

THE FORMS AND FUNCTIONS OF DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES USED IN 'THE ISLAND' NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS

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ABSTRACT

Media discourse uses a specific language that differs from the ordinary because it is closely related to the particular genre, e.g., newspaper. The newspaper aims to inform, affect and attract readers. Therefore, linguistic analysis of the newspaper reveals interesting information. This research paper illustrates a morphological analysis of derivational affixes found in the editorials of the newspaper 'The Island', which was randomly selected, 'The fine balance' (29th March.2020); 'Locked-down Blues' (30th March 2020); 'Small is useful' (31st March 2020). This study describes the types of derivational affixes and the functions of those derivational affixes in the editorials. The descriptive qualitative and quantitative method was used. The analysis was based on the 'Affix Stripping Model' concept by Taft & Forster. The results show that various derivational affixes are found in the editorials. The prefix data appear in a different prefix form, such as re-, a-, un-, en-, in- and -dis-. While in the suffix, data appear in certain form such as, -ly, -ive, -ment, -ism, -sion, -able, -less, -ness, -al, -tion, -est, -ful, -ance, -er and -cy. Further, the prefix data appear few compared to the suffix data. The total data of the prefixes in all three editorials are 22, and the number of derivational prefixes is 10. The total number of derivational suffixes is 84. The number of the suffixes is 25. The study finds that the editorials use four kinds of functions in using the affixes: nominal, verbal, adjectival, and adverbial. Many editorials consist of very complicated words to the readers' eyes, but actually, they are formed by adding prefix and suffix—one of the strategies used by the media writers to produce formal writing.

Keywords: *functions, affixes, newspaper*

INTRODUCTION

Writers for the newspapers provide information for society and supply explanations and interpretations of events and situations, so it helps to make the reality clear. News analysis, editorials and columns are examples of interpretative contents. However, such writers have the knowledge and analytical ability that can be noticed in the editorials. The word 'international' as a whole means worldwide; it consists of 'nation' as a root morpheme and inter-and -al as bound morphemes. Process of derivation by adding the prefix 'inter' -, changes the meaning of the base morpheme 'national' (adj) -within a country- into the form 'international', which means countries worldwide. So, the occurrence of the semantic change is noticeable in this derivational processing and no change in the word class. So, it belongs to the category of class maintaining. If the reader has morphological knowledge, he or she can interpret the meaning from the context aptly in the media discourse atmosphere.

Most importantly, the scope of this research paper is on derivational morphemes only. Generally, this area found it difficult to identify the word classes, especially ESL learners and students who do not know the correct parts of speech of the words. Derivational morphemes' primary task is forming new words from the existing base, called a word-formation process where the learners frequently make errors. Thus, learning derivational morphemes facilitate ESL learners to excel in writing. Further, the learners can gather vocabulary in a reasonable range in derivation where prefixes and suffixes play a significant role. As a result of this affiliation, both the word's meaning and the word classes change. *For instance: happy(adj) happily(adv)*

Problem statement

The researcher has found the research gap in the study of derivational morphemes, forms, and functions in the newspaper editorial. In addition, there are many prefixes and suffixes in the English language. However, many people find it hard to understand the editorial as they have larger affixes on the base form of the word. e.g. re-establishment, unacceptable worrisome, anti-government. Simple words do appear strange with the affiliations of the derivational affixes. Therefore, studying the forms and functions of derivational morphemes used in newspaper editorials would help better understand the source.

Objectives of the study

Based on the research problem, the researcher determines the objectives

Given below:

- To tabulate the different derivational affixes found in all three Editorials taken for this study
- To explain the functions of the derivations and the different word-formations found in the editorials
- To point out the various grammatical categories writers formed in the editorial
- To identify stylistic morphological diversity in attracting readers

Research questions

- What are the different derivational affixes found in all three Editorials taken for this study?
- What are the functions of the derivations and the different word-formations found in the editorials?

- What are the various grammatical categories writers formed in the editorial?
- What are stylistic morphological diversities found in the editorial in order to attract the readers?

Significance of the study

This research helps learn affixes' forms and functions, especially the derivational affixes that change the root or base in speech. The result gives lecturers and university students valuable contributions to analyzing the structure of words and finding word-class meanings using newspapers as authentic materials. Thus, this research becomes a meaningful contribution to teaching vocabulary. Furthermore, this study helps to decompose root, prefix and suffix in the derivational process for university students.

