



## The Functions of Derivational Suffixes in The Novel “The Little Prince” Written by Antonie De-Saint Exupery

Ni Made Vindy Meilandari<sup>1</sup>, I G B Wahyu Nugraha Putra<sup>2</sup>, I Komang Sulatra<sup>3</sup>

English Study Program Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati University Denpasar,  
Jl. Kamboja No. 11 A Denpasar – Bali 80233<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Correspondence Email: [yindymeilandari28@gmail.com](mailto:yindymeilandari28@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup> [wahyunugraha1980@yahoo.com](mailto:wahyunugraha1980@yahoo.com)<sup>2</sup>  
[soelatra01@yahoo.com](mailto:soelatra01@yahoo.com)<sup>3</sup>

### Abstract

This study focused on analysing the functions and the process of derivational suffixes found in the novel *The Little Prince* written by Antonie De-Saint Exupery. This study used quantitative method to account the percentage of the functions of derivational suffixes using table and qualitative method to identify and to give clear explanation about the functions and the process of derivational suffixes using description that is related to the theories proposed by Lieber (2009) and McCarthy (2002) which is used to discuss the process of derivational suffixes. To describe the result of this research it used formal and informal method. The functions of derivational suffixes are three types, such as category-changing lexeme formation, meaning-changing lexeme formation, and both category meaning-changing lexeme formation. The researcher use flat structure to describe the process of derivational suffixes. Based on the result, the dominant type functions of derivational suffixes is category-changing lexeme formation with 197 data or (90%) and 20 data or (10%) of both category-meaning changing formation.

**Keywords:** *functions, derivational, suffixes*

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis fungsi dan proses pembentukan sufiks derivasional yang terdapat dalam novel *The Little Prince* karya Antonie De-Saint Exupery. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kuantitatif untuk menghitung persentase fungsi dari sufiks derivasional menggunakan tabel dan metode kualitatif untuk mengidentifikasi dan memberikan penjelasan yang jelas tentang fungsi dan proses dari sufiks derivasi menggunakan deskripsi yang terkait dengan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Lieber (2009) dan McCarthy (2002) yang digunakan untuk membahas proses derivasi sufiks. Untuk mendeskripsikan hasil penelitian ini digunakan metode formal dan informal. Fungsi sufiks derivasional terdiri dari tiga jenis, yaitu pembentukan leksem pengubah kategori, pembentukan leksem pengubah makna, dan kedua pembentukan leksem pengubah kategori dan makna. Peneliti menggunakan struktur datar untuk menggambarkan proses derivasi sufiks. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, jenis fungsi yang dominan pada sufiks derivasional adalah pembentukan leksem pengubah kategori dengan 197 data atau (90%) dan 20 data atau (10%) dari kedua kategori formasi yang berubah makna.

**Kata kunci:** *fungsi, turunan, sufiks*

## **Introduction**

Languages is the main tool to build a communication in human life. One of the languages used worldwide is English. English language is global international language to communicate each other in every field, such as cultures, social, education, technology and economy. As an essential way for human to communicate with each other, we must to understand the language. In using good and correct language, we must know the elements of language such as vocabulary, structure, etc. The vocabulary is one of the tools to facilitate communication, making a good communication to the other people who communicate with us and make sure we use the correct vocabulary.

In English language, the change of the word class and the meaning of the word are caused by affixation. Affix is one of grammatical element that is combined the stem, phrase or word to produce derived or inflected forms. For example, when affix is attached into the base such as the word *manage* become *management*, *manager*, and *managed*.

Fromkin (2007:76) states morphology is the study of internal structure of words, and of the rules by which words are formed. Morphology is one branch of linguistics which studies and analysis of the word structure. Morphology also studies about morpheme at the way they combine in word-formation. According to Lieber (2009:32) morpheme is the meaningful units that are used to form words which has lot of meaning. When the morpheme adding by affixes, it will create a new lexeme and change the word class or the meaning of the word. That is the process called derivation.

The process to create a new lexeme and change the word class or the meaning of the word when the morpheme adding by affixes, namely derivation. The derivation process in English language will show the functions such as word class changing, meaning changing or both. In this case, the researcher would like to explain about the functions of derivational suffix. Suffix is one of kind of affixes which is attached to the end of a word or morpheme. According to Katamba (1993:39), an affix that is appended after the base.

