



The Importance of Morphological Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to clarify the importance of morphology. Through this paper, the researchers provide an explanation of the morphological units (morphemes), their types, and the internal structures of vocabulary.

The researchers also provide an explanation of inflectional and derivational morphology and their important role in developing the learner's vocabulary and increasing his awareness of the correct and effective use of vocabulary.

Morphology is the study of a word and its internal structure (suffixes and prefixes) as well as word formation. Morphological awareness is one of the types of linguistic awareness that enables us to understand the structure of a word and the best way to use it correctly.

This morphological awareness helps to increase linguistic competence, understanding vocabulary and recognize meaning easily by displaying (suffixes) and (prefixes) associated with words. Mastering vocabulary well helps the student increase his proficiency in using these vocabulary effectively, in addition to increasing his ability to correctly guess their meanings.

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ملخص البحث:

هذه الورقة تسعى ان توضح أهمية علم الصرف، حيث يقدم الباحثان من خلال هذه الورقة شرحاً للوحدات الصرفية (المورفيم) وأنواعها، والتركيبات الداخلية للمفردات، وكذلك تقديم شرحاً لعلم الصرف الانعكاسي والاشتقائي ودورهما الهام في تطوير مفردات المتعلم للغة وزيادة إدراكه للاستخدام الصحيح والفعال للمفردات.

علم الصرف هو دراسة الكلمة وبنيتها الداخلية (اللواحق والسوابق) وكذلك تكوين الكلمة؛ ان الوعي الصرفي هو أحد أنواع الوعي اللغوي الذي يمكننا من فهم بنية الكلمة والطريقة الأمثل لاستعمالها بشكل صحيح.

حيث يساعد هذا الوعي الصرفي على زيادة المفردات اللغوية والتعرف على المعني بسهولة من خلال عرض (اللواحق) و (السوابق) المرتبطة بالكلمات.

حيث إن إتقان تعلم المفردات بشكل جيد يساعد الطالب على زيادة إتقانه لاستعمال هذه المفردات بفاعليه ، إضافة لزيادة قدرته على التخمين الصحيح لمعانيها.

Part One

Introduction:

Every day we use words and sentences to communicate with each other. However, many of speakers do not think how these words are built therefore it is crucial to talk about morphology as a tool that helps speakers to use words and be as precise as possible with the message that they want to convey. Morphology explains how word's forms are related to each other. It plays a very significant role in teaching and learning the language. It supports the language elements (vocabulary and grammar) as well as language skills (reading,

speaking, and writing). Morphology has a major part in developing one's linguistic competence.

The aim of this paper is to review and investigate the importance of derivational analysis and how it improves students' performance and increase their metalinguistic knowledge. This paper introduces some key concepts in studying morphology and it also focus on the differences and similarities between inflectional and derivational morphology.

Part Two

General background for main concepts:

2.1. Morphology

Morphology is the study of word construction in language. Many words in a changeable language. The shape can be partly changed, even whole. One word has many or only one meaning based on the form of change. As long as those changes create many powerful new words or new forms in the language. Besides that, morphology reviews the joint variation of the word/ morpheme in a language.

According Carstairs-McCarthy (2002) states that morphology is the area of grammar concerned with the structure of words and with relationships between words involving the morphemes that compose them.

On the other hand, Haspelmath and D. Sims (2010) state that there are two definitions of morphology, the first is Morphology is the study of systematic variation in the form and meaning of words and the second is the study of the combination of. morphemes to yield words.

First definition refers to how the word can be formed and how the meaning of words itself. But the second definition refers to how for producing the words from morphemes.

While Strork and Widowson, morphology is concerned with the way in which words and meaningful elements are constructed and with how their function within the grammatical system of a language.

Based on Yule (2010) mentions that morphology is a study of basic forms in a language.

Haspelmath and D. Sims have the same opinion with Yule opinion in first definition, because they agree that morphology is all about forms of word. Considering definitions from the experts we can conclude that morphology is the study of structures of words in a language.

2.2. Morpheme

Morphemes are the building blocks of English vocabulary. In line with this, Yule (2006) states that morphemes can be defined as the smallest.

According to Booij (2007:8), “Morpheme is the morphological building blocks of words, are defined as the minimal linguistic units with a lexical or grammatical.

meaning”. It means morpheme is the element that deals with affix and the grammatical function.

