Derivational Suffixes in Animated Movie Dialogue: A Morphological Study of "Wish" (2023)

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas sufiks derivasional yang ditemukan dalam film animasi Wish (2023) produksi Walt Disney Animation Studios. Fokus utama penelitian adalah pada jenis dan proses pembentukan kata melalui sufiks derivasional yang muncul dalam dialog film. Data diperoleh melalui observasi dan transkripsi naskah dialog film, kemudian dianalisis dengan metode deskriptif kualitatif berdasarkan teori Katamba (1993, 1994) dan McCarthy (2002). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 30 data yang termasuk dalam enam kategori utama: Noun Derived from Verb (0,23%), Adjective Derived from Verb (0,06%), Adjective Derived from Noun (0,2%), Noun Derived from Adjective (0,1%), Adverb Derived from Adjective (0,33%), dan Noun Derived from Noun (0,06%). Kategori yang paling dominan adalah Adverb Derived from Adjective, sedangkan kategori dengan frekuensi paling sedikit adalah Noun Derived from Noun dan Noun Derived from Adjective. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dalam konteks media populer seperti film animasi, sufiks dengan varian terbatas seperti -ly dapat muncul secara signifikan. Studi ini memberikan kontribusi terhadap kajian morfologi dengan menunjukkan bagaimana proses derivasi bekerja dalam bahasa alami dan komunikatif. Temuan ini dapat digunakan dalam pengajaran linguistik, analisis wacana media, dan pemahaman tentang pembentukan kata dalam konteks budaya populer.

Kata Kunci: *Morfologi, Sufiks Derivasional, Wish, Movie*

Abstract

This study investigates derivational suffixes found in the animated film Wish (2023) produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios. The research focuses on identifying and analyzing the types and morphological processes of derivational suffixes as reflected in the film's dialogue. Data were collected by transcribing the film script and analyzed using a qualitative descriptive method based on the frameworks of Katamba (1993, 1994) and McCarthy (2002). The study identified 30 instances of derivational suffixes, classified into six major types: Noun Derived from Verb (0,23%), Adjective Derived from Verb (0,06%), Adjective Derived from Noun (0,2%), Noun Derived from Adjective (0,1%), Adverb Derived from Adjective (0,33%), and Noun Derived from Noun (0,06%). The most frequent category was Adverb Derived from Adjective, while the least frequent were Noun Derived from Noun and Noun Derived from Adjective. The findings reveal that in popular media contexts, even suffixes with limited morphological variations such as-lycan appear frequently. This study contributes to morphological research by demonstrating how derivational processes operate in naturally occurring, conversational English. The results have implications for linguistic pedagogy, media discourse analysis, and understanding word formation in popular culture

Keywords: Morphology, Derivational Suffixes, Wish, Movie.

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1. Introduction

Morphology, a subfield of linguistics, examines the internal structure of words and the rules that govern their formation. One of its primary concerns is the study of morphemes—particularly affixes—which are the smallest units of meaning that contribute to word construction. Affixes, including prefixes, infixes, and suffixes, can either modify a word's grammatical function or generate entirely new lexical items (Katamba, 1993; Haspelmath et al., n.d.). Among them, derivational suffixes are particularly important in changing the meaning or grammatical category of base words, thereby producing new lexemes (Katamba, 1994; Hamawand, 2011).

According to Sarakahm (2023, in Nurjanah & Ma'mun, 2023), language is a system constrained by certain rules and elements that enable speakers to express ideas and construct meaningful sentences. Morphology provides the tools to decode how complex words—like friendship—are built from simpler, meaningful components such as friend and -ship (Bauer, in Rizki & Zakrimal, 2020). A word's internal structure typically consists of roots, stems, bases, and affixes, all of which work together to construct new meanings (Katamba, 1993; Lieber, 2009).

Affixation, as a core morphological process, plays a significant role in both derivation and inflection. While inflection modifies a word to express grammatical functions (tense, number, etc.), derivation changes the word's meaning and often its grammatical class entirely (Plag, 2003). Derivational suffixes such as -ly, -ment, -ness, and -able can transform verbs into nouns, adjectives into adverbs, and so forth. Katamba (1994) identifies ten types of derivational suffixes, including: Noun Derived from Verb, Adjective Derived from Verb, Adjective Derived from Noun, Adverb Derived from Adjective, and others. He also classifies them into two broad groups: class-maintaining suffixes (e.g., -ess, -hood) and class-changing suffixes (e.g., -ion, -ly) (Katamba, 1993).