Analysing derivational process is interesting but it is not easy to do that makes people need to learn about derivational process. Derivational process could be found everywhere, such as in conversation, spoken media, novel, newspaper, song, and textbook. This study will use novel as a data source. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary (2018) novel is a work of fiction or nonfiction that tells a story using comic strips and that is published as a book.

In this study, the researcher writes the research use novel that entitled "The Little Prince" written by Antonie De-Saint Exupery. *The Little Prince* is a novel which contains of the understandings that will indirectly open our minds about human life and behavior, this novel contains many valuable lessons about humans with all aspects of their lives.

The researchers would like to present five researches from previous study. The previous study taken from the journal. As a references for the topic, there are five articles on journal. The first study is taken from an article in journal written by Rachmadi (2021) entitled "*Function of Derivational Affixes in Novel the Hobbit*". It is a descriptive qualitative research. The aims are to find out the derivational and the roots from the word in the *Hobbit* by J.R.R Tolkien novel. The result showed the words

are 100 (derivational suffixes), then the roots from the words that also found are 27 (adjective derived from verb), 49 (noun derived from verb), 3 (verb derived from noun), and 21 (adverb derived from adjective).

The second study is taken from an article in journal written by Simaremare (2021) entitled “*Derivational Affixes in Writing Analytical Exposition Text*”. It is a descriptive qualitative research. The researcher used documentation technique in collecting the data. The aims are to describe the process of derivational affixes and to find out the types, the structure, and the functions of each derivational affixes in writing analytical exposition text by the twelve grades students from YouTube. The result of this study showed that the types of prefix found were *pre-*, *dis-*, *re-*, *on-*, *under-*, *inter-*, *micro-*, *trans-*, *over-*, *al-*, *in-*, *out-*. The types of suffix found were *-ment*, *-ly*, *-ness*, *-ion*, *-y*, *-er*, *-ive*, *-ous*, *-ant*, *-ious*, *-ation*, *-en*, *-wards*, *-ition*, *-ed*, *-est*, *-ies*, *-ities*, *-ily*, *-ence*, *-ing*, *-side*. The types of circumfix found were *trans-ed*, *In-ation*, *inter-ion*, *dis-ed*, *re-ation*, *un-y*, *anti-ion*, *un-ed*, *in-ly*, *trans-ion*, *inter-ed*, *re-ing*, *trans-ing*, *in-ing*, *in-ent*. The functions of derivational affixes found in writing analytical exposition were verb formation, noun formation, adjective formation, and adverb formation. The process of derivational affixes such as noun into noun, verb into verb, and adjective to adjective.

Third study is taken from an article in journal written by Siboro (2020) entitled “*Morphological Analysis of Derivational Affixes in Brothers Grimm’s the story of Rapunzel*”. This study collected the data by reading, classifying and note-taking. This study used descriptive quantitative method. The aims are to find out the kind, the function of derivational suffixes, and derivational morphological process of affixes. The result showed 33 occurrences of word containing derivational affixes, namely *en-*, *un-*, and *re-*, occurring twice, and 29 of the 33 contained suffixes, such as *-ful*, *-ness*, *-able*, *-ly*, *-ing*, *-ed*, *-en*, *-ent*, *-les*, *-y*, *-ous*, and *-dom*. The functions of derivational affixes in the story of Rapunzel, namely 10 occurrences of noun formation, eight occurrences of adjective formation, seven occurrences of verb formation, and eight occurrences of adverb formation.

Fourth study is taken from an article in journal written by Narasuari (2020) entitled “*Derivational Suffixes in Crazy Rich Asians Novel: Morphological Analysis*”. This study collected the data by documentation. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The aims are to classify types and identify the functions of derivational suffixes. The result showed that four types of suffixes, such as nominal suffixes, verbal suffixes, adjectival suffixes, and adverbial suffixes. The functions of the suffix found in the data, such as class maintaining suffixes and class changing suffixes.

Fifth study is taken from an article in journal written by Mahendra (2017) entitled “*Derivational English Suffixes with Reference to the Jakarta Post*”. This study collected the data by documentation. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The aims are to describe functions and the form of derivational suffixes. The result showed that there are four forms of derivational suffixes found in the data source, such as nominal suffix, adjectival suffix, verbal suffix and adverbial suffix. The functions of the suffix found in the data, such as class maintaining suffixes and class changing suffixes.

