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## DECODING MORPHOLOGICAL AFFIXATION: UNVEILING THE TOP FIVE SPOTIFY 2020 LYRICS

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### ABSTRACT

This study was done due to the importance of morphological awareness for the English learners. By conducting morphological analysis, the learners will have a better understanding about linguistic. They will also be able to increase their vocabulary mastery. As the students have a good vocabulary mastery their other skills of English will increase, too. The intension of this study was to uncover the affixes category and to describe the affixation in the Top Five Track Lyrics of Spotify 2020 Edition as the main data. The qualitative research method was applied by using two instruments to collect the data; observation and documentation. The data gathered then was analyzed in five stages. The result shows that of the five songs been analyzed there were three categories including; Affixes in a Noun, Affixes in an Adjective and Affixes in a Verb found in inflectional affixes, and three categories of derivational affixes; Noun or and Adjectives to Form Adverb, Noun or and Adverb to Form Adjectives and Verb, Adjective, Adverb, or Noun to Form Verb.

**Keywords:** Affixation, Lyrics, Morphology, Spotify

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### INTRODUCTION

There is an opinion that morphology has nothing to do with teaching English, so that there are lecturers and students ignoring it. Nevertheless, on the writer's point of view, learning and understanding about morphology and the morphological processes is important for both English learners and teachers. As it was stated by Simaremare & Silalahi (2021); Kusumawardhani & Nurhayati (2020) that English learners should understand morphology well. The students and the lecturers should be aware of the morphology since it is one of the skills in linguistic awareness. Morphological awareness can increase students' vocabulary. As the result, good vocabulary mastery is helpful to increase learners' reading and writing ability Pranata, Suarnajaya (2018); (Giyatmi Giyatmi, 2017); Jarad (2015); Kim (2013).

Morphology is a branch of macro linguistics concentrated on word formation (Wulandari, 2014; Setyani, Hartono, & Priyatmojo,

2017) and word formation can be derived from affixation. Affixation is a bound morpheme process for an affix which is attached to a base word, which may be simple structure or complex structure (Siboro & Bram, 2020). There are two kinds of bound morpheme affixes namely prefix and suffix. Bound morpheme classified into derivational and inflectional morphemes. Derivational morpheme is a bound morpheme that changes the form of the word classes in a sentence, while inflectional morpheme never involves a change of class (Nurjanah, Ramdhaniah, & Efransyah, 2018).

In forming a word is be affected by the processing of derivational (Simaremare & Silalahi, 2021; Kusumawardhani & Nurhayati, 2020). Derivations are words derived from one stem or base word by attaching to them affixes, both prefixes and suffixes, as the result these affixations produce new words in English (Simaremare & Silalahi, 2021; Siyaswati, 2019).

Based on the process of forming lexeme, derivational affixes are divided into two categories, they are class maintaining affixes and class changing affixes. Both of them perform different functions; the class changing is used to change the word class of the base lexeme, and the class maintaining is used to preserve the word class of based lexeme (Alit Novita Dewi, 2014). Derivational affixation can occur with unlimited set of words (Simaremare & Silalahi, 2021).

Inflectional affixes on the other hand, are certain affixes when the root or base is connected and the part of the root speech is changed and a new word is not created (Dalimunthe, 2021).

In almost all research, affixation is used to investigate the structure of word or known as forming word. The structure of word can be found in the oral or written form language. Since all languages do contain small sets of words, which meanings vary systematically according to whom used them, and where, and when they are used (Salamudin & Efransyah, 2021). In delivering the meaning, people can use lyrics in a song (Kusumadewi & Anggraeni, 2020); (Fadilah & Resmini, 2021). Moreover, through song people can communicate each other (Ariani, 2017), express their feeling, sense, ideas, desire, message and to talk about anything within their communication in any situation (Saputra & Apsari, 2021; Ginting & Syahri, 2021; Kurniati & Haryudun, 2021).

