

Inflectional and Derivational Affixes in the Selected Captions on the Folkative Instagram Account

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Abstract:

This study aims to examine inflectional and derivational affixes in the captions of posts on the Folkative Instagram account. By taking data from the captions of posts on the Folkative Instagram account, the researcher found that the use of affixes is often found in writing participle, and past participle. In addition to these eight types, other affixes are classified into derivational affixes that could change the meaning or word class. Furthermore, this study aims to find the most frequently and least frequently used affixes in the captions of posts on the Folkative Instagram account. This study used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze data based on Noam Chomsky's theory (2015). The researcher found that the Folkative Instagram account uses more inflectional affixes in its post captions. Therefore, it can be concluded that the Folkative Instagram account uses more affixes that could not change word classes. The types of affixes used include two affixes, namely inflectional and derivational affixes. Inflectional affixes are affixes that do not change the word class. This affix has eight types consisting of plural, possessive, comparative, superlative, present, past, present

Keywords: inflectional affix; derivational affix; instagram caption

Abstrak:

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji afiks infleksional dan derivasional pada caption postingan di akun Instagram Folkative. Dengan mengambil data dari caption postingan di akun Instagram Folkative, peneliti menemukan bahwa penggunaan afiks sering ditemukan dalam penulisan caption. Jenis afiks yang digunakan meliputi dua afiks, yaitu afiks infleksional dan derivasional. Afiks infleksional merupakan afiks yang tidak mengubah kelas kata. Afiks ini memiliki delapan jenis yang terdiri dari plural, posesif, komparatif, superlatif, present, past, present participle, dan past participle. Selain delapan jenis tersebut, afiks lainnya tergolong ke dalam afiks derivasional yang dapat mengubah kelas kata. Selanjutnya, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan afiks yang paling sering dan paling jarang digunakan pada caption postingan di akun Instagram Folkative. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis data berdasarkan teori Noam Chomsky (2015). Peneliti menemukan bahwa akun Instagram Folkative lebih banyak menggunakan afiks infleksional pada caption postingannya. Oleh karena itu, dapat disimpulkan bahwa akun Instagram Folkative lebih banyak menggunakan afiks yang tidak dapat mengubah kelas kata

Kata kunci: afiks infleksional; afiks derivasional; caption instagram

INTRODUCTION

Instagram is one of the most popular digital platforms in the world. At the beginning of its launch, Instagram had 1 million users. Nowadays, Instagram users are growing rapidly to more than 1 billion users (Marickar & Rajasekhar, 2020). This platform could be used to upload photos or videos and interact with others through the comment's column and direct messages. In addition, Instagram could also be used as a promotional medium for a brand or service (Marickar & Rajasekhar, 2020). Green et al. (2017) stated that "One of the greatest advantages of having a presence on a platform, such as Instagram, is the ability to tap into the growing social media network and directly communicate with over 800 million active users from around the world." Therefore, the use of good captions is needed to make it easier for the audience to read it. Many Indonesian Instagram accounts use English in their captions to gain global audiences. So, those who enjoy the Instagram account are not only from Indonesia. Therefore, it is important to learn English well.

Learning a foreign language is difficult for some people. Moreover, we must be able to communicate properly and correctly. To understand English, it requires learning about sentence structure in linguistics which is a study that focuses on language and its use. Especially for those social media users who want their audience to come from abroad. They must be able to write in English properly and correctly. Wardoyo et al. (2023) discovered that there are still many grammatical errors in writing English captions on Instagram accounts. Due to prevent such misunderstandings, Instagram users who use English in their captions must have mastered English morphology.

Morphology is a branch of language that focuses on grammar and structure of words. Carstairs-Mccarthy (2002) stated that "The area of grammar concerned with the structure of words and with relationships between words involving the morphemes that compose them." It means morphology is very crucial for formatting word. According to Yule (2010), morphology in language is a basic form. In morphology, there are affixes that is an addition to words that may change the word class. Gelderen (2010) mentioned that affix is when you put auxiliary into a word. It could be placed before, after, and the middle of the word.