Stagoberg defines a morpheme as “a short segment of language that meets three criteria” (1981: 83). These criteria can be summarized as follows:

- i- A morpheme is a word or part of word that has meaning.
- ii- It cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts without changing the meaning
- iii - It recurs in different verbal environments with a relatively stable meaning.

Accordingly, as a morpheme, straight meets all the three criteria stated above. The term morpheme is originally derived from the Greek word *morphe*, which means “form”. traditionally, a morpheme is defined as “the most elemental unit of grammatical form” (Fromkin and Rodmay, 1993). A single word may be composed of one or more morphemes as in the following example:

◆One Morpheme: book, chair, person

◆Two Morphemes: books, chairs, persons

From the definitions above the writer concludes that morpheme is the same with original or base word. Morphemes are words, word stems and affixes. Morpheme also can be defined as the smallest unit of language that has its own meaning.

2.3- Types of morphemes

Morpheme has two types, they are Free Morpheme and Bound Morpheme

2.3.1- Free morpheme

Free morpheme is a morpheme which can stand alone to make a word. Free morpheme can be found in simple word. A word that contains free morpheme has a basic meaning without any addition of grammatical function. Free morpheme is a single morpheme that constitute a word. The word must be in dictionary. Free morphemes as in the following categories:-

A - Simple words

Simple words are those words that have a single free morpheme (don't have internal structure only consist of one morpheme)

Examples: slay, long, spirit, king

i - Lexical morphemes

Lexical morphemes are the ordinary nouns adjectives and verbs that we think of the words which carry the content of messages we convey. They are called open class of words, since we can add new lexical morphemes to the language easily. Examples of lexical morphemes: take, kind, see, green, act, choose and funny.

ii - Functional morphemes

Functional morphemes are the functional words in the language such as conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and pronouns. They are called close class of words, since we almost never add new functional morphemes to the language.. Examples of functional morphemes: and, which, near, on, in, the, this, they etc.

2.3.2- Bound morphemes

Bound morpheme is a morpheme which cannot stand alone. It depends on its position in relation to the base, or one that appears with at least one other morpheme. Also bound morphemes are not meaningful in isolation, but can acquire meaning when they are combined with other specific morphemes.

Examples:- ize in verb “realize”, - ify in verb “justify”, en – in word encase, re – in ”word “rewrite

A- Complex words

We have noticed that words fall into a variety of categories, including.

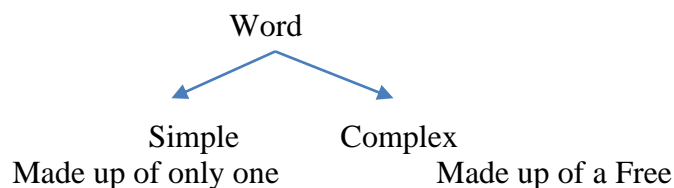
determiners, prepositions, verbs, nouns, and adjectives. Beyond these categories, there is still another distinction we may establish between word types. Examine the verbs, nouns, and adjectives in each of the sentences (1) through (3). Not only, because the words in the (b) examples are often longer, but also because the words in the (b) examples are complex in a way that the words in the (a) examples are not, it should be intuitively obvious.

- (1) a. think, open, act, hunt.
 b. rethink, enlarge, industrialize, untie.
 (2) a. school, wall, dog.
 b. goodness, teacher, reconstruct.
 (3) c. black, cold, sick.
 d. careless, fixable, assertive.

The words used in (1) – (3) in (a) examples without any internal structure. As Observed in "talk", for example, is composed of the smaller elements ta and lk does not appear to make much sense. However, for the words in the (b) examples this is different.. These are composed of smaller components, each of which adds a unique layer of meaning to the whole.

We conclude the smallest parts of words that add their own distinct meaning component to the word are called morphemes. Thus, the (a) examples in (1) to (3) show that some words consist of just one morpheme. Such words are called simple or simplex. Other words consist of two or more morphemes. These are called complex words.

The following diagram will present the above information more clearly:



Here are some examples of simple and complex words: Simple words: allow, wise, desire, kind, short, accept, work.

Complex words: disallow, unwise, desirable, kindness, shorten, unacceptable, works.

Complex

made up of a free morpheme and one or more bound.

Simple

made up of a single free morpheme.

B- Affixation

Affixation according to (Stageberg, 1983)" is a bound morpheme process for an affix is attached to a base, which may be simple structure or complex structure". An affix is a base. There are three kinds of bound morphemes: Prefixes, infixes and suffixes.

