

## **MORPHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF AFFIXES IN IMAGINE DRAGONS LYRICS**

**Herlina Wulandari<sup>1</sup>, Fatih Al Fauzi<sup>2</sup>, Ismaili<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Universitas Islam Jember, Indonesia

E-mail: [herlinawulandari60@gmail.com](mailto:herlinawulandari60@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>, [fatih.alfauzi16@gmail.com](mailto:fatih.alfauzi16@gmail.com)<sup>2</sup>,  
[ismak.alfarisi@gmail.com](mailto:ismak.alfarisi@gmail.com)<sup>3</sup>

### **Abstrak**

*Penelitian ini dilaksanakan untuk menganalisis bentuk perubahan imbuhan pada tiga lagu Imagine Dragons sebagai sumber belajar bagi siswa bahasa Inggris tingkat menengah. Penelitian ini menerapkan analisis korpus kualitatif yang pada awalnya hasil data disajikan dalam bentuk tabel. Selanjutnya, disajikan deskripsi secara rinci mengenai data yang ditemukan. Penelitian ini menggunakan analisis dokumen untuk mengumpulkan data dimana dokumen diambil dari bentuk elektronik khususnya pada alamat website lirikterjemahan.id. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan 39 kata yang mengalami proses afiksasi pada tiga lagu, ditemukan 35 (89,7%) afiks infleksi, dan 4 (10,3%) afiks derivasional. Pertama, afiks infleksional tidak mengubah bagian kata tetapi mengubah fungsi gramatiskal yang dimiliki oleh sufiks -s sebagai bentuk jamak, -es sebagai bentuk jamak, -'s sebagai bentuk posesif, -ing sebagai bentuk progresif (kontinu), dan -ed sebagai bentuk lampau. Kedua, imbuhan derivasional yang dapat mengubah bagian kata yang termasuk dalam sufiks kata benda mengubah kata menjadi kata benda pada sufiks -ness, -dom, -er, dan sufiks kata sifat mengubah kata menjadi kata sifat pada sufiks -less.*

**Kata kunci:** *Morfologi, Afiks derivasi, Afiks infleksi, Lirik lagu*

### **Abstract**

*This study was implemented to analyze the form of affixes' changes in three Imagine Dragons songs as a study source for intermediate English students. This study applied qualitative corpus analysis initially the data results are presented in tabular form. Indeed, presented a detailed description of the data found. This research used document analysis to collect data where documents were taken from electronic form specifically at the website address lirikterjemahan.id. The results of this study show 39 words that have an affixation process in three songs, 35 (89,7%) inflectional affixes, and 4 (10,3%) derivational affixes were found. First, inflectional affixes do not change the part of speech but change the grammatical function belonging to the suffix -s as plural, -es as plural, -'s as possessive, -ing as progressive (continuous), and -ed as past. Second, derivational affixes that can change the part of speech belonging to noun suffixes change the word to a noun in the suffix -ness, -dom, -er, and adjective suffixes change the word to an adjective in the suffix -less.*

**Keywords:** *Morphology, Derivational affixes, Inflectional affixes, Song lyric*

## INTRODUCTION

English words are formed from a combination of morphemes in a certain way. In mastering English, the word takes part in a morphological investigation where each item can be expanded. Morphology studies the process of word formation and word structure which can become new words and new meanings. Rugaiyah (2018) detailed that morphology is the study of the process of combining morphemes based on certain rules to form a word. In particular, morphological knowledge plays a significant role in developing students' writing and oral. McCutchen & Stull, 2015) said that morphological knowledge apart from being an assistant in developing students' writing also intelligence in analyzing words and understanding the process of applying morphology rules in making sentences. In the same way, morphological awareness also makes students' word recognition more authentic and competent (Kotzer et al., 2021). It can be used by students as a foundation for understanding language. Additionally, morphological awareness in English learners is useful for avoiding misunderstandings when communicating.

A morpheme is defined as a unit that has its meaning which is incorporated in a single unit to form a word. It means that a morpheme is a self-sufficient unit (Hamka, 2014). In word can be broken down according to its function into several units, each of which has its meaning. For example, the word "askings" contains three morphemes namely ask-ing-s. In this case, "ask, ing, s" are called morphemes. Rowe and Levine (2016) mention that the morpheme itself is restricted into two categories. First, a free morpheme is a grammatical unit with a position as an autonomous word (Lieber, 2009). Secondly, a collection of words that are joined by free morphemes like /-s/, /-ly/, /-im/, and /un-/ be named as bound morpheme (Khan et al., 2016). Structurally, affixes are one type of bound morpheme which makes a word formation activity with free morpheme. Sasao & Webb (2017) state that affixes accord with the formation of words between bound morpheme and free morpheme that occurs in unison. Principled on their position, the types of affixes in English are categorized into three types including

prefixes (at the beginning), infixes (in the middle), and suffixes (at the end). Established on the function, the function of affixes can be specified with derivational and inflectional affixes (Handoko, 2019). English learners need to know about the analysis of the form of word changes that can change the meaning of words and word formation by getting affixes at the beginning and the end( Widya iswara et al., 2022).

