

## **ADJECTIVAL SUFFIXES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this article is describing the form and function of adjectival suffixes as well as giving their etymology and meaning. This research is descriptive qualitative research. The information of this article was obtained by collecting data. Documentation is the technique of data collecting in this study is reading, analyzing the text and gathering information.

**Key words:** morphology, word formation, derivation, adjective suffixes, relational adjectives, qualitative adjectives, adjectivalization

### **Introduction**

The language consists of many branches of linguistics that have their own function and meaning. These include phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and many other components. One of the most important of these all is morphology that studies interval structure of word-form.

According to Katamba Francis (1983), the study of word formation and word-structure is called morphology. Morphological theory provides a general theory of word-structure is all the languages of the world. Its task is to characterise the kinds of things that speakers need to know about the structure of the words of their language in order to be able to use them to produce and to understand the speech.

Beside, Todd, L states that it is the branch of linguistics. It is defined as the study of morphemes, which are the smallest significant units of grammar. One word can contain one or more syllables.

As it is mentioned above, morphology studies word and word formation. The word is not the smallest unit of the language. It consists of morphemes. The morpheme may be defined as the smallest meaningful unit which has a sound form and meaning and which occurs in speech only as a part of a word. Word formation is the creation of new words from elements already existing in the language. Every language has its own structural patterns of word formation.

Richard Nordquist explains that in linguistics (particularly morphology and lexicology), word formation refers to the ways in which new words are formed on the basis of other words or morphemes. This is also known as derivational morphology. Word formation can denote either a state or a process, and it can be viewed either diachronically (through different periods in history) or synchronically (at one particular period in time).

In the Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, David Crystal writes about word formation:

Most English vocabulary arises by making new lexemes out of old one – either by adding an affix to previously existing forms, altering their word class, or combining them to produce compounds. These processes of construction are of interest to grammarians as well as lexicologists... but the importance of word formation to the development of of the lexicon is second to none.

There are many types of word formation that consists of inflection, derivation, cliticization, suppletion, compounding, conversion, blending, clipping and others. Derivational is one of the most essential type of word formation. The forms of derivational suffixes are nominal suffixes, adjectival suffixes, verbal suffixes, adverbial suffixes. For example:

1. Celebration (noun); celebrate (verb)+ tion(suffix) - nominal suffix
2. Materialize (verb): material (noun) +ize(suffix) - verbal suffix
3. Derivational (adjective): derivation (noun) +al(suffix) - adjectival suffix
4. Badly (adverb): bad (adjective) +ly(suffix) - adverbial suffix

### Research method

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative research, because the data of this article is the form of words that is not statistically analyzed. The writers used qualitative and descriptive as the design since analyzing the data for description and themes using text analysis and interpreting the larger meaning of the findings picture (Creswell). The methods in doing this research are applied in three steps : they are data source, data collection and data analysis. The data source is taken from articles that are written by other researchers and scientific books related to adjectival suffixes.

### Discussion and results

The function of adjective suffixes is turning words into adjectives. There are different kind of adjective suffixes in the English language. All of them have their own meaning and form.

Suffix (form)	meaning	Example
-al, -ial, -ical	Relating to, having the quality of	Educational, accidental, regional, social, personal, historical
-able, -ible	Capable or worthy of, tending to	Responsible, hospitable, culpable
-an -ian	Related to	Agrarian, simian



-ary	Relating to quality or place	Customary, momentary, dietary
-ful	Full of, tending to or liable to	Useful, helpful, thankful, successful
-ic	Pertaining or relating to	Fantastic, historic
-ive	Performing or tending toward	Cooperative, sensitive, active
-ish	Origion, nature	Foolish, childish, sheepish, selfish
-less	Without, lacking, unable to act	Useless, powerless, friendless
-like	like	Childlike, fishlike
-y	Characterized by, tending to	Sunny, cloudy, messy, dusty, funny
-ous, ose	Full of, relating to	Poisonous, mysterious, dangerous
-ant, -ent	Performing or being	Important, independent, incessant
-ile	Tending to, capable of	Futile, senile, fragile

Iglo Plag (2002) defines that the adjectival suffixes of English can be subdivided into two major groups. A large proportion of derived adjectives are **relational adjectives**, whose role is simply to relate the noun the adjective qualifies to the base word or the derives adjectives. For example, *algebraic* mind means “ a mind having to do with algebra, refering to algebra, characterized by algebra”, colonial *officer* means “officer having to do with the colonies”, and so on. On the other hand, there is a large group of derived adjectives that express more specific concepts and which are often called **qualitative adjectives**. Sometimes, relational adjectives can adopt qualitative meaning , as it can be seen with the derivative *grammatical*, which has a relational meaning “having to do with grammar”, in the sentence it is a *grammatical genius*, but which also has a qualitative sense “conforming to the rules of grammar”, as in *This is a grammatical sentence*. Note that relational adjectives usually occur only in attributive position, i.e as prenominal modifiers (as in a *lexical problem*). If we find them in predicative position in a clause ( as in *This sentence is grammatical*), they usually have adopted a qualitative sense.



