Analysis And Place Of Affixes In English Grammar

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Abstract

This work is a critical analysis of affixes, which are the beginnings and endings that help form a large proportion of the words we use. The subject of affixes opens our understanding to a broad meaning of words, with deep insight in their functions. Greenbaum defines affixes as bound morphemes that do not occur without being attached to a morpheme. Ejele sees it in the major group of word formation. In further extension, affixes are classified based on fufnction and position. All these are explained in both from two stand points. The first is using affixes to perform essentially three functions when attached to the rout of a word, while the second which is positional occurs relatively to the location of the root word. The two show that affixes are either functional or positional vis-à-vis the base of a word.

Positional affixes are those which occur relative to the location of a word, while functional affixes are those which perform different functions when attached to the root of a word. Inflectional affixes perform grammatical function without changing the class category of the word to which it is attached, while derivational affixes change the part of speech or alter the meaning of the word to which it is attached.

Introduction

Affixes are the building blocks of English. They are those beginnings and endings that help from a large proportion of the words we use. AIM- To show links between words, both grammatically and thematically how words have come to mean what they do. The word affix has been defined by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary as "to stick or attach something to something else". Affix in grammar has been defined as a letter or group of letters added to the beginning or end of a word to change its meaning. Affixes are bound morphemes that do not occur without being

attached to a morpheme. Affixes are a morphological process, which plays a vital role in English grammar. They are usually attached to rout or tree words. Affixes are added before or after the rout or base word, for instance, an-and ful are affixes added to the rout word, fruit making it unfruitful. The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar defines Affixation as the joining of an affix or affixes in the stem or rout of a word. According to Ozo-Mekuri Ndumere Affixation is a morphological process of attaching an affix in the rout or base of a word. A very good example of the above definition of affix can be seen in the prefix and suffix of these two words, unhappy and careful.

Prefix is an element placed at the beginning of a word to adjust or qualify its meaning, for example, do-, non- and re-. Suffix is an element placed at the end of a word to form a derivate such as non-, fy-, ing-, frequently one that converts the stem into another part of speech. A combining form can be either a prefix or a suffix. The difference is that the combining form adds a layer of extra meaning, for example, bio adds the idea of life or living things to words, as in biochemistry, the study of the chemical process which occur within. The prefix un in unhappy, and the suffix ful, in careful, are all affixes. Another example is in the word discomfort, which is a feeling of slight pain or of being physically uncomfortable. The other is the word edifying, which is an intention to improve on people's minds or characters by attaching them about something. Looking in the word discomfort, its prefix lies in the first three alphabets "dis", which is another word for "not". These can be used alternatively. Let us look at these two sentences.

- Kingsley's attitude cause her considerable discomfort
- The attitude of Kingsley made her very uncomfortable

Here, the two words mean the same, just that the application of its prefixes were used differently. The suffix in edifying lies in "ing", which is used to make the present participle or regular verbs, e.g singing, walking, talking, dancing, loving, shouting, looking etc.

More importantly is to know that the prefix and the suffix can appear at the same time in a particular word.

Types of affixes

Affixes are of various types. They are classified based on two criteria. The first criterion is the position in which the affix occurs, relative to the location of the rout of the word, while the second is the function an affix performs when it is attached to the rout of the word. Let us examine these criteria one by one:

Positional classification of affixes

If we use the position in which an affix occurs relative in the location of the rout of a word as the basis for classifying affixes, we shall have the following types; prefix, suffix, infix, interfix, circumfix and superfix or suprafix. Let us discuss thee affixes one by one. Prefix: Prefixes are

found in English and in many other languages. Prefixes are affixes which precede the rout with which they are mostly closely associates, Gleason (1969: 59). A prefix is an affix which occurs before the rout or base of a word. Ndimere (1999: 22).

Examples of prefixes are:

Table 1

Prefix	Root	Word
Re-	union	Reunion
Sub-	marine	submarine
Arch-	bishop	archbishop
Im-	possible	impossible
Super-	natural	supernatural
Pre-	ordain	preordain

Types of prefix

Negative prefixes: These are prefixes that add "not" in the meaning of the rout or base word. In other words, when a negative prefix is added in a rout or a base, it turns it into negative.

Example of negative prefixes are: mis-, non-, un-, ir-, in-, de-, etc.

Prefix	Meaning	Host	Examples
de-	"the opposite of"	Noun	Demerit
		verb	Demystify
dis-	"the opposite of"	Adjective	Disloyal
il-		Verb	Disrespect
im-		noun	Dishonor
in-	"the opposite of"	Adjective	Illegal
ir-	"the opposite of"	Adjective	Impossible
mis-	"the opposite of"	Adjective	Insensitive
non-	"the opposite of"	Adjective	Irregular
un-	"the opposite of"	Noun	Misconduct
		verb	Misdirect
	"not"	Various	Non-starter
			Non-binary
	"the opposite of"	adjective	universe

Reversative prefixes: These are prefixes whose presence result in the reversal of the action in the base or rout.