Derivational affixes are root word modifications that can change the syntactic category and meaning where the meaning can be foreseeable for a while (Efransyah, 2019). In English, derivational affixes consist of a derivational prefix and a derivational suffix. The definition of derivational prefixes is affixed before the root word which changes the meaning. Not all prefixes change the word class, but occasionally some prefixes do not adjust the word class of the root word (Johnson, 2011). The derivational suffix is a root word that gets an affix at the end that establishes a different part of speech. Handoko (2019) classifies derivative suffixes in the direction of 1) Noun suffixes, consisting of *-acy*, *-age*, *-al*, *-an*, *-ian*, *-ance*, *-ancy*, *-ant*, *-ary*, *-ate*, *-ation*, *-dom*, *-er*, *-ess*, *-ful*, *-hood*, *-ing*, *-ive*, *-ment*, *-ness*, *-or*, *-ory*, *-ship*, *-th*, *-y*; 2) Verb suffixes, consist of *-ate*, *-en*, *-er*, *-ify*, *-ize*; 3) Adjective suffixes, consist of *-able*, *-al*, *-ant*, *-ary*, *-ate*, *-ed*, *-en*, *-ful*, *-ic*, *-ile*, *-ing*, *-ish*, *-istic*, *-ive*, *-less*, *-like*, *-ly*, *-ous*, *-ward*, *-wide*, *-y*; and 4) Adverb suffixes, consist of *-ever*, *-fold*, *-ily*, *-ly*, *-place*, *-ward*, *-where*, *-wise*.

According to Nordquist (2019a) states that inflectional morphemes are a collection of letters (affixes) that are inserted into a word either a verb, a noun, an adjective, or an adverb to determine the grammatical form of that word in the form of tense, number, possession, or comparison. Unlike derivational, inflectional affixes cannot change the word classes of the word. It means only expressing the grammatical function of the word (Stageberg, 2018). Inflectional affixes only consist of inflectional suffixes. According to Fitria (2020), among the kinds of inflectional morphemes in the form of suffixes: 1) Nouns such as *'s* which states possessive, and *-es* which represents plural. 2) Verb such as *-(e)d* which show past tense; *-ing* which states

present participle; *-en* which indicates past participle; and *-s* refers to the third person singular. 3) Adjectives such as *-er* to show comparative; and *-est* to represent superlative.

In the recent era, often hear various kinds of songs on our daily life, such as folk songs, pop songs, and English songs are no exception. English songs with wide presence can be found on YouTube, in films, or advertisements (Inatigris, 2018). Bach Vinyets (2013) defines a song as a piece of music that contains lyrics in it. Wijay (2013) added that song lyrics are abstract, basically incomprehensible, and have several things to pay attention to in terms of articulation, meter, and expression. For instance, besides being able to be enjoyed as entertainment, songs can also be studied in reduced linguistic terms in the form of the word analysis. A song can be analyzed in terms of derivation or inflection as long as the lyrics contain some words that contain affixation.

One of the issues that exist in foreign language learners is how the vocabulary can be memorized. It is imperative to put forward an effective strategy to make students' vocabulary intelligence abilities more efficient (Ghalebi et al., 2021). According to Mudzielwana (2016), vocabulary learning strategy is one elemental factor in determining the success of achieving goals in the academic sector. Similarly, several studies in Neuroscience formulate the profits of musicology as a strong motivation for remembering (Governor, 2013). The song lyrics are rich in vocabulary and can be analyzed from a morphological point of view. With this in mind, students can use this strategy to improve their vocabulary skills. Bach Vinyets (2013) also emphasized that songs are the best resource in studying English, especially vocabulary because they are unchallenging to recall and unchallenging to study. Thereupon, the song titles that will be studied include Bad Liar, Demons, Radioactive where the song includes a song from Imagine Dragons.

