can modify adjectives, while suffix "-ish" conveys the meaning of "somewhat X." Examples include:

- 1) Smallish: somewhat small or not very big.
- 2) Bluish: somewhat blue or slightly blue
- 3) Darkish: somewhat dark or slightly dark

Prefixes commonly forming adjectives from adjectives include:

- 1) un-, meaning "not," as in unhappy, unfair.
- 2) in- and its allomorphs (im-, ir-, il-), as in immature, irreparable, illogical.

More adjective pairs with negation:

- 1) visible/invisible
- 2) finite/infinite.

## 3. Verbs Derived from Verbs

McCarthy (2002: 54) notes that prefixes play a major role in modifying verbs. Common prefixes include:

- 1) re-, indicating repetition or renewal (e.g., retry, reapply, refocus)
- 2) un-, negating the base word (e.g., unlock, unpack, undo)
- 3) de-, signifying removal or reversal (e.g., deactivate, desalinate, dethrone)
- 4) dis-, emphasizing separation or opposition (e.g., disconnect, disarm, discredit)

These examples show the versatility of prefixes and suffixes in altering word classes and expanding meanings.