Examples of reversative prefixes are: un-, de-, dis-, as in the table shown below.

Table 3

Prefix	Meaning	Host	Examples
de-	"to reverse an action"	Verb	Defrock
			Defrost
			delocalize
	"to reverse an action"	noun	deforestation
	"the opposite of"		
dis-		verb	Disconnect
			disorganize
	"to reserve an action		
un-	or to reveal"	verb	unmasked
			unhorse
on-		verb	untie
			undress
			unlock

Chronological prefixes: These are prefixes that show time, number or the order in which something happened. That is why they are alternatively called prefixes of time and number.

Some examples are: fore-, pre-, post-, re-, and others.

Table 4:

Prefix	Meaning	Host	Examples
fore-	Before	Tell	Foretell
		knowledge	Fore-knowledge
pre-	before	marital	Premarital
		primary	Pre-primary
post-	after	war	Post war
		independent	Post independent
ex-	former	student	Ex-student
		governor	Ex-governor
re-	again	build	Rebuild
		fill	Refill
		play	Replay

Age, size and degree prefixes: These are prefixes that show how large or small something is. The amount or extent of something.

Prefix	Meaning	Possible Host	Examples
Arch-	"highest in status" or "worst"	Noun	Arch-angel Arch-enemy
Hyper-	"excessive"	Adjective	Hyper-sensitive Hyper-active
Mini-	"dimunitive"	Noun	Mini-bus Mini-computer
Neo-	"new or modern" Vision	Noun	Neophobia Neo-colonialism
Out-	"to surpass"	verb	Outgrow Outshine
Over-	"to exceed"	verb	Overbook Overcharge
Proto-	"first in origin" or "primitive"	Noun	Proto-language
Semi-	"half of or partly"	Noun adjective	Semi-illiterate
Sub-	"lesser in status"	Verb Adjective	Sub-lease Sub-standard
Supra-	"above" or beyond	Noun	Supranational Supramundane
Sur-	"additional"	Verb Noun	Surcharge
ultra-	"extreme" or beyond "diminutive"	Adjective	Ultra-conservative
Under-		Verb Adjective Noun	Under-estimate Under-developed Under-dog

Locative prefixes: These are prefixes that show the location of a thing. Examples are: super-, sub-, inter-, intra-, trans-.

Table 6

Prefix	Meaning	Possible Host	Examples
super-	"over"	Noun	superstructure super-impose
inter-	"between"	Adjective verb	intercontinental interfuse

trans-	"across from one location"	Adjectival	transcontinental transplant
sub-	"beneath"	verb	submarine suboil
intra-	"within"	noun Adjective	intra-tribal intra-venous

Pejorative or derogatory prefixes: These are prefixes that add derogatory connection to the root or base word. They therefore insinuate that something is not happening the way it is expected to happen.

Table 7:

Prefix	Meaning	Possible Host	Examples
mal	"amiss", or "badly"	Noun Verb	Maladministration Maladminister
mis	"wrongly"	Verb noun	Misapply Misbelief
pseudo	"unreal" "false" Or not "genuine"	noun verb	Pseudo-science Pseudo-language
quasi	"seemingly" or "not really"	adjective noun	Quasi-independent Quasi-democracy

Quantity prefixes: These are prefixes that show the quantity or size of a thing.

Table 8:

Prefix	Meaning	Possible Host	Examples
bi-	"having two" or occurring twice	Adjective noun	biannual biennial bilingual bicycle
di-	"having two"	adjective noun	disyllabic digraph
mono-	"having one" "single or alone"	noun adjective	monoculture monolingual monosyllabic
multi-	"many or several"	adjective	multilingual

		adjective	multi-media
quadric-	"having four"	adjective	quadrilateral
tri-	"having three"	noun	tricycle
		adjective	triangular
uni-	"having one"	adjective	unidirectional
		noun	uniformity

Note: There is a difference in the use of biannual and biennial. Biannual means "occurring twice a year", while biennial means "occurring in two years". So, a biannual conference is that which holds twice a year, while a biennial conference is that which holds once in two years.

Other forms of prefixes

Table 9:

Prefix	Meaning	Possible Host	Examples
auto	"of self"	Adjective	Auto-graph
		Noun	Auto-erotism
bio	"of life"	Adjective	Bio-degradable
		Noun	Bio-diversity
psycho	"of the mind"	Adjective	Psycho sexual
		Noun	psychoanalysis

 The suffix: The suffix is an affix which occurs after the base or root of a word. Ndimele (1999: 27).

Examples of suffixes in English are presented in table 11 – 12.