In previous studies, other researchers conducted research, some of which are entitled "A Morphological Analysis of Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes" written by authors Tri Indah Rezeki and Rakhmat Wahyudin Sagala 2019 where the

study focus on identifying the use of derivational and inflectional morphemes in the song lyric A Thousand Years by Christina Perri. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. Another study entitled “Morphological Structure in Jason Mraz’s Songs” by Inatigris Anggriani Harahap 2021 where the focus of this study is to investigate the Morphological structure in Jason Marz’s songs. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method and the technique used by researchers in collecting data is observing five songs of the song of Jason Mar’z on the internet directly. The research entitled “An Analysis on The Use of Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes in English Song Lyrics on Maher Zain’s ‘Forgive Me’ Album” by the author Yuli Purwanti 2020. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. This study is to analyze the form of derivational and inflectional morphemes on the song lyric of Maher Zain’s ‘Forgive Me’ album.

It is necessary to be emphasized that this research focuses on Affixes (Derivational and Inflectional Affixes) which analyzes the form of changes in several words containing affixations in three (3) English song lyrics that are performed by the singer Imagine Dragons. Furthermore, this research can be used as a study source of Intermediate English students as the level of students who are involved in affixes material.

Based on the explanation above, this research has two research objectives, 1) Identifying the kind of affixes found in the lyrics of the Imagine Dragons songs. 2) Describing the form of affixes’ changes in Imagine Dragons lyrics.

## **METHOD**

### ***Research Design***

To assist this study, the researcher applied qualitative corpus analysis to identify data in three song lyrics. Using qualitative corpus analysis means methodology as analysis of linguistic development in depth for which data sources are digitally accessible (Hasko, 2020). This study uses documents from the song collection Imagine

Dragons Lyrics consist of Bad Liar, Demons, and Radioactive to investigate Derivational and Inflectional affixes.

#### ***Data Collecting Method***

This study used document analysis as a data-collecting method. The document was taken from electronic data, more specifically at the website address lirikterjemahan.id. According to Bowen (2009), the data collection process requires (1) Skimming some data sources Imagine Dragons lyrics that will be examined, (2) Reading the song lyrics that have been determined several times, and (3) Interpretation that has been founded in the lyrics.

#### ***Data Analysis Method***

The data analysis method used in this study is corpus analysis. The steps taken in the qualitative data analysis procedure described by Miles, et.al., (2014) are as follows: (1) Data Condensation. Selecting and determining the derivational and inflectional affixes found in a lyric. Then perform coding of the analyzed unit in a lyric. Next, classify the results of the analysis by two categories namely derivational and inflectional affixes category; (2) Data Display. Collect and simplify information by forming tabular views; (3) Draw and Verifying Conclusions. Concluding the result in the form of a description or detailed explanation from several samples.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Finding***

Based on the finding, the researcher presents the research data in tabular views.

**Table 1. The Results of Bad Liar Song**

New Word	Root Word	Affixes		Type of Affixes	Analysis
		Prefix	Suffix		
Terrors	Terror	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Victims	Victim	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Loveless	Love	-	-less	DS – AdjS	N - Adj
Fears	Fear	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Tears	Tear	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Eyes	Eye	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Tearing	Tear	-	-ing	IS – VS	-ing progressive
Seams	Seam	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Dreams	Dream	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Happiness	Happy	-	-ness	DS – NS	Adj - N
Asking	Ask	-	-ing	IS – VS	-ing progressive
Problems	Problem	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Enemy's	Enemy	-	-‘s	IS – NS	-‘s possessive

From the results that the researcher found from the song Bad Liar-Imagine Dragons. The researcher found 11 inflectional affixes and 2 derivational affixes. 11 words that belong to the inflectional affixes, noun suffixes: terror-terrors (-s plural), victim-victims (-s plural), fear-fears (-s plural), tear-tears (-s plural), eye-eyes (-s plural), seam-seams (-s plural), dream-dreams (-s plural), problem-problems (-s plural), enemy-enemy's (-‘s possessive); verb suffixes: tear-tearing (-ing progressive), ask-asking (-ing progressive). 2 words that belong to the derivational affixes, adjective suffix: love (noun) - loveless (adjective); noun suffix: happy (adjective) – happiness (noun). In total 13 words go through the affixation process.

