



Derivational Affixes in English and Arabic Words: The Process of Word Formation

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Abstract

This article discusses the process of derivational affixation in both English and Arabic. It aims to describe the affix derivation process, which results in changes in the meaning of some words attached by affixes. This is a qualitative research and all examples of words attached by affixes come from books, dictionaries, and other sources. The data collection results show that English and Arabic are very productive in the formation of new words when these words are attached by affixes, which can also cause changes in meaning. The obvious distinction between English and Arabic is in the root word. In Arabic, all basic words are verbs, whereas in English, the basic words that affixes can attach to are verbs, nouns, and adjectives.

Keywords

Derivational affixes, English words, Arabic words

Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas tentang proses afiksasi derivasi dalam bahasa Inggris dan bahasa Arab. Hal ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan tentang proses afiks derivasi yang menyebabkan perubahan makna pada beberapa kata yang dilekati oleh afiks. Ini adalah penelitian kualitatif dan semua data contoh kata yang dilekati oleh afiks diambil dari buku, kamus dan referensi lainnya. Hasil pendataan menunjukkan bahwa antara bahasa Inggris dan bahasa Arab sangat produktif dalam pembentukan kata baru ketika kata tersebut dilekati oleh afiks dan juga hal tersebut dapat menyebabkan perubahan makna. Perbedaan yang terlihat antara bahasa Inggris dan bahasa Arab adalah pada kata dasar. Semua kata dasar dalam bahasa Arab adalah dalam bentuk kata kerja sedangkan dalam bahasa Inggris, kata dasar yang dapat dilekati oleh afiks adalah kata kerja, kata benda dan kata sifat.

Kata Kunci

Afiksasi derivasi, kata bahasa Inggris, kata bahasa Arab

Introduction

Any language used in this world has some components, and morphology is one of the components. Morphology is a field of linguistics focus on the study of the form and formation of words in language. Carstairs-mccarthy (2018) states that Morphology is the branch of grammar concerned with word structure and word-to-word interactions involving the morphemes that construct them. Morphology is the study of the way in which words are contracted out of smaller meaningful units. Morphology is simply term for that branch of linguistics with is concern with the forms of words in different uses and construction. In English language, study about morphology means as study about the form and the formation of words. Idham et al. (2022) morphology is the investigation of word-development and association. Morphology is about how words are made up in a language.

The Arabic language is the language of wordings, syntax, and morphology as it is concerned with the wealthy of its sounds and the words derivation (Muhammadu Sainulabdeen et al., 2022). Morphology is the internal structure of words is formed. It includes inflection, derivation and compounding. In Arabic language, morphology is known as Ash-Sharf. Al-Khuly in (Kasim et al., 2022) state that Ash-Sharf is one of linguistics branch study about the form of word and the arrangement of it accord with analysis. Morphology is called as the science of *al-sharf*, which is the study of the intricacies of Arabic word forms. It is the change of one-word form into various form of words to get different meanings, and without this change, a different meaning will not be obtained. Because of morphological phenomena like as agglutination, Arabic morphological representation is quite complicated. Morphology has also encouraged Arabic grammarians to group words into only three categories, verb, noun, preposition, and particle. Using a pattern, Arabic words are derived from roots. The root morpheme is an ordered sequence of three or four legitimate alphabet characters, and rarely five characters.

Derivational morphology is the corpus of principles that allows us to define how one lexical item produces another or the morphology of lexical items. The lexical item serves as a marker for semantic construction. Either a prefix or a suffix makes up the lexical morpheme. Affixes can also be divided into derivational and inflectional categories based on the result they have on the base, changing the class of the base's parts of speech. The English and Arabic language's derivational affixes will be the main topic of this essay.