Table 11: Quality suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Possible Host	Examples
-(e)ry	"behaviour"	Noun	Mastery
		adjective	thuggery
-(i)ty	"state"	adjective	equality
		noun	gentility
-able/	"worthy of"	verb	forgivable
-ible		adjective	forcible
-al/-ial/	"quality of being"	noun	logical, memorial
-ical		adjective	periodical

-er	"occupational" "comparative" "instrumental" "agentive" etc	varied	teacher taller cooker player
-ess	"effeminate"	noun	portress
-est	"superlative"	adjective verb	smallest soonest
-ful	"having the quality of"	noun adjective	careful dutiful
-hood	"status"	noun	womanhood
-ic	"quality of being"	noun adjective	metallic alcoholic
-ish	"having the character of"	noun adjective	boyish childish
-ist	"member of or believer of"	noun adjective	capitalist socialist
-bre/	"quality of"	verb	informative
-ative	"being"	adjective	attractive
-less	"lacking"	noun adjective	motherless powerless
-let	"imunitive"	noun	eaglet
-like	"having the quality of"	noun adjective	manlike Christ like
-ly	"in a manner"	adjective adverb	Bravely Slowly
-ness	"state"	adjective noun	Sadness Goodness
-or	"agentive"	verb noun	Sailor Director
-ship	"status"	noun	Followship
-wise	"in the manner of"	noun adverb	Clockwise Lengthwise
-y	"be like"	noun adjective	Oily juicy

Causative and activity suffixes:

Table 12:

Prefix	Meaning	Possible Host	Examples
-age	"the result of"	Verb	linkage
		noun	leakage
-ation	"the act of"	verb	importation
		noun	fertilization
-ed	"past"	verb	talked
-en	"past participle"	verb	beaten
	"to cause: to	adjective	deafen
	become	verb	gladden
-ify	"cause to	noun	testify
	Become"	verb	exemplify
-ing	"progressive"	verb	singing
-ize	"cause to	adjective	regularize
	Become"	verb	familiarize
-ment	"the act of"	verb	amendment
		noun	entertainment

The Infix

An infix is an affix which is incorporated inside the root of a word. In other words, an affix interrupt the sequence of a root.

English does not have any clear – cut case of an affix; even though some people seem to agree that the changes we witness in words such as:

Front	-	feet	come	-	came
Tooth	-	teeth	give	-	gave
Man	-	men	get	-	got

These are instances of infixes. Our position here is that the changes we observe in the above examples are not infixes. For instance, there is not such root in English as "it or th" pointing in the same core of meaning as foot and tooth respectively. Infact, there are no such roots in English. A language where the presence of the infix has been widely acknowledged is TAGALOG, a language spoken in the Philippines. The two infixes recognized in tagalong are – um, -and, -un.

Please note that the asterisk mark (*) means that the construction it precedes is an impossible structure.

Infixes in Tagalog

Table 13

Base form	Infix	Derived form
Su:lat		Sumu:lat
"write"		"one who writes"
"takbuh"	-um-	Tumakbuh
"run"		"ran"
"laked"		Lumakad
"walk"		"walked"
"su:lat"		Sinu:lat
"write"		"that which was written"
"pill"	-in-	Pinli?
"choose"		"choose"

From the above examples, we can see that the infixes –um – and –un –are inserted after the first consonant of the word.

Franklin and Rodman (1993:44) have also observed that –um is an infix in Bontoc, a language spoken in the Philippines; as we see in the following table:

Table 14:

Table form	Infix	Derived form
Fikas		fumikas
Strong		"to be strong"
Kilad		kumilad
Red	-um-	to be red"

Fusul		fumusul
"enemy"		"to be an enemy"
pusi		pumusi
"poor"		"to be poor"
Ngitad		ngumilad
"dark"		"to be dark"

Another language where infixation is a productive process is Kamum a language spoken in South East Asia (U. Yule 1985:56 F Merrified et al (1962). The infix in the language is – in – which is inserted after the first consonant of a verb rout to service a noun, as in table 15.

-In- as an infix in Bontoc

Table 15

Table form	Infix	Derived form
See		s<u>m</u>ee
"To drill"		"to drill"
toh		t<u>m</u>ioh
"to chase"		"a chisel"
Hip	-um-	li<u>m</u>iip
"to eat with spoon"		"a spoon"
Hoom		li<u>m</u>oom
"to lie"		"a thing with which to lie"
Kap		k<u>m</u>am
"graps with tongs"		"tongs"

Zero affization

Zero affixation is a special kind of affixation where affixes are not added to pluralize a word, but it is understood. Examples are:

Singular	plural
Sheep	sheep
Cattle	cattle
Deer	deer
Counsel	counsel

The interfix

An interfix is an affix which occurs between two identical or sometimes non-identical words. In other words, an interix interrupts the sequence of two roots.