**Table 2. The Results of Demons Song**

New Word	Root Word	Affixes		Type of Affixes	Analysis
		Prefix	Suffix		
Days	Day	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Cards	Card	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Saints	Saint	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Dreams	Dream	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Ones	One	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Blood's	Blood	-	-‘s	IS – NS	-‘s possessive
Kingdom	King	-	-dom	DS – NS	N – N
Eyes	Eye	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Demons	Demon	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Curtain's	Curtain	-	-‘s	IS – NS	-‘s possessive
Lights	Light	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Sinners	Sin	-		DS – NS	N – N

Calling	Call	-	-er and -s -ing	IS – NS IS – VS	-s plural -ing progressive
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From the results of the investigation that the researcher conducted on the song. Research data shows that the song Demons have 12 inflectional affixes and 2 derivational affixes. 12 words that belong to the inflectional affixes, noun suffixes: day-days (-s plural), card-cards (-s plural), saint-saints (-s plural), dream-dreams (-s plural), one-ones (-s plural), blood-blood's (-'s possessive), eye-eyes (-s plural), demon-demons (-s plural), curtain curtains (-'s possessive), light-lights (-s plural), sinner-sinners (-s plural); verb suffixes: call-calling (-ing progressive). 2 words that belong to the derivational affixes, noun suffixes: king (noun) - kingdom (noun), sin (noun) - sinner (noun). However, 1 word has 2 types at one time, namely sinners, this word consists of derivational and inflectional affixes which are sin (noun) - sinner (noun) as derivational and sin-sinners (-s plural) as inflectional. In total 13 words go through the affixation process.

**Table 3. The Result of Radioactive Song**

New Word	Root Word	Affixes		Type of Affixes	Analysis
		Prefix	Suffix		
Waking	Wake	-	-ing	IS – VS	-ing progressive
Breathing	Breath	-	-ing	IS – VS	-ing progressive
Chemicals	Chemical	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Breaking	Break	-	-ing	IS – VS	-ing progressive
Shaping	Shape	-	-ing	IS – VS	-ing progressive
Checking	Check	-	-ing	IS – VS	-ing progressive
Bones	Bone	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Systems	System	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Flags	Flag	-	-s	IS – NS	-s plural
Clothes	Cloth	-	-es	IS – NS	-es plural
Painted	Paint	-	-ed	IS – VS	-ed past
Died	Die	-	-ed	IS – VS	-ed past

A researcher has researched this Radioactive-Imagine Dragons song. From the research data, it can be found that in this song, there are 12 inflectional affixes. 12 words that belong to the inflectional affixes, verb suffixes: wake-waking (-ing progressive), breath-breathing (-ing progressive), break-breaking (-ing progressive), shape-shaping (-ing progressive), check-checking (-ing progressive), paint-painted (-

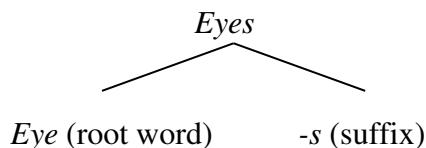
ed past), die-died (-ed past); noun suffixes: chemical-chemicals (-s plural), bone-bones (-s plural), system-systems (-s plural), flag-flags (-s plural), cloth-clothes (-es plural). In total 12 words occur in the affixation process.

### ***Discussion***

This study has two types of affixes applied in three song lyrics (bad Liar, Demons, Radioactive) from Imagine Dragons. Principled on the presentation data table above, the types of affixes are derivational and inflectional affixes. The types of inflectional affixes found are 1) Noun suffixes have an explanation as *-s plural*, *-es plural*, and *-'s possessive*. 2) Verb suffixes with information as *-ing progressive*, and *-ed past*. That all included inflectional affixes due to only changes in the grammatical function of new words. The types of derivational affixes found are 1) Noun suffixes get affixed after the root word and change another word class into a noun in the new word. This happens in the word *kingdom* (change from noun to noun), *sinner* (change from noun to noun), and *happiness* (change the adjective to noun). 2) Adjective suffixes, get affixed after the root word, and changes another word classes into an adjective in the new word. This happens in the word *loveless* (change from noun to adjective).

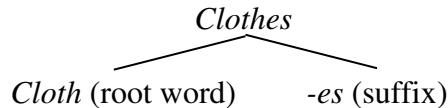
The researcher presents several sample data to be discussed as follows:

#### **Data 1**



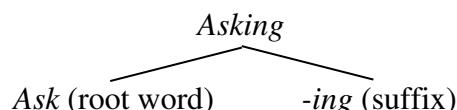
From the data above, *eyes* consist of *eye* as a noun and *-s* as a suffix becomes *eyes* keep as a noun. This doesn't change the part of speech, but the addition *-s* makes the number of nouns meaningful more than one. Thus, the word formation is in the inflectional affixes.