The derivation is viewed by Busman (1990) as cited in (Mohammed & Dhayif, 2022) as the process and end of word production in which new words are formed from words that already exist through a variety of processes. Derivation is the formation of a new word or inflectable stem from another word or stem. It typically occurs by the addition of an affix. A derivational affix is an affix by means of which one word is formed (derived) from another. The derived word is often of different word class from the original. A derivational affix is not part of an obligatory set of affixes. Generally occur closer to the root, generally is more meaningful, and is more likely to result in a form that has a somewhat idiosyncratic meaning.

Affixation is the morphological process of the word-formation. It generates words containing lexical and grammatical information by combining word affixes. (Igaab & Kareem, 2018). Affixes are classified into many types depending on their position within the word with regard to the based morpheme. Bound morpheme can be classified as affixes, which are divided into prefixes, suffixes, and infixes, according to the way they combine with the base or stem. Prefixes occur before the base e.g. *(un) tidy*, *(pre) school*, *(dis) like*. Suffixes occur after the base e.g. *kind (ness)*, *angry (ly)*, *teach (er)*. Infixes occur in the middle of the base. However, English has no infixes. As (Himmah & Wahyudi, 2015) said that a bound morpheme is one that cannot normally exist on its own but must be appended to another structure.

A prefix is a bound morpheme that proceeds to the base morpheme. Prefix is an affix attached before root or a steam or a base (Natalia & Wulandari, 2017). It is the proceedings group of words; it should be obvious that some affixes have to be added to the beginning of word. In Arabic language, a prefix is known as As-Sawaabiq. It is a word element which is



added at the beginning of word for other words (Fitria, 2020). Following are the example of prefixes in English and Arabic language.

In English : *city* (free morpheme) + *inter* (bound morpheme) = *intercity*

In Arabic : *kharaja* (free morpheme) + *a* (bound morpheme) = *akhraja*

A suffix is a bound morpheme that follows the base. According to (Aziez & Mulyanti, 2021) the other affix form are added to the end of the word and are called suffixes. In Arabic language, suffixes known as *Al-Lawaahiq*. For example.

In English : *member* + *ship* = *membership*

In Arabic : *najaha* + *ta'* = *najahtu*

English language has many affixes and Arabic morphology represent a special type of morphological system. Some related researches about Affixation: (Idham et al., 2022) found that there are several methods to frame words in English and Arabic, but the most well-known are deduction, affectation, and aggravation. (Kasim et al., 2022) the findings of this study revealed that word creation in Arabic occurs via *al-ziyaadah*, namely *al-sawaabiq*, *al-hasyw*, *allawaahiq*, and *al-muzdawijah*. Meanwhile, word formation in the Bugis language is performed through affixation. Both researches looked at how words change in English and Arabic, what forms of affixation cause them to change, and how the process of change works. This research focuses on changing words using derivation affixes and how English terms compare to the Arabic affixation process.

Method

This qualitative research showed three kinds of data namely, firstly, the data about the process of derivational affixes. In the process of derivational affixes in English and Arabic language, it is found that the word classes of basic words are changing from noun to verb, adjective to adjective, adjective to noun and verb to adjective. Different from Arabic language, all the bases are verb form and almost all affixes do not change the class of basic words. Secondly is the data about the process of changing meaning. Mostly words are attached affixes in English change its basic meaning, while in Arabic found that there are very few words have the different meaning cause of affixation. The last data is about the differences and similarities between English and Arabic words when they attached by affixes.

Documentation is the data collection technique employed in this study. The data resources are gathered from a variety of sources that include information related to the subject of the research, such as magazines, journals, dictionaries, and books. The descriptive approach was used to analyze the data, which included comparing both English and Arabic word formation.

Result and Discussion

Result

The Process of Affixes in English and Arabic language

Prefix *re-* does not change the form of word if it attached to stem which begin with consonant and vocal phoneme. This prefix is far more common with verbs than with nouns, and almost all of nouns that begin with prefix *re-* are nominalizations of verbs. For example.