Adjectives are formed from nouns, others from verbs and some entered our language as adjectives. This process is called adjectivalization. Beside, Petra Sleeman pointed out that adjectivalization is the derivation of adjectives from a verb, a noun, an adjective, and occasionally from other parts of speech or from other parts of speech or from phrases. Cross-linguistically, adjectivalization seems to be less frequent than nominalization and verbalization involves suffixation, but other adjectivalization devices, such as prefixation, reduplication, or zero derivation, are also attested.

suffix	Verb-adjective	Suffix	Noun-adjective
-able	Agree-agreeable	-al	Region-regional
-ible	Flex-flexible	-ary	Compliment-complimentary
-ant	Please-pleasant	-ful	Skill-skillful
-ent	Urge-urgent	-ic	Photograph-photographic
-ive	Attract-attractive	-ical	History-historical
-ing	Relax-relaxing	-less	Friend-friendless
-ed	Amuse-amused	-ly	Day-daily
-en	Freeze-frozen	-ous	Poison-poisonous

When it comes to etymology of adjectival suffixes, each of them has their origin. Knowing etymology of specific term gives opportunity to understand and recall them. Most of the adjectival suffixes are originated from Latin, Greek and English itself. A reliable source for the etymology of words Etymonline:

-able - 'having sufficient power or means' early 14 century, from Old French (h)able 'capable;fitting, suitable;agible, nimble' (14 c.), from Latin habilem, habilis 'easily handled, apt', verbal adjective from habere 'to hold' ( from PIE root \*ghabh- 'to give or receive') ' Easy to be held', hence ' fit for a purpose'. The silent h- was dropped in English and resisted academic attempts to restore it 16-17c. ( see H), but some derivatives ( such as habiliment, habilitate) acquired it via French. Able seamen , one able to do any sort of work required on a ship.

-al – suffix forming adjectives from nouns or other adjectives, 'of, like, related to, pertaining to', Middle English -al, -el from French or directly from Latin - alis

-an – word-forming element meaning 'pertaining to', from Latin -anus, adjective suffix, in some cases via French -ain, -en. From PIE \*-no-



-ive – word-forming element making adjectives from verbs, meaning ‘pertaining to, tending to;doing, serving to do’, in some from Old French –if, but usually directly from Latin adjectival suffix –ivus ( source also of Italian and Spanish –ivo). In some words borrowed from French at an early date it has been reduced to –y(as in hasty, tardy).

-less – adjectival suffix meaning ‘lacking, cannot be, does not’, from Old English –leas, from leas ‘free (from), devoid (of), false, feigned, ‘from Proto-Germanic \*lausaz (cognates: Dutch –loos, German –los ‘less’, Middle Dutch –los, German los ‘loose,free’, Gothic laus ‘empty, vain’,from PIE root loose, lease.

-ic – Middle English –ik, –ick, word-forming element making adjectives, ‘having the nature of, being, made of, caused by, similar to’, from French –ique and directly from Latin –icus or from cognate Greek –ikos ‘in the manner of; pertaining to’, From PIE adjective suffix \*(i)ko, which also yielded Slavic –isku, adjectival suffix indicating origin, the source of the –sky (Russian-skii) in many surnames. In Middle English and after often spelled –ick, –ike, –ique. Variant forms in –ick (critic, ethick) were common in early Modern English and survived in English dictionaries into early 19c. This spelling was supported by Johnson but opposed by Webster, who prevailed.

-ous – word-forming element making adjectives from nouns, meaning ‘having , full of, having to do with, doing, inclined to’, from Old French –ous, –eux, from Latin –osus.

-ful – adjectival suffix attached to nouns (and in Modern English to verb stems) and meaning ‘full of, having, characterized by’,also ‘amount or volume contained’ (handful, bellyful); from Old English –full, –ful; which is full (adj)become a suffix by being coalesced with a preceding noun, but originally a separate word. Cognate with German –voll, Old Norse –fullr, Danish –fuld. Most English – ful adjectives at one time or another had both passive (full of x) and active (causing x; full of occasion for x ) senses.

-ly – suffix forming adjectives from nouns and meaning ‘having qualities of, of the form or nature of’ (manly, lordly), ‘appropriate to, fitting, suited to’ (bodily, earthly, daily); irregularly descended from Old English –lic, from Proto-Germanic \*-liko ( Old Frisian –lik, Dutch –lijk, Old High German –lich, Old Norse –ligr), related to \*likom- ‘appearance, from’ (Old English –lich ‘corpse, body’, see lich, which is a cognate; see also like (adj.), with which it is identical).

To sum up, It is concluded that adjectival suffix turn words into adjectives. There are different types of adjectival suffixes that have their own meaning, form and function. Adjectival suffixes can be divided into two groups: rational and

qualitative adjectives. Adjectivalization means that forming of adjectives from nouns, verbs and other. Each of adjectival suffixes owns their etymology. Most of them originated from Latin, Greek and English.

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