### Data 2



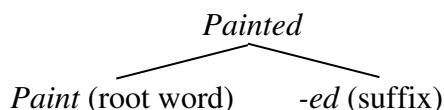
The data above originally formed from the root word *cloth* as a noun which obtained the suffix *-es* thus it became *clothes* as a noun. Doesn't change the part of speech, but changes the grammatical function which states the number of a noun is more than one. In other words, the data is called inflectional affixes.

### Data 3



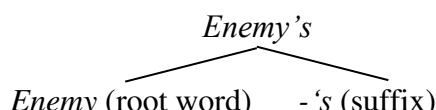
The word *asking* is a combination of the root word *ask* as a verb and the suffix *-ing* is due to *asking* as a verb progressive. It can be defined that the word formation *asking* doesn't change the part of speech, but changes the grammatical function. Hence, it's called inflectional affixes.

### Data 4



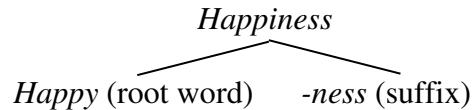
Root word *paint* as a verb added the suffix *-ed* past. In this case, it changes grammatical function results from inflectional affixes.

### Data 5



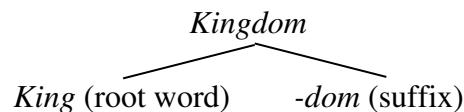
Root word *enemy* as a noun added suffix *-'s* to new word *enemy's* as noun *-'s* possessive. In this case, it changes the grammatical function results from inflectional affixes.

### Data 6



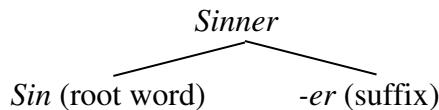
From the data above, if there is an adjective then followed by *-ness* after the root word, it will turn into a noun. The root word *happy* as an adjective then followed by the suffix *-ness* became *happiness* as a noun. This word formation changes the part of speech from adjective to noun. Consequently, it's called derivational affixes.

### Data 7



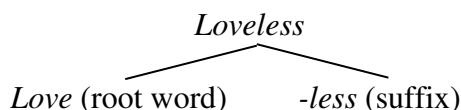
*Kingdom* consists of *king* as a noun and is accompanied by the suffix *-dom* is included in the derivational affixes especially the part of noun suffixes.

### Data 8



*Sinner* comes from *sin* as a noun then gets the suffix *-er* to change *sinner* as a noun. The word formation doesn't change the grammatical function so it is classified as derivational affixes. Moreover, the suffix *-er* belongs to the part of noun suffixes.

### Data 9



The root word *love* as a noun is followed by the suffix *-less* to *loveless* as an adjective. Change the part of speech from a noun to adjective due to the suffix *-less* brings about categorized into derivational affixes.

From the table above, most of the affixes used are inflectional affixes, especially noun suffixes. There are 35 (89,7 %) inflectional affixes consisting of 25 noun suffixes,

10 verb suffixes, and 4 (10,3%) derivational affixes consisting of 3 noun suffixes, and 1 adjective suffix. In total, 39 words have an affixation process in 3 Imagine Dragons songs. In short, knowing the function of affixes in song lyrics can understand the meaning conveyed in it and avoid misunderstanding.

## **CONCLUSION**

### *Conclusion*

Based on the result, this study can be concluded that three songs Imagine Dragons (Bad Liar, Demons, Radioactive) have 2 types of affixes used. First, inflectional affixes belong to noun suffixes and verb suffixes. Second, derivational affixes belong to noun suffixes and adjective suffixes. The form of inflectional affixes changes is influenced by the use of suffixes *-s*, *-es*, *-s*, *-ing*, *-ed*, which can change the grammatical category, and the form of derivational affixes changes is influenced by the use of *-ness*, *-dom*, *-er*, *-less* which can change the part of speech and meaning according to the rules. Category noun suffixes occur suffix *-s*, *-es*, *-s*, *-ness*, *-dom*, *-er*. Category verb suffixes occur suffix *-ing*, *-ed*. Category adjective suffixes occupied by the suffix *-less*. To sum up, word formation can provide word effectiveness in application sentences and most affixes used in the song use noun suffixes with the suffix *-s*.

### *Suggestion*

Since this study found the types of affix *-s*, *-es*, *-s*, *-ing*, *-ed*, *-ness*, *-dom*, *-er*, *-less*. The researcher suggests to the next author to find data sources that have many types of affixes so readers add knowledge about the kinds of affixes that are rarely found in previous studies.

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