Despite the wealth of theoretical studies in this area, much of the existing literature focuses on written texts such as novels, newspapers, and academic prose (e.g., Putri et al., 2022; Luh et al., n.d.; Ayu et al., 2023). These studies often analyze derivational suffixes in relatively formal or structured linguistic contexts. However, they tend to limit their analysis to specific word classes—especially nouns—and rarely employ a comprehensive classification system that distinguishes between class-maintaining and class-changing derivation. As a result, the dynamics of derivational suffixes in informal, spoken, or media-based language remain underexplored.

This gap highlights the need to investigate derivational suffixes in settings where language is spontaneous, expressive, and more reflective of natural usage. Animated films, such as Wish (2023) produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios, offer rich linguistic data through authentic dialogues that resemble everyday speech. Such films are consumed widely by diverse age groups, making them a valuable source for examining the real-time application of derivational morphology in a popular media context.

To address this gap, the present study poses the following research question: What categories of derivational suffixes appear in the animated film Wish, and how are they distributed in terms of form and function? By applying the theoretical frameworks of Katamba (1993, 1994) and McCarthy (2002), this research seeks to identify, classify, and analyze derivational suffixes within the film's script.

The significance of this study lies in its contribution to morphological research in the context of digital and spoken media. It provides fresh insights into how derivational suffixes function in

natural discourse, and how such patterns may influence or reflect language acquisition, media literacy, and linguistic diversity. Ultimately, the findings may inform language instruction, linguistic theory, and further studies in media-based communication.

Numerous studies have been conducted to examine derivational suffixes across various linguistic domains, particularly in written texts such as novels, magazines, and digital media content. These studies have provided foundational insights into morphological processes, though with certain limitations in scope and focus.

Putri et al. (2022) investigated derivational suffixes in Washington Irving's novel The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Their study employed the theoretical framework of Fromkin et al. (2007) and used a descriptive qualitative method to classify suffix types and processes. They identified 213 data points, with notable findings in categories such as Noun to Adjective and Verb to Noun. However, the study was limited to noun and adjective forms and did not fully explore adverbial or verbal suffixes. Similarly, Luh et al. (n.d.) focused on derivational noun suffixes in Instagram captions posted by @BawaBali_Official. This study applied Katamba's (1994) theory and used both quantitative and qualitative approaches. From 179 total derivational words, 143 instances (nearly 80%) were identified as noun-forming suffixes. While the data were rich, the study only examined one part of speech—nouns—thus overlooking broader derivational functions.

Ayu et al. (2023) examined derivational suffixes in the La La Land movie script using a descriptive qualitative method. Their analysis identified four major types: verbal (-ize), adjectival (-ful, -ing), adverbial (-ly), and nominal (-ant, -age). They also incorporated tree diagrams to illustrate derivation processes. Although the data source aligned with audiovisual media, the study relied on a different theoretical framework and lacked comparative analysis across suffix categories.

Another study by Rambu Ana Awa et al. (2021) analyzed suffixation in Confessions of a Shopaholic by Sophie Kinsella. Using McCarthy's (2002) theory, they identified only five types of noun-forming suffixes out of a possible 22 listed in Plag's (2002) framework. The focus on noun suffixes limited the breadth of the analysis, though the study offered depth in its morphological explanation.

Lastly, Dewata and Putra (2023) explored derivational noun suffixes in a YouTube show transcript titled How Did I Get Here?. Like earlier studies, the focus was restricted to noun formation, and only five out of the 22 suffix types mentioned by Plag (2002) were found. Although this work incorporated digital spoken data, it did not analyze suffixes across different grammatical categories.

In summary, while these studies offer valuable contributions to morphological research, they share common limitations: most concentrate on one or two word classes (typically nouns), use differing theoretical approaches, and rarely analyze suffix frequency or class changes in detail. Furthermore, few employ media content with naturally occurring, conversational language.

he current study distinguishes itself by offering a more balanced classification across all major word classes nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs based on Katamba's (1993, 1994) and McCarthy's (2002) frameworks. Additionally, by using the Wish movie script as a data source, the study captures spontaneous and expressive language, filling a notable gap in derivational morphology research situated within modern media discourse.

2. Method

This study follows a qualitative research paradigm, utilizing a descriptive approach to examine morphological data. The primary data were collected through document analysis, specifically by transcribing and analyzing dialogue from the animated film Wish (2023). The researcher manually identified words containing derivational suffixes within the script. Each instance was classified according to morphological categories informed by (Katamba Francis 1994) framework in English Words. To analyze the data, the researcher applied the theory of derivational morphology as outlined in (Katamba Francis 1993) and (McCarthy. Andrew 2002). Ocusing on both class-changing and class-maintaining suffixes. A tree diagram model was employed to visually represent the structural formation of words. To ensure accuracy and validity, the researcher conducted repeated reviews of the script and cross-checked each suffix form against established morphological rules. In addition, triangulation was applied by consulting multiple linguistic sources and having an independent linguist verify a sample of the analyzed data.

