

Teaching and Analysing Adjective Formation Suffixes in English and Albanian

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Abstract: The objective of this study is to compare the suffixes used for adjective creation in the English and Albanian languages. The researchers employed the descriptive approach to investigate and delineate the process and categories of adjective creation suffixes in both languages. Subsequently, a comparative methodology was employed to discern disparities and correspondences. The second phase of the investigation centers on Edgar Allan Poe's "The Story of William Wilson." The researchers employed the library research method and content analysis method to identify and analyze 30 adjectives derived from 10 different types of adjective-forming suffixes. These suffixes include: -ful, -y, -ing, -able, -ant, -ent, -ible, -ous, -less, and -ly. The study revealed significant differences and similarities in adjective formation suffixes between English and Albanian.

Keywords: adjective formation, English and Albanian suffixes, comparative approach.

INTRODUCTION

Adjectives are vital elements of language that enable us to describe and characterize nouns by expressing their qualities, attributes, and differences. Kabashi (2000) asserts that adjectives, which offer descriptive information about nouns and verbs, constitute the largest word class in English after nouns and verbs. This study seeks to redirect attention from the broad definition of adjectives to their formation process. The field of linguistics that examines the formation of words is known as morphology. Bauer (1983, p.13) explains that Morphology is the branch of linguistics which deals to the internal structure of word-form. Subsequently, Choi (2015) defines morphology as the examination and analysis of word structure, including the processes of word formation and the relationships between words within a certain language system. Morphological norms, as described by Famala (2021), have dual functions. Firstly, they outline the anticipated characteristics of complex words that are already part of the lexicon. Secondly, they illustrate the process of creating novel words and various word forms. The primary component of morphology is the morpheme. Moreover, Pavlik (2017) defines a morpheme as the most basic meaningful unit that words may be broken down into. Whereas Rastle (2019) categorizes morphemes into two types: free and bound morphemes. Furthermore, regarding types of morphemes, Khan et al (2016) state that from the names themselves, free morphemes can stand alone, while bound morphemes cannot. Additionally, they assert that a bound morpheme must be affixed to another morpheme in order to generate a new word. Bound morphemes are affixes, with suffixes and prefixes being the most prevalent kind, as noted by Goethem (2020).

This study aims to investigate the process of adjective formation, focusing primarily on the use of suffixes to produce adjectives. On the other hand Quirk (1985) states that "Suffixation is putting a suffix after the base, sometimes without, but more usually with, a change of a word class." (p.1520) According to Khusna and Fadilah (2019), a suffix is a part of a word that needs to be added to the main part of the word (root or another affix). It's usually found at the right or end of the base word. Khusna and Fadilah (2019) define a suffix as a component of a word that must be added to the main part of the word, which might be either the root or another affix. Typically, it is usually found on the right side or at the end

of the base word. As Nandito (2016) affirms that there are two kinds of suffixes, inflectional and derivational. This researcher claims that inflectional suffixes do not change the essential meaning of the base word; instead, they modify the word's grammatical function. Furthermore, the researcher states that in contrast to inflectional suffixes, a derivational suffix is a form of suffix that changes the meaning of a word and frequently shifts its lexical category. Derivation is a type of major word-formation processes. Whereas Yule (2006) claims that "Derivation is a process of word formation to be found in the production of new English words" (p.57). Subsequently as Wulandari (2014) declares that the types of derivational suffixes are: nominal suffixes, verbal suffixes, adjectival suffixes and adverbial suffixes. This study primarily examines the process of suffixation in various word classes to derive adjectives. In simpler terms, it revolves around the use of suffixes to form adjectives.

METHODOLOGY

In this qualitative study, the researchers use a descriptive approach to explain how adjectives are generated in English and Albanian. As Bhandari (2020) declares that Qualitative research entails gathering and examining data that is not in numerical form, such as text, video, or audio, in order to comprehend concepts, opinions, or experiences. Then, a comparative method is used to determine similarities and differences in adjective formation between the two languages. The second part involves data collection using the library research method, and content analysis is used to analyze adjective construction suffixes. According to Rupadha (2016), library research is an approach to conducting investigations that includes acquiring information and data from various sources accessible within libraries.