Of all the affixes identified in human language, the interfix is the least discussed.

English does not have any case of interfixation but Igbo has many good examples of interfixes, as we see in the following table.

-in- as in infix in Bontoc

Table 16

Table form	Infix	Derived form
anu		anumanu
"meat"		"mammall"
nu	-m-	anumanu

"drink"		"drunkeness"
ri		erimeri
"eat"		"banquet/feast"
kuru	-n-	ekwurekwu
"talk"		"talkative person"
fu	-r-	afuruafu
"wrap"		"indian hemp"

Interfixation in Igbo is a very productive process, as great many dynamic verbs lead themselves to it.

The circumfix

The circumfix is sometimes called a discontinuous morpheme. It is an affix that surrounds the root of a word. In other words a circumfix is an affix which has two parts, so that the first occurs before the root of a word, while the second half occurs after the root.

Circumfixation is in essence, a situation where both the prefix and suffix are simultaneously employed to express one meaning. It is like a combination of a prefix and a suffix operating as a unit (Allerron 1979: 228).

Although English has not any example of a circumfix, it is fairly common in some other langauges. In the many language for example, the discontinuous affix pe ….. an is added to the verb roots to form abstract nouns (E.F. Alleron 1979: 220).

… An as a circumfix in Malay

Table 17

Base form	Infix	Derived form
rasa		p<u>e</u>ras<u>an</u>
"feel"	pe…..an	"feeling"
kerja		p<u>e</u>kerja<u>an</u>
"work" (v)		"work" (n)

Ejele (1996: 84) has also recorded some interesting example to show that a …….. min is a productive circumfix in Esan, an <u>Edoid</u> language spoken in the southern part of Nigeria, as we can see in table 18.

Un ….. min as a circumfix in Esan

Table 18

Base form	Circumfix	Derived form
tue		utuemin
"hot"		"hotness"
hie		ubie'min
"born"	u….min	"birth"
so		usomin
"shout"		"the shout"
So "no"		uso'no'min
"ugly"		"ugliness"

In Eleme, a kegloid language spoken in Rivers state Nigeria, e.. e has been recognized as a circumfix to mark the infinitive verb form, as in the following examples cited by Alesi (1998:26).

E…. E as a circumfix in Eleme

Table 19

Base form	Circumfix	Derived form
si		esietue
"go"		"to go"
ju		ejue
"come"		"to come"
li		elie
"bury"	e… e	"to bury"
kpo		ekpoe
"pursue"		"to pursue"
ja		ejae
"buy"		"to buy"
Fez		efee
"to kill"		"to kill"

The superfix or suprafix

All the affixes we have discussed so far are of the segmental type. Let us now turn to discuss affixes of a non-segmental type.

A superfix or suprafix is an affix, which is marked over the syllables that form part of a root. Superfixes come in the form of a tone/ or stress marks placed over words. Superfixes are also morphemes because they carry some elements of meaning or differences between morphemes or words that are segmentally alike.

In table 20 below, we shall see some examples in English to show how a change in stress placement can trigger a meaning or difference between segmentally identical words.

Stress as a superfix in Englsih

Table 20

Nouns	Verbs
'insult	in'sult
'COnvert	con'VERT
'import	im'port
'Rebel	re'BEL
'Export	ex'PORT
'SUBject	sub'JECT
'CONtest	con'TEST
'PERmit	per'MIT
'SURvey	sur'VEY
'PROtest	pro'TEST

The syllables in upper case (capital letters) in the table are the stressed ones. From the above examples, we can see that a change in stress placement results in a change in meaning.

In a tone language (i.e, a language where a variation in the pitch of the voice causes a change in meaning between segmentally identical utterance) such as Igbo tone, can also be said to be a superfix, a we can see in the following examples:

Tone as a superfix in Igbo

Table 21

Isi - 'head'		ike - 'strength'	
Isi - 'odour'		ike - 'to share' or 'buttocks'	
Isi - 'blindness'		ike - 'to tie'	
Isi - 'to cook'		ike - 'bunch'	
Oke - 'rat'		akwa - 'a cry'	
Oke - 'boundary'		akwa - 'cloth'	
Oke - 'a share'		akwa - 'an egg'	

Oke - 'male'	akwa - 'bed or bridge'

From each set of examples above, we can see that it is only tone (i.e, a variation in the pitch of the voice) that causes the change in meaning between words which look alike in all respects.

Review of literature

A lot of literary works have been done on affixes based on the different definitions of various linguistic scholars. However, the role of affixes in English grammar cannot be over-emphasized. So, in the course of this work, we shall look at some of these works done on affixes, and as a result, bring out the important roles noticeable in English grammar.