Limitations of the study

The limitation in this study is that the researcher analyzes the derivational affixes exclusively in the selected three editorials that appeared on three consecutive days (29th, 30th and 31st of March 2020) in the newspaper '*The Island*'. The titles are: *The fine balance, Lockdown blues, and Small is useful*.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A morpheme is the fundamental unit of morphology, and the words can be decomposed into smaller units. For example, according to Taft & Forster (1975), 'Affix Stripping Model' words are broken into smaller components. Further, the scholar Butterworth (1983) says that words can be decomposed; for example, the word 'development' can be decomposed as- {un-develop-

ment} having the prefix-un and the –ment as a suffix to the root 'develop'- and they are represented in the mental lexicon. Further, a derivational morpheme is a morpheme that produces a new lexeme from a base (Bauer, 1988). In English, derivational morphemes can be either prefixes or suffixes.

According to Katamba (1994), a morpheme is the most minor, invisible unit of semantics content or grammatical function combined with words. For example: 'fruits' [fruit+-s]; it has two morphemes as free morpheme [fruit] and bound morpheme [-s] and the bound morpheme -s is the indicator of the plural that shows the grammatical function, and therefore, it is a grammatical morpheme.

Fromkin et al. (1998) state that the derivation process changes the category in which a prefix or suffix is joined to the base a new word is derived or formed. The study of Plag (2002) says that there are four kinds of suffixes: nominal suffixes, verbal suffixes, adjectival affixes, and adverbial affixes. Considering the study of Finegan (2004), morphemes are the minor meaningful elements in a word. Aronoff and Fudeman (2005) state that morphology endures word formation and decomposes; their internal structure is a mental phenomenon. Morphological awareness means the awareness of and access to the meaning and structure of morphemes concerning words (Chang et al., 2005). Derivational morphology undergoes prefixation and suffixation processes (e.g., mis- in **mis**placed, -er in farmer). Finnegan (2008) distinguishes certain bound morphemes change the category of the word to which they are attached, as with the underlined parts of these words: doubt-ful, establish-ment, dark-en, fright-en, and teach-er but sometimes not like

prefixes (mis-, un-, re-). (Butler et al., 2010) illustrates that vocabulary is defined as knowing words and word meanings.

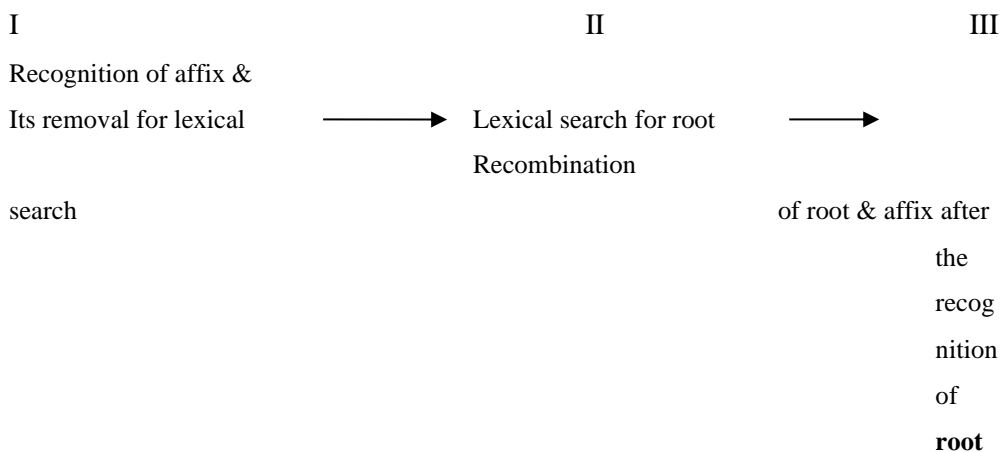


Figure 1: Affix Stripping Model

According to Carlisle, Goodwin and Nagy (2013), morphology studies internal structures of words and word-formation processes in linguistics. Wolter and Green (2013) state that derivational morphemes change the semantic roles of words within sentences. For example, *parents feel **happy** about their children's achievements. On the other hand, parents feel **unhappy** when their children misbehave.* Consider the word **happy** and **unhappy** when the derivational morpheme –un is added; the word *happy*-has changed in meaning totally. According to Setyowati (2014), a derivational morpheme is a bound morpheme that changes the form of the word classes in a sentence.

