

## Derivational Morphemes in A Movie Script of *The Avengers* Written By Joss Whedon

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### Abstract

This research aims to give a contribution to the process of word formation, especially derivational morphemes. The descriptive qualitative method is applied in this research by collecting data and then observing and analyzing it descriptively. The data are taken from a movie script entitled *The Avengers*. The results obtained 68 are found in the script, with detailed findings are most derivational morphemes are formed by suffixes 41 data (60.3%), followed by prefix 22 data (32.4%), and infix 5 data (7.3%). The findings imply the process of word formation is by identifying the root and elaborating its formation whether prefix, suffix, or infix, so one word can create a new word and meaning.

**Keywords:** Morphology; Derivational Morphemes; Movie Script

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Morphology is the branch of linguistics that studies how words are structured and how they are put together from smaller parts. Morphology is the study of form. Morphology in linguistics refers to the mental system involved in word formation. Aronoff & Fudeman (Yastanti et al., 2021). Morphology is an important study in linguistics (Booij, 2005) states that knowledge of language includes how to understand the formation and the meaning of words. So, for the communication process to be conveyed clearly and precisely, the speaker must know the rules of words to convey it properly.

The morpheme is the basic and smallest unit of language. Lim Kiat Boey (Tariq et al., 2020) there are various kinds of morphemes in English. A derivational morpheme is one of the morphological processes. Many foreign English speakers do not understand what its process exactly is (Rticles, n.d.). However, by reading and using those kinds of word formation people are unconsciously able to use them in writing and speaking as well.

Thus, derivational morphemes can produce some new words from their base word by adding affixes or omitting them. The new words themselves can also have different word classes from their base form. For example the word actress and actor from the base form of act.(Tariq et al., 2020),(Rticles, n.d.) Speakers can create or

understand complex sentences to express their ideas.

This research is to examine the process of derivational morpheme in a movie subtitle, *The Avenger* movie. It is one of the most favorite action movies which consistently publish new series up to 2023. This research can contribute some information about the morphological process of derivational morphemes. Linguistics learners need to understand how the process of words is to have a deeper analysis of the morphological process.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEWS

### Morphology

Morphology is the study of the internal structure of the word (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011) (Yastanti et al., 2021). It means morphology is the branch of study about the formation of a word or the structure of the word. Furthermore, (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011) “In linguistics morphology refers to the mental system involved in word formation or to the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed”. Morphology is a science that studies about the form of the word itself. Morphology has two basic purposes, the first one is to create a word, and the second one is to modify an existing word to become a new word.

### Derivational Morphemes

The derivational morpheme is used to modify words to become new words. (Mariani, Mu'in, & Al Arief, 2019) confirms that the Derivational Morphemes are used to create new words with a different arrangement than before. By attaching the affixes to some words, the meaning and part of the speech of the word will be changed from the root. (Nisa, 2020) confirms that Derivational Morphemes also harmonize the meaning from the stem to create a new meaning. In general, we know that **Love** has *Nouns* as part of speech. But, if we add *-ly* as the suffix; **Lovely**. Part of the speech of that word has changed into an *Adjective*. And the meaning is also changed, from about strong feelings to something beautiful. (Nisa, 2020) states that in Morphology,

The derivation is applied to create new words by adding affixes so that new meanings emerge. For another example, take a look at the word **Untold**, The word **Untold** is the result of derivational morphemes with *un-* as the prefix and **Told** as the root, the meaning of **Told** is about giving information about something. And prefix *un-* has a meaning that intends to negate. If we combine those two morphemes and put *un-* before the word **Told**, then we can get **Untold** as the result. The meaning is changed from giving information about something to something that can't be counted. Here is the process of derivational morphemes being created:

Un- (Prefix) → Un- + Told (*Verb*) → Untold (*Adjective*)

## 3. METHODS

This research is designed by the qualitative descriptive method that is applied to collect data and then observe the data. “By comparison, qualitative descriptive

studies tend to draw from naturalistic inquiry, which purports a commitment to studying something in its natural state to the extent that is possible within the context of the research arena” (Lambert & Lambert, 2013). Many websites, articles, and other sources that are related to this research are used as references, intended to support the discussion. The data was taken from the script of *The Avenger* movie. It was 56 data analyzed in this research to find how derivational morphemes are formed. The data are analyzed by bounding and dividing them based on the affixes, prefixes, and infixes.

#### 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results show 68 data of derivational morphemes are found in this research. The data are formed by prefixes, suffixes, and infixes. The most derivational morphemes are formed by suffix, which reaches 41 data or 60.3%, followed by prefix 22 data or 32.4%, and infix 5 data or 7.3%. The data will be shown in the table below:

No	Formed	Amount	percentage
1	Prefix	22	32.4%
2	Suffix	41	60.3%
3	Infix	5	7.3%
Total		68	100%

Table 1 shows derivational morphemes found in this research are 68 data. The discussion will be elaborated in the following point.