While Haspelmath (2010:19), "Affix attached to a word or a main part of a word ". It usually has abstract meaning and affix cannot occur by itself.

The researchers' point of view, is the process of adding an affix (a letter or group of letters with particular meaning added to the beginning or end of a word to make a new word with different meaning).

Main types of affixes**i - Prefixes**

A prefix is a bound morpheme that occurs at the beginning of a root to adjust or qualify its meaning such as re- in rewrite, tri- in triangle and mis- in misunderstand "(Spencer 1991).

According to Katamba and Stonham (2006), "Prefix is affix attached before a root or stem or base like re-, un-, and in-, for example: re-make, unhappy, in-decent". This state means that an affix which is attached before a root or stem is called Prefix.

The researchers' point of view, prefix is a word that is added at the beginning of the root word to form a new word. Also, word does not have any meaning of its own but when added to a root word it modifies the meaning of the word. In addition to this, makes a word negative, indicate opinion or show repetition.

ii- Suffixes

Based on (Spencer 1991) suffixes are a bound morpheme that is placed at the end of a root to form a derivative or inflected word such as -ance in acceptance, -ly in quickly, -ed in cooked -ing in waiting. It frequently converts the root into another part of speech.

“Suffix is an affix which is attached after the root, or base likely, -er, -ing, -ed”. This state means that an affix which is attached after the root or base is called Suffix (Katamba and stonham 2006).

According to the researchers, like Prefixes and Suffixes are also words that are added to the root word to form a new word but suffixes are added at the end of the root word. Suffix does change the meaning of the word it is added to but not make the word opposite or negative like prefix do, it simply changes the class of the root word like a verb is changed into an adjective by adding a suffix.

iii - Infixes

Prefixes and suffixes are morphological processes which are more likely to be found in English language than infixes, which means that infix is generally infrequent.

Moreover, while some Indo-European and Austronesian languages like Greek “and Atayal rely on infixes to signify important grammatical functions, English has infixes only within extra-grammatical morphology” (Mattiello:2013).

Based on (Jensen 1990) A bound morpheme that is placed within a word. It tends to occur in the middle of the word. In English, infixes are very unique such as -o- in biology.

Infixes are morphemes that go in the middle of the base and generally are relatively very rare in English, but the exception in English. Example: might be -bloody: - al- bloody-mighty, Uni-bloody-versity.

Here are some example will present the above information more clearly:

Prefix	Infix	Suffix
Unhappy	Cupful = cupsful	Without
Dislike	Spoonful = spoonsful	Fearless
Rewrite	Passerby = passersby	Quickly
Disappear		Playing
Impossible		Cooked

Part There

3- Branches of Morphology

One of the key distinctions among morphemes is the one that is between inflectional morphemes and derivational morphemes. Inflectional and derivational morphemes are both considered to be bound morphemes.

Inflectional morphemes are used to mark the grammatical requirement and they tend to affect only the word syntactic function and its outer layer, while derivational morphemes are used to make fundamental changes to the meaning of the root word. The new meaning is derived from the old meaning. Derivational morphemes tend to affect the word inner layer.

3.1- Inflectional Morphemes

Inflectionals carry the grammatical information according to the part of speech of the root word which they are attached to. Inflectional morphemes provide information such as tense, person, number, genitive suffix and degree suffixes. For example, the bound morpheme (-ed) is used to mark the past simple tense with regular verbs “play - played, work - worked” another example is the use of the inflectional morpheme (-s) to mark the regular plural with nouns “bag - bags, car – cars”.

Also, inflectional morphemes create different forms of the same word. They function to ensure that the word is used in an appropriate form so that the sentence is grammatically correct.

Inflectional morphemes are suffixes. They can be found in the final position of a word and they never change part of speech of the word they are attached to, which means they are class maintaining morphemes.

Look at the following examples:

Cat (n.)	Cats (n.)
Stay (v.)	Stayed (v.)
Tall (adj.)	Taller (adj.)

3.1.1 Types of Inflectional Morphemes

Inflectional morphemes are limited in form. There are only eight inflectional suffixes in English, which are the following:

A- Verbs inflectional suffixes:

A.1. Third person present singular marker (-s)

Examples:

She cooks.

He drives.

