



Morphological Functions of Derivational Suffixes in BBC News: Earth Edition

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Abstract

This research focused on analyzing class-changing derivational suffixes found in the article of BBC News: Earth Edition. In this research, class-changing derivational suffixes from BBC News: Earth Edition stories were analyzed using a qualitative method. The note-taking method applied in collecting data for this research. The data collection involved reading five selected articles from the BBC News: Earth Edition website, noting relevant information, and classifying the functions of derivational suffixes. This study applied the theory proposed by McCarthy (2002) in analyzing the morphological function of derivational suffixes in each word. By highlights how different suffixes modify the root word and how these modifications fit into broader morphological patterns, it helps in identifying systematic relationships between suffixes and the meanings they produce. Formal and informal methods were applied in this study in presenting the data. This study identified four functions of class-changing derivational suffixes, namely adverb derived from adjective (32%), adjective derived from noun (11%), verb derived from noun (0%), noun derived from verb (57%). The findings indicated that nouns derived from verbs were more frequently found in the online news stories of BBC News: Earth Edition.

Keywords: *derivational, BBC News: Earth Edition, class-changing suffixes, suffix.*

Abstrak

Fokus penelitian ini yaitu menganalisis sufiks derivasional pengubah kelas kata yang ditemukan pada artikel BBC News: Earth Edition. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis sufiks derivasional pengubah kelas kata yang ditemukan pada artikel BBC News: Earth Edition. Metode mencatat diterapkan dalam pengumpulan data untuk penelitian ini. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan membaca lima artikel terpilih dari situs BBC News: Earth Edition, mencatat informasi yang relevan, dan mengklasifikasikan fungsi sufiks derivasional. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori yang dikemukakan oleh McCarthy (2002) untuk menganalisis fungsi morfologi sufiks derivasional di setiap kata. Dengan menyoroti bagaimana sufiks yang berbeda memodifikasi kata dasar dan bagaimana modifikasi ini sesuai dengan pola morfologi yang lebih luas, hal ini membantu dalam mengidentifikasi hubungan sistematis antara sufiks dan maknanya. mereka memproduksi. Metode formal dan informal diterapkan dalam penelitian ini untuk menyajikan data. Hasil analisis mengidentifikasi empat fungsi sufiks derivasional pengubah kelas kata, yaitu kata keterangan yang berasal dari kata sifat (32%), kata sifat yang berasal dari kata benda (11%), kata kerja yang berasal dari kata benda (0%), kata benda yang berasal dari kata kerja (57%). Temuan

tersebut menunjukkan bahwa kata benda yang dibentuk dari kata kerja lebih sering terlihat dalam berita daring BBC News: Earth Edition.

Kata kunci: *derivasional, BBC News: Earth Edition, sufiks pengubah kelas, sufiks.*

Introduction

Morphology is the branch of linguistics focused on the structure and formation of words. As Lieber (2009:2) explains, it encompasses how new words are coined and how word forms vary in different sentence contexts. This includes processes such as affixation, compounding, conversion, coinage, back-formation, blending, acronyms, and clipping. Katamba (1993:3) emphasizes that morphology focuses on word structure, while Yule (2006:67) highlights its concern with forms. Collectively, these definitions suggest that morphology involves both the creation and structure of words.

Learning a foreign language frequently results in the acquisition of affixes that change word meanings. To avoid having difficulty understanding the meaning of each word, it is crucial to learn about class-changing derivational affixes. Understanding derivational affixes will make it easier for us to understand the word changes that occur when studying a foreign language.

The function of derivational affixes is an interesting and important issue that the author decided to examine because it reveals how new words are created and how affixes alter word meanings. These findings can enhance teaching materials and methods for understanding affixes functions. So, it is important to learn affixes, especially derivational affixes. Affixes can be categorized into several types, including prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. A prefix involves inserting a bound morpheme at the beginning of a word. involving a bound morpheme in a word's middle is known as an infix. A suffix is an addition that comes behind a word, combining with a free morpheme. This study will concern with suffixes.