3. Results and Discussion

Based on the ideas and theories presented in the chapter before it, derivational suffixes were the focus in this chapter. Several instances of derivational suffixes used to show those words, from the movie "Wish."

Table.1 Derivational suffixes found in the movie "Wish"

Derivational Suffixes	Frequency	Percentage
Noun Derived from Verb	7	0,23%
Adjective Derived from Verb	2	0,06%
Adjective Derived from Noun	6	0,2%
Noun Derived from Adjective	3	0,1%
Adverb Derived from Adjective	10	0,33%
Noun Derived from Noun	2	0,06%
Total	30	100%

According to the table above, this study found 30 data derivational suffixes. Adverb Derived from Adjective were the most often occurring type of data, accounting for 0,33% of all derivational suffixes detected in the data set. Conversely, the category of derivational suffixes that was least common was Adjective Derived from Noun and Noun Derived from Noun, accounting for 0,6% of all instances. Apart from that, there are also derivational suffixes with the same amount of data results, namely Noun Derived from Verb and Adjective Derived from Verb, accounting for 0,23%, and derivational suffixes for Noun Derived from Adjective, which have the same data results as Noun Derived from Noun, accounting for 0,6%. The last derivational suffixes with the least data results are Noun Derived from Adjective, accounting for 0,1 %. There are four types of data not found, namely, Verb Derived from Noun, Adjective Derived from Adjective, and Verb Derived from Verb.

In the discussion section, the derivational suffix process observed in the desire word "Wish" was looked at. Katamba (1994:44) distinguished between ten types of derivational suffixes: Noun Derived from Verb, Adjective Derived from Verb, Verb Derived from Noun, Adjective Derived from Noun, Verb Derived from Adjective, Noun Derived from Adjective, Adverb Derived from Adjective, Noun Derived from Noun, Adjective Derived from Adjective, Verb Derived from

Verb. Katamba (1993:47) identified two stages of derivational suffixes: class maintaining derivational suffixes and class changing derivational suffixes. According to (McCarthy. Andrew 2002) a branching tree diagram is an additional method of expressing this data. Nodes are the locations in a tree diagram where branches emerge. Labeled bracketing, in which each node in the tree is represented by a pair of brackets, is another way to represent the structural information included in tree diagrams. The derivational suffix process was expounded upon through the application of a descriptive qualitative method to the data analyzed through the use of a tree diagram model. The mechanisms of class changing and class maintaining suffixes were used to categorize the data, and the different forms of derivational suffixes were investigated.

A. Noun Derived from Verb

Data 1

…"gave their wish and appreciation for his protection"…(WISH 2:18)

The suffix -ion is present in the word appreciation, whose word basis is appreciate. When the suffix -ion is added to the end of the verb appreciate, the word class changes to noun. The process of derivational suffixes is included in the word appreciation since the words meaning and word class change when a suffix is added at the end. According to (Merriam Webster Online Dictionaries), the word appreciation refers to a feeling or expression of admiration, whereas the phrase appreciate indicates to regard or admire highly. The word's class was altered from Verb to Noun by the addition of the suffix -ion to the word base. The process can be explained below.

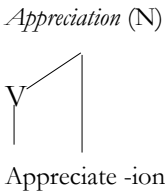

Figure. 1 Tree diagram of data (01) Noun derived from Verb.

B. Noun Derived from Verb

Data 2

"A dream that will never stop growing." (WISH 1:28:51)

The data above shows how the word grow, which was originally classified as a verb, became a noun when the suffix -ing was added at the end. This is an example of a derivational morphological process since the word grow meaning and word class change by the addition of -ing. While the definition of growing is to emerge and reach maturity, the definition of grow is to increase in size or amount (Merriam Webster Online Dictionaries). The word class of grow is changed from verb to noun by the suffix -ing at the end of the word. The process can be explained below.

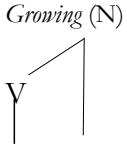

Figure 2. Tree diagram of data (02) Noun derived from Verb.

C. Adjective Derived from Noun
Data 3

"(MAGICAL MUSIC PLAYING)" (WISH 31:45)

The suffix -al is found in the word magical, whose word root is magic. Magic is a noun class; when the suffix -al is added at the end of a word base, the word class becomes an adjective. In addition to word class, word meaning can also change. While the word magical indicates of, connected to, characterized by, or creating magic, the word magic refers to the use of means (such as charms or spells) thought to have supernatural power (Merriam Webster Online Dictionaries). The word magic class was transformed from Noun to Adjective by adding the suffix -al. The process can be explained.