In this study analysed the functions and the process of derivational suffixes. The data sources of this study is novel entitled *The Little Prince* by Antonie De-Saint

Exupery. In analyzing the functions of derivational suffixes used the theory applied is proposed Lieber (2009). In analyzing the process of derivational suffixes used the theory proposed by McCarthy (2002). According to Lieber (2009) there are three types of the functions of derivational suffixes, such as category-changing lexeme formation, meaning-changing lexeme formation, and both category meaning-changing lexeme formation.

## **Method**

The data in this researcher was taken from novel entitled “The Little Prince” written by Antonie De-Saint Exupery. This novel consists seventy-eight pages and twenty-seven chapters, published in English and French in the US by Reynal & Hitchcock in April 1943. The Little Prince was a novel which contains of the understandings that will indirectly open our minds about human life and behaviour, this novel contains many valuable lessons about humans with all aspects of their lives.

The researcher used descriptive qualitative and quantitative method to describe the functions, and derivational process of suffixes in “The Little Prince” novel. Raimo Streefkerk (2019) states quantitative research is the method used number, table, graph to explain the data while qualitative research is the method used descriptive or word to explain the data. The data analysis was focus on the classification and analysis the function of derivational suffixes, and describe derivational process of suffixes by flat structure. Flat structure is a crucial observation or elaboration of the word in determining the new word and meaning. All the data were classified and analyze into their functions of derivational suffixes according to Lieber (2009) and then analyze and describe derivational process of suffixes by flat structure according McCarthy (2002) as the final step.

In collecting the data, this study used documentation and observation method. The writer took these the following step:

1. Read the novel
2. Identify and underline the word that belong the functions of derivational suffixes.
3. Note-taking the word that belong the functions of derivational suffixes
4. Classify the derivational process of suffixes.

To describe the result of this research it used formal and informal method. The formal method was used table to present the result of the functions of derivational suffixes in the novel *The Little Prince*. In the other hand informal method was used to present the functions and the process of derivational suffixes using sentences and description.

## **Result and Discussion**

The result of the research are presented in the table based on the functions of derivational suffixes using the theory that proposed by Lieber (2009). They are three functions of derivational suffixation which consist of category-changing lexeme formation, meaning-changing lexeme formation, and both category meaning-changing

lexeme formation. In the novel “The Little Prince” shows that the total functions of derivational suffixes found in the data source can be seen in the table below, the data of suffixes that were shown in the table would be analysed further in the discussion section.

Table 1. The Functions of Derivational Suffixes found in the Novel “The Little Prince”

No.	Functions of Derivational Suffixes	Occurrences	Percentage
1.	Category-Changing Lexeme Formation	197	90%
2.	Meaning-Changing Lexeme Formation	0	0
3.	Both Category Meaning-Changing Lexeme Formation	20	10%
Total:		199	100%

From the table above, it shows that this study found 199 data, consists of 179 data (90%) category-changing and 20 data (10%) both category meaning-changing lexeme formation of all the derivational suffixes that were found in the data source. The most dominant process in analyze the functions of derivational suffixes, those are category-changing and both category-meaning changing lexeme formation.

## Discussion

Based on the finding above, this discussion analysed the functions and derivational suffixes that we were found in the data using flat structure based on theory McCarthy (2002). Tree diagram, onion, and flat structure can be used to analyze the process of derivational suffixes. In elaborating the function and derivational process of the data, descriptive qualitative method. The method was used in other to explain the data that analysed using flat structure. The process can be seen below:

### A. Category-Changing Formation

#### Data 1

“I saw most extraordinary small person who stood there examining me with great seriousness” (The Little Prince, pg. 5, 15<sup>th</sup> line).

The word *seriousness* from the sentence above is formed from adjective to noun which can be elaborated in the flat structure below.

Serious (adjective) + ness (suffix) → seriousness (noun)

The suffix –ness in the word *seriousness* changes the word class of the word base *serious*. It changed the word class of the word base from adjective to noun). The

word *seriousness* shows that the process of derivational suffix which change the part of speech or category of data base. Based on Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the word *seriousness* came from the base word *serious* means demanding or characterized by careful consideration or application then added by suffix –or become *seriousness* means the quality or state of being serious. The addition of suffix –ness in the word *seriousness* changes the category of word but the meaning of the word is still same. Therefore, the word *seriousness* have the function **Category-Changing Lexeme Formation** because the word is formed from adjective to noun and it still has the same meaning. The word *seriousness* creates new lexeme by causing a change part of speech or category of word.

### Data 2

“If one gets lost in the night, such knowledge is valuable” (The Little Prince, pg. 4, 11<sup>st</sup> line).

