



Derivational Suffixes Forming Adjectives in User Reviews of Selected M.A.C Foundation: Syntactic Function Analysis

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze the syntactic functions of derivational suffixes forming adjectives with reference to user reviews of M.A.C Studio Fix Fluid SPF 15 Foundation on Ulta Beauty's Official Website. In collecting the data, the library research method was applied and supported by note taking techniques. The data findings were analyzed through a descriptive qualitative method in which, to begin with, the data were presented in the form of tree diagram to analyze the syntactic functions. Furthermore, the analysis is served along with an explanation. Formally, the data were served in form of a tree diagram and table, then further analysis was described informally. The result shows that from 73 total findings, three syntactic functions of adjectives were found, namely attributive with 29 occurrences (39,73%), predicative with 42 occurrences (57,53%), and postpositive with 2 occurrences (2,74%).

Keywords: *adjectives, derivation, suffix, syntactic function*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis fungsi sintaksis dari kata sifat yang terbentuk dari penambahan akhiran secara derivasi dengan sumber data berupa ulasan pengguna dari *M.A.C Studio Fix Fluid SPF 15 Foundation* pada laman Ulta Beauty. Dalam mengumpulkan data, diterapkan metode kepustakaan dan didukung oleh teknik mencatat. Data yang ditemukan dianalisis melalui metode deskriptif kualitatif yang mana, pertama, data disajikan dalam bentuk diagram pohon untuk menganalisis fungsi sintaksisnya. Selanjutnya, analisis disajikan bersamaan dengan penjelasannya. Secara formal, data disajikan dalam bentuk diagram pohon dan tabel, kemudian analisis lebih lanjut dideskripsikan secara informal. Hasilnya menunjukkan jika dari 73 (tujuh puluh tiga) total temuan, tiga jenis fungsi sintaksis kata sifat ditemukan, yaitu *attributive* dengan 29 kejadian (39,73%), *predicative* dengan 42 kejadian (57,53%), dan *postpositive* dengan 2 kejadian (2,74%).

Kata kunci: *kata sifat, derivasi, akhiran, fungsi sintaksis*

Introduction

Communication is essential for human beings and cannot be separated from their daily life. Moreover, communication is related to language. There are various languages used in the world, one of them is English. English is important to learn and

at the same time really interesting to explore. However, in learning and understanding English, considering linguistics is the key. According to Fromkin et al (2000: 3), linguistics is referred to as the scientific study of human language. One of the branches of linguistics is known as Syntax. Chomsky (2002:11) defined syntax as the study of principles and processes of how sentences are built in certain languages. Furthermore, Crystal (2008:432) defines sentence as the largest structural unit where the grammar of language is organized. Therefore, in order to form a sentence, a number of words are needed. Adjective is one of the word classes that is often found in a sentence. Adjectives can derive from other word classes, such as noun and verb by adding an adjective suffix (Biber, Conrad & Leech, 2002:191). Moreover, in a sentence, the adjective itself can be adjusted in different positions that will be related to the syntactic functions of the adjective.

In order to derive adjectives from the other word classes, derivational suffixes are needed to be attached to either a noun, verb, or adjective base. According to Quirk et al (1985:1553), there are 13 (thirteen) kinds of derivational suffixes that can be attached to derive adjectives, such as *-ed*, *-ful*, *-ish*, *-less*, *-like*, *-ly*, *y*, *-al*, *-esque*, *-ic*, *-able*, *-ive* and *-ous*. In addition, McCarthy (2002:53) appended 3 (three) other kinds of derivational suffixes, namely *-ing*, *-ent*, and *-ant*. In English, the addition of derivational suffixes to a base is really beneficial. It can expand the meaning of the base words in which they are attached to, hence, the use of many words to express the idea is no longer needed.

