

An Analysis of Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes in Song Lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" Album

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Abstract

Morphology is the study of morphemes. By studying morphemes, especially derivations, it can develop our English vocabulary because it generates new word classes and meanings. The purpose of this study was to determine the process of forming derivational and inflectional affixes and the types of derivational affix functions used in song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. Researcher used 3 songs, including: Love Story, You Belong with Me and Breathe. The approach of this research was descriptive qualitative research. The instrument used was the researcher as the main instrument and document analysis as the second instrument used to collect data. The subject of this research is the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. The data of this study are all data containing affixes on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. The researcher found 57 affixes; 53 inflections and 4 derivations. The inflection data were 5 -s third-person singular, 15 -ed past tense, 14 -ing progressive, 3 -en past participle, 15 -s plural and 1 -er comparative. Meanwhile, the derivation data were 1 noun to adjective, 2 adjective to adverb and 1 adjective to adjective. Then, the researcher found 2 types of derivation affix functions; adjective formation and verb formation.

Keywords: Derivational Morpheme; Inflectional Morpheme; Song

INTRODUCTION

In studying English, we will find many activities where we will add prefixes and suffixes in a word that is formed into words that are commonly used in everyday life. Therefore, we need "word formation", which is a word-formation process that is done by adding an affix to a word in the form of a prefix or a suffix. In general, the word-formation process is a method used to compose and form new words from existing words based on several linguistic rules. Word formation or lexeme formation is a morphological study about the process of forming new words from old ones, which can change the category of a word and add important meaning, or only change the category of a word but not add important meaning, and vice versa (Lieber, 2009:6). Word formation is part of the field of morphology that studies morphemes.

A morpheme is a meaningful unit that is used to form words (Lieber, 2009:32). A morpheme is the smallest unit of a language that has an indivisible meaning. Based on the type, a morpheme is divided into two types, namely free morpheme and bound morpheme. A free morpheme is a morpheme that can stand alone, while a bound morpheme cannot stand alone so it requires a free morpheme to be attached. A bound morpheme is also called an affix which consists of prefix and suffix. Affix is divided into two, namely derivational and inflectional. In English, derivational can be in the form of prefix and suffix while inflectional is only a suffix. Derivational affix is a process of forming of new word from a root word. Derivational affixes generate new word classes and new meanings while inflectional affixes do not. When people can identify derivational affixes, they will be able to develop their English vocabulary significantly.

In fact, many people cannot identify derivational affixes properly, so they still have difficulty in developing their English vocabulary. They also still have difficulty in classifying word classes which are the most essential elements in forming a sentence. Therefore, we need a way to make it easier for people to classify word classes obtained through derivation affixes, namely using song lyrics. Song lyrics are the set of words that make up a song, usually consisting of verses and choruses Wijay (2013:17). The song is a beautiful language to express one's feelings. The song can improve the mood of someone who listens to it to be calm through the melody, rhythm, and lyrics contained in the song so many people really like listening to songs.

According to Maley in Wendra (2002:30), songs contain motivational elements and stimulate interest in supporting learning. The song consists of two elements, namely language or song lyrics and melody or music. Song lyrics themselves have several functions, such as being used as a means of information and education as well as being used as a means of entertainment. Thus, song lyrics can be used as one of the language learning media that is suitable for use today but has not been explored much.

In learning English, people will listen to songs and are stimulated to start pronouncing some of the words contained in the song lyrics. In this case, they indirectly learn listening, reading, and pronunciation at the same time. In reading the song lyrics, people will find some new English words contained in the song lyrics and some changes in word-class and meaning. Therefore, they need to learn a word-formation process by adding affixes both prefixes and suffixes called affixation.

To make it easier to learn a word-formation, the researcher chooses some quite famous songs sung by a very famous American singer and songwriter, namely Taylor Swift. Taylor Swift has popularized 10 song albums, one of them is the "Fearless" album. The researcher was interested and chose several songs on the "Fearless" album, namely "Love Story", "You Belong With Me", and "Breathe". The selection of these songs was based on several reasons, namely because the songs were written in a simple and easy to listen to manner so that they were able to attract many people who listened to them.

In addition, as reported by Jadiberita.com (2015), the lyrics of the songs in the album have not only captivated many listeners who liked the lyrics, but one of the songs entitled

Love Story was nominated in the Favorite Country Song category at the People's Choice Awards in 2009 and Video of the Year at the Academy of Country Music Awards. The lyrics have never been studied in the songs on the "Fearless" album, especially in terms of morpheme. Therefore, this paper is entitled "An Analysis of Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes in Song Lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" Album".

METHOD

The approach used in this study was a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative research is considered with structure and patterns (Littosseliti, 2010:52). This method was based on the structure of the use of words, phrases, and sentences taken from three song lyrics in Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album in discussing the data. Thus, the qualitative descriptive method was appropriate to analyze the derivational and inflectional morphemes as well as the types of derivational affix functions in the three-song lyrics because all the data was in the form of words.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The process of forming derivational and inflectional affixes in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album

a. Inflectional Affixes

Inflection is a bound morpheme that has a strictly grammatical function in which it marks properties such as tense, number, person, and so forth (Fromkin's et al 2011) . The inflectional affixes will be explained below.

1) Third-person Singular

There are 5 words of the third-person singular type found in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. Below is an example third-person singular:

Line 2: "I close my eyes and the flashback starts"-Love Story

The word *starts* denotes the use of the third-person singular, namely *the flashback*. The word *starts* has an inflectional affix in the form of a suffix *-s* attached to the end of the root word. This form of third-person singular uses the present tense rule. The root word for *starts* is *start*. Hence, the suffix *-s* is attached to the end of the root word just to make it grammatically correct and not to change its meaning.