A.2. The past simple tense marker (-ed) with regular verbs

Examples:

Visit Visited
Smile Smiled

A.3. The progressive marker (-ing)

Examples:

is asking.

was wearing.

A.4. The past participle marker (-en, or -ed)

For examples:

Spoke, Written.

Used, Arrived.

B. Nouns inflectional suffixes:

B.1. The regular plural marker (-s)

For examples:

Girl - Girls

Key - Keys

B.2. The possessive marker (-s)

Mirna's book

Mounir's bag

C. Adjectives inflectional suffixes:

C.1. The comparative marker (-er)

Longer - Longer

Cold - Colder

C.2. The superlative marker (-est)

Long - Longest

Cold - Coldest

3.2 .Derivational Morphemes:

Derivational morphemes carry the semantic requirements in a particular context. They are affixes which are added to a word to change the meaning or function of the original word.

Derivational morphemes diver in form and they are used to create new words, for examples the word "beautiful" which has the derivational morpheme (-ful) is realized as a new word derived from "beauty". We created the adjective "beautiful" from the noun "beauty" such derivational morphemes are called class changing morphemes.

In other cases the part of speech of a word does not change as in case of the adjective "legal".

The derivational morpheme for negative (-il) changes its meaning but it does not change its part of speech. The word “illegal” is still an adjective.

In other words, the derivational morphemes are subdivided into two main classes which are class changing morphemes and class maintaining morphemes.

3.2.1 Types Derivational Morphemes

Derivational morphemes can be added to the initial, medial or terminal position in a word, as in these examples:

- **Initial** as in : Im-possible
- **Medial** as in : Abso-freaking-lutely
- **Terminal** as in : Agree-ment

When affixes are added to a root, there is usually a certain order for adding them. The derivational suffix must be added the first and the inflectional suffix is added the second. The derivational comes near to the root word after that comes the inflectional suffix. The inflectional suffix must be added the last and after it is added, we can not add any more derivational affixes to the word. For example: the word [deregularizations] shows the order in which different affixes are added:

- 1- The derivational prefix (de-) is added to the verb base [regularize].
- 2- The derivational suffix (-ize) is added to the adjective root / base [regular] to get the verb.
- 3- The derivational suffix (-ation) is added to the verb base [regularize] to get the noun.
- 4- Finally, the inflectional suffix marker (-s) is added to the noun to get the plural.

Deregularizations (n.)	
deregularization (n.)	-s
(stem / base)	(suffix)
de-	regularization (n.)
(prefix)	(base)
regularize (v.) -ation	
(base)	(suffix)
regular (adj.) -ize	
(root / base)	(suffix)

Derivation morphemes are used in English to make new words. These new words can be formed by either prefixes or suffixes and in some cases by both of them. Consider these examples:

- Enrich (v.) : en + rich (adj.)
- Irregular (adj.) : ir + regular (adj.)
- Asleep (adj.) : a + sleep (n.)
- Disagreement (n.) : dis + agree (v.) + ment
- Unfaithfulness (n.) : un + faith (n.) + ful + ness

Types of Affixes

There are three main types of derivational morphemes in English which are:

A. Prefixes

B. Infixes

C. Suffixes

A- Prefixes

They are added at the initial position of a word and change the meaning of the word, for example:

Prefix	Meaning	Example
un	Not	Ungrammatical
in	Not, opposite of	Incomplete
dis	Not, opposite of	Dislike
mis	Wrong, bad	Mistake
re	Again	Replay
Pre	Before	Prejudice

some prefixes can change the part of speech as in the following:

- de: brief (n.) debrief (v.)
- en: ensure (v.) sure (adj.)
- be: little (adj.) belittle (v.)

On the other hand, some prefixes do not change the part of the speech as in the following:

- lead (v.) mis-lead (v.)
- friendly (adj.) un-friendly (adj.)

B. Infixes

As the term suggest, they are placed inside the word. They are used in the medial position of a word. This type of affixes is relatively rare in English and do not normally used.

However, infixes are found in certain expressions that are used occasionally by emotionally aroused English speakers in fortuitous or aggravating circumstances, for examples:

- Abso-goddam-lutely
- Un-freaking-believable

For an infix to be used correctly and sound right, it has to be put right before the stressed syllable. In the word “absolutely” the stress is on the syllable (-lute) therefore we say:

Abso-goddam-lutely
Singa-bloody-pore
Foot-damn-ball

C. Suffixes

They are used in the terminal position of a word. Derivational suffixes change the meaning of word and may also alter its function (grammatical class) as in the following:

-Use (v.)	Useful (adj.)
-Sing (v.)	Singer (n.)
-Modern (adj.)	Modernize (v.)

