

BASIC ISSUES IN DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY (SUFFIXES) CONTRASTIVE WITH ALBANIAN



Morphology

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Abstract

The derivation or the origin of words is more productive in the system of word-formation. In descriptive linguistics and traditional grammar, the formation of a word it is made by changing the form of the base or by adding affixes to it –e.g. hope – hopeful, e.g. blerë – blerësit. With the word or the origin of the word we understand the formation of the new words or the words that exist in the language, it is a major source of new words in a language, and in historical linguistics, the derivation of a word is its history or saying better etymology. The derived origin of a word it's made by prefix, suffix, prefix-suffix and without infixes. Our aim is to make an understandable presentation about derivational suffixes contrastive with those in the Albanian language.

Introduction

Firstly, I would like to mention that in both of languages it is possible to have lots of words such as: (nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives) – to be same with the structure between Albania and English. e.g. *djalë – son, lexoj – read, luaj – play, njeri – man, shtëpi – house, libër – book, macë – cat*, etc. In linguistics, a suffix – is a word element that is placed after the root. An inflectional suffix – is sometimes called a desinence or a grammatical suffix or ending – in Albanian language it is called: *desinencë ose prapashtesë gramatikore ose mbaresë*. E.g happy – happiness or këngë – këngëtar.

Some of the new words – can create the root of verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs and all of them with prefix, suffix or affix and can create the new word with the new meaning. This situation – it is same in both of languages. Albanian and English language have full contrast with the cases, and in both of languages we have – many words that can function as a noun, verb, adjective or either adverb – with no change in form. The meaning is not always the same, but thanks to prefixes or suffixes the words are changing the meaning.

Derivational suffixes – can be divided into two categories: class-changing derivation and class-maintaining derivation. Suffixes can carry grammatical information or lexical information, and that suffixes are either inflectional or derivational. In follow – we will try to illustrate some important examples and say how suffixes can function in both of languages, by illustrating different examples, and are suffixes used same or differently in both of languages and so on. ¹

¹ [Suffixes: Definition with Examples | Learn English \(learngrammar.net\)](#) Accessed on October 20, 2021.

Some examples:

- –llëk – budalla – budall**llëk**
- –izëm - burokrat-burokrat**izëm**
- –azh - grup-grup**azh**
- –ikë - artist-artist**ikë**
- –urë – arkitekt-arkitekt**urë**

- –ac – dorë - dor**ac**
- –acak – frikë - frik**acak**, burrë - burr**acak**
- –alaq - ngordh**alaq**
- –aluq - shtremb**aluq**
- –avec - mburr**avec**

-age	wreck age
-ant	assist ant
-ee	refere ee
-ery	bakery
-ful	spoon ful
-ing	paint ing

Suffixes in both of languages

As we've mentioned above – suffixes are either inflectional or derivational, and that a suffix is a word element that is placed after the root. In the Albanian language – we say: Prapashtesa – është një fjalëformues që qendron prapa rrënjës së fjalës dhe mundëson prodhimin e fjalës. There are 8 inflectional suffixes in English:

1. – **s** – plural
2. – **s** – the third person singular, present simple
3. – **ed** – Past Tense
4. – **ing** – Present Participle, gerund
5. – ‘**s** – The Saxon Genitive
6. – **er** – comparative degree
7. – **est** – superlative degree
8. – **ed₂** – (-en) – Past Participle

Derivational suffixes – are any in English and they are lexical. An excellent example would be the suffix **-tion** – dramatization, or the other suffix **-er** – singer. They are class changing and they change the part of the speech or the word class – e.g. improve (verb) - improvement (noun). Inflectional suffixes – are grammatical and they represent a grammatical category, they are class maintaining – e.g. small (adjective) – smallest (adjective).

The suffixes in the Albanian language are:

1. **Emërore:** ca male – malet
2. **Gjinore:** i,e ca maleve – i,e maleve
3. **Dhanore:** ca maleve – maleve

4. **Kallzore:** ca male – malet
5. **Rrjedhore:** prej ca malesh – prej maleve

“Dhe në gjuhën shqipe – thuhet se elementi që nuk ndryshon nuk është mbaresë, por prapashtesë, dhe prapashtesat në gjuhën shqipe kanë dy funksione: 1. Janë fjalëformuese dhe 2. Janë formëformuese apo trajtëformues dhe sjellin një vlerë të re gramatikore për fjalën.”

