



DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES IN THE NOVEL *A LITTLE PRINCESS*

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ABSTRAK

This research focuses on the use of derivational suffixes in the novel *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This study aims to identify the types of derivational suffixes and explain how derivational suffixes found influence the class-changing transformations in the novel *A Little Princess*. Data were collected through documentation method and note-taking technique. In analyzing the data, this research using descriptive qualitative methods. The analysis refers to Plag's (2003) and Bauer's (1983) theories. A total of 161 derivational suffixes were found in the novel. The suffixes include four types: nominal, verbal, adjective, and adverbial suffixes. The most frequently used adverbial suffix is -ly, which appears 64 data. This suffix generally functions to describe the way or attitude in an action or situation. The results also show two types of derivational effects: class-maintaining and class-changing derivation. Class-changing derivation are dominant, with 158 data, while class-maintaining derivation only occurs 3 data. These results highlight the important role of derivational suffixes in enriching vocabulary and forming grammatical structures in literary texts.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is the primary means of communication possessed by humans. Scientific studies that systematically studies language are known as linguistics. Linguistics is the science that studies language systematically and scientifically, with the aim of understanding how language works (Katamba, 1993). A similar view was expressed by Booij (2007), who stated that linguistics is the science that studies the internal structure of human language and the systems of rules that govern how language elements are used to convey meaning. In the field of linguistics, there are five main branches, namely phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. This research specifically focuses on the field of morphology.

Morphology is a branch of linguistics that studies the process of word formation (Bauer, 2003). According to Nurfaizah and Tanggoro (2018), morphology discusses the internal structure of words and the formation of new words based on rules related to morphemes and grammar. Therefore, morphology can be understood as a field of linguistics that studies word forms and the mechanisms of their formation. This process can cause changes in word form and affect its class and meaning. Bauer (1983) explains that a word is a series of letters separated by spaces. However, a word does not have to be present in writing to be recognized, because in practice there are not always gaps or spaces that separate words. Thus, a word is the smallest unit that contains meaning, and a unit smaller than a word that still has meaning is called a morpheme.

In the study of morphology, morphemes are the most important basic elements. Morphemes are defined as the smallest grammatical units that have meaning and cannot be broken down into smaller parts (Sudarmadi & Sukamto, 2022). In English, most vocabulary consists of one or more morphemes. The existence of morphemes plays a role in forming the meaning of a word. Morphemes are classified

into two main types, namely free morphemes and bound morphemes. Free morphemes are morphemes that can stand alone as complete and meaningful words. Conversely, bound morphemes have no meaning if they stand alone and must be combined with other morphemes to form a word (Katamba, 1994). Therefore, free morphemes are closely related to word form, while bound morphemes are related to affixation elements. Affixes themselves can be categorized into three types, namely prefixes, infixes, and suffixes.

Suffix is a type of morpheme that must be attached to the base form or other affixes, and are generally placed at the end of a word (Nisa, 2020). In general, suffix is divided into two categories, namely inflectional suffixes and derivational suffixes. Inflectional suffixes do not affect the basic meaning of the word they are applied to, however rather function to adjust the word form to grammatical needs, such as time, number, or possession (Aronoff, 2004). In contrast, derivational suffixes play a role in forming new words through changes in meaning, and often also change the lexical class of the word. According to Plag (2003), derivational suffixes can be classified into four types, namely suffixes that form nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. Furthermore, Bauer (1983) stated that the derivation process is divided into two forms, namely class-changing derivation and class-maintaining derivation.

Understanding derivational suffixes plays a significant role, not only because the process of identifying derived word forms often poses challenges, but also because this knowledge can help in determining the lexical category of a word based on the suffix attached to it. Based on these considerations, this study focuses on identifying derivational suffixes. In addition to describing the process of word formation through suffixation, this study also explains the meaning of the resulting derived words and analyzes whether the process causes changes or maintains the lexical class of the original word form.