The word **valuable** from the sentence above is formed from noun to adjective which can be elaborated in the flat structure below.

Value (noun) + -able (suffix) → valuable (adjective)

The word **valuable** on the sentence above contains derivational suffix –able which signed underlined. The word base is *value*, which categorized as noun. The addition suffix –able at the end of the word. Based on Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the word *valuable* came from the base word *value* means the regard that something is held to deserve or usefulness of something then added by suffix –able become *valuable* means extremely useful or important. The addition of suffix –able in the word *valuable* changes the class word. Therefore, the word *valuable* has the function **Category-Changing Lexeme Formation** because the word *valuable* is formed from noun to adjective and it still has the same meaning. The word *valuable* creates new lexeme by causing a change part of speech or category of word.

### Data 3

“And her mysterious adornment lasted for days and days” (The Little Prince, pg. 23, 17<sup>th</sup> line)

The word **mysterious** from the sentence above is formed from noun to adjective which can be elaborated in the flat structure below.

Mystery (noun) + -ous (suffix) → mysterious (adjective)

The process of alteration that occurred in the flat structure above showed that the word **mysterious** altered into a new meaning after added by suffix-ous. This suffix is combined with noun to form new word category as adjective that refers the word *mysterious*. Based on Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the word *mysterious* came from the base word *mystery* means something that difficult or impossible to understand or explain then added by suffix –ous become *mysterious* means difficult or impossible to understand, explain or identify . The addition of suffix –ous in the word *mysterious* changes the category of word but the meaning of the word is still same. Therefore, the word *mysterious* has the function **Category-Changing Lexeme Formation** because the word *mysterious* is formed from noun to adjective and it still has the same meaning.

The word *valuable* creates new lexeme by causing a change part of speech or category of word.

#### Data 4

“Came now a timid inquiry from the Little Prince” (The Little Prince, pg 30, 18<sup>th</sup> line)

The word *inquiry* from the sentence above is formed from verb to noun which can be elaborated in the flat structure below.

Inquiry (verb) + -y (suffix) → inquiry (noun)

The word *inquiry* on the sentence above contains derivational suffix –able which signed in underlined. The word base is *inquiry*, which categorized as noun. The addition suffix –y at the end of the word. Based on Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the word *inquiry* came from the base word *inquire* means ask for information from someone then added by suffix –y become *inquiry* means an act of asking for information. The addition of suffix –y in the word *inquiry* changes the class word. Therefore, the word *inquiry* has the function **Category-Changing Lexeme Formation** because the word *inquiry* is formed from verb to noun and it still has the same meaning. The word *inquiry* creates new lexeme by causing a change part of speech or category of word.

### B. Both Category Meaning-Changing Lexeme Formation

#### Data 1

“He remained motionless for an instant” (The Little Prince, pg. 75, 1<sup>st</sup> line)

The word *motionless* from the sentence above is formed from noun to adjective which can be elaborated in the flat structure below.

Motion (noun) + -less (suffix) → Motionless (adjective)

Suffix of the word *motionless* is –less and the word base is *motion*. The word *motion* is categorized as noun when attached suffix –less at the end of the word base, the word class *motionless* changes the class word become adjective and it changes the meaning of the word. Based on Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the word *motionless* came from the base word *motion* means the action of moving or being move then added by suffix –less become *motionless* means not moving. The addition of suffix –less in the new word base *motionless* changes the category of word and substantial meaning of the word base. Therefore, the word *motionless* has the function **Both Category and Meaning Changing Lexeme Formation** because the word *mysterious* is formed from noun to adjective and also has the different meaning. The word *mysterious* creates new lexeme by causing a change part of speech or category of word and also add substantial meaning of the word.

#### Data 2

“I gave up what might have been a magnificent career as a painter” (The Little Prince, pg 4, 4<sup>th</sup> line).

The word *painter* from the sentence above is formed from verb to noun which can be elaborated in the flat structure below.

Paint (verb) + -er (suffix) → painter (noun)

The process of alteration that occurred in the flat structure above showed that the word *painter* altered into a new meaning after added by suffix-er. This suffix is combined with verb to form new word category as noun that refers the word *painter*. Based on Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the word *painter* came from the base word *paint* means cover the surface of something with paint then added by suffix -er become *painter* means an artist who paints picture. The addition of suffix -er in the word *painter* changes the category of word and changes the meaning of the word. Therefore, the word *painter* has the function **Both Category Meaning-Changing Lexeme Formation** because the word *painter* is formed from verb to noun and also has the different meaning. The word *painter* creates new lexeme by causing a change part of speech or category of word and also add substantial meaning of the word.

