



## Unravelling the Function of Derivational Affixes Found in BBC News “War in Ukraine”

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### Abstract

The study of word that focus on learning how the word is made by a combination of one or more morpheme is also known as Morphology. This study aims to discover the types and function of derivational affixes found in the BBC News “War in Ukraine”. This research applied two methods such as descriptive qualitative method to provide a comprehensive explanation to each data found in the research and quantitative method used to showcase the frequency percentages of various types and functions of derivational affixes discovered from the data source. Multiple BBC News “War in Ukraine” that contains numerous derivational affixes phenomenon has been chosen to conduct this study. Based on the analysis, this study found 139 (66%) data noun derived from verb, 9 (4%) data adjective derived from verb, 2 (1%) data verb derived from noun, 17 (9%) data adjective derived from noun, 8 (4%) noun derived from adjective, 32 (15%) adverb derived from adjective. Those data found from the research emphasize that forming nouns through derivational affixes is a relatively straightforward process, making it the most prevalent type of data in the study.

**Keywords:** *function of derivational affixes, class changing, BBC news*

### Abstrak

Ilmu yang mempelajari kata yang berfokus pada pembelajaran bagaimana sebuah kata terbentuk dari kombinasi satu atau beberapa morfem disebut juga sebagai Morfologi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis dan fungsi afiks derivasional yang terdapat pada berita BBC “War in Ukraine”. Penelitian ini menggunakan dua metode, yaitu metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk memberikan penjelasan secara menyeluruh pada setiap data yang ditemukan dalam penelitian dan metode kuantitatif yang digunakan untuk menunjukkan persentase frekuensi dari berbagai jenis dan fungsi afiks derivasional yang ditemukan dari sumber data. Beberapa berita BBC “War in Ukraine” yang mengandung banyak fenomena afiks derivasional dipilih untuk melakukan penelitian ini. Berdasarkan hasil analisis, penelitian ini menemukan 139 (66%) data kata benda yang diturunkan dari kata kerja, 9 (4%) data kata sifat yang diturunkan dari kata kerja, 2 (1%) data kata kerja yang diturunkan dari kata benda, 17 (9%) data kata sifat yang diturunkan dari kata benda, 8 (4%) data kata benda yang diturunkan dari kata sifat, 32 (15%) data kata keterangan yang diturunkan dari kata sifat. Data-data yang ditemukan dari penelitian ini menekankan bahwa pembentukan kata benda melalui imbuhan derivasional merupakan proses yang relatif mudah, sehingga menjadi jenis data yang paling banyak ditemukan dalam penelitian ini.

**Kata kunci:** *fungsi afiks turunan, perubahan kelas, berita BBC*

## Introduction

Morphology is considered as one of the most important aspects in linguistics, it covers the topic of how the word is formed, the structure, and the classification of words. Lieber (2009: 2) defines morphology as the examination of word formation, encompassing the creation of new words in various languages and the variations in word forms based on their roles within sentences. A word is a form that cannot be divided into any smaller units that can be used independently to convey meaning (Katamba, 1994: 6). Words found in sentence will always have one or more morpheme attached to it. McCarthy (2002: 16) stated that morpheme is a unit of language that is smaller than a word. The type of morphemes that can stand alone and form a complete word is referred to as "free" morphemes. On the other side, morphemes that lack independence and can only exist when combined to other morphemes are referred to as "bound" morphemes (McCarthy, 2002:18).

According to Katamba (1993: 47) bound morpheme can be classified as two main types of morphological processes used in the creation of new words such as inflectional and derivational. Derivational morpheme is a bound morpheme that alter the meaning or word class (part of speech) of the base to which it is attached, when adding a derivational morpheme to a base word, will result in a new term with a distinct meaning or function (Katamba (1993: 47). That being said, in order to alter the meaning or class of a word, affix is needed. The types of derivational affixes are divided into three, such as prefix, infix, and suffix. Prefix is the affixes that is attached at the beginning of a word, suffix is the opposite prefix which appeared at the end of a word and the last type of affixes is infix, although it is essential to note that infixation is relatively uncommon in English compared to the two previous affixes according to Katamba (1993: 44).