This study examines the use of derivational suffixes in the novel *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The selection of the novel as the object of research is based on the consideration that the work contains various forms of suffixes that allow for adequate linguistic data to be obtained. In addition, *A Little Princess* novel is a widely known literary work, thus, it is relevant and representative to be analyzed in the context of the study of derivational morphology.

METHODOLOGY

This research is included in the category of qualitative research. A qualitative approach aims to understand the meaning produced by individuals or groups towards a social problem or phenomenon they experience, which includes aspects such as behavior, perception, action, and subjective experience (Kothari, 2004). From various designs in the qualitative approach, this study adopts a descriptive qualitative design, which aims to identify and describe the forms of derivational suffixes found in the novel. In line with the opinion of Lambert and Lambert (2012), descriptive qualitative design focuses on presenting an accurate description of the phenomenon being studied without trying to find a causal relationship. Therefore, the data collected becomes the main element in the analysis and interpretation process in this study.

In this study, the researcher applied data collection techniques to obtain detailed information from the object of study. The method used is a literature study, which according to Zed (2004), is a research approach that utilizes various written sources such as books, journals, articles, and other documents to collect data relevant to the research problem.

The stages in data collection are carried out through several systematic steps: First, examining the novel *A Little Princess* thoroughly from the first chapter to the end. Second, recording in detail the words containing derivational suffixes. Third, selecting these words as research data and grouping them according to the classification of the types of derivational suffixes and the derivational process that occurs. After the data is collected, the analysis process is carried out through four main stages: First, identifying and marking data based on the types of derivational suffixes and their derivational processes.

Second, classifying data based on the theory. Third, describe the basic words using references from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Fourth, draw conclusions based on the results of the analysis that has been done.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

After the researcher collected and analyzed data from the novel *A Little Princess*, the researcher found 161 different derivational suffixes consisting of 52 nominal suffixes, 2 verbal suffixes, 43 adjective suffixes, and 64 adverbial suffixes.

Penulisan tabel adalah seperti contoh berikut ini. Tabel 1 menjelaskan hasil uji normalitas, sedangkan Gambar 1 menjelaskan tentang bobot banyaknya kata dalam setiap bagian yang disarankan. Tabel tidak memuat garis vertikal (tegak) dan garis horisontal (datar) hanya ada di kepala dan ekor tabel. Ukuran huruf isian tabel boleh diperkecil.

Table 1. Derivational Suffixes Found in the Novel *A Little Princess*

No.	Derivational Suffixes	Types of Suffixes	Total Data
1	Nominal Suffixes	age, ment, ion, ity, ess, ness, ance, ship, dom, ant, er	52
2	Verbal Suffixes	en	2
3	Adjectival Suffixes	ful, less, ing, ous, ly, able, ish	43
4	Adverbial Suffixes	ly	64
Total			161

Nominal Suffixes

1. Suffix-age

That means, 'Come to me through the secret **passage** under the wall,' she explained. (Burnett, 2017, p. 212)

$$\text{Passage (N)} = \text{Pass (V)} + \text{-age (suffix)}$$

The word "passage" is categorized as a nominal suffix. The root word "pass" is a verb that means to move through or beyond something. When the suffix -age is added, it becomes the noun "passage," which refers to a physical space such as a narrow corridor or route. According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, this suffix usually forms nouns from verbs to indicate the result, process, or manner of action. In this case, the meaning shifts from the action of moving to the place where the movement occurs. Therefore, the word class changes from a verb to a noun, making "passage" a clear example of class-changing derivation.

2. Suffix-ment

She sat and watched him without making any **movement**. (Burnett, 2017, p. 130)

$$\text{Movement (N)} = \text{Move (V)} + \text{-ment (suffix)}$$

The word "movement" is categorized as a nominal suffix. The root word "move" is a verb, which means to change position or cause something to change position. When the suffix -ment is added, the word becomes "movement," which functions as a noun, referring to the act or process of moving. This change from a verb to a noun shows a clear case of class-changing derivation, since it changes the grammatical category and function of the word in the sentence.