According to Ndimele (1992: 22) affixes are bound morphemes added before or after the root or base of a word. Still in the book, Ndimele says that affixation is a morphological process of attaching an affix to the root or base of a word. He points a very realistic definition of affixes.

The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar further defines affixation as the joining of an affix or affixes to the root or stem of a word. Affixation is in the major group of word formation, affixes can be divided into prefixes and suffixes. Quick and Greenhaum (1973).

But looking at the above definition, affix in grammar has been defined as a letter or group of letters added to the beginning or end of a word to change its meaning, affixes are generally bound morphemes that are usually attached to the root of a word. They are not independent and so, they cannot stand on their own. In essence, we can see that affixation is a morphological process and a very important phenomenon in most languages. It is one of the processes used in word formation through derivation. In addition, affixes contribute semantically by modifying the meaning of lexical items. Affixes are classified according to the position, which they take in relation to the root word, and the function which they perform when attached in the base word.

Symbolically, affixes are classified based on three essential functions, which are derivational, inflectional and extensional, inflection is the outer layer of the morphology of word forms, but derivation, is the inner layer, assumes that inflection closes words to further affixation, while derivation does not. By thus criterion, derivational morphemes cannot appear after reflection ones.

Affixes can perform essentially three functions when they are attached to the root of a word. These are:- inflectional, derivational and extensional functions. We shall discuss these functions under inflectional derivational and extensional affixes.

A. Inflectional Affixes

The term inflectional is a major category of morphology, and it is used to realize suffixes in morphemes such as present, past, plural, third person and present participle.

According to Bloomfield (1933: 222), inflection is the outer layer of the morphology of word forms, but derivation is the inner layer. For instance, the natural morpheme segmentation of the word form 'stewardesses' is 'stewardess 'es' not steward + esses.

Thus, inflection are added to morpheme when all derivational and compositional processes are completely done. For example the plural forms of the words below follow this pattern.

Singular	Plural
Motorbike	motorbikes not motorsbite
Painter	painters not painter
Father-in-law	father-in-laws not fathers-in-law
Mistress	mistresses not mistesress

According to Philip .N. Anagbogu (1990: 20), inflection is a pattern of change in form undergone by words to express grammatical and semantic relations. Eg case, number, gender, person, tense, etc. the inflection of nouns, pronouns and adjective is called declension…. "C.F. Frank. Vagnalls 1968: 691).

An inflectional affix is the affix which performs a grammatical function without changing the class category (part of speech) of the word to which it is attached. Inflectional affixes are not used to create new word, rather they are used to show if a word is singular or plural. If the tense of the verb is past or non-past, if the word expresses comparative or superlative degree, or to show the case feature of the word in question.

Case is a grammatical category, which is concerned with the ability of a nominal (noun or pronoun) to change to form with respect to the environment in which it occurs.

Examples of inflectional affixes in English are presented in table 22 below

Inflectional affixes in English

Table 22

Inflectional Affix	Function/meaning	Examples
-s(N)	Plural	Boys
-ed	Past tense	Worked
-ing	Progressive	Working
-s(V)	3rd person	Eats
	Singular simple	Runs
	Present	
-en	Past participle	Eaten
-er	Comparative	Shorter

| -est | Superlative | Shortest |
| -s | Progressive | John's |

All the inflectional affixes in English are suffixes and they are few.

The inflectional affixes in English are: 'morphemes of the outer layer', because it is not possible to have another suffix after an inflectional affix.

We can also argue that the open vowel suffix (OVS) element (-o, -e, -ẹ) which occurs between the stem of a verb and the perfective inflectional suffix –la in Igbo is a stem extender. This is because the ovs which occur in the perfective verb form in Igbo, is a semantically empty formative.

In table 23 below, we provide examples in Igbo which show the ovs is a mere stem extender in the perfective verb form.

Igbo OVS as a stem extender

Table 23

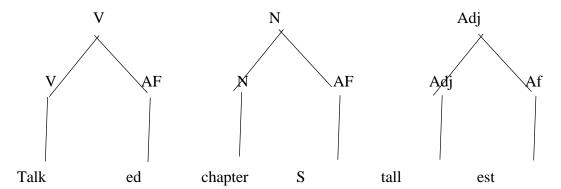| Verb root	Stem Extender	Perfective Affix	Output
-it]	OVS (=e)		-riela
-cat			'baseaten
-mi	Ovs (=a)		-rilu
'siphon'			-miala
		=ia	'hassiphon'
-gbu	Ovs(=a)		*-mila
'kill'			-gbuulu
			'kill'
Mu	Ovs(=a)		*-gbula
'give birth'			-muola
			'has given birth'
			*-mula

The OVS has no definite meaning, which it expresses in each of the examples above. It merely extends the stem, so that the perfective suffix can be added.

The part of the word to which an inflectional affix is structurally added is called the stem of the word. It should however, he mentioned that a root is not necessarily a stem.