The media discourse is an essential linguistic institution whose outputs greatly influence people's language to read and hear daily. Reach (2002) explains that language is a mighty instrument to promote, legitimize, and maintain social structures and roles, especially if views are not presented explicitly. The

language of mass media differs variably compared to —general language because it is closely related to the journalistic style, also called news style or news writing style. Berry (2008) defines journalistic style as obtaining and providing news through printed media. Crystal (2003) opines those newspapers play an essential role in the identity of a local community.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A simple random sampling method was applied to choose the newspaper 'The Island', and the three editorials were taken as the study sample. Then, deep reading identified and categorised the complex words bounded with prefixes and suffixes. Further, descriptive qualitative and quantitative methods are used to analyze the data. The analysis was based on the 'Affix Stripping Model' concept by Taft & Forster (1975).

There are five steps in the research: the type of research, object of the study, data and source of data, collecting data, and method for analyzing data. First, the researcher examines the types of derivational affixes such as class-change and class-maintenance derivational and the functions of derivational affixes in the editorials.

Data collection

The procedure of collecting data used the documentary technique in terms of the inventory method. The procedures are as the following stages:

- Read the editorials of the three days consecutively in the newspaper *'The Island.'*
- Identified the derivational affixes

- Classified the affixes as found in the newspaper editorial (the types of derivational noun, verb, and adjective and adverb formation)
- Interpretation of the meaning of the process derivational affixes of Noun, Verb, Adjective and Adverb-formation
- The researcher entered the data in number and percentage

DATA ANALYSIS

1. Type of Derivational Affixes in the Editorials

a. Prefix

The prefixes found in the editorials are ir-regular, mis-chievous, un-important, in-ability. There are several prefixes appeared in the editorials (Ed1, Ed2, Ed3) such as [re-], [-a] [un-], [en-], [in-] , [dis-], [a-] ,[ut-],[non-] and [co-]. The verb 'cooperate' combines the Latin prefixes co-, meaning 'together'/work together. The affixes mentioned above are discussed below with the explanation.

(Number/Editorial No/ Derivational Prefix) Hereafter, it mentions the abbreviated form as given below:

1) Prefix (un-)

(01/Ed 1/DP: un-)

Unlike when the tsunami hit us and some other countries in December 2004, notably Indonesia which suffered the most damage both in human and material terms,

Unlike (Adj) ⇒ (un-) + like (N)

The root morpheme of 'unlike' is 'like' and 'un'-as a bound morpheme. So, the derivation process by adding the prefix 'un'- changes the meaning (like-

similar) of the base morpheme 'like' (N) into the form 'unlike', which means dissimilar gives the negative meaning, semantic change occurs.

The root *comfort* is a simple word and, by adding the prefix and suffix, the editorial writer makes the word complex and attractive, e.g.: 'uncomfortably'.

2) Prefix (inter-)

(02/Ed 1/DP: -inter)

*It is not necessary to labour the fact that the cost of this epidemic, often described as a pandemic because it is of a scale crossing **international** boundaries and.....*

International (Adj) \Longrightarrow **(inter-) +national (adjective)**

The word 'international' consists of 'nation' as a root morpheme and 'inter- and-'al' as bound morphemes. So, the derivation process by adding the prefix 'inter'- changes the meaning of the base morpheme 'national' (Adj) -within a country- 'international', which means countries worldwide. So it can be observed that semantic change occurs. Nevertheless, there is no change in the word class in this derivational processing and belongs to the class maintaining derivations.

3) Prefix (non-)

(03/Ed 1/DP: -non)

Non-Provision (Noun) \Longrightarrow **Non- + provision (Noun)**

*There had been carping in some segments like the railway where ticket-less travel was made possible with employees hitting out at top Management for the **non-provision** of protective*

The prefix 'non'-means 'not' that it is freely used as an English formative, usually with a simple opposing force as implying mere negation or absence, which is often expressed by un-; prefix non- can be seen in the words like non-alcoholic; non-stop; non-payment, of something rather than the opposite or reverse of it. There is no change in the word class in this derivational processing and belongs to the class maintaining derivations.