The research on affixation had been conducted by many researchers. Such as Ariani (2017), conducted research on derivational and inflectional prefixes and suffixes in Batusesa Dialect of Balinese. Alit Novita Dewi (2014) analyzed derivational affixes with special reference to "Classic Bike Magazine and Street Machine Magazine". Simaremare & Silalahi (2021) investigated derivational affixes in writing analytical exposition text. Meanwhile, Siboro & Bram (2020); Nurjanah et al. (2018) analyzed derivational affixes in story telling. This present study fills the gap by investigating derivational and inflectional of English affixes using song.

Accordingly, this research sought to discuss the inflection affixes of The Top Five Track lyric in Spotify 2020 Edition. The writer is interested in doing this research because there are many affixations found in Top Five track lyric in Spotify 2020 Edition. To uncover the affixation in these lyrics there a research question to be

answered; what types of category affixes found in the Top Five track lyric of Spotify 2020 Edition?

### **The Nature of Morphology**

According to Crystal (1989) in Suriani (2015), morphology is the branch of linguistics studying the structure of words. Morphology is also called the study of morphemes and their different forms (allomorphs) and the way they combine in word formation (Rugaiyah, 2018).

A morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit in a language (Simaremare & Silalahi, 2021). The word 'morpheme' is derived from the Greek word morpheme, meaning "form" (Suriani, 2015). Morphemes describe as article includes a list of references, but its sources remain unclear because it has insufficient. Morpheme is the root of word (Rizki & Zakrimal, 2020). Morpheme are classified into free and bound. Free morphemes can function independently as words. Bound morphemes appear only as parts of words, always in conjunction with a root and sometimes without her bound morphemes (M et al., 2017); Rugaiyah (2018). Bound morphemes consist of prefixes and suffixes (Siboro & Bram, 2020); (Wulandari, 2014). Meanwhile, Fitria (2020) classified morpheme into three categories; word root (stem), inflectional morpheme, and derivational morpheme.

In addition, Maulidina, Indriyani, & Mardewi (2019); Pranata, Suarnajaya (2018) differentiate about morpheme into two types, there are derivational and inflectional morpheme. Derivational morpheme is affixes. It can change the meaning of the based word and create new word.

A free morpheme is categorized into two: open class (content words) and closed class (function words). Content words can be called the open class words because we can and regularly do add new words to these classes. Nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs are the content words (Suriani, 2015).

A bound morpheme comes into two types; derivational and inflectional morpheme (Rugaiyah, 2018); Maulidina, Indriyani, & Mardewi (2019); (Pranata, Suarnajaya, 2018). Derivational morpheme is also called as affixes. It can change the meaning of the based word and create new word. The meaning can be changed to the opposite meaning, from positive to negative. Like a morpheme *Dis-* on the word *Disagree*. The based



word is *agreeing* that has meaning approving something. But when it is added Dis- the meaning changes to be the opposite side or did not approving.

### Affixation and Affixes

There are some theories about affixation. Affixation is a process to derive word to make a new word (Pranata, Suarnajaya, 2018); (Wulandari, 2014). It is a morphological process of attaching or adding an affix to the root, stem or base form (Suriani, 2015); (Pranata, Suarnajaya, 2018). Affixation falls in the scope of Morphology where bound morphemes are either roots or affixes.

Affix is a morpheme that is attached to the beginning, middle, and end of a base form of a word. This affix consists of prefix (a morpheme which is attached to front of a base form of word), infix (a morpheme which is attached to middle of a base form of word), suffix (a morpheme which is attached to final of a base form of word), and orderly. In Prefixes (affixes that precede the root) and suffixes (affixes that follow the root) are the most common types of affixes cross- linguistically (Pranata, Suarnajaya, 2018).

According to Fromkin, et al (as cited in Rizkia, 2020), there are four types of affixes which are prefix, suffix, infix, and circumfix. Moreover, since English language normally deals with the main types; prefix and suffix (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010), thus, only these two are discussed here.

### Prefix

A meaningful unit of one or more syllables added to the beginning of a root to form a new word is referred to as a prefix (Suriani, 2015). Affixes that occur at the beginning of the words are called prefixes (Pranata, Suarnajaya, 2018). For example, un-believe, dis-like, re-act, de-activate, ex- hale, and en-close.