Inflectional affixes are the addition of affixes to a word that do not change the word class. Chomsky (2015) stated that there are eight affixes that could be considered as

inflectional affixes. Of the three types of affixes, namely prefix, infix, and suffix, inflectional affix only uses a suffix. Besides that, there are also derivational affixes. Apart from the eight affixes that have been categorized as inflectional affixes, the other affixes are referred to as derivational affixes (Parker & Riley, 1994). It means, the scope of derivational affixes is wider than inflectional affixes. According to (Carstairs-Mccarthy, 2002), derivational affixes are additional affixes that could change the word class or meaning.

Several researchers have studied the use of affixes in sentences. (Cahyani & Dian, 2022; Andadari et al., 2022; Luh et al., 2022) have analyzed the use of derivational affixes in Instagram post captions. From the study, it was found that derivational affixes are part of the morphology that is often found in writing Instagram captions and affect changes in meaning and word class. Studies on derivational affixes on other platforms have also been analyzed by several researchers. Unlike the previous studies, Jaya et al. (2023) conducted a study that focuses on analyzing derivational affixes in poems uploaded to Twitter accounts. Jaya et al. (2023) found that “There are four functions of derivational affixes in @poetry daily posts on twitter including adjective formers, noun formers, verb formers and adverb formers.” Besides that, there is a study about derivational affixes in the newspaper. Yulfi and Oktaviani (2021) conducted research that focuses on the derivational affixes on Jakarta Post online newspaper. Although the above studies study affixes in morphology, all of them only discuss derivational affixes. Of the five studies, none of them explain inflectional affixes. Therefore, in this study, the researcher will analyze inflectional and derivational affixes in the selected captions on the Folkative Instagram account. This study aims to find the types of inflectional and derivational affixes in the selected captions on the Folkative Instagram account. In addition, this study will also find the most and least used affixes in captions using Chomsky's (2015) theory.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Morphology

Linguistics has a branch that focus on grammar and word structure. Language basic form is called morphology (Yule, 2010). Morphology consists of morpheme, lexeme, roots, and so on. Meaning has smallest units that known as morphemes (Katamba &

Stonham, 2006). Words could be broken down into smaller parts until they could not be divided again. Morpheme that could stand alone and has its own meaning is called free morpheme. Meanwhile, morpheme that could not stand alone as a word is called bound morpheme. For example, word unbelievable has 3 morphemes. It could be broken down into un (bound morphemes) + believe (free morphemes) + able (free morphemes). Not all the roots of the words could not be considered as a free morpheme. For example, a root *ceive* in receive could not stand alone without affixes.

Affixation

Affixation is the process to add the affixes into a word that might carry a new meaning (Yule, 2010). Affixes divided into three types such as prefix, infix, and suffix. Prefix is the addition of affix that comes before the root. For example, the word unhappy could be broken down into un (prefix) + happy (roots). Besides that, there is also affixes that comes in the middle of the words or known as infix. However, infix is rarely used in English. In addition, there is also suffix that comes after the word. For example, word happily could be broken down into happy (roots) + ly (suffix). The use of some affixes could change the word class. It will be explained clearly in inflectional and derivational affixes.

Inflectional Affixes

The addition of affixes that do not change the word class is called inflectional affixes. According to Carstairs-Mccarthy (2002), affix use in inflectional affixes is only suffix. In inflectional affixes, there are only eight types of affixes (Chomsky, 2015). First, the use of affix to change a singular word into plural. For example, the word *boy* becomes *boys*. Second, the use of affixes to change a noun into possessive noun. We need to add an apostrophe and *s* and the word could be considered as possessive noun. For example, a word *boy* becomes *boy's* or *boys'*. Third, to define comparative and superlative adjectives, we should add *er* or *est*. For example, the comparative word *older* and the comparative word *oldest*. Last, the use of affixation to change word tenses. For example, the word walk becomes walking, walked, and walked.