4) Prefix (-en)

(01/Ed 2/DP: en-)

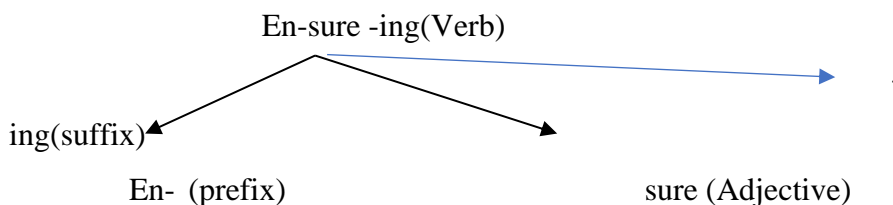
*The need for **ensuring** the existence of the sillara kades is felt today more than ever, thanks to the current countrywide lockdown, coupled with a strictly **enforced** curfew. When the curfew, which is in force to prevent mass gatherings on account of the spread of Covid-19*

Ensuring (Verb) \implies **en-(prefix) + sure (Adj)**

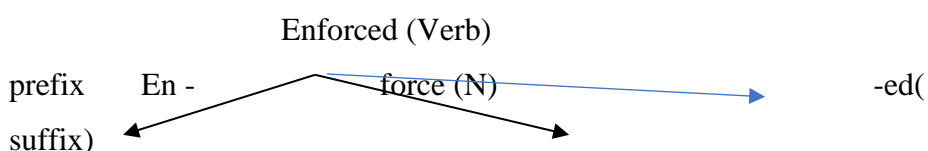
Ensuring is present participle simultaneously a gerund in function as a whole word.

'Ensuring' belongs to derivational prefix and suffix-ing, consisting of 'sure' as a root morpheme and 'en'- as a bound morpheme. The word 'ensure' in the above editorial extract data belongs to derivational affix because prefix 'en'-

changes the word-class adjective into a verb. Therefore, the derivation is a verbal affix and the prefix –'en' emphasizes the word 'sure' [make sure]. Thus, the prefix/ affixes function gives more meaning to the text.



Another example for derivation



5) Prefix (re-)

(01/Ed 2/DP: re-)

*The government should consider allowing private pharmacies to **reopen** during curfew, under the supervision of Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Inspectors, on the strict condition that anything other than what doctors have prescribed must not be sold.....*

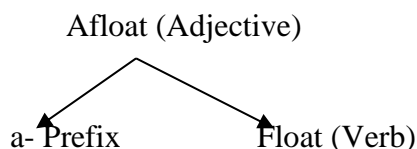
Re-open (Verb) \Longrightarrow **re-(prefix) + open (Adjective)**

'Reopen' belongs to a derivational prefix, 'open' as a root morpheme and 're'- as a bound morpheme. For example, the word 'reopen' in the above editorial-2 extract data belongs to derivational affix because the prefix 're'- changes the word-class adjective into a verb. Here, the prefix re- means 'again', and semantic and word-class change from an adjective (open) to verb (reopen) occur in this derivation.

6) Prefix (a-)

(06/Ed 3/DP: a-)

*Similarly, action should be taken to help retailers stay **afloat**.*



'Afloat' belongs to a derivational prefix, consisting of 'float' as a root morpheme and 'a-' as a bound morpheme. The word 'afloat' in the above editorial- 3 extract data belongs to derivational affix that is the prefix 'a'- changes the word-class adjective into a verb and more or less meaning does not change. Word-class changes from verb (float) to the adjective (afloat), the adjectival as mentioned above affix. The present study reveals four suffixes: nominal suffixes, verbal suffixes, adjectival affixes, and adverbial affixes.

b. Suffix: A suffix is an element that comes at the end of its base, e.g., farmer, success-ive, driv-en and free-ly. In the editorials (Ed1, Ed2, Ed3) there are several suffixes appeared such as ly, -ive, -ment, -ism, -sion,-able,-less, -ness, -al, -tion, -est, -ful, -ance,-er and-cy. The examples of derivational affixes are found in the editorials taken for the study.

1) Minimize

(01/Ed 1/DS: -ize)

Fortunately, the technological great leap forward of recent years enable working from home and many other conveniences in offices that can *minimize* the physical presence of employees.

'Minimize' consists of two morphemes: the base morpheme, 'minimum', and the bound morpheme, -ize that the morpheme of 'minimum' belongs to the noun category, while morpheme, -ize, a bound morpheme, is a suffix. 'Minimize' (verb), minimum (N), + -ize. It is a derivational affix because the grammatical category changes from the noun into the verb. Therefore, this is a verb suffix.

2) Reasonable

(02/Ed 2/DS: -able)

*Time was when there were retail shops, or sillara kades, at every nook and cranny of the country, selling various commodities, including grocery items, at **reasonable** prices.*

'Reasonable' consists of two morphemes: the base morpheme, 'reason', and the bound morpheme, -'able'. The morpheme of 'reason' belongs to the noun category, while the morpheme, -able, is a suffix. 'Reasonable' (adj), reason (N), + -able. It is a derivational affix because the adjective category changes the grammatical category from the noun into an adjective, and it is -'able' is an adjectival suffix.