Table 1
 Example of Derivational Prefixes *re-* in English

Part of Speech	Prefix	Derivational words
Noun	re-	Rephrase Recast Refill
Verb		Rewrite Readmit Reassign
Adjective		Recurrent

Prefix *in-*, *im-*, *il-*, and *ir-* changes its form if it is attached to a stem which begins with a consonant and a vocal phoneme or depending on the initial segment of the base. *in-* is attached to words that begin with vocal phonemes such as: /c/, /d/, /v/, etc. *im-* is added before /m/, /b/, /p/, etc. *ir-* is added before /r/ and *il-* is added before /l/. For example.

Table 2
 Example of Prefix *in-*, *im-*, *ir-*, *il-* in English

Part of Speech	Prefix	Derivational Words
Noun	<i>In-, im-, ir-, il-</i>	Inaptitude
Adjective		Inanimate Immature Immoral Irrational Irregular Irresponsible Illegal Illegible

Suffix *-able* does not change the word form if it is attached to a stem except if it is attached to a stem which ends with /e/ phonemes. Many verbs in English are attached with this suffix. Suffix *-able* is usually used to form adjectives. For example.

Table 3
 Example of Suffix *-able* in English

Part of Speech	Suffix	Derivational Words
Adjective	<i>-able</i>	Enjoyable Recognizable Changeable Comfortable Favorable

Suffix *-ment* usually occurs with little or even no change in the base verb. It is a substantial suffix, chiefly forming deverbal nouns. For example:

Table 4
 Example of suffix *-ment* in English

Part of Speech	Suffix	Derivational Words
Noun	<i>-ment</i>	Achievement Commitment Government Equipment Improvement Fulfillment



Suffix *-ness* is productive suffixes in English. It is added to adjective and formed noun. There are very few changes in the bases, as when the word ending with /y/. For example:

Table 5
 Example of Suffix *-ness* in English

Part of Speech	Suffix	Derivational Words
Noun	<i>-ness</i>	Seriousness Steadfastness Tightness Kindness Sickness Coolness darkness

Prefix *a-* in Arabic language has a function as change the intransitive form. It does not change the class of word and it is usually attached to the verb. For example:

Table 6
 Example of prefix *a-* in Arabic

Part of Speech	Prefix	Derivational Words
Verb	<i>a-</i>	Aslama Anzala ahdhara

Prefix *is-* has function as transitive verb to intransitive verb which means asking something. For example:

Table 7
 Example of prefix *is-* in Arabic

Part of Speech	Prefix	Derivational Words
Verb	<i>is-</i>	Istanshoro Istakbara Ista'adda

Prefix *ma-* has function as prefix *is-* which means asking something and it does not change the class of word. For example.

Table 8
 Example of prefix *ma-* in Arabic

Part of Speech	Prefix	Derivational Words
Verb	<i>ma-</i>	Mahbatha Mawu'idu Mahwaa

The Differences and Similarities of Derivational Affixes in English and Arabic Words

There are some differences between English and Arabic words in the process of derivation.

1. In English, words with affixes have different meanings than the underlying words. However, in Arabic, the meaning of the additional prefix is essentially identical to that of the underlying word. There are some affixes which means opposite, while in Arabic, there none prefix.

2. In English, the base word is usually derived from a verb, a noun, or an adjective. They connected affixes to construct a new term with a different class of word and generate a new meaning. In Arabic, all basic words are derived from verbs.
3. English has more derivational affixes both prefix and suffixes. On the contrary with the Arabic language, this language has no derivational suffixes but inflectional suffixes.
4. In the derivational suffixation process, both English and Arabic are highly productive in forming new words with the same or different meaning. Suffixes in English and Arabic sometimes changing the word class.