While many studies examined derivational morphology, few provided a comprehensive analysis of how suffixes changed word classes (e.g., from verbs to nouns or adjectives to adverbs). The current study addressed this gap by categorizing and quantifying the different types of class-changing suffixes found in the articles. This part reviewed 5 previous studies. The first study entitled "The Study of Derivational Affixes Found in the Selected Articles of BBC News: Entertainment and Arts Edition" by Kasnadevi (2023). This analysis focused on examining the use of derivational affixes and describing their functions in the chosen articles from BBC News: Entertainment and Arts Edition.

The second previous research entitled "A Morphological Analysis of Derivational Affixes Found in JK Rowling's Speech" conducted by Arifando (2023). The main purpose of the research is to know the derivational affixes in JK Rowling's speech, the data is taken from the text in the YouTube video.

The third previous study entitled "A Morphological Analysis of Derivational Affixes in the Video of Barack Obama's Speech" by Khaerunisa & Kheryadi (2021). It examines the derivational affixes in the video of Barack Obama's speech about

education in 2016 to recognize the kinds of derivational affixes and to know how many derivational affixes which consist prefixes and suffixes found in the video.

The fourth relevant study, conducted by Windiatmika and Utami, with titled “An Analysis of Derivational Affixes Found in The Jakarta Post Newspaper” (2023). This research focused on examining the presence and use of derivational affixes in articles from The Jakarta Post. Through a detailed analysis, the study aimed to identify and categorize the different types of derivational affixes found in the newspaper, illustrating how these morphological processes impacted the structure and meaning of words within journalistic writing.

The last relevant study from Putrawan, Matradewi & Aryani (2023) entitled “Morphology Analysis of Derivational Suffixes Process In The “Walls” Music Album By Louis Tomlinson”. Is concerned with derivational suffixes found in “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” Novel. The aim of the research is to explore the derivational morphological process in Louis Tomlinson’s “Walls” album according to theory from Plag (2002), about types of derivational suffix.

This study focused on the analysis of class-changing derivational suffixes found in BBC News: Earth Edition. Analysis of derivational suffixes in newspapers especially in BBC News: Earth Edition is crucial to carry out as it allows us to find out the derivational prefixes that contain in BBC News: Earth Edition. By learning derivational suffixes it will be easier to recognize the function of the words.

BBC online news was selected as the data source due to its English-language content and its reputation for providing high-quality and engaging news across a variety of topics, many of which feature a significant number of derivational suffixes. It was anticipated that this analysis would provide readers with a deeper understanding of the functions of derivational suffixes, making them more interested in exploring the phenomenon of derivational suffixes occurred in the articles of BBC News: Earth Edition.

Method

The data in this study were all the terms that associated with class-changing derivational suffixes contained in three online news articles in BBC News: Earth Edition entitled “Scientists probed the secrets of mega icebergs,” “Florida’s manatees were addicted to power plants. Scientists were weaning them off,” and “Inside Scotland’s ancient Bone Caves.” The three news articles above had been chosen because they reflected contemporary language trends and usage. By analyzing recent articles, the study captured current practices in affixation and word formation, ensuring the research was relevant and up-to-date.

The data collection process involved several steps, such as reading the three chosen news articles, making a note of the words that are attached class changing derivational suffixes in the news, and classifying the functions of the derivational suffixes attached to each word that appears in online news article. The qualitative descriptive methods used to analyze the data by providing a thorough and contextual analysis of derivational suffixes. The McCarthy’s (2002) theory was used to analyze the functions of derivational suffixes occur in the online news articles of BBC News: Earth Edition. McCarthy’s (2002) theory, guided the analysis of derivational suffixes

in this study. The theory was applied to understand how suffixes modify root words and fit into different word class. Suffixes were analyzed according to whether they transformed a base word into a different word class category, and examples were reviewed to ensure consistency with McCarthy's class changing affixes theory. Derivational suffixes from BBC News: Earth Edition were identified and categorized based on the class changing of the word, specifically into four types: adverbs derived from adjectives, adjectives derived from nouns, verbs derived from nouns, and nouns derived from verbs. Formal methods were applied for presenting the frequency and types of derivational suffixes, while informal methods provided narrative summaries to enhance understanding.