There are five previous studies used as references in this study. The first prior study is an article done by Antari (2018) entitled “Morphosyntactic Study on English Derivational Suffixes Forming Adjectives with Reference to The *Twilight*.” The aims of this study are to find out the derivational suffixes forming adjectives and its syntactic functions. Ten types of derivational suffixes forming adjectives are found, meanwhile, the syntactic functions found are attributive and predicative.

The second prior study is an article done by Winiastari (2013) entitled “The Functions of Derivational Adjectives in Now Bali Magazine.” The aims of this study are to identify the types of adjectives and find out its functions. There are ten types of derivational suffixes found in this study, meanwhile, the functions of adjectives that were analyzed such as attributive and predicative.

The third prior study is an article done by Jayanti et al (2016) entitled “The Derivational Adjectives in ‘The New York Times’.” The aims of this study are to find out the derivational adjectives as well as the syntactic functions. There are eleven types of derivational suffixes forming adjectives found in this study. In addition, 2 types of syntactic functions of adjectives are found, namely predicative and attributive.

The next prior study is an article done by Sari (2018) entitled “English Compound Adjective with Special Reference to Tourism Website.” The aims of this study are to analyze the constructions of compound adjectives found in Tourism website and explain their syntactic functions as well as their meaning. The findings of this study reveal that there are five patterns constructing the compound adjectives, namely *noun + adjective*, *adjective + adjective*, *adverb + adjective*, *noun + noun*, and *adjective + noun*. Furthermore, the compound adjectives are mostly found in attributive positions and a few of them are in predicative function.

The last prior study is an article done by Cahyani (2013) entitled “Analysis of Adjectives in Noun Phrase in Online Newspaper ‘The Jakarta Globe’.” The aims of this study are to know the kinds of adjectives in noun phrases and explore the function. The kinds of adjectives found in this study are demonstrative adjectives, distributive adjectives, quantitative adjectives, interrogative adjectives, possessive adjectives, and adjectives of quality. In addition, the functions of adjectives found are attributive and predicative, and adjectives as a head of noun phrase.

There are some distinctions between the previous studies and this study. To begin with, compared to the previous studies, this study is different in the data source. In addition, there are only two syntactic functions had been analyzed in the previous study, namely attributive and predicative. Moreover, this study also analyzed another function of adjectives, namely postpositive.

This study aims to analyze the syntactic function of derivational suffixes forming adjectives with reference to M.A.C Studio Fix Fluid SPF 15 Foundation on Ulta Beauty’s official website. There were some interesting considerations in conducting this topic. To begin with, adjectives are frequently encountered from user reviews on Ulta Beauty’s website since adjectives are commonly used in describing the condition or quality of a product. In addition, this study is indeed interesting to observe because it would be beneficial for people to know the position or the function of adjectives in a sentence. Moreover, this study would be a great media to enrich new vocabularies, especially in terms of adjectives. Furthermore, to support this study, the theory from Quirk et al (1985) was applied as the main theory and completed by the theory from Brown and Miller (1991).

Method

In this study, the data were taken from the 2020-2021 user reviews of M.A.C Studio Fix Fluid SPF 15 Foundation on Ulta Beauty’s official website. In collecting the data, a library research method was applied and supported by note taking techniques. Some steps were applied in this research. First, finding the user reviews by visiting Ulta Beauty’s website. Second, reading and sorting the user reviews to find the required data, followed by identifying the derivational adjectives from the user reviews and taking notes of the data found. Meanwhile, a qualitative method was used in analyzing the findings with several steps applied. Firstly, serving the data in form of tree diagrams as a proof of the position/the syntactic functions of the derivational suffixes forming adjectives in a sentence. Secondly, providing a clear explanation to clarify the analysis. The data were analyzed according to the theory from Quirk et al (1985) about the syntactic functions of adjectives and was supported by the theory from Brown and Miller (1991) in depicting the tree diagram. In addition, both formal and informal methods were applied in presenting the data. Formally, the data were served in form of tree diagrams, meanwhile, further explanation was described informally.