A stem ought to be structurally longer than a root. The root of a word, like we said earlier, is that part of the word that carries the core meaning of the word. In a word like nationalized, for instance,

nation is the root, while nationalize in the stem because nationalize is the last part of the word to which the inflectional affix –ed is added.

We can demonstrate the fact that inflectional affixes do not change the part of speech of their roots using a tree diagram as we have done below.

As we can see from the above tree diagram, the part of speech of each of the roots of the word and the resultant word after the addition of the affixed element (AF) remains the same.

According to Robin (194: 192) inflectional formation are those, which uniquely determine and restrict the grammatical functioning of the resultant word form.

The regular inflected form have a general morphological role which add '-ed' to mark the past tense and 's' to mark the plural form.

3.1 Features of Inflectional morpheme

1. Category change: Inflectional affixes does not change the class category of the word to which it is attached.

2. Productivity: the inflectional affixes are combined freely with basis of appropriate category. For example, the suffice-s, can combine with virtually any noun that allows the plural form except for few exceptions like feet and oxen. In other words inflectional affixes are not as restricted as derivational affixes. However, this productivity does not apply to verb as there are no verbs with irregularly past tense form.

3. Order: It always occupy the suffix position, it is the outer layer affix, for example: teach + er+ s (teachers). From the above example, inflectional affixes takes place after derivation.

Phonological realization of inflectional affixes

The English inflectional affixes have different form of realization. This is known as Allomorphs Allomorphs are the various. Phonological realization of the morpheme that is, they are variance of the same morpheme.

The plural morpheme past tense morpheme and other inflectional affixes and phonological conditioned. They change their form based on the phonological environment they occur. Below are few examples:-

In Englisgh, the past tense morpheme can assume three different forms based on the environment of occurrence, it can either be (d) (t) (id) . it is realized as in (d) when it occurs after voiced consonance except (d). it is (t) when it occurs after voiceless consonances except (t) and (id) when it occurs after either (t) or (d).

Again, in inflectional morphology, some verb forms and nouns could be morphologically conditioned. Here, they do not form their past by the '-ed' rule but either through suppletion or zero morpheme. Also, 'a number of nouns form their plurals in a variety of unpredictable ways, for example: touth-teeth, house-lice…..” Glory Worukwo (2002:12, 13).

In essence, the inflectional morphological process which marks grammatical constraints in number, gender, case, person and tense and does not change the class of the word to which it is attached.

Derivational Affixes

A derivational affix is that which changes the part of speech or alters the meaning of the word to which it is attached. Robins (1964: 258) divides derivational affixes into class-changing and class-maintaining types. Both the class changing and class maintaining derivational affixes affect the lexical meaning of the word to which they are attached, while only the class changing ones affected the syntactic value (i.e, the part of speech) of the word. But based on the enormous evidence from some African languages, the need to re-examine the status of the so called derivational affixes which merely alte the meaning of their hosts without changing their parts of speech has arisen. It is now a common practice to treat affixes, which extend or modify the meaning of their hosts separately from the class changing ones.

According to Tomori (2007: 33), the derivational affix is a morpheme that usually changes the word class of a word.

Derivational affixes change the syntactic class or word class of the rout, Roberts (2016: 54).

Similarly, Robin (2004: 193) divided derivational affixes into class maintaining and class chaning.

Class maintaining derivational affixes

These produce the derived form of the same class as in;

Noun	Suffix	Word (Noun)
Gang	-ster	Gangster
Mouth	-ful	Mouth
Book	-let	Booklet

Work	-er	Worker
Man	-food	Manhood
Friend	-ship	Friendship
King	-ship	Kingship
nation	-al	National

These sentences show that they maintain the same part of speech.

Work and worker

- His work and worker
- The worker is asking for the same wages as the typist in the factory.

These examples are nominal, maintaining the same word class of noun.

Class changing derivational affixes

These group of affixes produce a derived form of another class. Examples are given, showing their differences in word class.

Noun	Adjective
Health	healthy
Sleep	Sleepy
Talk	talkative
Mind	mindful
Hope	hopeless
Man	manly

- Mr. Anthony is a tall <u>man</u>
                    Noun
- My fathr is strong and <u>manly</u>
                        Adjective
- <u>Hope</u> is studying English in the university

    Noun

- Her situation seem so <u>hopeless</u>
                    Adjective

Verb	Adjective
Adapt	adaptable
act	active
learn	learned
desire	desirous
float	Afloat
reveal	revealing
excite	exciting
solicit	solicitors

- I have decided to <u>learn</u> French
                    Verb
- He is the most <u>learned</u> of the professors
                    Adjective

Noun	Adjective
Teach	teacher
Disinfect	disinfectant
Betray	betrayal
Break	breakage
Conform	conformity

- What we do is <u>teach</u> music, English and Physics

  Verb

- Mrs. Jones is a <u>teacher</u> at the Imo state school

  Noun

Extensional Affixes

The term 'extensional' in used in African Linguistics for referring to elements, ususally affixes which function principally as meaning-modifiers, i.e extending the meaning of he word with which they are used. Extensional affixes changes the meaning of words, without changing the part of speech of those words, when it is attached to the root. In essence, they alter or modify the meaning of words they are attached to without changing its category.