3) Strictly

(03/Ed 2/DS: -ly)

*The need for ensuring the existence of the sillara kades is felt today more than ever, thanks to the current countrywide lockdown, coupled with a **strictly** enforced curfew.*

'Strictly' consists of two morphemes of 'strict' and the bound morpheme, '-ly'. The morpheme of 'strict' belongs to the adjective category, while morpheme-ly is an adverbial suffix. 'Strict' (adj), + -ly. It is a derivational affix because the adverb category changes the grammatical category from the adjective into an adverb.

4) Management

(04/Ed 2/DS: -ment)

*There had been carping in some segments like the railway where ticket-less travel was made possible with employees hitting out at top **Management** for the.....*

The word management consists of two morphemes with the base morpheme, 'manage' and the bound morpheme, -ment. 'Management' (N), manage (V), + -ment. It is a derivational affix because –ment changes the class or category of the verb to noun and produces the nominal suffix.

5) Catastrophic

. (05/Ed 2/DS: -ic)

*The ongoing stringent measures to prevent the spread of the disease must continue if a **catastrophic** situation is to be averted.....*

The 'catastrophe' belongs to the derivational affix because suffix –'ic' changes a noun's class or category into adj. The words catastrophe and the suffix –'ic', a bound morpheme, change the meaning of the base morpheme as catastrophe means 'terrible sudden disaster' catastrophic means extremely unfortunate or unsuccessful situation.

6) Preventive

(06/Ed 2/DS: -ive)

*What we are faced with is an unprecedented health emergency, and it is only natural that there are teething problems as regards the **preventive***

Preventive (Adj) \implies prevent (V), + -ive (Suffix)

'Preventive' is derived from 'prevent' as a root morpheme and –'ive' as a bound morpheme. The word 'preventive' belongs to the derivational affix because the suffix –'ive' change the class or category of (V) into (Adj). The same process of derivation takes place in the word 'directive' as well.

7) Temporarily

(07/Ed 2/DS: -ly)

When the curfew was *temporarily* lifted, a few days ago, large crowds gathered at market places, banks, etc.,

'Temporarily' derived from 'temporary' as a root morpheme and –'ly' as a bound morpheme. The word 'Temporarily' belongs to a derivational affix because the suffix –'ly' changes the adjective's class or category into an adverb. In the same way, derivation occurs in words 'freely' and 'relatively' in the text.

8) Elimination

. (08/Ed 3/DS: -tion)

We have, in this space, urged successive governments to take action to protect retailers as their *elimination* will place the ordinary public at

Elimination \implies eliminate (verb) + -tion (suffix)

'Elimination' is derived from 'eliminate' as a root morpheme and '-tion' as a bound morpheme. Moreover, the word 'elimination' belongs to derivational affix because the suffix '-tion' change the class or category of (V) into (Noun). Thus, both eliminate and elimination are more or less the same semantically.

2. Functions of Derivational Affixes in the editorials

Derivational affixes found in the editorials have functioned as nominal (noun) formation, verb formation, and adjective and adverb formation. As a result, they create base forms (new stems) where other derivational affixes can be attached. They are shown with the examples below:

A) Noun Formation

1. Suffix -ment

(03/Ed 2/DS: -ment)

Manage (V) + -ment \implies Management (N)

The suffix '-ment' in Management creates a noun from a verb, and there is a change within the form of the word, where the derivational suffix '-ment' makes a new member for a given part of speech class. By adding the -prefix

'mis'- to Management as Mismanagement, Management becomes a base that means 'the process of managing something badly or wrongly'. It has a different meaning than the base morpheme.

2. Suffix –tion

(06/Ed 3/DS: -tion)

Eliminate (V) + -tion= elimination (N)

The suffix –'tion' is a bound morpheme, and as a result, it is combined with base morpheme eliminate (v). This condition can change the word class from a verb into a noun.

Elimination (N) + -s(Suffix) \Longrightarrow Eliminations
[Base] [Inflection]

B) Verb Formation

1) Suffix –ize

(01/Ed 1/DS: -ize)

Minimum (N) + -ize \Longrightarrow Minimize (V)

The suffix –'ize' creates a verb from a noun changing from the base 'minimize' and get suffix –'ize'.