Result and Discussion

Based on the findings, there were 73 (seventy-three) data found in total from the user reviews. The table 1 below shows the frequency of occurrences of each of the syntactic functions of derivational suffixes forming adjectives found in the data source.

Table 1. The Occurrences of Each of the Syntactic Functions of Derivational Suffixes Forming Adjective

No	Kinds of Syntactic Functions of adjectives	Occurrences	Percentage
1	Attributive	29	39,73%
2	Postpositive	2	2,74%
3	Predicative	42	57,53%
Total		73	100%

According to table 1, it is clearly shown the frequency of occurrences of derivational suffixes forming adjectives based on each of the syntactic functions. From 73 (seventy-three) data in total, it is divided into three categories, attributive, predicative, and postpositive with details: 29 (twenty-nine) data occurred in attributive function (39,73%); 42 (forty-two) data occurred in predicative function (57,53%) which are divided into object complement with 39 (thirty-nine) occurrences and subject complement with 3 (three) occurrences; and 2 (two) data occurred in postpositive function (2,74%). Therefore, the most frequent derivational suffixes forming adjectives found in the data source were in predicative function.

In accordance with the data above, three syntactic functions of adjectives were found, namely attributive, predicative, and postpositive. The syntactic functions of adjectives were analyzed based on the theory proposed by Quirk et al (1985), meanwhile, the tree diagrams to support the analysis were depicted in accordance with the theory proposed by Brown and Miller (1991).

1. Attributive

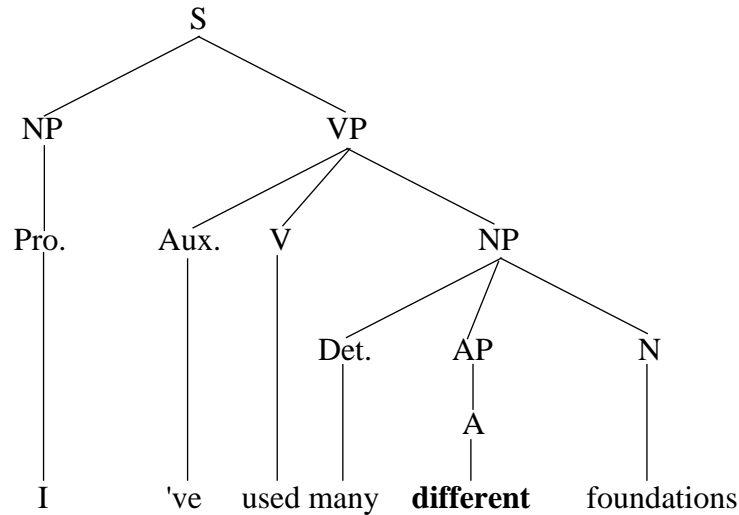
According to Quirk et al (1985:417), adjectives are categorized as attributive when it pre-modifies the head of a noun phrase. Moreover, adjectives as attributive usually come up between the determiner and the head of the noun phrase. From total 73 data, there are 29 data functioned as attributive. Data 1 and 2 below are presented to represent the whole data which are categorized as attributive.

Data 1: I've used many **different** foundations. (Cassandra, 2020)

Analysis:

In accordance with the data above, the syntactic function of the derived adjective **different** is categorized as attributive since the derived adjective *different* modifies the noun *foundations* which is said to be not the same to others. Moreover, the derived adjective *different* appears between the determiner *many* and the head of the noun phrase *foundations*. In this case, the derived adjective *different* derives from

the verb *difer* that is added a derivational suffix *-ent*. Furthermore, the tree diagram of the data is depicted as follows.