This particular study is focused on finding the function of derivational affixes. According to McCarthy (2002: 48), there are ten types or function of derivational affixes such as to create adverb derived from adjectives, nouns derived from adjectives, nouns derived from verbs, adjectives derived from verbs, adjectives derived from nouns, verbs derived from nouns, verbs derived from adjectives, adjectives derived from adjectives, verbs derived from verbs, nouns derived from nouns. All of those functions can also be classified into two major functions, which is class changing affixes and class maintaining affixes.

The use of derivational affixes can be found in many media nowadays, such as videos, magazines, novel, news, etc. However, out of all kinds of media that contains derivational affixes, this research has chosen news as the main source, specifically, the BBC News “War in Ukraine”. this research decided to use that particular digital news as the main source because multiple derivational affixes phenomenon can be found within the BBC News “War in Ukraine”. As for those reason, this study analyzed the function of derivational affixes found in BBC News “War in Ukraine”.

Analyzing the relevant literature also supported this research effort by providing comparisons and providing guidance on the steps needed for the researcher to conclude the study properly. The first study related to this research is from Rachmadi (2021), this study is a journal entitled “Function of Derivational Affixes in Novel the Hobbit”. This study applied descriptive qualitative as the research method. Conducted to find out the function of derivational affixes in The Hobbit by J.R.R

Tolkien Novel. This research applied the theory from Katamba (1993) and McCarthy (2002) as the main theory. The result shown that there were noun derived to verb (51), verb derived to noun (3), adjective derived to verb (27), adverb derived to adjective (21).

Expanding the scope from the first related study, the second study is from Widiadnyani (2023). It is a journal with the title “Suffixes Forming Nouns Found in the Novel the Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein”. This research utilized the theories from Katamba (1994) and McCarthy (2002) as the main theory to solve the research problem, which is to find the suffixes forming nouns from the Novel the Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. Observation method was applied in this research in order to collect the data. The study also implied the formal and informal method to present the data in the research. The study discovered 10 data of suffix *-ation* (4.1%), 18 data of suffix *-er* (7.5%), 125 data of suffix *-ing* (51.9%), 58 data of suffix *-ion* (24.1%), 29 data of suffix *-ment* (12.0%), and 1 data of suffix *-ee* (0.4%).

Additionally, the third study is from Dewata (2023). This is a journal entitled “Derivational Noun Suffixes Found in Dive Studios YouTube Channel Entitled “How Did I Get Here?””. Descriptive quantitative method was applied in this study to sort out the types and the frequency of derivational noun. The main theory that this study used was from Plag (2002). This study was made with the aims to find the derivational noun suffixes in the Dive Studios YouTube Channel Entitled “How Did I Get Here”. The result of this study shown that there were 50 data of suffix *-ing* (88%), 3 data of suffix *-ion* ( 5%), 1 data of suffix *-ment* (2%), 2 data of suffix *-ful* (3), and 1 data of suffix *-ist* (2%).

Moreover, a thesis conducted by Cahyani (2022) entitled “Derivational Affixes Found in the Caption of Selected Posts Of *@bawabali\_official* Account On Instagram”. This thesis implied two methods, the qualitative descriptive method and quantitative method. The theory from Katamba (1994) and McCarthy (2002) was also applied to help the research to find and classify each derivational affixes found in the data source. The objective of this study is to serve as a valuable supplementary resource for future writers or researchers who wish to explore morphology in greater depth. As the result, this study found 470 data from the data source. 39 data are the derivational prefixes and 431 data are the derivational suffixes.

The fifth and the final study is also a thesis directed by Nur and Kirom (2016) with the title “An Analysis of Derivational Affixes in Commencement Speech by Steve Jobs”. The method applied in this study was qualitative descriptive method. The theory applied in this research is taken from Lieber (2009) as the main theory. This study was conducted with the aims to empower readers to explore the derivational additions within the context of Steve Jobs' initiation discourse. This study discovered 78 total of words which has derivational affixes, they are noun maker (28), verb maker (5), adjective maker (29), and adverb maker (16). All of those related studies have explored the same idea which is the affixation process concerning derivational processes. Some of the related studies were using similar theories and method like this study and some of them are not. While this study shares similar topic with previous research, which is affixation, it specifically delves into the function of derivational affixes found in the BBC News “War in Ukraine” by applying the theories from Katamba (1994) and McCarthy (2002) as the main theory.