Examples the nouns: flutur, nder, punë – are created the verbs: fluturoj, nderoj, punoj, and from the verbs: vras, çel, lidh - are created the nouns: vrasës, çelës, lidhje. In some special cases – the suffix does not change the grammatical category: berat-beratas, lis-lisnajë. 2

Suffixes that create common nouns

In both of languages – we have a lot of suffixes that create new words. In Albanian language – we can consider: **-ar, -ës, -tar, -ist, -im, -esë, -je, -i, -si, -ri,** or **-tor, -ak, -as, -an, -it, -iot** or in English language: **-er, -ar, -ant, -ship, -y, -ist, -smi, -ee, -ation, -ment, -al, -ing, -ness, -ity, -age, -ance, -age, -ism, -hood, -ship, -dom, -ry, -ful.** These suffixes are most productive and they usually create the common nouns – e.g. kosovar, këngëtar, gostivar, tetovar, shqiptar, arkëtar, sekretar etj or in English – e.g. arrival, American, Victorian, brotherhood, freedom, kingdom, basement etc.

The Albanian suffix **-ës** has the same function with suffixes of English **-er, or, -ar, -ant.** The Albanian suffix **-ës** and the English suffix **-er** are more productive to create some words – e.g. nxënës, gjykatës, shitës, ndihmës, or in English **-er** e.g. hacker, villager, hatter, etc. The Albanian suffix **-im** usually creates the abstract nouns and often it has the same function with the English suffixes: **-ation, -ment, -al, -ing, -age** – e.g. autorizim – autorisation, dekretim – enactment, pranim – avowal, ndalim – stoppage, gjykim – judgment etc. Prapashtesa **-im** bashkohet kryesisht me tema foljore dhe që mbarojnë me **-o** dhe **-je**, mjaft rrallë edhe me temë foljore me fundore të tjera: acarim-acaroj, afrim-afroj, citim-citoj etj. The Albanian suffixes **-ar, -or, -tar** – they usually create the common concrete and abstract nouns – e.g. gazetar, librar, hekurudhor, gjuhëtar, shkrimtar, tradhëtar, shkrimtar, and in English we have these common nouns – e.g. translator, actor, inspector, doctor etc. In Albanian language – these suffixes are very productive and we have in usage: **-je, -ik, -ant, -ent, -are, -ak, -arak, -as, -it, -an, -ishte, -urina, -ore, -inë, -ajë, -ashëk, -anë, -ësi, -ri, -ac, -aq, -i** – e.g. lulishte, barishte, hekurina, kripore, fushore, lugore, bregore, diplomatik, portier, ulqinak, durrsak, zezak, elbasan, pejan, dritare, atdhetare, udhëtare, madhësi, mundësi, njohje, nxitje, hyrje, ujshëm, bindshëm, gjindshëm, përditshmëri etj.³

In the English language we have these important suffixes: **-ee, -eer, -er, -ees, -ist, -ite, -ster** and in the Albanian language: **-(ë)s, -ar, -(ë)tar, -or, -tor, -as, -ak, -an, -jan, -jot, -ës/ëse, -**

² <https://ina-online.net/pjese-nga-gramatika-e-gjuhes-shqipe/> Accessed on October 21, 2021.

³ <https://examples.yourdictionary.com/list-of-suffixes-and-suffix-examples.html> Accessed on October 28, 2021.

ore, -ishtë/ishte, -sirë, -tore, -inë, -oj/esë, -më, -atë, -i, -ri, -si, -je. The type of suffixes in the English language:

1. – **ee** – is added to verb stem and to denote the person affected by the action: **employee, addressee, payee** etc.

2. – **eer** – is added to names or things: **mountaineer, engineer, auctioneer** etc.

3. – **er** – is used to form agent-nouns from trade or let it say from profession: **banker, hatter, hacker, glover** etc. This suffix it is also used in some personal nouns and which is derived from geographical names: **Londoner, foreigner, villager** etc.

4. – **ess** – usually is used to denote female persons as distinct from the male persons in similar positions: **hostess, poetess, stewardess**. Also this suffix – is added to corresponding masculine words which can be only to denote a man: **actor – actress, waiter – waitress, wader – wardress** etc.

5. – **ist** – is added only to a small number of nouns: **novelist, violinist, dentist** etc – and even in smaller number of adjectives: **loyalist, socialist, realist** etc.

6. – **ite** – can be added to proper names denoting places: **Durhamite, Wagnerite, Browningite** etc.