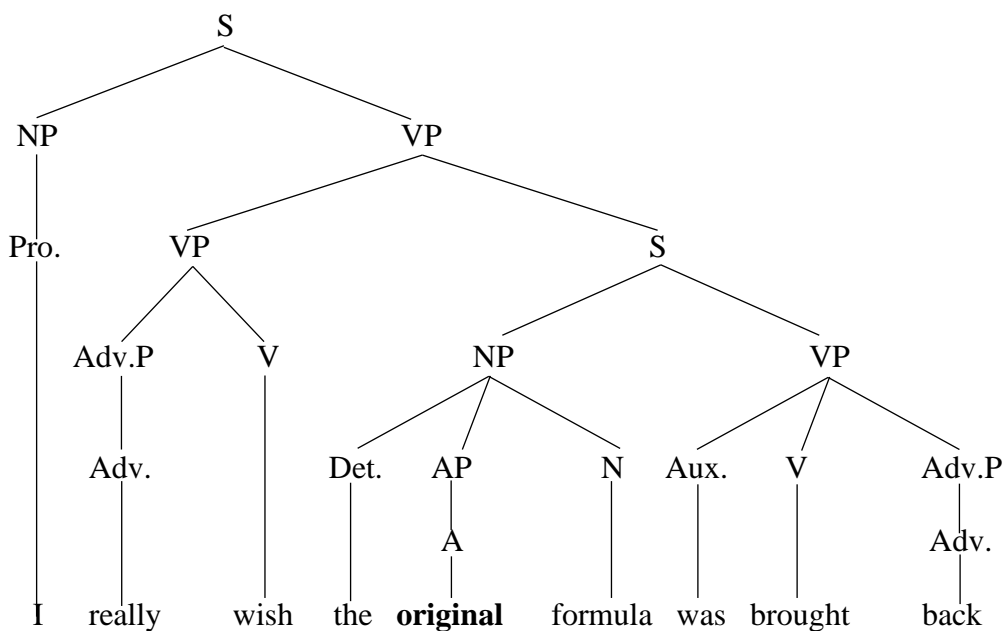


Data 2:

I really wish the **original** formula was brought back. (Tina, 2020)

Analysis:

Based on the data above, the syntactic function of the derived adjective **original** is categorized as attributive. The derived adjective appears after the determiner *the* and before the head of the noun phrase *formula*. Therefore, the derived adjective modifies the noun *formula* that is said to be original. In this case, the derived adjective *original* derives from the noun *origin* that is attached a derivational suffix *-al*. Furthermore, the tree diagram of the data is depicted as follows.