##### 1. Derivational Morpheme with Prefixes

In this research, 22 data or (32.4%) data of derivational morphemes formed by 11 prefixes. They are *un*, *dis*, *trans*, *re*, *im*, *super*, *over*, *pre*, *sub*, *out*, *extra*. The discussion will be shown in the following examples;

###### a. Prefix *un*

Data 22: “*In case it’s **unclear**...*” (duration: 51:04 – 51:05)

**Unclear** is the result of Derivational Morphemes. With *Un-* as the prefix and **Clear** as the root. Prefix *Un-* means the opposite, while the word **Clear** means easy to understand. If we put the prefix before the root. We create a new word **Unclear** with ‘not delivered well’ as the new meaning.

$Un- \text{ (Prefix)} + \text{Clear (Adjective)} = \text{Unclear (Adjective)}$
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###### b. Prefix *dis*

Data 34. “*Where is my **disadvantage**?*”

**Disadvantage** with ‘Something not useful for you’ as the new meaning.

**Disadvantage** is the result of Derivational Morphemes. With *Dis-* as the prefix and **Advantage** as the root. Prefix *Dis-* means the opposite or not, and the word

**Advantage** means something useful for you. If we put the prefix before the root. We create a new word.

**Disadvantage** with ‘Something not useful for you’ as the new meaning.

*Dis-* (Prefix) + Advantage (Noun) = Disadvantage (Noun)

c. *refix trans*

**Transmission** is the result of Derivational Morphemes. With *Trans-* as the prefix and **Mission** as the root word. Prefix *Trans-* means across, and the word **Mission** means a task. If we combine the prefix with the root. We create a new word **Transmission** with ‘passing something to another’ as the new meaning.

*Trans-* (Prefix) + Mission (Noun) = Transmission (Noun)

Below is the complete data finding of derivational morphemes formed by prefixes.

Table 2 Derivational Morphemes by Prefix

No	Prefix	Root	Result
1	Un	1. Balanced	Unbalanced
		2. Clear	Unclear
		3. Limited	Unlimited
		4. Leash	Unleash
		5. Controlled	Uncontrolled
		6. Made	Unmade
		7. Authorized	Unauthorized
		8. Common	Uncommon
		9. Finished	Unfinished
2	Dis	1. Connected	Disconnected
		2. Advantage	Disadvantage
3	Trans	1. Mission	Transmission
4	Re	1. Minded	Reminded
5	Im	1. Possible	Impossible
		2. Mortal	Immortal
6	Super	1. Conducting	Superconducting
7	Over	1. Load	Overload
8	Pre	1. Views	Previews
9	Sub	1. Way	Subway
10	Out	1. Matched	Outmatched
11	Extra	1. Terrestrial	Extraterrestrial
		2. Ordinary	Extraordinary

## 2. Derivational with suffixes

This research found 42 derivational morphemes or 60.3% formed by suffixes. There are 13 suffixes, *ion*, *ence*, *ful*, *ly*, *ness*, *ation*, *ity*, *ish*, *ty*, *ance*, *ment*, *less*, and *ible*. The example data are as the following example;

### a. Suffix *ion*

Data 1: “*All personnel, the **evacuation** order has been confirmed proceed to your designated vehicles.*”

**Evacuation** is the result of Derivational Morphemes. With *-ion* as the suffix and **Evacuate** as the root. The suffix *-ion* means a process or a state, and the word **Evacuate** means go avoiding from danger. If we put the suffix after the root. We created a new word **Evacuation** with 'The process of evacuating' as the new meaning.

Evacuate (Verb) +*-ion*(Suffix) = Evacuation (Noun)

### b. suffix *ence*

Data 3: “*She is throwing off **interference, radiation***”

There are Derivational Morphemes in the dialogue above, **Interference**. Use *-ence* as the suffix and **Interfere** as the root. The suffix *-ence* means an action or a state, while **Interfere** means something that annoys you. If we combine the root with the suffix. We create a new word **Interference** with ‘The existence of uninterested external affairs’ as the new meaning.

Interfere (Verb) +*-ence*(Suffix) = Interference (Noun)

### c. suffix *-ful*

Data 3. “*That can be **harmful.***”

There are Derivational Morphemes in the dialogue above, **Harmful**, like the use of *-ful* as the suffix and **Harm** as the root. The suffix *-ful* means full of a certain characteristic, while the word **Harm** means damage or something dangerous. If we combine the root with the suffix. We created a new word **Harmful** with ‘Causing damage’ as the new meaning.

Harm (Noun) +*-ful*(Suffix) = Harmful (Adjective)

The rest of the data will be shown in the following table.

