

SUFFIXES THAT DO NOT CHANGE THE GRAMMATICAL CLASS OF THE WORDS (based on the dictionary)

Tamara Gogu¹, Laurenția Dutova²

¹“Ion Creanga” Pedagogical State University, str. Ion Creangă 1, Chișinău, Moldova

²Technical University of Moldova, 168 Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt Bd., Chișinău, Republic of Moldova
lr_dtv@yahoo.com

Received: October, 18, 2018

Accepted: November, 12, 2018

Abstract. Derivation is the morphological process that results in the formation of new lexemes. Derivation is a process by which a new word is built from a base, usually through the addition of an affix. This process, also called affixation, is generally defined as the formation of words by adding derivational affixes to different types of bases. The present research is devoted to the analysis of suffixes that do not change the grammatical class of the words.

Key-words: *affixation, affix, morphological process, root morpheme, grammatical class.*

CZU 81.373.611

Introduction

The process of affixation consists in coining a new word by adding an affix or several affixes to a root morpheme. Affixation is generally defined as the formation of words by adding derivational affixes to different types of bases. Derived words formed by affixation may be the result of one or several applications of word-formation rule and thus the stems of words making up a word-cluster enter into derivational relations of different degrees.

Main body of the article

Functional affixes serve to convey grammatical meaning. They build different forms of one and the same word. A word form, or the form of a word, is defined as one of the different aspects a word may take as a result of inflection. Complete sets of all the various forms of a word when considered as inflectional patterns, such as declensions or conjugations, are termed paradigms. A paradigm has been defined in grammar as the system of grammatical forms characteristic of a word, e. g. *near, nearer, nearest; son, son's, sons, sons'*.

Derivational affixes serve to supply the stem with components of lexical and lexico-grammatical meaning, and thus form different words. One and the same lexico-grammatical meaning of the affix is sometimes accompanied by different combinations of various lexical meanings. Thus, the lexico-grammatical meaning supplied by the suffix -y consists in the ability to express the qualitative idea peculiar to adjectives and creates adjectives from noun stems. The lexical meanings of the suffix are various: 1). 'full of', (e.g. *bushy, cloudy*), 2). 'composed of', (e.g. *stony*), 3). 'having the quality of', (e.g. *slangy*), 4). 'resembling', (e.g. *baggy*), 5). 'covered with', (e.g. *hairly*, etc.).

This suffix sometimes conveys emotional components of meaning, e.g. *My school reports used to say: "Not amenable to discipline; too fond of organizing," which was only a kind*

way of saying: "Bossy." The word *bossy* not only means 'having the quality of a boss' or 'behaving like a boss'; it is also a derogatory word. [1, p. 37].

In conformity with the division of derivational affixes into suffixes and prefixes affixation is subdivided into suffixation and prefixation. Distinction is naturally made between prefixal and suffixal derivatives according to the last stage of derivation. Words like *reappearance*, *unreasonable*, *denationalise*, are often qualified as prefixal-suffixal derivatives. [7, p. 41].

The part-of-speech meaning has a much greater significance in suffixes as compared to prefixes which possess it in a lesser degree. Due to it a prefix may be confined to one part of speech as, e.g., *enslave*, *encage*, *unbutton* or may function in more than one part of speech as, e.g., *over-* in *over-kind a*, *to overfeed v*, *overestimation n*. Unlike prefixes, suffixes as a rule function in anyone part of speech often forming a derived stem of a different part of speech as compared with that of the base, e.g. *careless a* – *care n*; *suitable a* – *suit v*, etc. Furthermore, it is necessary to point out that a suffix closely knit together with a base forms a fusion retaining less of its independence than a prefix which is as a general rule more independent semantically, for example *reading* – 'the act of one who reads'; 'ability to read'; and *to re-read* – 'to read again'.

The American structuralists B. Bloch and G. Trager formulate their point as follows: "A suffixal derivative is a two-morpheme word which is grammatically equivalent to (can be substituted for) any simple word in all the constructions where it occurs." This rule is not to be taken as an absolutely rigid one because the word building potential and productivity of stems depend on several factors. Thus, no further addition of suffixes is possible after *-ness*, *-ity*, *-dom*, *-ship* and *-hood*. A derivative is mostly capable of further derivation and is therefore homonymous to a stem. The word *foolish*, for example, is derived from the stem *fool* and is homonymous to the stem *foolish-* occurring in the words *foolishness* and *foolishly*. Inflected words cease to be homonymous to stems. No further derivation is possible from the word form *fools*, where the stem *fool-* is followed by the functional affix *-s*. Inflected words are neither structurally nor functionally equivalent to the morphologically simple words belonging to the same part of speech. The word *things* is different from the word *business* functionally, because these two words cannot occur in identical contexts, and structurally, because of the different character of their immediate constituents and different word-forming possibilities [5, p. 71].