Discussion

This article discussed affixes in English and Arabic. Affixes are bound morphemes that are appended to the base word. A base is typically a free morpheme around which words can be constructed by adding affixes. A base can also be referred to as a stem, which is an element to which further morphemes are added. A base can be made up of a single root morpheme, as in the 'kind' of 'kindness'. A base, on the other hand, can be a term that contains more than one morpheme. For example, we can use the word 'kindness' as a base to form a word 'kindnesses'; to make 'kindnesses' we add the plural morpheme, spelled 'es' in the case to the base 'kindness'. The example of plural morpheme is the inflectional area. The base 'kind' can have affixes attached to it to form 'kindly', 'kindness', 'kinder', and 'kindest'. The phenomenon of this grammatical rule which the word is forming, how the word evolves, and also the changing meaning (Rahmadani et al., 2022).

Derivation is the process by which affixes and roots connect to form new words. Derivational morphemes create new words from old ones. Derivational morphemes often alter the class of words as well as their core meaning. Derivational suffixes affect the part of speech of the words to which they are appended in many circumstances, but not all. This is in line with (Abdullah et al., 2020) opinion that in the process of word formation, there is affixation, which supports and determines whether the resulting meaning changes due to the embedded affix or whether the embedded meaning does not change from the meaning of the basic form. The noun *act* becomes an adjective *active* by addition *-ive*. The adjective *active* made it a verb *activate* when it was added by *-ate*. Unlike suffixes, which often change the base from one word class to another, prefixes usually change the meaning of the base. for example the base 'bend' which means 'membengkokkan' when it attached prefix *un-* it becomes 'unbend' and the meaning of the word will be in opposite 'meluruskan'. Another example, prefix *under-* when it attached to the word *take* which means 'mengambil' becomes *undertake* means 'meluruskan'.

Derivational morphemes are often productive. It can be selective about what they will combine with. As English language suffix *-y* is an extremely productive suffix. It is added to a great many nouns and verbs of one syllable, and or two syllables. If accented on the first syllable, it is to form adjective. In the other page, suffix *-ness* is also such extremely productive suffix to form nouns from adjectives. (Suriani, 2015) observed that suffixes do not always modify the word class of the word to which they are connected. This is proved that there are very few changes in the base, other than minor alterations in spelling when this suffix is used. The example of suffix *-y* and *-ness*: 'droopy', 'swampy', 'wormy', 'gloomy', 'awareness', 'seriousness', 'sadness', and etc.



Derivation is a morphological process that results in the formation of various words, each of which has a different word class than the base word. Arabic is a language that is very productive in terms of vocabulary formation through the derivation method. In Arabic, derivation can be accomplished in two ways: internal changes and affixation. The blending of affixes into their basic form serves to modify a word's grammatical function or meaning (Nur, 2019).

Tens of words with potentially distinct meanings can be formed from a single Arabic word (Al-Muhtaseb & Mellish, 2008) when it attached to suffixes. While English, will produce different form and meaning of word when it attached to prefix.

Conclusions

From the explanation previously, it can be concluded that English and Arabic are international languages spoken by people around the world. In Indonesia, both languages have been used as foreign language either in the society or in Islamic school. English and Arabic discuss about morphology. The process of affixation in both languages especially the process of derivational prefixes and suffixes are the main point in this article. In English, if the word added with prefixes it sometimes changes the part of speech of the language. However in Arabic, derivational affixes would not change the part of speech when they attached to the base, except prefix *ma-*. All the bases in English comes from verb, noun and adjective, while in Arabic, all the bases are verbs.

In English, derivational affixes would affect the changing of meaning. Almost all derivational prefixes which attached to words changed the basic meaning of the word. On the other hand, when derivational suffixes attached to word they sometimes changed the basic meaning of word. Like English, derivational affixes in Arabic also affect the changing meaning. Although in Arabic language there no affixes which have meaning as the opposite.

There are some differences and similarities of English and Arabic language when their words attached by affixes. Both English and Arabic prefixes change the part of speech and the meaning of basic words. The differences of English and Arabic words, Arabic language has no derivational suffixes but inflectional, while English has more derivational affixes than inflectional.

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