While other suffixes do not change the grammatical class as in the following:

-Mother (n.)	Motherhood (n.)
-King (n.)	Kingdom (n.)

Part Four

4- The Importance of Derivational Analysis

The study of the formation and transformation of words, plays a crucial role in both teaching and learning languages. Here are some reasons why teaching and learning derivational morphology is important:

4.1. Vocabulary Expansion

Derivational morphology helps students build their vocabulary by teaching them the relationships between words. It enhances vocabulary by providing learners with tools to build and understand new words. Understanding the process of how words are formed allows learners to recognize and decipher the meaning of unfamiliar words. For example, when one learns the verb (write,) the learner can also use the prefix (re-) which mean (do again) to create the word (rewrite.) By understating the affixes the learner can generate many other words such as: writer, writing, and written. This process is hugely beneficial in expanding the learner’s vocabulary. Learners can easily decipher the meaning of unfamiliar words and expand their lexicon.

4.2. Word Flexibility:

Derivational morphology helps learners understand how words can change in meaning and function by adding prefixes, suffixes, or

other affixes. This knowledge enables them to use words creatively and flexibly, resulting in improved linguistic competence. The process of manipulating existing words to create new forms will promote creativity, and it allows for more precise expression, and helps develop a richer vocabulary.

4.3. Contextual Understanding:

Learning derivational morphology helps individuals grasp the nuances and connotations of words within different contexts. It allows learners to discern the meaning and intention behind specific word choices, improving their overall comprehension skills. Recognizing and understanding morphological patterns can significantly improve reading comprehension. When students learn to identify word roots and derive meanings from affixes, they can more easily decode complex words, grasp the overall meaning of a text, and infer the meaning of unfamiliar words.

This plays a very important factor for a correct vocabulary decoding and development. According to (Soifer, 2005) morphological awareness has been shown to be a strong indicator of and positive influence upon reading comprehension.

4.4. Spelling accuracy:

Derivational morphology provides insights into word spelling patterns. By understanding how affixes affect the spelling of words, students can become more confident and accurate spellers. For example, knowing that the root "act" becomes "active" with the addition of the suffix "-ive" can help avoid common spelling errors.

Another example is the use of the inflectional present simple marker (-s) with the third person singular. When (-s) is added to a verb that ends in a (consonant +y) we change the (-y) to (-ies) as in study - studies, but if the (-s) is added to a verb that ends in a (vowel +y) we just add (-s) as in say - says. This can lead to a better understanding of spelling patterns and word construction.

4.5. Language Analysis and Acquisition:

Studying derivational morphology provides learners with insights into the structure and formation of words in their target language. This enables them to analyze and understand the etymology and historical developments of words, ultimately contributing to a

deeper comprehension of the language as a whole. Moreover, by actively engaging with derivational processes, learners become more proficient in acquiring new vocabulary and generalizing their understanding to unfamiliar words.

Studying derivational morphology offers insights into the internal structure of words, increasing students' understanding of language and its patterns. This knowledge helps students make more sophisticated linguistic choices, produce more coherent and nuanced writing, and better comprehend the meaning and function of words in various contexts.

Overall, teaching and learning derivational morphology provides students with tools to expand their vocabulary, improve reading comprehension, enhance spelling accuracy, and develop a deeper understanding of language structure. These skills are valuable in academic settings, professional communication, and everyday life.

Part Five

Conclusion

Learning derivational morphology helps learners understand the meaning of new words by recognizing familiar derivatives and understanding how they are formed. This knowledge allows learners to expand their vocabulary more easily and understand the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Understanding derivational morphology helps learners break down complex words into their constituent parts, making it easier to analyze and understand the meaning of the word. This skill is particularly important for reading comprehension and building fluency in the language.

Knowledge of derivational morphology can help learners improve their spelling and pronunciation skills by recognizing common prefixes, suffixes, and root words. This can lead to a better understanding of spelling patterns and word construction.

Learning derivational morphology helps learners understand the relationships between words and their meanings. By recognizing common derivational patterns, learners can make connections between words and understand their semantic relationships, which can deepen their understanding of the language.

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