7. – **ster** – has a pejorative meaning: **trickster, gangster, gamester** etc.⁴

The types of suffixes in the Albanian language:

1. – **(ë)s** – it's connected with these verbs: **nxënë-nxënës, blerë-blerës**, it is also connected this suffix and with some nouns: **gjykatë-gjykatës, shitë-shitës** etj.

2. – **ar** – **vresht-vreshtar, fshat-fshatar, këngë-këngëtar** etj.

3. – **(ë)tar** – this suffix it's connected with nouns: **dëshmi-dëshmitar, gjah-gjahtar** etj.

4. – **or** – **malësi-malësor, drejtoj-drejtor, kërkim-kërkimor** etj.

5. – **tor/ator** – connected with nouns: **punë-punëtor, minë-minator** etj.

6. – **as, -ak, -an, -jan, -jot** – **elbasan, elbasanas, durrës-durrsak, shkodër-shkodran, mat-matjan, himarë-himarjot** etj.

7. – **ës/ëse** – this suffix is taking these nouns: **mat-matës, ndenjor-ndenjës** etj.

8. – **ore** – **akull-akullore, peshë-peshore** etj.

9. – **ishtë/ishte** – **ulli-ullishtë (mashkullore), lule-lulishte (femërore)**.

10. – **sirë** – **i kalbur-kalbësirë, i ëmbël – ëmbëlsirë** etj.

11. – **tore** – **gjellë-gjellëtore, mish-mishtore**.

12. – **inë** – **lug-luginë, rreth-rrethinë** etj.

13. – **oj/esë** – **shpresoj, këndoj, vallzoj, fejesë, shpresë, mungesë** etj.

14. – **më** – **bubulli-bubullimë**.

15. – **atë** – **kafshoj-kafshatë, dhuroj-dhuratë** etj.

16. – **i** – **dhelbër-dhelbërri, pleq-pleqëri**.

17. – **ri** – **besnik-besnikëri, nuse-nusëri**.

18. – **si** – **madhësi, sasi, lartësi**.

19. – **je** – **ardhur-ardhje, humbur-humbje, përplas-përplasje** etj.

⁴ Millaku, S. (2017). The Prefixes and Suffixes of Albanian and English Language. Pp. 20-36.

*“As we can notice – in the Albanian language, in most of the cases we have suffixes that are nouns, while in the English language some of the suffixes are: nouns, verbs or adjectives.”*⁵

Verb + suffix = noun

The Albanian and English language – can make some new words from the root of the verbs and through the suffix we can create nouns, adjectives etc. The most important way to create some new words it is the form from verbs, adjectives – to make them noun. **(verb + suffix = noun)**⁶

Verb	Suffix	Noun
improve	–ment	improvement
manage	–ment	management
elect	–ion	election
inform	–ation	information
spell	–ing	spelling
work	–er	worker
employ	–ee	employee
beg	–ar	beggar

Suffixes are more productive for creating some new words. Another model of nouns are build from the root of adjective + suffixes. Nouns are also formed by adding a suffix as: **–mess** or **–ily** to an adjective. Notice that the “y” changes to “i” before the suffix: happy – happiness.

Adjective	Suffix	Noun
weak	–ness	weakness
dark	–ness	darkness
similar	–ity	similarity

Some important examples in the Albanian language:

verb	+	suffix	=	noun	adjective	+	suffix	=	noun
mbuloj		-esë		mbulesë	i njohur		- i		njohuri
ndërtoj		-esë		ndërtesë	i ligjshëm		- ëri		ligjshmëri
dorëztoj		-im		dorëzim	i varfër		- ëri		varfmëri

⁵ Ibid

⁶ <https://www.thoughtco.com/common-suffixes-in-english-1692725> Accessed on October 28, 2021.

Conclusion

As for the conclusion part – it is really very important to be mentioned the fact that the words such as: nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs might be created with prefixes, suffixes and affixes, it is the same for both of languages. Albanian and English have the full contrast with the case. Many words in English and Albanian language – can function as a noun and verb, or a noun an adjective, or a verb and adverb – with no change in form, the meaning of course that is not always the same – but using prefix or suffix – the words are changing the meaning.

Suffixes in both of languages – can create variety, and they provide endless ways to express our thoughts, feelings, finding and emotions. They create words – from nouns into adjectives and verbs into nouns, they also express deeper qualities, providing layers of color and intrigue required by the writers. We need to be careful or saying better to be aware that sometimes adding a suffix to a base word – it changes the spelling of the new words, as in: create/**creative**, or in the Albanian language mend/**mendueshëm** and many other examples.

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