2) Past Tense

There are 15 words of the past tense type found in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. The following is an example of past tense:

Line 48: "I talked to your dad"-Love Story

The word *talked* has a root *talk* in the form of a verb. When the root word *talk* is added with the suffix *-ed*, the function is still the same as a verb. In other words, the word *talked* exemplifies the use of the past tense.

3) Progressive

There are 14 words of the progressive type found in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. Below is an example of progressive:

Line 3: "I'm standing there"-Love Story

The word *standing* denotes the use of the progressive or continuous tense. The word *standing* has an inflectional suffix *-ing* attached to the end of the root word. The root word for *standing* is *stand*. Thus, the suffix *-ing* that is attached to the end of the root *stand* is only to make the grammar correct and not to change the word class, where the root word *stand* is a verb and inflectional *standing* is still a verb.

4) **Past Participle**

There are 3 words of the past participle type found in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. The following is an example of past participle:

Line 42: "Romeo, save me. I've been feeling so alone"-Love Story

The underlined word exemplifies the use of the present perfect tense. The word *been* has an inflectional affix in the form of the suffix *-en* attached to the end of the root word. The root word for *been* is *be*. Additionally, the suffix *-en* is attached to the end of the root word *be* to give extra grammatically. Not all verb roots can be added with the suffix *-en* to indicate the past participle, especially the perfect tense. There are particular words that indicates the perfect tense, such as eaten and given.

5) **Plural**

There are 15 words of the plural type found in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. Below is an example of plural:

Line 9: "That you were Romeo, you were throwing pebbles"-Love Story

The word *pebbles* exemplifies the use of the plural. The word *pebbles* has an inflectional affix in the form of a suffix *-s* attached to the end of the noun. The base word of the word *pebbles* is to remove the suffix *-s* attached to the plural form of the noun, namely *pebble*.

6) **Comparative**

There is one word of comparative type found in the song lyrics "You Belong With Me" on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. The following is an example of comparative:

Line 28: "You say you're fine I know you better than that"-You Belong With Me

The word *better* exemplifies the use of the comparative. The word *better* has an inflectional affix in the form of a suffix *-er* attached to the end of the root word. The root word for *better* is *bet*. Here, the suffix *-er* attached to the end of the root word *bet* changes the meaning of the root word.

b. Derivational Affixes

- c. Derivation is one that is added to a base to form a new word that differs in its part of speech classification. The following will explain some of the processes of derivational affixes based on Fromkin et al (2011:45).

1) **Noun to Adjective**

There is one word of the noun to adjective process found in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. Below is an example of the process of noun to adjective:

Line 4: "I'm in the room, it's a typical Tuesday night"-You Belong With Me

The word *typical* indicates the process of noun to adjective in derivation. It occurred because there is a suffix *-cal* attached to the root word *type*. The word *typical* is an adjective which derived from the word *type* as a noun. Moreover, the classification is as *type* + *-cal* become *typical*. Here, the suffix *-cal* attached to the end of the root word *type* changes the meaning of the root word.

2) **Adjective to Adverb**

There are 2 words of the adjective to adverb process found in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. The following is an example of the process of adjective to adverb:

Line 6: "It's the kind of ending you don't really wanna see"-Breathe

The underlined word has a root *real* which is an adjective. When the root *real* is added to the suffix *-ly*, it produces a new word *really*. It can change the word class in the word *really* into an adverb and produce a new meaning. Therefore, the word *really* exemplifies the process from adjective to adverb in derivation.

3) **Adjective to Adjective**

There is one word of the adjective to adjective process found in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album. Below is an example of the process of adjective to adverb:

Line 14: "Romeo, take me somewhere we can be alone"-Love Story

The word *alone* indicates the process of adjective to adjective in derivation. The word *alone* is an adjective which derived from the word *lone* as an adjective. Therefore, the classification is as *a+lone* become *alone*. Here, the prefix *a-* does not change the word class, the basic change is an adjective and the derivation exchange is still an adjective.

2. The types of derivational affix functions used in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's "Fearless" album

a. Adjective Formation

The researcher found 2 data with adjective formation. Those are *typical* and *alone*. The following is an example of the process of adjective to adverb:

The word *typical* exemplifies adjective formation in Taylor Swift's song lyrics. The researcher concludes that the suffix *-cal* in the word *typical* shows the derivational affix process in the form of noun to adjective which is an adjective formation.

b. Adverb Formation

The researcher found 2 data with adverb formation. Those are *really* 2 times appear in all three Taylor Swift songs. Below is an example of the process of adjective to adverb:

The word *really* denotes adverb formation in Taylor Swift's song lyrics. The researcher concludes that the suffix *-ly* in the word *really* denotes the derivational affix process in the form of adjective to adverb which is an adverb formation.

CONCLUSION

In all three Taylor Swift songs found inflectional and derivational affixes. The inflectional data were 5 *-s* third-person singular, 15 *-ed* past tense, 14 *-ing* progressive, 3 *-en* past participle, 15 *-s* plural and 1 *-er* comparative. Meanwhile, the derivational data were 1 noun to adjective, 2 adjective to adverb and 1 adjective to adjective. Moreover, this study found 2 types of derivational affix, namely adjective formation and adverb formation. The two data classifications most often occurred in the words contained in the song lyrics.

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