

AFFIXATION

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Abstract: *Affixation is a linguistic process that involves the addition of prefixes, suffixes, or infixes to base words, resulting in the formation of new words with altered meanings, grammatical functions, or nuances. This article explores the art and science of affixation, highlighting its significance in language development and communication. By examining different types of affixes and their application in various languages, we uncover how affixation expands vocabulary, enables precise expression, and facilitates the derivation of new words. Moreover, the article discusses the role of affixation in comprehending unfamiliar terms and its impact on language efficiency. Understanding the mechanisms and creative possibilities of affixation enhances our linguistic skills and enriches our ability to effectively communicate in the ever-evolving world of language.*

Key word: *prefixes, suffixes, vocabulary, Infixes , dynamic system, negation, Affixation encompasses, grammatical function, nuance*

Main part;

Affixation is a fundamental mechanism of word formation found in various languages worldwide. By adding affixes, we can change the meaning, part of speech, or grammatical function of a word. Let's delve into the different types of affixes commonly employed. Language is a dynamic system that continuously adapts to the needs of its users. One of the remarkable mechanisms that fuel language evolution is affixation. Affixation involves the addition of prefixes, suffixes, or infixes to base words, resulting in the creation of new words and expanding the vocabulary of a language. This process plays a fundamental role in language development and communication, allowing speakers to express complex ideas with precision and efficiency.

In addition to expanding our vocabulary and enabling precise communication, affixation is vital for understanding and deciphering new words. When encountering an unfamiliar term, knowing the meanings of common affixes can provide valuable clues about its structure and significance. For example, if we encounter the word "unhappiness," we can deduce that it combines the prefix "un-" (negation) with the base word "happy" and the suffix "-ness" (state or quality), ultimately conveying the absence of happiness.

It is worth noting that not all words can undergo affixation. Some words are unchangeable or already contain affixes, while others may be derived from languages

that do not employ affixation as extensively. Nevertheless, for most languages, affixation remains a versatile and creative tool in word formation.

Types of Affixes

Affixation encompasses three main types of affixes: prefixes, suffixes, and infixes. Prefixes are attached to the beginning of a base word, while suffixes are added to the end. Infixes, although less common in English, are inserted within a base word. Each type of affix imparts specific changes to the word's meaning, grammatical function, or nuance.

1. Prefixes

Prefixes alter the meaning or provide additional information to a base word. By adding a prefix, speakers can convey negation, opposite states, or time-related concepts. For example, adding the prefix "un-" to the word "happy" transforms it into "unhappy," indicating the opposite state of happiness. Similarly, the prefix "pre-" in "preview" suggests something happening before the actual event.

2. Suffixes

Suffixes change the grammatical category of a word or add qualities, manner, or plurality to the base word. By attaching a suffix, speakers can transform a verb into a noun, an adjective into an adverb, or indicate plural forms. For instance, the noun "beauty" becomes the adjective "beautiful" by adding the suffix "-ful." Likewise, the verb "teach" transforms into the noun "teacher" with the suffix "-er."

3. Infixes

Infixes, although less common in English, are inserted within a base word, typically to convey emphasis, nuance, or inflection. Languages like Tagalog and Bahasa Indonesia employ infixation more prominently. For example, in Tagalog, the infix "-um-" is inserted into the base word "ganda" (beauty) to form "gumanda" (became beautiful), emphasizing the transformation that occurred.

Derivation and Word Formation

Affixation is a powerful tool for word derivation, enabling the creation of new words from existing ones. It allows speakers to expand their vocabulary and express precise meanings. By adding appropriate affixes, speakers can derive adjectives, adverbs, nouns, and verbs from base words. For instance, the adjective "happy" can be transformed into the adverb "happily" by adding the suffix "-ly," or into the noun "happiness" by adding the suffix "-ness." This versatility and creativity in word formation enhance language efficiency and facilitate communication.

Understanding and Deciphering New Words

Affixation plays a vital role in understanding and deciphering unfamiliar words. When encountering a new term, knowledge of common affixes can provide valuable clues about its structure and meaning. By recognizing familiar prefixes, suffixes, or infixes, one can deduce the root word and understand the new term more easily. For example, the word "unhappiness" combines the prefix "un-" (negation) with the base

word "happy" and the suffix "-ness" (state or quality), conveying the absence of happiness.

Conclusion;

Affixation is a dynamic and creative process that expands language capabilities and enhances communication. By adding prefixes, suffixes, or infixes to base words, speakers can convey nuanced meanings, alter grammatical categories, and create new words. Affixation allows for efficient and precise expression, enabling the evolution and adaptability of language. Understanding the art of affixation empowers individuals to navigate the rich and diverse world of words and harness its potential for effective communication.

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