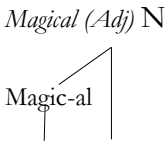

Figure. 3 Tree diagram of data (03) Adjective derived from Noun.

D. Noun Derived from Adjective
Data 4

"I do? Wait is that a weakness ?" (WISH 7:08)

The suffix -ness adds a weak word basis to the word weakness. Weak is classified as an adjective, but when suffix -ness is added to the end of the word base, the word class is changed to a noun. Because suffix -ness creates a new word form and modifies the word's class, the derivational morphological process was included in the data above. The definition of weakness according to (Merriam Webster Online Dictionaries) is the state or trait of being weak, whereas the definition of weak indicates to lack strength. The Adjective word class is changed to a Noun with the suffix -ness. The process can be explained below.

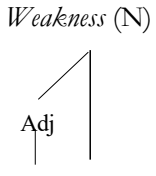

Figure. 4 Tree diagram of data (04) Noun derived from Adjective.

E. Adverb Derived from Adjective
Data 5

"(ALL LAUGHING HAPPILY)" (WISH 1:14:53)

The suffix -ly is found in the word cheerfully, and the word basis is happy. Happy belongs to the adverb word class, but when the suffix -ly is added at the end of the word base, it becomes an adjective. Since the word's meaning and word class change by the suffix -ly added at the end, the word above happily uses the derivational suffix process. According to (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionarie)s, the term happily means to be fortunate, while the meaning of happy means being favored by luck or fortune. The word's class was changed from Adjective to Adverb by the addition of the suffix -ly to the word root. The process can be explained below.

Happlily (Adv)

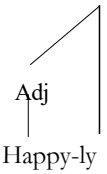

Figure. 5 Tree diagram of data (05) Adverb derived from Adjective.

F. Noun Derived from Noun
Data 6

"Really? He was a philosopher, wasn't he?" (WISH 12:49)

The term philosopher, whose root is philosophy, has the suffix -er. Philosophy as a word class is already a noun the suffix -er adds a noun ending to the word base. The process of derivational suffixes is present in the word philosopher since adding a suffix to a word changes both it's meaning and it's class. According to (Merriam Webster Online Dictionaries), philosophy is defined as all knowledge with the exception of technical principles and applied arts. On the other hand, a philosopher student is someone who studies philosophy. The suffix -er was added to the word base, changing the word's class from noun to noun. An explanation of the process is provided below.

Philosopher (N)

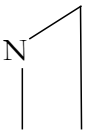

Figure. 6 Tree diagram of data (06) Noun derived from Noun.

4. Conclusion

This study investigated the types and frequency of derivational suffixes found in the data source. It was revealed that all types of derivational suffixes were represented, with a total of 30 data identified. The findings show that:

Noun Derived from Verb: 7 data (0,23%)
Adjective Derived from Verb: 2 data (0,06%)
Adjective Derived from Noun: 6 data (0,2%)
Noun Derived from Adjective: 3 data (0,1%)
Adverb Derived from Adjective: 10 data (0,33%)
Noun Derived from Noun: 2 data (0,06%)

Despite having only one suffix form, the most common type was the adverb derived from the adjective, which usually incorporates the suffix -ly. However, despite having a variety of suffix options, categories like "Noun Derived from Noun" and "Adjective Derived from Noun" produced the least amount of data. This illustrates that the frequency of occurrence in real usage is not directly correlated with the number of suffix variations.

These results contribute to our understanding of derivational morphology by showing that frequency of suffix use is more strongly influenced by linguistic function and common usage patterns than by the mere number of suffix types available. It highlights the functional dominance of certain suffixes in everyday English, particularly in forming adverbs. In addressing the research questions, the study successfully identified and categorized derivational suffix types and examined how often each type appeared in the dataset. Thus, the research questions have been answered and supported by detailed analysis. However, this study is not without its limitations. The scope of data was limited to a specific corpus, which may not represent all forms of derivational usage in broader or more specialized contexts. Additionally, the analysis did not deeply explore contextual factors or semantic nuances of derivational use, which could be considered in future research. Future studies could expand by including spoken data, cross-linguistic comparisons, or exploring learner language to understand how derivational suffixes are acquired and used over time. Another valuable direction would be examining the impact of genre or register on the frequency and distribution of derivational suffixes. In conclusion, the findings of this study reaffirm the complexity and richness of English morphological structures. Understanding the behavior of derivational suffixes not only enhances linguistic theory but also has practical implications in fields such as language teaching, lexicography, and natural language processing. This research provides a meaningful step toward appreciating how derivation shapes the vocabulary and expressive potential of English.

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