### Data 3

“It was a picture of a boa constrictor in the act of swallowing an animal” (The Little Prince, pg 3. 1<sup>st</sup> line)

The word *constrictor* from the sentence above is formed from verb to noun which can be elaborated in the flat structure below.

Constrict (verb) + -or (suffix) → Constrictor (noun)

The suffix -or in the word *constrictor* changes the word class of the word base *constrict*. It changed the word class of the word base from verb to noun and changes the meaning of the word. The word *constrictor* shows that the process of derivational suffix which change the part of speech or category of data base. Based on Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the word *constrictor* came from the base word *constrict* means make narrower especially by encircling pressure then added by suffix -or become *constrictor*. It means a muscle whose contraction narrows a vessel. The addition of suffix -or in the word base *constrictor* changes the category of word and the substantial meaning of the word. Therefore, the word *constrictor* has the function **Both Category Meaning-Changing Lexeme Formation** because the word *constrictor* is formed from verb to noun and also has the different meaning. The word *constrictor* creates new lexeme by causing a change part of speech or category of word and also add substantial meaning of the word.

### Data 4

“And such considerable risks would be run by anyone who might get lost on an asteroid” (The Little Prince, pg. 17, 1<sup>st</sup> line).

The word *considerable* from the sentence above is formed by adjectival suffixation which can be elaborated in the flat structure below.

Consider (verb) + -able (suffix) → considerable (adjective)

The process of alteration that occurred in the flat structure above showed that the word *considerable* altered into a new meaning after added by suffix -able. This suffix is combined with verb to form new word category as adjective that refers the



word *considerable*. Based on Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the word *considerable* came from the base word *consider* means think carefully about something then added by suffix –able become *considerable* means notably large in size, amount or extent. The addition of suffix –able in the new word *considerable* changes the category of word and the meaning of the word. Therefore, the word *considerable* has the function ***Both Category and Meaning Changing Lexeme Formation*** because the derivational suffix –able in the word *considerable* creates new lexeme by causing a change part of speech or category of word and add substantial new meaning.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion, this study concluded that: there were three functions of derivational suffixes according theory by Lieber (2009) which were category-changing, meaning-changing and both category and meaning-changing lexeme formation. To analyze and describe the process of derivational suffixes used the theory by McCarthy (2002). The most dominant process in analyze the functions of derivational suffixes, those are category-changing and both category-meaning changing. This study found 199 data, consists of 179 data (90%) category-changing and 20 data (10%) both category meaning-changing lexeme formation of all the derivational suffixes that were found in the data source.

## Reference

- Rachmadi, Alvie Amin. (2021). “Functions of Derivational Affixes in Novel the Hobbit”. Journal. Elysian Journal: English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies, 1(1). Denpasar: Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati Denpasar University.
- Simaremare, Destriani. (2021). “Derivational Affixes in Writing Analytical Exposition Text”. Journal. JOLLT Journal of Languages and Language Teaching, 9 (1), 2621-1378
- Narasuari, Dian. (2020). “Derivational Suffixes in Crazy Rich Asians Novel: A Morphological Analysis” Journal. Journal of Arts and Humanities, 24(4), 364-371
- Siboro, Efrika, (2020). “Morphological Analysis of Derivational Affixes in Brothers Grimm’s the story of Rapunzel”. English Franca: Academic Journal of English Language and Education, 4(1), 2580-3689
- Mahendra, Dody. 2017. “*Derivational English Suffixes With Reference To the Jakarta Post*” Journal. *Jornal Humanis*. Vol. 19: 45-51. Denpasar: Udayana University.
- Katamba, Francis. 1993. *Morphology*. London: Macmillan Press.
- Lieber, Rochelle. 2009. *Introducing Morphology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- McCarthy. 2002. *An Introduction to English Morphology: Words and Their Structure*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Fromkin, Victoria. 2014. *An Introduction to Language*. Los Angeles: University of California

Britannica, *Affix Definition and Examples*. Retrieved February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/affix>

Webster, Merriam. 2018. *Novel*. Retrieved on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/novel>

Streefkerk, Raimo. 2019. *Qualitative vs. Quantitative research*. Retrieved on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from <https://www.scribbr.com/methodology/qualitative-quantitative-research/>