## Method

The data for this study was taken from the BBC News “War in Ukraine”. The researcher has chosen seven news articles related to “War in Ukraine”. The news entitled as follows, (1) *Ukraine war: Wheat prices soar after Russia threatens ships*, (2) *Ukraine war: Ben Wallace: Ukraine has 'tragically become a battle lab' for war technology*, (3) *Wagner mutiny: Junior commander reveals his role in the challenge to Putin*, (4) *Putin may still seek revenge on Wagner boss – CIA chief*, (5) *Unilever will let Russia employees be conscripted*, (6) *Ukraine war: Front-line troops discuss counter-offensive*, (7) *Wagner could pose as migrants to enter EU, PM Morawiecki warns*. The primary goal is to determine the types of derivational affixes and its function. To analyze the data found during the research, two main theories were utilized in order to conduct this study, they are the theories from Katamba (1994) to sort the types of derivational affixes and McCarthy (2002) to determine each function of derivational affixes that were found. Furthermore, qualitative descriptive and quantitative method was applied to analyse the data. The study used the document analysis method for the data collection, with the following a prescribed set of processes to obtain important information on the problem of study.

According to Bowen (2009: 2) document analysis is a methodical process used to examine and assess various types of documents, including both physical prints and digital content transmitted through computers and the Internet. For the data collection the researcher has divided it into several steps; firstly, the researcher needs to find the website or the domain for the news, which in this case, it's the BBC.com, the next step was to read the specific news which is the “War in Ukraine” event, furthermore, the researcher written down the data that were found during the data collection, and lastly, the data were compiled into the table and sorted. In presenting the data that were found, this study used both formal and informal presentation method. According to M. Zaim (2014: 114 formal method is the formal method of presentation involves showcasing data analysis results through the use of various symbols and signs, including square brackets ([ ]) that is used to indicate the base word that will altered or manipulated in some way, typically to create a new form of the word and abbreviations denoting verbs (V), nouns (N), adjectives (Adj), and adverbs (Adv). Meanwhile the informal method was applied to present the data narratively, by using words and sentences, in order to make it easier for reader to understand.

## Result and Discussion

### Result

This study utilized the document analysis method to analyze and calculate the amount of derivational affixes and their function found in the news of BBC.com ”War in Ukraine”. There are four steps involved in the data collection were as follows: finding the website or the domain for the news, the next step was to read the news about “War in Ukraine” event, upon reading the news, the data was collected and compiled into one table. In order to present the data, this study also applied the

informal method. It is used to present the function of derivational affixes and the amount of data found from the news of BBC.com “War in Ukraine”.

The findings of the analysis have been presented in the table below for the convenience of the reader, allowing for better understanding

**Table 1. Class changing affixes found from BBC News**

No	The Function of Derivational Affixes	Data Found	Percentage	Examples
1	Noun Derived from Verb	139	67%	<i>starvation, consumer, judgement</i>
2	Adjective Derived from Verb	9	4%	<i>considerable, adaptive,</i>
3	Verb Derived from Noun	2	1%	<i>facilitate, emphasize</i>
4	Adjective Derived from Noun	17	9%	<i>agricultural, foolish, civilian</i>
5	Noun Derived from Adjective	8	4%	<i>possibility, leadership</i>
6	Adverb Derived from Adjective	32	15%	<i>rarely, gloomily</i>
<b>Total</b>		<b>208</b>	<b>100%</b>	

From the table above, we can see that the function of derivational affixes found in the data source which is the BBC News are noun derived from verb 139 (67%); adjective derived from verb 9 (4%); verb derived from noun 2 (1%), adjective derived from noun 17 (9%), noun derived from adjective (17); and the last one, adverb derived from adjective (33). This table shows that every function of derivational affixes was found from the data source and the most frequent function to appear in the news are noun derived from verb.

## **Discussion**

There are 15 prefixes found in the news, but according to McCarthy (2002: 48 – 55), the function of derivational affixes is dominated by the suffixes. There are total of six function of derivational affixes has been found in this research, they are noun derived from verb, adjective derived from verb, verb derived from noun, adjective derived from noun, noun derived from adjective, and adverb derived from adjective. Numerous suffixes representing each of the function found during the research which will be explained further below.

### **1. Noun derived from verb**

McCarthy (2002: 50) stated that nouns that are derived from verbs are numerous, this happened because a lot of words that are we commonly used are attached to the suffixes that deriving verb to noun, for example the suffix *-ing, -er, -ment,*

etc. The first one is the suffix *-ing*, this suffix is meant to indicate an ongoing action or state, next we have suffix *-er*, this suffix is considered as agent noun or indication or someone who does the activity of something, and the last one is the suffix *-ment*, this suffix is used to present the result or process of an action.