ADJECTIVE FORMATION SUFFIXES IN ENGLISH

According to Umiyati and Wijaya (2019) Suffix forming adjective is the process of forming adjective by adding suffixes to another word class. Referring to the same authors there are three kinds of word class bases that can be attached with suffixes to form adjectives, they can be: noun base, verb base and adjective base.

Types of Suffixes Forming Adjectives in English

Based on the definition above, there are: 1) suffixes forming adjectives from nouns, 2) suffixes forming adjectives from verbs and 3) suffixes forming adjectives from adjectives.

1. Suffixes forming adjectives from nouns according to Luis (2022): *-al, -ial, -ic, -ical, -ish, -less, -eous, -ious, -ous, -y, -ary, -like, -ful*.

E.g., facial, commercial, beautiful, classic, comical, philosophical, Spanish, girlish, priceless, adventurous, ambitious, angry, childlike.

While Bauer (1983) states that an example of a very productive suffix forming adjectives is *-ish*. On the other hand, Plag (2003) states that less productive suffix forming adjectives is *-ary*, which is now productive only with noun bases ending in *-ion*.

2. Suffixes forming adjectives from verbs to adjectives according to *Cambridge University Press* (2024): *-ive, -able, -ible, -ful, -ent, -ant, -ive*.

E.g., readable, talkative, useful, enjoyable, obedient, resistant.

Another way to form adjectives from verbs is to use the past or present participles of the verbs, that is, their *-ed* or *-ing* forms. Pokorna (2018) on speaking about forming adjectives from verbs further refers to the *-ing* type of being extremely productive type of suffixation because this suffix can attach to practically any verb. For instance:

- to amuse – amused – amusing
- to interest – interested – interesting
- to bore – bored – boring

3. Suffixes forming adjectives from adjectives: *-ly, -ive, -al, -ish, -ier, -est*.

E.g., weakly, corrective, comical, greenish, easier, finest.

ADJECTIVE FORMATION SUFFIXES IN ALBANIAN

The formation of adjectives by suffixation in Albanian language according to Agalliu et al., (2002) is the most productive way of forming new adjectives by adding suffixes to the different parts of speech. Derived adjectives in Albanian language as Demiraj (1986) states that they may be formed by means of prefixation, suffixation and articulation/clitics.

Types of suffixes forming adjectives in Albanian

1. The most productive adjective formation suffixes in Albanian language according to Agalliu et al., (2002) are: *-(ë)s, -ar, -tar, -or, -ak*. E.g.:

-The suffix *-(ë)s*

(V + (ë)s) = djegës, djegëse, grindës, marrës, dhënës, mbytës, shkrepës, përmbledhës.

-The suffix *-ar*

(N + ar) = bregdetar, letrar, elementar, mesjetar, planetar, etj. (Mulaku & Kelmendi, 1987)

(V + ar) = vjeçar, lozonjar.

-The suffix *-tar*

(N+ tar) = amtarë, kombëtar, përfundimtar, mesdhetar, vendimtar, etj.

-The suffix *-or*

(N+ or) = bimor, malor, diellor, dimëror, ditor, ushqimor, vetor, arsimor, burror, njerëzor, etj. (Demiraj, 1988)

-The suffix *-ak*

(N + ak) = dimërak, perandorak, vezak,

(V + ak) = dredhak, bublak, rrëgjak,

(Adj + ak) = hollak, vocërrak, zezak, zverdhak.

Comparison of English and Albanian Adjective Formation Suffixes

- In English as well as in Albanian, adjectives are a separate class of words.
- In both languages they modify nouns. E.g., *Alb.* (djalë punëtor). *Eng.* (interesting guy.)
- In English language, the types of adjective formation suffixes were classified according to the word class they get attached to, such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives, while in Albanian, they were classified according to their prevalence.