2. Prefix-re

(01/Ed 2/DP: re-)

Open (Adj.) + re- \Longrightarrow Reopen (V)

Prefix –'re' creates a verb from an adjective that changes from the base 'open' and forms the new word 'reopen'.

C. Adjective Formation

1) Suffix -ive

(06/Ed 2/DS: -ive)

Prevent (V) + -ive \Longrightarrow Preventive (Adj)

The suffix '-ive' creates adjectives from the verb, and there is a form of change from the base 'prevent' and get suffix '-ive'.

2. Suffix -able

(02/Ed 2/DS: -able)

Reason (N) + -able \Longrightarrow Reasonable (Adj)

Suffix -able creates an adjective from a noun, and there is a form of change from the base 'reason' and get suffix '-able'.

For example: ***Reasonable –Un-reasonable.***

The New lexeme 'reasonable' can be added with the bound morpheme '-un' and forms the new word 'unreasonable'. This process can be observed in the editorials taken for the study. Thus, the present research aligns with the literature 'A derivational morpheme is a morpheme that produces a new lexeme from a base (Bauer, 1988).

3. Suffix-ic

(05/Ed 2/DS: -ic)

Catastrophe (N) + -ic \Longrightarrow Catastrophic (Adj)

The suffix '-ic' creates an adjective form, changing from 'catastrophe' to 'catastrophic'. It has more or less the same meaning as the base morpheme.

D. Adverb Formation

1. Suffix -ly

(03/Ed 2/DS: -ly)

Strict (Adj) + -ly \implies strictly (Adv)

The suffix -'ly' creates an adverb from an adjective, and there is a form of change from the base extreme and get suffix -'ly'.

In the observation from the above examples of suffixes, almost all the derivational suffixes create a new member for a given part of the speech class because it has a different meaning from the base morpheme. Moreover, based on the data used in this study, noun formation is the highest in number and percentage. The information is given below:

Noun	Verb Formation	Adjective	Adverb
45	12	26	20

The Suffix-ly, especially, is the leading indicator of the word class adverb. The common fact, the adverbs end in the suffix-ly; however, not all the words that end with the suffix are adverbs. Example: Friend-ly(Adjective). Further, suffixes -tion,-ness,-sion,-ment are noun indicators, and the suffixes -ful,-cal, -ive and -able are the most commonly found adjective indicators.

Surprisingly, though the derivations, certain words maintain the word class.

e.g. Provision (Noun) -Non provision (Noun)

Connect (Verb) - Disconnect (Verb)

CONCLUSION

Firstly, it is found that various derivational affixes are in the three editorials: *The fine balance, Lockdown blues, and Small is useful*. Prefix data appear in a different prefix form, such as re-, a-, un-, en-, in- and -dis-. While in suffix

data appear in a certain form such as, -ly, -ive, -ment, -ism, -sion,-able,-less, -ness, -al, -tion,-ism -est, -ful, -ance,-er,-ee,-ic, and-cy. Further, Prefix data appear a few compared to suffixes. The total data of prefixes in all the three editorials are 22 (nearly 20%), and the number of derivational prefixes is ten(10). They are *Utmost, International and Encourage*. The prefix 'un'- is the most productive derivational morpheme that appeared seven times in the texts. The total number of derivational suffixes is 84 (80%) of the data. The number of derivational suffixes is 25: *Carelessness Selfishness, Fortunately, Drainage, Technological, Assembly, Global, Greatest, Disruptions, and Movement*. The suffix-ly (appeared 22 times) is the most productive derivational morpheme in the texts.

Secondly, functions of the affixes lead to different word formations as noun, verb, adjective, and adverb formation. Thus, the derived morpheme produces a new lexeme from a base.

Thirdly, considering the present study, there are four categories of suffixes: nominal suffixes, verbal suffixes, adjectival affixes, and adverbial affixes—the current research is in line with Plag. The survey of Plag (2002) says that there are four kinds of suffixes: nominal suffixes, verbal suffixes, adjectival affixes, and adverbial affixes. Finnegan (2008) distinguishes certain bound morphemes change the category of the word.

Finally, the editorial writers use familiar and simple words to form complex words by derivations but, since the readers' lack knowledge, they find it hard to comprehend editorials. However, the media prefers to use various affixes, mainly nominal formation and function. Moreover, they use stylistic morphological diversity in attracting readers. Therefore, it is an essential and

helpful study for learners and newspaper readers to learn the affixes and the structure of a word. So analyzing word forms taken from authentic materials like newspaper gives insights and better knowledge in their use of language.

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