Result and Discussion

In the analysis of derivational suffixes from the BBC News: Earth Edition, four categories of class-changing derivational suffixes were identified: adverbs derived from adjectives, adjectives derived from nouns, verbs derived from nouns, and nouns derived from verbs. The findings are summarized in the table:

Table 1. Number of Class Changing Derivational Suffixes

No	The Function of Derivational Class-Changing Affixes	Quantity	Percentage
1.	Adverb derived from adjective	22	32%
2.	Adjective derived from noun	8	11%
3.	Verb derived from noun	0	0%
4.	Noun derived from verb	40	57%
Total		70	100%

The table above categorizes the data according to the type of derivational suffix and shows the frequency and percentage of each category found in BBC News: Earth Edition. The data was gathered from three articles published in 2024 in BBC News: Earth Edition. The data collection and analysis revealed that the most prevalent type of derivational suffix was “nouns derived from verbs,” accounting for 57% of the total occurrences. This was followed by “adverbs derived from adjectives” at 32%, “adjectives derived from nouns” at 11%, while no instances of “verbs derived from nouns” were identified. The dominance of nouns derived from verbs could be linked to the nature of news reporting, which often involves describing actions and processes.

Class Changing Derivational Affixes

1. Adverb Derived from Adjective

Andrew Carstairs and McCarthy (2002:48) pointed out many basic lectures discussions of English grammar suggest that all adverbs end in -ly. Adverbs can be form from both adjectives and verbs. Adverbs would be a unique word class, with all members being derived forms. However, there are simple or mono-morphemic adverbs, although they are not many, which include several ordinary words. Additionally, some adverbs are morphologically complex even without the -ly ending. Examples include “hardly,” “slowly,” and “carefully.”

Data 1

“British researchers hope to glean new insights into the physics of ice fracturing by studying a sector of the Antarctic that **recently** saw the breakaway of two mega-bergs.” (Scientists probe the secrets of mega icebergs online news article)

[[**recent**] adj + **-ly**] adv

The suffix in the word **recently** is **-ly**, and its base is **recent**. The word **recent** is an adjective, but when the suffix **-ly** is added, it becomes an adverb. This example is considered a class-changing derivational suffix because the suffix not only forms a new word but also changes its grammatical category. **Recent** refers to something that has happened or come into existence lately, whereas **recently** means during a recent period of time. The suffix **-ly** alters both the class of the word and its meaning.

Data 2

“**Nearly** half the ice lost from the white continent comes from the shedding of these often city-sized frozen blocks.” (Scientists probe the secrets of mega icebergs online news article)

[[**near**] adj + **-ly**] adv

The suffix in the word **nearly** is **-ly**, and **near** as the base word. **Near** is an adjective, but when **-ly** is attached, the word turns into an adverb. This is also a class-changing derivational suffix as it creates a new word and shifts its word class. **Near** means close in time, place, or degree, while **nearly** means in a close manner or relationship. The suffix **-ly** thus changes both the word’s class and meaning.

Data 3

“In 2011, water heaters were turned on for manatees **shortly** after a power plant was decommissioned, to help them survive the winter.” (Florida’s manatees are addicted to power plants. Scientists are weaning them off online news article)

[[**short**] adj + **-ly**] adv

In the word **shortly**, the suffix is **-ly**, and the base word is **short**. **Short** is an adjective, and adding **-ly** converts it into an adverb. This is another example of a class-changing derivational suffix, as the suffix creates a new form of the word and alters its grammatical category. **Short** means having little length, while **shortly** means in a few words. The suffix **-ly** changes both the class and meaning of the word.

Data 4

“**Presently** we have been looking at radiocarbon dated remains, and extending the dates to new specimens, ...” (Inside Scotland’s ancient Bone Caves online news article)”

[[**present**] adj + **-ly**] adv

The word **presently** has the suffix **-ly**, with **present** as its base. **Present** is an adjective, however adding **-ly** transforms it into an adverb. This is a class-changing derivational suffix, as it produces a new word form and shifts its word class. **Present** means existing or happening now, while **presently** means to emphasize something and show that there is no doubt about it. The suffix **-ly** modifies both the class and meaning of the word.