### Suffix

Suffixes are affixes that are added to the end of fundamental words (Pranata, Suarnajaya, 2018). For instance, kind-ly, play-er, jump-ed, argu-ment, punish-ment, and sad-ness. Those -ly, -er, -ed, -ment, and -ness are suffixes because they are situated after bases.

Suffix is a morphological process in which a bound morpheme is processed and attached to the end of a stem. For example, the past tense suffix (ed) attaches to the end of the stem walk to form the word girls from the past tense verb walked and

the prefix (-s) attaches to the end of the stem girl to form the word girls from the past tense verb walked (Suriani, 2015).

There are two types of suffixes: inflectional suffixes and derivational suffixes. Inflectional suffixes do not alter the word class of the word to which they are attached. Derivational suffixes, on the other hand, usually but not always change the word class of the word to which they are attached.

Inflection suffixes are: - added to nouns to form plurals and possessives e.g.: book => books, Boy => boys, John => John's. - added to verbs to indicate tense e.g.: change =>changed, Kick=>kicks, Drink=>drinking. Added to adjective to indicate comparison e.g.: fast => kicked drinking faster => Bright => brighter => brightest.

Derivational suffixes usually change the word class from one part of speech to another one; From a verb to a noun is usually end with -ment, al, -re; From a noun to a verb usually add with -ize, -fy, -; From a noun to an adjective are add with -ful, -ness, -ly, -y,; From an adjective to a noun usually add with -ness, -ence; From a verb to an adjective come with -able, ant, -ive; From an adjective to a verb usually add with -en (Suriani, 2015).

From the three experts above it can be seen that there are two types of affixes; derivational and inflectional affixes that these two kinds of affixes are divided into seven types of affixes. In this research, the researcher used the types of affixes from Katamba's theory as the base to analyze the data.

### The Category of Affixes

#### Inflectional Affixes

Inflections are morphemes that indicate a word's grammatical variants; the inflectional -s at the end of ideas indicates that the noun is plural; the inflectional -s at the end of makes indicates that the verb is in the third person singular (Pranata, Suarnajaya, 2018). The inflectional affixes fall into three categories; 1) noun indicates the countable plural noun, 2) adjectives indicated the possessive only when there is a personal name used or an apostrophe -s used, 3) verb (except the verb be and modals).

#### Derivational Affixes

Derivational affixes are affixes that are added to a word to form a new word, change the

meaning of the word, or change the part of speech of the word, such as: un + happy = unhappy, dis + like = dislike, develop + ment = development, refuse + al = refusal (Kusumawardhani, 2020); (Siboro & Bram, 2020). The Derivational affixes come into 4 categories; 1) Verb, Adjective, Adverb, or Noun to Form Noun”, 2) Noun or and Adjectives to Form Adverb, 3) Noun or and Adverb to Form Adjectives, and 4) Noun or and Adverb to Form verb.

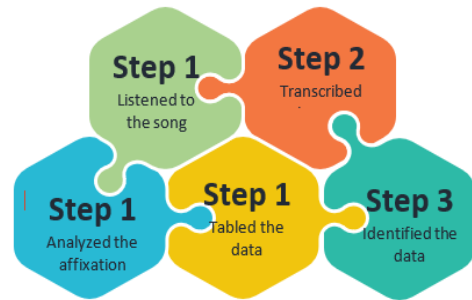


Diagram 1 Data Analysis Steps

## METHODOLOGY

A qualitative method was used in this study. The data source of this study were taken from the Top Five lyric tracks in Spotify 2020 Edition. This edition is the last edition in 2020 as well as the latest data for now. Five more lyrics include: The weekend- Blinding light, Bad Liar - Imagine Dragon, Ugly but whatever - Eljah Moon, Wracking Ball - Miley Cyrus, Train Wreck - James Artur.

The research instrument that is used in this research are observation and documentation as explained. In collecting the data, the writer did the three steps. The first step is found out the top five list of song that is popular in 2020 on Spotify. after that the researcher accessed the top five songs on Spotify to be determined as research content.