Table 3 Derivational Morphemes by Suffix

No	Root	Suffix	Result
1.	Evacuate	Ion	Evacuation
	Radiate		Radiation
	Interrogate		Interrogation
	Modify		Modification
	Reflect		Reflection
2	Interfere	Ence	Interference
3	Harm	Full	Harmful
4	Active	Ly	Actively
	Exact		Exactly
	Recent		Recently
5	Aware	Ness	Awareness
	Great		Greatness
	Mad		Madness
	Busy		Business
6	Consult	Ation	Consultation
7	Personal	Ity	Personality
	Sentimental		Sentimentality
8	Child	Ish	Childish
9	Perform	Ance	Performance
	Appear		Appearance
10	Base	Ment	Basement
11	Response	Ible	Responsible
12	Rest	Less	Restless
	Mind		Mindless
13	Safe	Ty	Safety

### 3. Derivational Morphemes Formed by Infix

This means derivational are formed by both prefixes and suffixes. In this research are found 5 data or 7.3%. The discussion will be shown in the following example data;

Infix “re-able”

*Data 34. “The idea was to bring together a group of remarkable people...”*

There are Derivational Morphemes in the dialogue above, **Remarkable**. Use *Re-* as the prefix, **Mark** as the root, and *-able* as the suffix. If there are two affixes attached to one word, it’s called Infix. Prefix *Re-* means again, the word **Mark** means to give a symbol for something to be known, and the suffix *-able* means capable or worthy of. If we combine the prefix, the root, and the suffix. We created a new word **Remarkable** with ‘Extraordinary’ as the new meaning.

$Re\text{-(Prefix)} + \text{Mark(Verb)} + \text{-able (Suffix)} = \text{Remarkable (Adjective)}$
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a. Infix “un-able

*Data 43 “It’s unbreachable.”*

There are Derivational Morphemes in the dialogue above, **Unbreachable**. Use *Un-* as the prefix, **Breach** as the root, and *-able* as the suffix. If there are two affixes attached to one word, it’s called Infix. Prefix *Un-* means the opposite, the word **Breach** means don't follow the rules, and the suffix *-able* means capable or worthy of. If it is combined the prefix, the root, and the suffix. We create a new word **Unbreachable** with ‘Something that can't be broken’ as the new meaning.

*Un-(Prefix) + Breach(Noun) + -able (Suffix) = Unbreachable (Adjective)*

b. Infix “im-able”

*Data 48. “The power surrounding the cube is impenetrable.”*

There are Derivational Morphemes in the dialogue above, **Impenetrable**. Use *Im-* as the prefix, **Penetrate** as the root, and *-able* as the suffix. If there are two affixes attached to one word, it’s called Infix. Prefix *Im-* means not, the word **Penetrate** means through something, and the *suffix -able* means capable or worthy of. If we combine the prefix, the root, and the suffix. We create a new word **Impenetrable** with ‘Can not enter’ as the new meaning.

c. Infix dis-ance

*Data 55 “Their sudden appearance and equal disappearance...”*

**Disappearance** is the result of Derivational Morphemes. With *Dis-* as the prefix, **Appear** as the root, and *-ance* as the suffix. If there are two affixes attached to one

word,  
it’s

*Im-(Prefix) + Penetrate(Verb) + -able (Suffix) = Impenetrable (Adjective)*

called Infix. Prefix *Dis-* means the opposite or not, the word **Appear** means seem, and the suffix *-ance* means an action or state. If we put the prefix, the root, and the suffix. We create a new word **Disappearance** with ‘Lose’ as the new meaning.

*Dis-(Prefix) + Appear(Verb) + -ance (Suffix) = Dissapearance (Noun)*

d. Infix un-ly

*Data 56. “They are unruly...”*

There are Derivational Morphemes in the dialogue above, **Unruly**. Use *Un-* as the prefix, **Rule** as the root, and *-y* as the suffix. If there are two affixes attached to one word, it’s called Infix. Prefix *Un-* means not, the word **Rule** means something made to be obeyed, and the suffix *-y* means characteristic. If we put the prefix, the root, and the suffix. We create a new word **Unruly** with ‘Hard to control’ as the new meaning.

$Un\text{-}(\text{Prefix}) + \text{Rule}(\text{Noun}) + ly\text{ (Suffix)} = \text{Unruly (Adjective)}$

## 5. CONCLUSION

The conclusion finally can be drawn, after researching how derivational are formed by prefixes, suffixes, and infixes in the movie script of *The Avenger* movie. The result shows that there are 68 derivational morphemes found in the script. The most derivational morphemes are formed by suffix 41 data (60.3%), followed by prefix 22 data (32.4%), and infix 5 data (7.3%).

Suffixes that create a new word are 13 items. They are *ion, ence, ful, ly, ness, ation, ity, ish, ty, ance, ment, less, and ible*. While for prefixes are found 11 items. They are *un, dis, trans, re, im, super, over, pre, sub, out, extra*. Then for infix are found 5 formed. They are *re-able, un-able, im-able, dis-ance, un-ly*.

The findings imply that some morphemes are formed by prefixes or suffixes or both of them and can create a new word and meaning. The morphological process can be identified by knowing the root and elaborating the suffix, prefix, or infix on its morphemes. By this, research readers will understand how one word can be formed and create a new word and meaning.

This research is very limited, deeper analysis is needed. The writers accept criticism and suggestions for improvement. However, this research aims to contribute to the readers and other researchers to provide information about how morphological processes can happen and how one word can create a new word and meaning.

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