3. Suffix-ion

Have you any new **suggestion** to make—any whatsoever? (Burnett, 2017, p. 254)

$$\text{Suggestion (N)} = \text{Suggest (V)} + \text{-ion (suffix)}$$

The word “suggestion” is categorized as a nominal suffix. The root word “suggest” is a verb, which means to suggest or recommend something. When the suffix -ion is added, the word becomes “suggestion,” which functions as a noun, referring to the act of suggesting or the idea being proposed. This transformation from a verb to a noun shows a clear change in grammatical class. Therefore, “suggestion” is a clear example of class-changing derivation, because the addition of -ion changes the verb “suggest” to the noun “suggestion,” changing its syntactic role from an action to the result or content of that action.

4. Suffix-ity

Then her **curiosity** got the better of her (Burnett, 2017, p. 185)

$$\textit{Curiosity (N)} = \textit{Curious (Adj)} + \textit{-ity (suffix)}$$

The word “curiosity” is a nominal suffix. The root word “curious” is an adjective, which describes someone who is curious or wants to learn. By adding the suffix -ity, which forms a noun from an adjective, the word becomes “curiosity,” a noun that means the desire to know or learn something. This changes the grammatical class of the adjective to a noun. Therefore, “curiosity” clearly shows a class-changing derivation, since its form and function change.

5. Suffix-ess

I'm not a **princess** anymore (Burnett, 2017, p. 105)

$$\textit{Princess (N)} = \textit{Prince (N)} + \textit{-ess (suffix)}$$

The word “princess” is categorized as a nominal suffix. The base form of the word is the noun “prince,” which refers to a male member of the royal family, usually the son of a king or nobleman. When the suffix -ess is added, the word becomes “princess,” which is also a noun but refers to a female member of the royal family. Because the class of the word remains the same from noun to noun. This is a clear example of class-maintaining derivation, even though the meaning changes to indicate gender.

6. Suffix-ness

"For my **kindness** to you," replied Miss Minchin. (Burnett, 2017, p. 103)

$$\textit{Kindness (N)} = \textit{Kind (Adj)} + \textit{-ness (suffix)}$$

The word “kindness” is categorized into a nominal suffix. The root word “kind” is an adjective that describes someone who is caring or helpful. When the suffix -ness is added, the word becomes “kindness,” which functions as a noun that refers to the quality of being kind. This shows a change in grammatical class from an adjective to a noun. Therefore, “kindness” clearly shows class-changing derivation, since its form and function in the sentence change.

7. Suffix-ance

“...Miss Minchin could not understand and which was a source of great **annoyance** to her,...” (Burnett, 2017, p. 11)

$$\textit{Annoyance (N)} = \textit{Annoy (V)} + \textit{-ance (suffix)}$$

The word “annoyance” is an example of a nominal suffix. The root word “annoy” is a verb, which means to disturb or annoy someone. When the suffix -ance is added, the word becomes “annoyance,” which functions as a noun referring to the state of being disturbed. This changes the word from a verb to a noun, indicating a change in both form and grammatical role. Therefore, “annoyance” clearly shows a class-changing derivation.

8. Suffix-ship

“...her curious **friendship** had developed,...” (Burnett, 2017, p. 132)

$$\textit{Friendship (N)} = \textit{Friend (N)} + \textit{-ship (suffix)}$$

The word “friendship” is categorized as a nominal suffix. The root word “friend” is a noun, which refers to a person with whom we share a bond of affection. When the suffix -ship is added, the word becomes “friendship,” which also functions as a noun, but refers to the state or condition of being friends. Since the derivation process does not change the grammatical class—from noun to noun—this is a clear example of class-maintaining derivation.