- Suffixation is the most productive way of forming adjectives in both languages.

- In English language adjectives remain the same, they do not change depending on the number of nouns (Osmani & Pajaziti, 2017, p.242).

E.g. *Alb.*: qytet bregdetar (singular) – qytete bregdetare (plural)

Eng.: beautiful city (singular) – beautiful cities (plural).

- In English language the base forms to which suffixes were added in order to form adjectives are from different word classes, such as: nouns, verbs and adjectives, while in Albanian language the most common base forms are noun bases.

The Analysis of the Adjective Formation Suffixes found in “The Story of William Wilson” by Edgar Allan Poe

After the researchers collected and analyzed the data from the book “*Storyteller*” specifically “*The Story of William Wilson*” they found 30 adjectives formed by 10 kinds of adjective formation suffixes. The form in which the researchers analyzed their data was adapted from Alam’s (2023) article.

1. Suffix –ful

Fear (N) + -ful = Fearful (Adj)

Beauty (N) + -ful = Beautiful (Adj)

Wonder (N) + -ful = Wonderful (Adj)

Thought (N) + -ful = Thoughtful (Adj)

Delight (N) + -ful = Delightful (Adj)

Success (N) + -ful = Successful (Adj)

Care (N) + -ful = Careful (Adj)

Watch (V) + -ful = Watchful (Adj)

2. Suffix -able

Accept (V) + -able = Acceptable (Adj)

Value (N) + -able = Valuable (Adj)

Honor (N) + -able = Honorable (Adj)

Notice (N/V) + -able = Noticeable (Adj)

3. Suffix -ing

Dance (V) + -ing = Dancing (Adj)

Shine (V) + -ing = Shining (Adj)

Neighbor (N) + -ing = Neighboring (Adj)

Interest (N/V) + -ing = Interesting (Adj)

Surprise (N/V) + -ing = Surprising (Adj)

Laugh (N/V) + -ing = Laughing (Adj)

Die (V) + -ing = Dying (Adj)

4. Suffix -ant

Please (to please) (V) + -ant = Pleasant (Adj)

Importance (N) + -ant = Important (Adj)

5. Suffix -ible

Terror (N) + -ible = Terrible (Adj)

6. Suffix -ous

Fame (N) + -ous = Famous (Adj)

7. Suffix -ent

Differ (V) + -ent = Different (Adj)

8. Suffix -ly

Dead (Adj) + -ly = Deadly (Adj)

9. Suffix -y

Health (N) + -y = Healthy (Adj)

Ice (N) + -y = Icy (Adj)

10. Suffix -less

Help (V) + -less = Helpless (Adj)

CONCLUSION

The objective of this study was to compare the formation of adjectives in English and Albanian languages. The findings are as follows: Firstly, both English and Albanian treat adjectives as a distinct class of words that primarily modify nouns. For instance, in Albanian, we may use phrases like “Alb. (djalë punëtor),” while in English, we might say “interesting guy.” Additionally, in English, adjective formation suffixes are categorized based on the word class to which they are attached, such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives. In contrast, in Albanian, they are classified according to their prevalence. The study highlighted that suffixation is the predominant method for forming adjectives in both languages. Notably, in English, adjectives remain invariant regardless of the number of nouns they modify.

The second part of the study involved the identification and analysis of suffixes forming adjectives in “*The Story of William Wilson*” written by Edgar Allan Poe. The investigation revealed 30 adjectives formed by 10 distinct types of adjective-forming suffixes, which are: *-ful*, *-y*, *-ing*, *-able*, *-ant*, *-ent*, *-ible*, *-ous*, *-less*, and *-ly*. In conclusion, it can be said that English and Albanian share similarities in their treatment of adjectives, yet notable differences exist. This research contributes to a comprehensive understanding of how adjectives are used and formed in these languages.

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