The second steps the researcher listens each song that is contained in the top five popular songs on Spotify in 2020, after that the researcher listens each song that is contained in the top five popular songs on Spotify in 2020. And the last steps the researcher accesses genius.com as the reference for lyrics. In analysing the data, I took the following steps:

To find out the inflectional and derivational affixes in the 2020 edition of Spotify the researcher did some steps. First, the researcher listens to the song as the source of the data. Then, the researcher transcribes the song lyrics. After that, the researcher identifies the data selected about which data indicating derivational and inflectional affixes and classifies each category of derivational and inflectional affixes to each type of them. Finally, the data are tabled.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Inflectional Category Occurrence in Top Five Track Lyric in Spotify 2020 Edition

Through an exhaustive examination of the data, a clear distinction emerged: there are two distinct categories of inflectional affixes found in the the Top Five Spotify 2020 Edition Song, each specifically associated with either nouns or verbs. The summary of the data finding of inflection affixes in a noun is presented in Table 1 and in Table 2 the summary of data finding of inflection affixes in verb are presented.

Table 1. Inflection Affixes in a Noun

Base form	Stems+ plural	Total
Action	Actions	1
Ash	Ash + es	4
Bridge	Bridges	2
Day	Day + s	2
Depression	Depression + s	1
Dream	Dream + s	1
Emotion	Emotion + s	2
Eye	Eye + s	6
Foundation	Foundation + s	1
Heart	Heart + s	2
Minute	Minute + s	4
Problem	Problem + s	6
Sign	Sing + s	2
Siren	Siren + s	1
Snake	Snakes	1
Tear	Tear + s	2
Terror	Terror + s	1
Victim	Victim + s	3
Wall	Wall + s	1
Withdrawal	Withdrawal + s	1
Word	Words	3
Total		47



The findings revealed an intriguing extent of word analysis, revealing 47 inflection affixes identified within nouns from the Top Five Track Lyrics in the Spotify 2020 Edition. This comprehensive examination sheds light on the complex landscape of linguistic morphology, stressing the richness and variety of the language's structural components. The existence of inflection affixes in nouns shows the complicated intricacy of morphological patterns, promoting more investigation into word creation and its importance in language studies.

This abundance of 47 noun-related inflection affixes, meticulously identified within the Top Five Track Lyrics on Spotify in 2020, serves as a pivotal asset in morphological studies. These findings provide a tangible dataset reflecting real-world linguistic usage, offering researchers a rich reservoir of examples to analyze and comprehend the intricate mechanisms of noun inflection. This dataset not only signifies the prevalence of these inflectional elements within contemporary music lyrics but also aids in understanding their structural variations, contextual usages, and semantic implications. Such empirical evidence becomes a cornerstone for morphologists, enabling them to unravel the complexities inherent in noun morphology, ultimately contributing to the broader understanding of language structure and evolution.

In addition, the following Tables present the data finding of inflection affixes in a verb.

**Table 2. Inflection Affixes in a Verb Indicated the Third Person Singular**

Base form	stem+3rd personal singular	Total
Come	Comes	1
Count	Counts	1
Total		2

Table 2 presents the types of affixes indicate the use of verb for the third singular simple present tense. The finding revealed there are two words containing in the Top Five Track Lyrics in the Spotify 2020 Edition.

**Table 3. Inflection Affixes in a Verb Indicated the Past Tense**

Base form	stem+past tense	Total
Ask	Asked	1
Blind	Blinded	1
Box	Boxed	1
Chain	Chained	1
Claw	Clawed	2
Close	Closed	2
Come	Came	1
Count	Counted	1
Feel	Felt	2
Jump	Jumped	2
Kiss	Kissed	1
Say	Said	3
Turn	Turned	1
Wait	Waited	1
Walk	Walked	4
Want	Wanted	5
Total		30

Table 3 showcasing the analysis of affixes within the Top Five Track Lyrics from Spotify's 2020 Edition, a notable trend emerges: a total of 32 occurrences of inflectional affixes are identified within verbs, specifically denoting the past participle tense. This finding shed light on the linguistic intricacies present in these lyrics, indicating a deliberate use of affixation to articulate actions rooted in the past.