Data 5

“It is **certainly** true, however, that in other parts of the continent we have seen warmer conditions trigger whole-shelf collapse, producing a splurge of bergs.” (Scientists probe the secrets of mega icebergs online news article.)

[[**Certain**] adj + **-ly**] adv

The word **certainly** contains the suffix **-ly**, built upon the base word **certain**. While **certain** is an adjective, adding **-ly** converts it into an adverb. This makes **-ly** a class-changing derivational suffix, as it creates a new word form and changes the grammatical category. **Certain** refers to being sure about something or knowing it to be true, correct, or effective. On the other hand, **certainly** means doing something without hesitation or delay. The suffix **-ly** alters both the word's class and its meaning.

2. Adjective Derived from Noun

Andrew Carstairs and McCarthy (2002:52) noted that certain processes for forming adjectives from verbs bridge the gap between derivation and inflection in unusual ways. Adjectives can be created from both nouns and verbs. For instance, adding –ful to a noun or –ive, –ing, –ed, –able, or –less to a verb can produce adjectives. Instances include beautiful and comfortable.”

Data 6

“Having a station on an ice shelf with cracks is actually helping us to do **detailed** studies that wouldn’t otherwise be possible,” he told BBC News. (Scientists probe the secrets of mega icebergs online news article)

[[**detail**] n + **-ed**] adj

The word **detailed** includes the suffix **-ed**, with **detail** as its base word. **Detail** is a noun, but when **-ed** is added, it becomes an adjective. This is an instance of a class-changing derivational suffix, as it generates a new word and changes its grammatical category. **Detail** refers to an extended treatment or attention to specific items, while **detailed** means characterized by thoroughness in dealing with small parts or particulars. The suffix **-ed** alters both the class of the word and its meaning.

Data 7

“Other ideas, though yet to be tried, include solar powered heaters or deploying a **moveable** heating system that manatees could follow”. (Florida’s manatees are addicted to power plants. Scientists are weaning them off online news article)

[[**move**] v + **-able**] adj

The suffix in the word **moveable** is **-able**, and the base word is **move**. **Move** is a verb, but when the suffix **-able** is added, it changes to an adjective. This is an example of a class-changing derivational suffix, as it not only creates a new word but also alters its grammatical category. **Move** means to proceed to another place or direction with continuous motion, while **moveable** means capable of being moved. The addition of “-able” changes both the word’s class and its meaning.

Data 8

”Hopefully we will get permission to do at least some **limited** re-excavation in the Bone Caves in the next couple of years”. (Inside Scotland’s ancient Bone Caves online news article)

[[**limit**] n + **-ed**] adj

In the word **limited**, the suffix is **-ed**, and the base word is **limit**. **Limit** is a noun, but with the addition of **-ed**, it becomes an adjective. This indicates a class-changing derivational suffix, where the suffix generates a new word form and changes its word class. **Limit** refers to something that bounds or confines, while **limited** means restricted within certain boundaries. The suffix **-ed** transforms both the word's class and meaning.

3. Verb Derived from Noun

Andrew Carstairs and McCarthy (2002:53) noted that verbs, as a part of speech, are unique in that the affixes involved are typically prefixes. Verbs can be derived from both nouns and adjectives. It is clear that in English derivational morphology, suffixes are more commonly used than prefixes. A verb possible to be formed by attaching **-fy** to a noun, **-en** or **-ize** to an adjective, or by attaching **en-** to a noun. Instances include words like “realize” and “forgotten.”

4. Noun Derived from Verb

Andrew Carstairs and McCarthy (2002:50) explained that nouns formed from adjectives and verbs are very common, and it supposed to be clear to come up with numerous examples similar to those they provided. Several of these nouns are come from word bases that differ from the free form of the corresponding adjective. Nouns can be created by adding suffixes like **-ion**, **-ment**, **-er**, or **-ance** to verbs, or by attaching **-ness** or **-ity** to adjectives. Examples include words like “conclusion,” “engagement,” and “allowance.”