We shall use the term 'extensional affixes' to refer to the class maintaining type of derivational affixes.

Some examples of class-maintaining derivational affixes in English, which we want to treat here as extensional affixes, are provided in tables 27 and 28. They perform the function of widening the meaning of a word by phrase or expansion of the contest they occur in.

Some extensional prefixes in English

Table 27

Prefix	Meaning	Base form	Derived form
Dis-	'not'	appear (v)	<u>dis</u>appear (v)
Dis-	'reversive'	organize (v)	<u>dis</u>organize
Ex-	'former'	president	<u>ex</u>-president
In-	'not'	audible (Adj)	<u>in</u>audible (Adj)
Re-	'again' examine (v)		<u>re</u>-examine (v)
Un-	'not' faithful (Adj)		<u>un</u>faithful (Adj)
Un-	'reversive'	tie (v)	<u>un</u>tie

Some extensional suffixes in English

Table 28

Suffix	Meaning	Base form	Derived form
-hood	'statue'	Man (n)	Man<u>hood</u> (n)

| -ship | 'condition' | Friend (n) | Friend<u>ship</u> (n) |
| -let | 'diminutive' | Pig (n) | Pig<u>let</u> (n) |

3.5 Distinctions between inflectional and derivational affixes

The two morphological words can be distinguished using some linguistic properties based on the specific rules guiding them, but different scholars of linguistics have their divergent opinions on this idea of distinguishing them neatly under similar or the same properties in various languages or within a language without apology to any school of thought.

However, let us examine their various views. In the first property change in lexical category, the idea of grouping inflected forms into paradigms was disputed by Halle (2003) as against Chomsky's view (2007).

Halles believes that both should be listed evenly.

Jacend off (2005: 665), also agrees with Halle, as he treats the relationships between the following pairs of verbs in English as the same based on redundancy rules.

Wait - waited

Buy - bought

Decided - decision

Refuse - refusal

Accept - acceptance

'wait/waited' agree in their semantic portion [+ (v + press) + (y + past), but disagrees in their phonological portion.

'Waited" is a distinct (lexical item from 'wait' in just the same way that 'acceptance' id distinct from 'accept'. Hence, their stand is that inflectional does differ from derivational, in the sense that the lexical insertion rules must apply by inserting partially or completely the paradigms into deep structures and the rules of concord apply to fitter out all but the correct forms. For instance, in language like Latin, Russian, Finish, or Zulu, many words have far more infected forms than nouns and verbs do in English.

There are about 100 verbs in Russia that lack first person singular forms of the nom-past tense, the issue of derivational morphology changing lexical category but inflectional, not being capable of doing same. He exemplifies with the following English verbs.

Judge (verb)   pre-judge (verb)

Do (verb)   Undo (verb)

He claims that the 'pre' and 'un' are extensional prefixes rather than derivational morphemes, and that extensional affixes do not change lexical category, but do change the meanings of the bases to which they are attached.

Another argument advanced by Anderson is on the issue of inflectional morphology manifesting case, number gender and person, while its sister concept (derivational) does not. He is of the view that this distinction does not hold water because categories like distinctive formation can be derivational in some languages but inflectional in others. For instance, in English and French, we have

Pig	-	piglet	(English)
Maison	-	maisonette	(French)

In other words, the category of diminutive formation is corporate into the inflection noun class system... Diminutive argumentative, and so on are thus, just much inflection categories in Sula as a gender or number, in contradistinction to the situation in English, German, and most other languages, (Anagbugu 2010: 24).

From the foregoing, one can conclude that most of the overlaps resulting from argument and counter-arguments of the observations of the notable scholars and schools of thoughts discussed above, has led to different modifications of the differences between the two morphological concepts.

Hence, it is impossible to realize such distinctions in practical natural languages of the world as exemplified in this write-up. No wonder Lieher (1980) concludes that the widely accepted division between derivational and inflectional morphology is in fact not clear.

In essence, derivation is the reverse of the coin of inflection. It adds to a root or stem of an affix.

The role of affixes in grammar

This chapter is going to treat the role of affixes in the English grammar. It shall be treated in this order.