9. Suffix-dom

“...and felt it as well to make his own **freedom** from responsibility...” (Burnett, 2017, p. 90)

Freedom (N) = Free (Adj) + -dom (suffix)

The word “freedom” is an example of a nominal suffix. The root word “free” is an adjective that describes being unbound or unrestricted. When the suffix -dom is added, the word becomes “freedom,” a noun that refers to the state of being free. This changes the word from an adjective to a noun, changing its form and function. Therefore, “freedom” clearly shows a class-changing derivation.

10. Suffix-ant

“He was the **servant** of Missee Sahib.” (Burnett, 2017, p. 158)

Servant (N) = Serve (V) + -ant (suffix)

The word "servant" is an example of a nominal suffix. The root word "serve" is a verb that means to help or provide service to others. By adding the suffix -ant, the word changes to "servant", which is a noun that refers to someone who performs the act of serving. This derivation not only shifts the grammatical category from a verb to a noun, but also shifts the meaning from an action to the agent performing the action. Therefore, this morphological process qualifies as class-changing derivation, because it changes the function and classification of the original word.

11. Suffix-er

“I wonder Miss Minchin didn't turn Sara out—even if she does want her for a **teacher**.” (Burnett, 2017, p. 232)

Teacher (N) = Teach (V) + -er (suffix)

The word "teacher" in the sentence is an example of a nominal suffix. The basic word "to teach" is a verb that means to give instructions or to impart knowledge. When the suffix -er is added, the verb changes to "teacher", which is a noun that refers to a person who performs the act of teaching. This derivation changes the grammatical category of the verb to a noun and also changes the semantic role of the word—from the action to the doer of the action. Therefore, the word "teacher" is a result of class-changing derivation, since its form and function have changed fundamentally.

Verbal Suffixes

1. Suffix-en

“...she would surely have tried to **soften** it for the Indian gentleman's sake.” (Burnett, 2017, p. 258)

Soften (N) = Soft (Adj) + -en (suffix)

The word "soften" is an example of a verbal suffix. The root word "soft" is an adjective that describes a texture or quality that is soft, pliable, or not hard. When the suffix -en is added, the word forms the verb "soften," which means to make or become soft. This derivational process changes the word from an adjective to a verb, shifting its grammatical role and semantic function. Thus, "soften" is derived through a class-changing derivation, because it changes the original word class from one that describes a quality to one that expresses an action.

Adjectival Suffixes

1. Suffix -ful

“She had always lived in a **beautiful** bungalow...” (Burnett, 2017, p. 9)

Beautiful (Adj) = beauty (N) + -ful (suffix)

The word "beautiful" is an example of an adjectival suffix. The root word "beauty" is a noun that refers to a quality that is pleasing to the senses or mind. When the suffix -ful is added, the word becomes "beautiful", an adjective used to describe something or someone who has beauty. This derivation process changes the grammatical category of the word from a noun to an adjective. Therefore, the formation of "beautiful" from "beauty" is classified as a class-changing derivation, since it changes the function and class of the original word.

2. Suffix -less

“For a few seconds Becky was almost **speechless** with admiration.” (Burnett, 2017, p. 63)

Speechless (Adj) = Speech (N) + -less (suffix)

The word "speechless" is an example of an adjectival suffix. The root word "speech" is a noun that refers to the act of speaking. When the suffix -less is added, the word forms the adjective "speechless," which describes the condition of being unable to speak, usually due to strong emotion. This suffix changes the form and function of the word, changing it from a noun to an adjective. Although the concept of speech remains central to the meaning, the grammatical class shifts significantly. Therefore, "speechless" is a clear case of a class-changing derivation.

3. Suffix -ing

“During their passing many **interesting** things occurred.” (Burnett, 2017, p. 279)

Interesting (Adj) = Interest (V) + -ing (suffix)

The word “interesting” is categorized as an adjective suffix. The root word “interesting” is a verb, which means to attract attention or curiosity. When the suffix -ing is added, the word changes to “interesting,” which functions as an adjective in this context, modifying the noun “thing” to describe the type of thing that appears. This change in grammatical function—from a verb to an adjective—indicates a shift in word class. Therefore, the derivation process involving the suffix -ing in this case is a class-changing derivation.