2. Postpositive

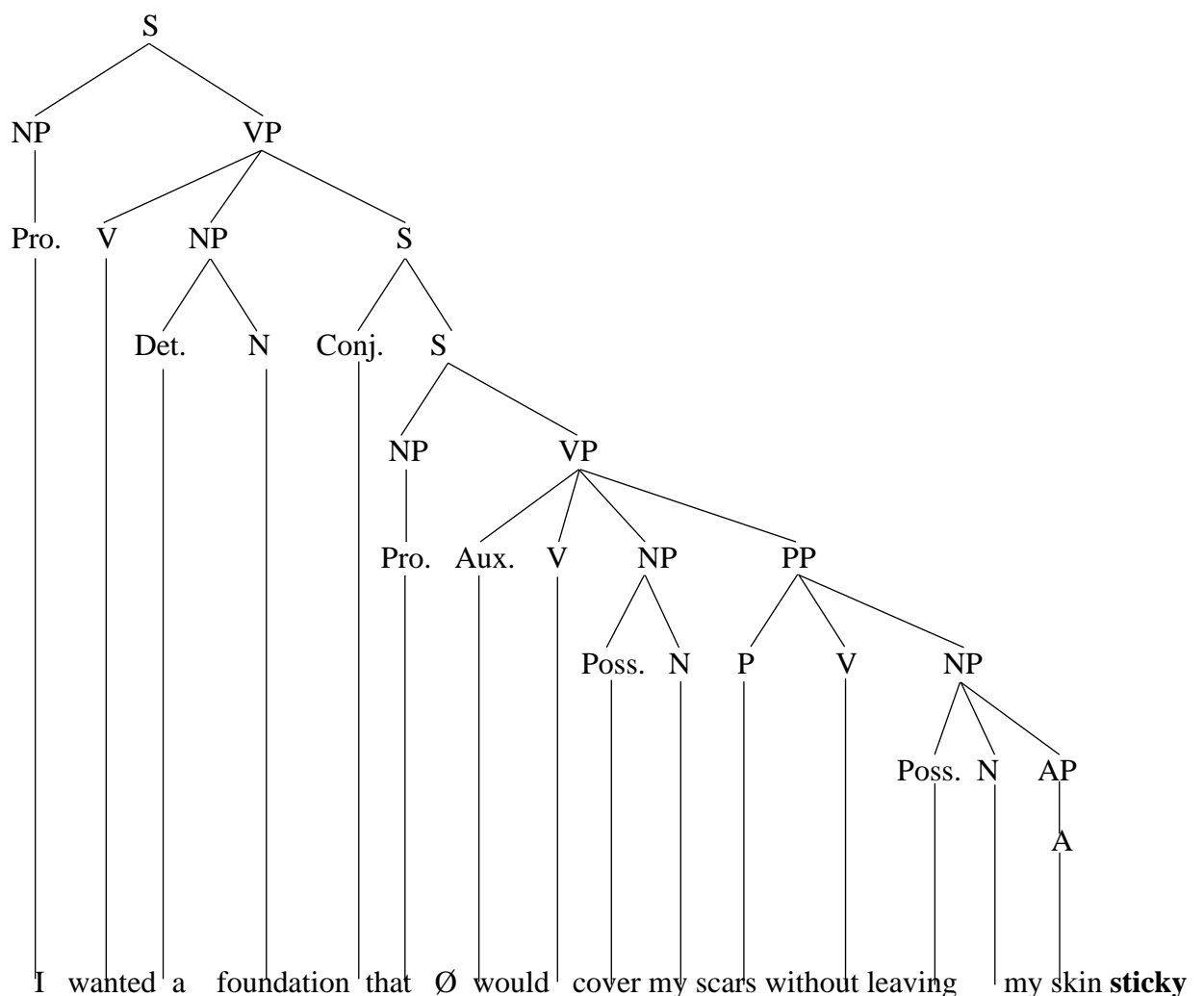
According to Quirk et al (1985:418), adjectives are categorized as postpositive when it comes immediately after the noun or pronoun that it modifies. From total 73 (seventy-three) data, there are 2 (two) adjectives functioned as postpositive. Data 3 and data 4 below are presented to show the function of the adjective as postpositive.

Data 3:

I wanted a foundation that would cover my scars without leaving my skin **sticky**.
(Ester, 2021)

Analysis:

Based on the data above, the derived adjective contained in the sentence is **sticky**. The derived adjective *sticky* derives from the verb *stick* that is added a derivational suffix *-y*. In accordance with the data, the derived adjective is functioned as postpositive. It is shown in the sentence that the derived adjective appears immediately after the noun *my skin*, therefore, it post-modifies *my skin*. In this case, the derived adjective *sticky* explains *my skin* that is said to be sticky. Furthermore, the tree diagram of the data is depicted as follows.

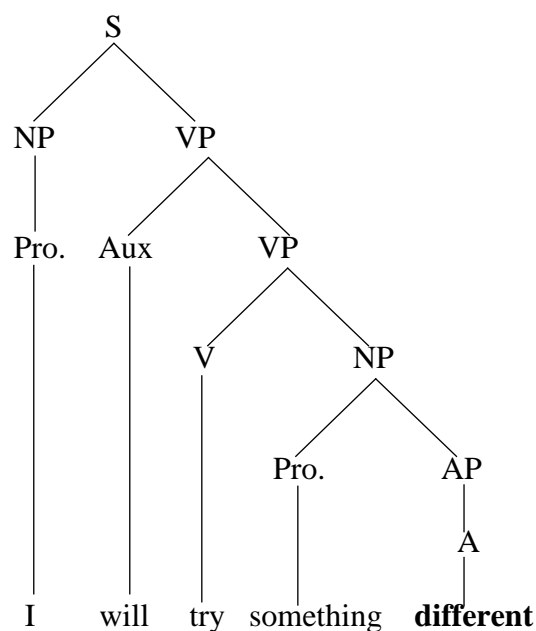


Data 4:

I will try something **different**. (Kate, 2021)

Analysis:

Based on the data above, the derived adjective contained in the sentence is **different**. The derived adjective *different* derives from the verb *differ* that is attached a derivational suffix *-ent*. Based on the data, the derived adjectives *different* is functioned as postpositive. It can be seen on the data that the derived adjective *different* comes immediately after the pronoun *something* and post-modifies it, in which in this case, the derived adjective modifies the pronoun that is said to be not the same to the others. Furthermore, the tree diagram of the data is depicted as follows.



3. Predicative

Based on Quirk et al (1985:417), adjectives are categorized as predicative when it functions either as a subject or an object complement. From total 73 (seventy-three) data, there are 42 (forty-two) data functioned as predicative with details: 39 (thirty-nine) data as subject complement; and 3 (three) data as object complement. Data 5 and data 6 below are presented to represent the whole data which are categorized as subject complement, meanwhile, data 7 and data 8 are presented to represent the whole data which are categorized as object complement.

3.1 Subject Complement

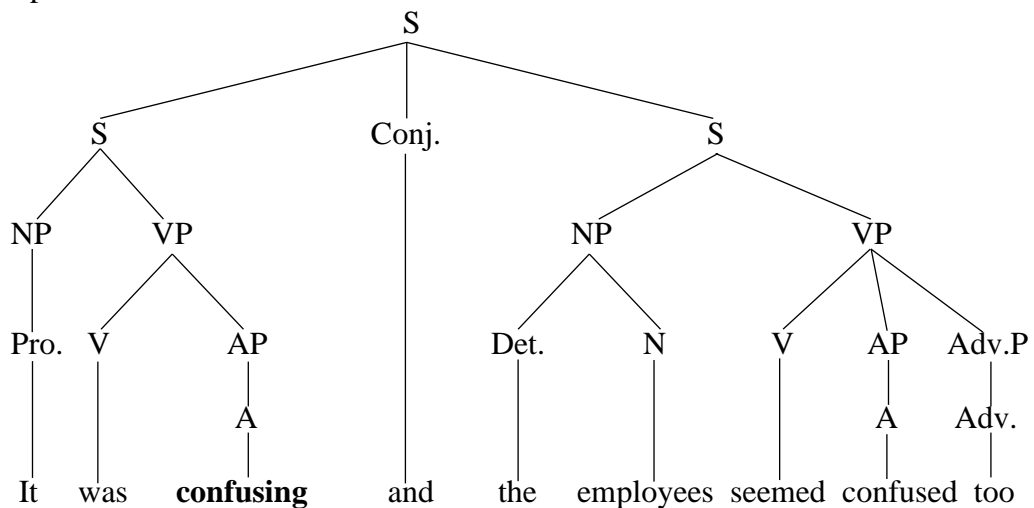
Data 5:

It was **confusing** and the employees seemed confused too. (sjd2021, 2020)

Analysis:

Based on the data above, the derived adjective contained in the sentence is **confusing**. The derived adjective *confusing* derives from the verb *confuse* that is added

a derivational suffix *-ing*. It is shown in the data, the derived adjective *confusing* is functioned as predicative with consideration that the derived adjective comes after the linking verb *was*. Moreover, in specific, the derived adjective takes a role as subject complement since it modifies the pronoun *it* which functioned as the subject. In this case, the subject *it* is said to cause confusion. Furthermore, the tree diagram of the data is depicted as follows.