**Data 1.** "*Clearly Putin has an aim to disrupt food security and cause a peak in world food prices, which in the developed countries will lead to inflation, but in developing countries that will lead to social destabilisation, **starvation** and new waves of migrants* (Article 1, Line 39)

[[starve] v + -ion] n it should be like this:

The root form of *starvation* is *starve* + suffix *-tion*. The word class of *starve* is a verb and when the suffix *-tion* is attached at the end of the root, the word class is changing to noun. According to Cambridge dictionary, *starvation* means the state of having no food for long period, often causing death.

**Data 2.** "*The consumer goods giant, which has about 3,000 employees in Russia, has policies that cover the well-being and safety of its workers.*" (Article 5, Line 1)

[[consume] v + -er] n

Another example of the suffix that change the verb to noun is in the word *consumer*, here we can split the word *consumer* into two main parts, which is the root *consume* and the suffix *-er*. The word class of *consume* is a verb and when we combine it with the suffix *-er*, it changes to noun. The word *consumer* means a person who buys goods or services for their own use, according to Cambridge dictionary.

**Data 3.** "*This would have resurrected deeper questions in the Russian elite about Mr Putin's **judgement**, which have been there since his decision to launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.*" (Article 4, Line 19)

[[judge] v + -ment] n

The base form of the word *judgement* is *judge*, according to Oxford dictionary it is an activity to form an opinion about somebody/something, based on the information you know. When the base form *judge* is paired with the suffix *-ment*, it becomes *judgement*, and now it classified as noun. *Judgement* has a meaning of the ability to make effective choices after reviewing the best course of action.

## 2. Adjective derived from verb\

Several processes that form adjectives from verbs exist in a zone between derivation and inflection, presenting a unique phenomenon not previously encountered (McCarthy, 2002: 53). There are some examples of suffix that change the word class from verb to adjective, they are *-able*, *-ive*, etc. the first one is the suffix *-able*, this suffix indicates the capability, ability, or suitability of something. The next one is suffix *-ive*, which meant to show the characteristics or qualities related to a particular activity or state.

**Data 4.** "Agriculture Minister Mykola Solskyi said strikes had destroyed 60,000 tonnes of grain and damaged **considerable** parts of the grain export infrastructure. (Article 1, Line 27

[[consider] v + -able] adj

When we separate the word *considerable* into two parts, we get the root *consider* and the suffix *-able*. *Consider* is a verb that means a serious thinking of something that will determine the decisions in the future, and when we add the suffix *-able* to the base word, it will become *considerable* which now means large of or noticeable importance, according to Cambridge dictionary.

### 3. Verb Derived from Noun

Noun converted to verb are numerous, as stated by Katamba in his book (2002: 55). But in this case, the researcher only found 2 from the data source, which is the BBC News "War in Ukraine". Verb that are derived from noun have several suffixes as examples, they are suffix *-ate*, *-ize/-ise*, *-ify*, etc. Suffix *-ate* often implies the action or process of what the root word or noun represent. For the next suffix which is the *-ize/-ise* used to conveys the idea of making, causing, or becoming what the original word describes. The last one on the list is the suffix *-ify*, it used to indicate the transformation of the base word into a new action or process.

**Data 5.** " Wagner could also **facilitate** illegal migration from Belarus, which Poland describes as "hybrid warfare", he says." (Article 7, Line 1)

[[facility] n + -ate] v

The word *facilitate*, derived from the root *facility* and the suffix *-ate*. *Facility* is a place, especially a building that is built for particular activity to happens, classified as noun and when combined with the suffix *-ate* it becomes verb. *Facilitate*, according to Cambridge dictionary, means the ability to make something possible or easier.

### 4. Adjective Derived from Noun

Not only from verbs, adjective also has plentiful words that can be derived into nouns. Suffixes with the function to change adjective to noun are the suffix *-al*, *-ish*, *-ian*, etc. Suffix *-al* is used to form adjective and it is frequently paired with nouns to form adjectives that describe the noun's characteristics, properties, or actions. On the next suffix which is the *-ish*, when added to a noun or an adjective root, "*-ish*" creates a new word that suggests a partial or somewhat characteristic of the original root. The suffix *-ian* in English indicates someone's affiliation, belief or association with a particular place, ideology, or profession.