4. Suffix -ous

"Papa," she said in a low, **mysterious** little voice which was almost a whisper, "papa." (Burnett, 2017, p. 8)

Mysterious (Adj) = Mystery (N) + -ous (suffix)

The word “mysterious” is included in the category of adjective suffixes. The root word “mystery” is a noun that refers to something unknown or difficult to understand. The addition of the suffix -ous forms the word “mysterious”, which functions as an adjective in a sentence, describing the form of the word as having a mysterious quality. Since the word class changes from a noun to an adjective, this derivation process is classified as a class-changing derivation.

5. Suffix -ly

"My, ain't it **lovely!**" whispered Becky (Burnett, 2017, p. 217)

Lovely (Adj) = Love (N) + -ly (suffix)

The word “lovely” is categorized as an adjective suffix. The root word is the noun “love,” which expresses a strong feeling of affection. When the suffix -ly is added, the word becomes “lovely,” which functions as an adjective, meaning “beautiful” or “very pleasant.” This suffix changes the grammatical category from a noun to an adjective. In the sentence, “lovely” describes something that is pleasing to

the senses or emotions, which functions as an adjective. Therefore, the formation of “lovely” from “love” shows a class-changing derivation, as it involves a shift in word class from a noun to an adjective.

6. Suffix -able

“It is not **agreeable** to stand in a schoolroom...” (Burnett, 2017, p. 95)

$Agreeable (Adj) = Agree (V) + -able (suffix)$

The word “agreeable” is an adjectival suffix that refers to something that is considered pleasant or acceptable. The root word is the verb “agree,” which means to agree or be in agreement. When the suffix “-able” is added, the word becomes “agreeable,” which is an adjective. This shows a change in grammatical class from a verb to an adjective and thus clearly shows a class-changing derivation.

7. Suffix -ish

He drew a big sigh and pulled his mustache with a **boyish** expression. (Burnett, 2017, p. 18)

$Boyish (Adj) = Boy (N) + -ish (suffix)$

The word “boyish” is categorized as an adjective suffix. The root word “boy” is a noun that refers to a young male. When the suffix -ish is added, it forms the word “boyish,” which functions as an adjective in the sentence. Here, “boyish” describes a quality or manner of expression, resembling or being characteristic of a boy. Since the derivation changes the word class from a noun to an adjective, this is a clear example of a class-changing derivation, although its meaning remains semantically related to the original noun.

Adverbial Suffixes

1. Suffix -ly

"He died," said Sara, very **quietly**.” (Burnett, 2017, p. 258)

$Quietly (Adv) = Quiet (Adj) + -ly (suffix)$

The word “quietly” is categorized as an adjective suffix. The root word “quiet” is an adjective, which describes a state of low voice or calmness. When the suffix -ly is added, the word changes to “quietly,” which functions as an adverb in the sentence. Here, “quietly” modifies the verb “said,” which indicates the way Sara speaks. Since the derivation changes the grammatical category from an adjective to an adverb, this is a clear case of a class-changing derivation.

CONCLUSION

From the results of the research and discussion, two main things can be concluded. First, in the novel *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, four types of derivational suffixes were found based on Plag's theory (2003), namely nominal, verbal, adjectival, and adverbial suffixes. The most frequently used suffix is the adverbial suffix -ly, which appears in 64 data out of 161 total data. This suffix helps clarify the meaning of a sentence, especially in describing the manner, time, or attitude in an action or event. Second, based on Bauer's theory (1983), two types of derivational suffix influences on word classes were found, namely class-maintaining derivation (does not change word classes) and class-changing derivation (changes word classes). Of all the data, class-changing derivation is more dominant with 158 data, while class-maintaining is only found in 3 data. This finding shows that the derivation process has an important role in the formation of words and grammatical structures in literary texts.

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