Negative affixes

Negative affixes , the semantic import of ordinary words in English examples of negative affixes are:

a	-	asexual
		asymmetry
		amoral
de	-	dement

		demystify
		devalue
dis	-	disrespect
		dislike
		dishonor
il	-	illegal
		impossible
		immature
		irrelevant
ir	-	irrespective
mis	-	misconduct
		mismatch
		misbehave
non	-	non-alcoholic
		non-stop
in	-	insensitive
		insane
un	-	unfaithful
		ungentle

the following sentences will show how theses affixes have negativized the meaning of the following words and its effect in the sentence level.

1. Possible: I have done everything possible
2. Impossible: It is impossible to sing and drink at the same time
3. Moral: HE leads a very moral life
4. Amoral: She is an amoral young lady
5. Loyal: She has been a very loyal friend
6. Disloyal: She was disloyal to her friend
7. Faithful: She is a faithful wife
8. Unfaithful: Alice has been unfaithful to him

Reversive affixes

Affixes could be used to reverse the normal or usual meaning of words. Affixes that performs this function are:

De-   defrock

Delocalize

Deforestation

Un-   Unmask

Unlock

Undress

Their reverse meanings are examples found in the following sentences

Mask- He wore a mask to cover his face

Unmasked: The traitor was at last, unmasked

Connected: He connected the radio to the corridor

Disconnected: I disconnected the phone yesterday

Affixes are used to express concept of location or movement

Inter-   Intercontinental

International

Intermarry

Sub-   subsoil

Sublet

Subway

The following sentences show these affixes has changed the movement of the root word.

National: The problem of fuel scarcity is a national one.

International: The international conference is coming up next month

Let: She has a room to let in her house

Sublet: The rental contract states that we are not allowed to sublet the house

Structure: A flower has quite a complicated structure

Super structure: The base of the building is concrete and the superstructure is mainly grass.

4.2 Affixes can be used to express the concept of time and order in English

Examples are given below:

Fore: foretell

       Foresee

       Foretaste

Pre: Premature

       Predate

       Pre-war

Post: Post-humorous

       Post-modern

       Post-script

1. I have put your name on the list and I don't foresee any problems
2. There is an interesting postscripts in this tale
3. Ngozi's death was pre-mature

 Affixes can be used in words to depict or determine age, size and degree

Degree:

       Arch-archbishop

1. The archbishop of Nnewi diocese is her archangel
2. Archangel Michael guides one all the way
   Hyper- hyperactive
         Hypertension
1. I discovered I was hypersensitive in caffeine
2. She developed hypertension at work

Size

       Mini- Minimarket

           Minibus

           Minicomputer

1. She runs a minimarket in Imo state

2. The minibus we boarded developed a fault
3. He promised me a minicomputer

4.4 Affixes can be used as qualifiers

    Like-   Christ-like

             Child-like

1. The sight filled her with childlike excitement
2. John had a Christ like attitude

Ful-   Careful

        Useful

        Harmful

1. Be very careful when you cross the streets
2. They later became useful to the society
3. The dog was as harmful as the lion

Al-   Logical

       Periodical

1. She is a logical person
2. The event is periodical

4.5 Affixes can be used to express a cause

Age- Linkage Drainage Breakage

1. There is a linkage between wages and prices
2. A harmful of pebbles will help drainage
3. There is a little breakage in the pipe. Gladden Sadden Deafen
1. The music will gladden her heart
2. The speech saddens her
3. She cannot be deafened by the noise

Affixes can be used for comparison

Affixes in English mark the comparatives and superlative degree. Affixes that perform this function are – and est. see illustration below.

-er   Higher

       Bigger

Taller

-est   highest

Biggest

Tallest

1. The bigger girls should sit on the chair
2. They have the biggest home in town
3. Mary is taller than John
4. John is the tallest of the three boys
5. The school's building in higher than others
6. The building of the bank is the highest of all.

Chapter five

Summary

The topic of this work is A critical analysis of the role of affixes in English. Various aspects of affixation have been discussed accordingly.

There is a review or relevant literature relating in the importance and effects of affixes in English grammar.

The introduction of the topic, by defining the term affixation as a morphological process where a morpheme is added before or after the root or base of a word, is looked at. E.g – Un. And – Ed, as in unravelled. This was followed by the positional classification of affixes – suffixes, prefixes, infixes, iterfixes, suprafixes and circumfixes. It also discussed the zero affixes where an inflectional change takes place, but it is understood.

Conclusion

This topic has virtually dealt with every area of syntax or grammar, showing how affixes are important.

Recommendation

From the work written so far, students do not fellow the roles that are applicable in affixes, such as when to use inflectional, derivational or extensional infixes.

I therefore recommend that this topic is worthwhile for every student in English department. It is very important for students to have in-dept knowledge of it, hence affixation is one processes of word formation in English language.

Readers of this essay will find this topic very useful and interesting. Further studies are recommended on this area. It is my humble suggestion that other students of English language and linguistics should make further investigations on other forms of affixation.

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