Another essential feature of affixes that should not be overlooked is their combining power or valency and the derivational patterns in which they regularly occur. Thus, *unhappy*, *untrue* and *unattractive* are quite regular combinations, while seemingly analogous *unsad*, *unfalse*, *unpretty* do not exist. The possibility of a particular stem taking a particular affix depends on phono-morphological, morphological and semantic factors. The suffix *-ance/-ence*, for instance, occurs only after **b, t, d, dz, v, l, r, m, n**: *disturbance*, *insistence*, *independence*, but not after **s** or **z**: *condensation*, *organization*. It is of course impossible to describe the whole system. To make our point clear we shall take adjective-forming suffixes as an example. They are mostly attached to noun stems. They are: *-ed* (*barbed*), *-en* (*golden*), *-ful* (*careful*), *-less* (*careless*), *-ly* (*soldierly*), *-like* (*childlike*), *-y* (*hearty*) and some others. The highly productive suffix *-able* can be combined with noun stems and verbal stems alike (e.g. *clubbable*, *bearable*). It is especially frequent in the pattern *un-* + *verbal stem* + *-able* (*unbearable*). Sometimes it is even attached to phrases in which composition and affixation are simultaneous producing compound-derivatives (*unbrushoffable*, *ungetatable*). These characteristics are of great importance both structurally and semantically [1, p. 52].

Their structural significance is clear if we realize that to describe the system of a given vocabulary one must know the typical patterns on which its words are coined. To achieve this it is necessary not only to know the morphemes of which they consist but also

to reveal their recurrent regular combinations and the relationship existing between them. This approach ensures a rigorously linguistic basis for the identification of lexicogrammatical classes within each part of speech. In the English language these classes are little studied so far, although an inquiry into this problem seems very promising.

Some affixes, i.e. suffixes usually modify the lexical meaning of the base and transfer words to a different part of speech. There are suffixes however, which do not shift words from one part of speech into another; a suffix of this kind usually transfers a word into a different semantic group, e.g. a concrete noun becomes an abstract one, as is the case with *child* – *childhood*, *friend* – *friendship*, etc.

Chains of suffixes occurring in derived words having two and more suffixal morphemes are sometimes referred to in lexicography as compound suffixes: *-ably* = *-able* + *-ly* (e.g. *profitably*, *unreasonably*); *-ically* = *-ic* + *-al* + *-ly* (e.g. *musically*, *critically*); *-ation* = *-ate* + *-ion* (e.g. *fascination*, *isolation*) and some others.

Compound suffixes do not always present a mere succession of two or more suffixes arising out of several consecutive stages of derivation. Some of them acquire a new quality operating as a whole unit. Let us examine from this point of view the suffixation in words like *fascination*, *translation*, *adaptation* and the like. *Adaptation* looks at first sight like a parallel to *fascination*, *translation*. The latter however are first-degree derivatives built with the suffix *-ion* on the bases *fascinate-*, *translate-*. But there is no base *adaptate-*, only the shorter base *adapt-*. Likewise *damnation*, *condemnation*, *formation*, *information* and many others are not matched by shorter bases ending in *-ate*, but only by still shorter ones *damn-*, *condemn-*, *form-*, *inform-*. Thus, the suffixation is a specific suffix of a composite nature. It consists of two suffixes *-ate* and *-ion*, but in many cases functions as a single unit in first-degree derivatives. It is referred to in linguistic literature as a coalescent suffix or a group suffix. *Adaptation* is then a derivative of the first degree of derivation built with the coalescent suffix on the base *adapt-*.