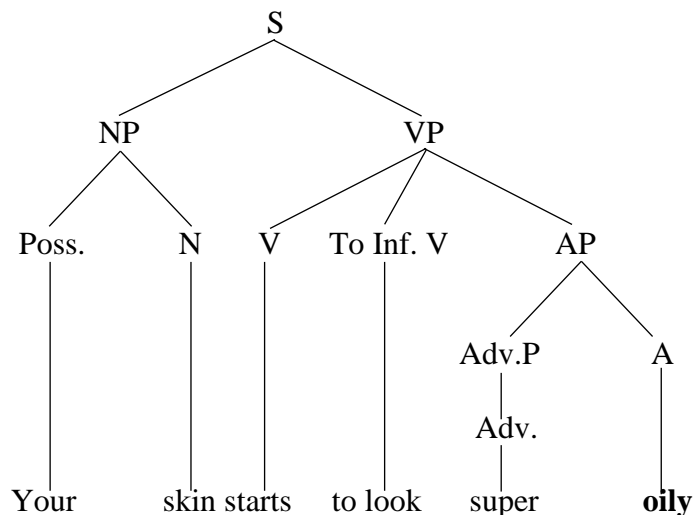


Data 6:

Your skin starts to look super **oily**. (Gabby, 2021)

Analysis:

According to the data above, the derived adjective contained in the sentence is **oily**. The derived adjective *oily* derives from the noun *oil* that is attached a derivational suffix *-y*. In this case, the derived adjective *oily* is functioned as predicative. It can be seen on the data that the derived adjective appears after the verb *look*. In specific, it takes a role as subject complement because it explains the subject *your skin* that is said to be containing more oil than usual. Moreover, the attachment of the adverb *super* is functioned to emphasize the adjective. Furthermore, the tree diagram of the data is depicted as follows.



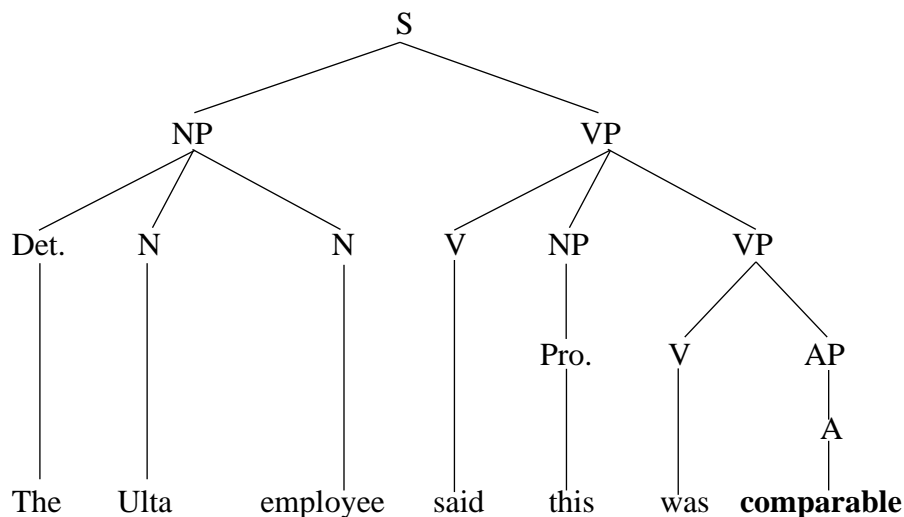
3.2 Object Complement

Data 7:

The Ulta employee said this was **comparable**. (Emily, 2020)

Analysis:

According to the data above, the derived adjective contained in the sentence is **comparable**. The derived adjective *comparable* derives from the derivational suffix *-able* that is attached to the verb *compare*. Based on the sentence, the derived adjective is functioned as predicative as it appears after a linking verb *was*. Specifically, it takes a role as object complement since it explains the pronoun *this* which is functioned as the object. In this case, the object represents the product that is said to be able to be compared. Furthermore, the tree diagram of the data is depicted as follows.