Data 9

“The Brunt experienced a rapid acceleration in its seaward **movement** after the loss of A74 and A81.” (Scientists probe the secrets of mega icebergs online news article)

[[**move**] v + **-ment**] n

The word **movement** has the suffix **-ment**, with **move** as its base. **Move** is a verb, but when **-ment** is attached, it becomes a noun. This example also illustrates a class-changing derivational suffix, as it creates a new word and changes its grammatical category. **Move** means to proceed to another place or direction with continuous motion, while **movement** refers to the act or process of moving. The addition of **-ment** alters both the word's class and its meaning.

Data 10

“**Pollution** drove Florida's manatees from warm springs to power plants. (Florida's manatees are addicted to power plants”. (Scientists are weaning them off online news article)

[[**pollute**] v + **-ion**] n

The suffix in the word **pollution** is **-ion**, and the base is **pollute**. **Pollute** is a verb, but adding **-ion** turns it into a noun. This is an example of a class-changing derivational suffix, where the suffix forms a new word and shifts its grammatical category. **Pollute** means to make something ceremonially or morally impure, while **pollution** refers to the act of polluting. The suffix **-ion** changes both the word's class and its meaning.

Data 11

“UK scientists are seeking to understand the triggers that result in the **production** of giant Antarctic icebergs.”. (Scientists probe the secrets of mega icebergs online news article)

[[**Product**] v + **-ion**] n

The word **production** contains the suffix **-ion**, derived from the base word **product**. While **product** functions as a verb, adding **-ion** transforms it into a noun. This is an example of a class-changing derivational suffix, as it creates a new word form and alters its grammatical category. **Product** refers to an item made for sale, typically through an industrial process, whereas **production** describes the process of creating or growing goods for sale. The addition of **-ion** changes both the word's class and its meaning.

Data 12

“By Steven McKenzie, BBC Scotland Highlands and Islands **reporter**”. (Inside Scotland's ancient Bone Caves online news article)

[[**report**] v + **-er**] n

The word **reporter** includes the suffix **-er**, with **report** as its base word. **Report** is a verb, but when **-er** is added, it becomes a noun. This is another instance of a class-changing derivational suffix, as the suffix produces a new word form and changes its word class. **Report** means a piece of information spread through common talk, while **reporter** refers to a person who provides official statements or accounts of events. The addition of **-er** modifies both the word's class and its meaning.

Data 13

“We have a moral **obligation** to ensure these animals can live their lives safely.” (Florida's manatees are addicted to power plants. Scientists are weaning them off online news article)

[[**obligate**] v + **-ion**] n

The word **obligation** contains the suffix **-ion**, with the base word **obligate**. While **obligate** is a verb, adding **-ion** converts it into a noun. This demonstrates a class-changing derivational suffix, as it creates a new word form and shifts its grammatical category. **Obligate** means to compel or require someone to do something, whereas **obligation** refers to the condition of being required or bound to do something. The addition of suffix **-ion** alters both the word's class and its meaning.

Conclusion

This study focused on examining how certain suffixes change the form of words in articles from BBC News: Earth Edition. Based on the analysis presented in the article, the study concluded that the selected three online news articles contain 70 instances of derivational suffixes, which were categorized into four types according to McCarthy's (2002) theory. The breakdown of these suffixes is as follows: adverb derived from adjective (22 instances), adjective derived from noun (8 instances), verb derived from noun (0 instance), noun derived from verb (40 instances). The analysis revealed that the most common type of derivational suffix was "nouns derived from verbs," which accounted for 40 instances. This is probably because news articles often describe actions and processes, which leads to frequent use of nouns that come from verbs. Understanding these word changes is valuable for both language learners and linguists, as it helps in how words are formed and how the English language evolves. Future studies could expand this research by looking at these suffixes in different types of writing or media to see if similar trends appear, which would help further our understanding of how words change in various contexts.

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Putrawan, I. W., Matradewi, N. K. W., & Aryani, I. G. A. I. (2023). Morphology Analysis of Derivational Suffixes Process in The “Walls” Music Album by Louis Tomlinson. *International Journal of Linguistics and Discourse Analytics*, 1, 1-8.

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