**Data 6.** "They include lifting sanctions on sales of Russian grain and fertiliser and reconnecting Russia's **agricultural** bank to a global payment system." (Article 1, Line 15)

[[agriculture] n + -al] adj

If we split *agricultural* into two parts, we will get the root *agriculture* and the suffix *-al*. *Agriculture* is a considered as a noun and indicates the science or

practice of farming. When we paired the suffix *-al* into agriculture, it becomes *agricultural*, which now we classified as an adjective that has similar meaning to its root, which is the science or practice of farming.

**Data 7.** "We would be very *foolish* to ignore these lessons and not import them into our own armed forces," he said." (Article 2, Line 3)

[[fool] n + -ish] adj *Fool* is a noun that has a meaning of a person that think and behave in a way that lacks of knowledge or intelligent. It is considered as a noun and when we paired it with the suffix *-ish*, it becomes *foolish* which now is classified as adjective that often refers to actions, decisions that are unwise, impractical, and lack of understanding of potential consequences.

##### 5. Noun derived from Adjective

There is an abundance of nouns that originate from both adjectives and verbs, and you'll find it quite effortless to come up with numerous examples, there are few examples such as *-ity*, *-ness*, *-ship*, etc. The first suffix is *-ity*, used to represent the quality or state of being something. The next one is the suffix *-ship*, used to indicate a state, condition, or quality of being associated with someone or something, often implies position or role. The last one is suffix *-ness*, it denotes a state or condition of being a certain way.

**Data 8.** "White House spokesman Adam Hodge suggested Russia was planning to hit civilian ships and blame Ukraine." (Article 1, Line 4)

[[possible] adj + -ity]

The adjective '*possible*' indicates a condition or state that is possible to achieve or done, or in other case able to exist. When we attached the suffix *-ity* to it, it becomes possibility, and now it considered as a noun. *Possibility* has a meaning of a chance that something may happen or to be true, according to Cambridge dictionary.

**Data 9.** "Mr Wallace said that the *effectiveness* of weapons given to Kyiv by its allies had heavily influenced the revisions." (Article 2, Line 2)

[[effective] adj + -ness]

The root form of *effectiveness* is *effective*, it is classified as an adjective. When we attach the suffix *-ness* to the root *effective*, it becomes *effectiveness*, which now we classify as noun, that has a meaning of the degree to which something is effective.

##### 6. Adverb derived from adjective

In English, adverbs typically modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Adverbs derived from adjectives allow us to describe how an action occurs or to provide additional information about the adjectives themselves. There is only one way to derived an adverb from adjective, which is to add the suffix *-ly* at the end of a word. Those addition make the adjective becomes adverb and can be used to modify the verb in a sentence.

**Data 10.** " "I think this war will not be resolved in the battlefield. It will end with a political deal," he said **gloomily**." (Article 6, Line 16)

[[gloomy] adj + -ly] adv

Another adverb that is derived from adjective is the word *gloomily*. When we split them into two parts, which is root *gloomy* and the suffix *-ly*. *Gloomy* is still considered as an adjective, and indicates someone or something that is sad and hopeless, but when we attach it with the suffix *-ly*, it becomes *gloomily* that now has a meaning of a sad condition and oftentimes lead to hopelessness.

## Conclusion

The function of derivational affixes is divided into two kinds, such as class changing and class maintaining. The researcher on this study is focusing more on finding the class changing phenomenon that happened in the news found from BBC News "War in Ukraine". The derivational affixes function of class changing in BBC News "War in Ukraine" is 139 (66%) data noun derived from verb, 9 (4%) data adjective derived from verb, 2 (1%) data verb derived from noun, 17 (9%) data adjective derived from noun, 8 (4%) noun derived from adjective, 32 (15%) adverb derived from adjective. The high frequency of noun derived from verb in the BBC News 'War in Ukraine' based on the result is functionally driven by the essential role that nouns play in sentence structure. Nouns serve as the backbone of a sentence, functioning primarily as subjects, objects, and often as the central elements that convey key information. Therefore, when derivational affixes aim to change word class, nouns are easier to employed as they fulfill crucial roles in conveying the core content and meaning of sentences, making them the primary focus of derivational processes and thus resulting in their higher occurrence.

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