**Table 4. Inflection Affixes in Verb Indicated Past Participle Tense**

Base form	stem+past participle	Total
Ask	Asked	1
Box	Boxed	1
Chain	Chained	1
Claw	Clawed	2
Close	Closed	2
Feel	Felt	2
Go	Gone	2
Jump	Jumped	2
Kiss	Kissed	1
Say	Said	3
Speak	Spoken	2
Swing	Swung	2
Turn	Turned	1
Wait	Waited	1

Walk	Walked	4
Want	Wanted	5
Total		32

Table 4 representing the analysis of affixes in the Top Five Track Lyrics from Spotify's 2020 Edition, illuminates a striking revelation: within this selection, 32 instances of inflectional affixes are observed in verbs, specifically signaling the past participle tense. This discovery underscores a consistent pattern within these lyrics, where affixation plays a crucial role in conveying actions that occurred in the past.

**Table 5. Inflection Affixes in a Verb**

Base form	stem+present participle	Total
Come	Coming	1
Count	Counting	1
Crash	Crashing	2
Get	Getting	2
Go	Going	1
Lay	Laying	1
Run	Running	3
Toss	Tossing	1
Use	Using	1
Wreak	Wreaking	1
Total		14

Table 5 presents a comprehensive analysis of affixes, highlighting a significant discovery: among the examined verbs, there are 32 instances where inflectional affixes signify the past participle tense. This finding underscores the prevalence and specific function of these affixes in indicating past actions within the verbal context.

In the specific analysis of inflection affixes within verbs presented in Table 2 to Table 5, a notable finding emerged: a tally of 59 distinct words was unearthed from the Top Five Track Lyrics in the Spotify 2020 Edition. This revelation highlights the prevalence and significance of these verb-associated inflectional elements within the lyrical landscape of popular music. The presence of these 59 identified words underscores their importance in shaping the lyrical narrative of contemporary music, signifying their impact on the linguistic makeup of these widely listened-to tracks on the Spotify platform in 2020. The writer categorizes the inflexion affixes into four categories; present tense, past tense, past participle,

and present participle and serves one example of each category. The brief explanation of the process of inflection affixes in a noun, adjective and verb in each song is presented as follow.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Learning and understanding about morphology and the morphological processes is important for both English learners and teachers since morphology is one of the skills in linguistics awareness. Moreover, Morphological awareness can increase students' vocabulary. As the students have a good vocabulary mastery their reading and writing ability increase. Learning morphology can be done many ways. One of them is trough song, it can be seen that song has been used in English teaching and learning practices. It helps both of students and teacher in enhancing the atmosphere of teaching and learning setting as well as the students' achievement in English language skill including the mastery of language component, such as vocabulary, grammar and also the language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Analyzing affixes is critical in learning English as a second language. Understanding prefixes, suffixes, and roots allows students to interpret unknown words and build their vocabulary more effectively. By breaking down words into their constituent pieces, students can better understand meanings, infer context, and absorb subtleties in varied situations, improving their reading comprehension and language ability. Furthermore, grasping affixes aids in the formation of new words, the development of confidence in speaking and writing, and the facilitation of a deeper comprehension of English language structures. Overall, a complete understanding of affixes plays a critical role in enabling those learning English as a second language, easing their path to linguistic fluency and success.

In addition, entering into the area of affix analysis in the study of English as a second language opens the door to understanding the language's many layers. It teaches students a methodical approach to dissecting and spotting patterns in words, as well as how prefixes and suffixes change meanings or grammatical functions. This understanding not only helps with deciphering complicated texts, but it also helps with the acquisition of new vocabulary, helping

learners to adapt and utilize words more flexibly in different circumstances. Furthermore, it promotes an understanding for the depth of the language's morphological complexity, allowing students to navigate English with greater confidence and precision in both formal and informal communication.

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