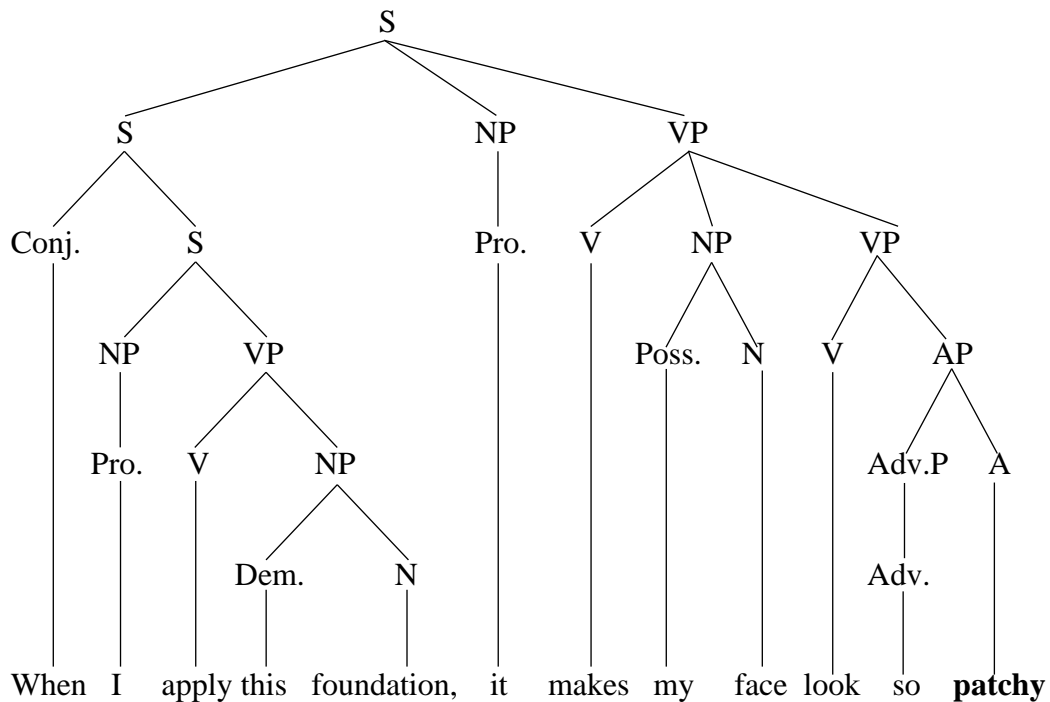


Data 8:

When I apply this foundation, it makes my face look so **patchy**. (Livi, 2021)

Analysis:

According to the data above, the derived adjective contained in the sentence is **patchy**. In this case, the syntactic function of the derived adjective *patchy* is categorized as predicative since it comes up after the verb *look*. The derived adjective *patchy* derives from the noun *patch* that is added a derivational suffix *-y*. Specifically, the derived adjective *patchy* takes a role as object complement because it modifies the object *my face*. Based on the data, the derived adjective explains the object that is said to look very patchy. Moreover, the addition of the adverb *so* emphasizes the adjective. Furthermore, the tree diagram of the data is depicted as follows.



Conclusion

According to the analysis, it can be concluded that 73 (seventy-three) data are found in the data source. Three kinds of syntactic functions of adjectives are contained in the data source, namely attributive, predicative, and postpositive. Based on the finding, the occurrences of each of the kind of the syntactic functions of the derivational suffixes forming adjectives found in the data source in details are: 29 (twenty-nine) occurrences or 39,73% for attributive function; 42 (forty-two) occurrences or 57,53% for predicative function which are divided into subject and object complement; and 2 (two) occurrences or 2,74% for postpositive function. Therefore, the most frequent derivational suffixes forming adjectives come in predicative function, which indicates that mostly adjectives have a different grammatical function with nouns.

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