Further we'll focus our attention on the investigation of the affixes that do not change the grammatical class of the words they are added to. Firstly we'll take into consideration the suffixes that do not change the grammatical class. We identified the following patterns:

Pattern 1.	noun + ~ = noun	Meaning of morpheme
	<i>lemon</i> + <i>-ade</i>	= <i>lemonade</i> ,
	<i>Africa</i> + <i>-ana</i>	= <i>Africana</i> 'collection of facts, objects, etc.'
	<i>discipline</i> + <i>-arian</i>	= <i>disciplinarian</i> 'practice of',
	<i>function</i> + <i>-ary</i>	= <i>functionary</i> ,
	<i>director</i> + <i>-ate</i>	= <i>directorate</i> ,
	<i>boot</i> + <i>-ee</i>	= <i>bootee</i> 'diminutive',
	<i>mountain</i> + <i>-eer</i>	= <i>mountaineer</i> 'person concerned with the n',
	<i>philosophy</i> + <i>-er</i>	= <i>philosopher</i> 'practicer of',
	<i>fish</i> + <i>-ery</i>	= <i>fishery</i> 'place where an action is carried out',
	<i>cook</i> + <i>-ery</i>	= <i>cookery</i> 'art of, practice of',
	<i>snob</i> + <i>-ery</i>	= <i>snobbery</i> ,
	<i>rival</i> + <i>-ry</i>	= <i>rivalry</i> 'state, quality, character of',
	<i>journal</i> + <i>-ese</i>	= <i>journalese</i> 'in the (literary) style of',
	<i>lion</i> + <i>-ess</i>	= <i>lioness</i> 'female of n.',
	<i>cigar</i> + <i>-ette</i>	= <i>cigarette</i> 'diminutive',
	<i>usher</i> + <i>-ette</i>	= <i>usherette</i> 'female',
	<i>flannel</i> + <i>-ette</i>	= <i>flannelette</i> 'imitation',
	<i>hand</i> + <i>-ful</i>	= <i>handful</i> 'amount that fills',
	<i>boy</i> + <i>-hood</i>	= <i>boyhood</i> 'status, rank, condition of life',

mathematics + -ian = mathematician 'specialist in',
music + -ian = musician,
dog + -ie = doggie 'pet name or familiar name',
pig + -y = piggy,
hero + -ism = heroism 'showing qualities typical of',
Buddha + -ism = Buddhism 'specific doctrine, principle or movement',
drama + -ist = damatist 'agent of an -ize verb',
king + -dom = kingdom 'domain',
pound + -worth = poundsworth 'using the amount of',
tobacco + -ist = tabacconist 'person concerned with a specific activity',
Labor + -ite = Laborite 'follower, devotee of a person or organization',
pig + -let = piglet 'diminutive',
duck + -ling = duckling 'diminutive',
hire + -ling = hireling 'person connected with',
country + -man = countryman 'dweller in',
milk + -man = milkman 'somebody connected by a specific activity to',
fish + -monger = fishmonger 'somebody who deals in',
song + -ster = songster 'somebody connected with the n'
land + -scape = landscape 'a stretch of scenery',
friend + -ship = friendship 'a state of being, status, office',
musician + -ship = musicianship 'skill, proficiency as',
photograph + -y = photography 'system of'.

Pattern 2. adjective + ~ = adjective Meaning of morpheme

outer + -most = outermost 'superlative of adj., very',
two + -fold = twofold 'of (so many) parts',
red + -ish = reddish 'somewhat, near to'.

Conclusion

A careful study of a great many suffixal and prefixal derivatives has revealed an essential difference between them. In Modern English suffixation is mostly characteristic of noun and adjective formation, while pre-fixation is mostly typical of verb formation. The distinction also rests on the role different types of meaning play in the semantic structure of the suffix and the prefix.

Analyzing the suffixes that do not change the grammatical class of the words they are added to, we observed the patterns: **noun + ~ = noun; adjective + ~ = adjective.**

Bibliographical references:

1. Arnold, I. The English word. – M., 1986.
2. Bauer, L. English word-formation. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
3. Bauer, L. A glossary of morphology. – Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2004.
4. Beard, R. *Lexeme-morpheme based morphology; a general theory of inflection and word formation.* – Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1995.
5. Bloch, B. *Outline of Linguistic Analysis.* - Baltimore, 1986.
6. *Chahoyan, L.; Belyaeva, T.; Ivanova, I. Istoriya angliyskogo yazyka. - Russia, Hardcover, 2010.*
7. Ginsburg, R. A Course in Modern English Lexicology. – M: Высш. школа, 2004.
8. Gogu, T. A Course in Modern English Lexicology. - Chişinău, 2008.
9. Lyons, J. Language and Linguistics. An Introduction. - New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 1981.
10. Marchand, H. The categories and types of present-day English word-formation. – Munchen, 1969.
11. Smirnitsky, A. English Lexicology. – M: Из-во МГУ, 1998.

Dictionary:

The Cambridge Encyclopaedic Dictionary of the English Language. (Crystal, D.) – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.