Derivational Affixes

The remaining of affixes that are not considered as inflectional affixes are derivational affixes (Parker & Riley, 1994). Most all of the derivational affixes could

change the word classes. First, affixes that could change adjectives into adverbs. For example, a word *easy* becomes *easily*. Second, affixes that could change other classes into noun. For example, words that are classified as adjectives such as pure, good, and radical could change into purity, goodness, and radicalism which are nouns. Second example, a word performs which is a class of verbs could be changed into performance which is a class of nouns. Third, affixes that could change other word classes into adjectives. For example, verb *break* changed into breakable which is a class of adjectives.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research used qualitative descriptive methods. Lambert (2013) stated that qualitative descriptive is a design of research methods that is concerned about comprehensive summary of human behavior or actions. The approaches of this research design are grounded theory, phenomenon, and so on. According to Dawson (2009), qualitative is a method that is related to the experience of people in an interview session. This method could make the researcher able to classify data easily.

The data for this research were in the form of words. The source data is taken from the captions on *Folkative* Instagram posts. Researcher used twenty captions on *Folkative* Instagram posts.

After collected the data, the researches classified and analyzed inflectional and derivational affixes in the captions on *Folkative* Instagram Posts based on Chomsky's (2015) theory. The next step carried out by the researcher was to present the data on which the affixation has been analyzed in the form of a table. The table contain the types of affixes and the percentages. After that, the data on the table was spelled out in the form of a narrative. This narrative describes in more detail the results of the data analysis presented in the table. Therefore, the research questions could be answered well.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Types of Inflectional and Derivational Affixes Used in the Post Caption on the Folkative Instagram Account

This sub-chapter answered the first research question regarding the types of inflectional and derivational affixes in the post captions on the Folkative Instagram

account. According to Chomsky (2015), Inflectional affixes have eight types that are categorized by their grammatical function. The remaining types of affixes could be categorized as derivational affixes.

Inflectional Affixes

In this study, all types of inflectional affixes were found, consisting of plural, possessive, comparative, superlative, present, past, past participle, and present participle.

Plural

Plural inflectional affixes are affixes that are added to nouns to change singular to plural, indicating that there is more than one noun. To change the singular to plural, the endings 's', 'es', or 'ies' are added to the noun.

Excerpt 1:

“The main reasons for this are factors like professional ambition, financial independence, and changing social norms.”

In this excerpt, there are three words that use suffix s to change singular noun to plural. The plural inflectional affixes found are in the words; reasons, factors, and norms that could be broken down into:

1. Reason (singular noun) + s (plural inflectional affix): Reasons (plural noun)
2. Factor (singular noun) + s (plural inflectional affix): Factors (plural noun)
3. Norm (singular noun) + s (plural inflectional affix): Norms (plural noun)

Possessive

This type refers to the addition of affixes to indicate ownership of something. To indicate ownership, it is necessary to add 's at the end of the word.

Excerpt 2:

“Marriage can be scary-what if your partner isn't up for trying out that trendy new sport everyone's talking about, like golf?”

In this excerpt, the use of possessive inflectional affix is found. The affix is found in the word everyone's. This word uses the apostrophe + s affix which indicates ownership of the word.

Comparative

Comparative inflectional affixes are used to compare two objects by modifying an adjective. The comparison is shown by the use of the suffix 'er' at the end of the word which shows that the quality is higher than the other.

Excerpt 3:

“The bigger your dreams, the greater your achievement.”

In this excerpt, there are two words that use comparative inflectional affix. The words that found are bigger and greater. These words use suffix ‘er’ at the end of a word that indicates one thing has higher quality than the other.

Superlative

Superlative inflectional affixes refer to the addition of affixes that are used to express that the object is of the highest quality compared to others. Its use in words is by adding the suffix ‘est’ at the end of a word that could be classified as an adjective.

Excerpt 4:

“Data from Badan Pusat Statistika (BPS) in 2024 shows that the number of marriages in 2023 dropped to 1.577.255-down by 128.000 from the previous year-marking the lowest level in the past decade.”

There is a use of superlative inflectional affix in this sentence. The affix can be found in the word low which uses the suffix ‘est’ so that it becomes the word lowest.

Present

Present tense inflectional affixes are the addition of affixes that are intended to indicate that an event occurs in the present. The affix used is the suffix 's' which is added to a verb in the third person singular form.

Excerpt 5:

“The study shows that women are increasingly prioritizing their careers over marriage and starting a family.”

In this excerpt, the use of present tense inflectional affix is seen in the word shows. The word shows can be broken down into show (verb) + s (present inflectional affix): shows.

Past

Past tense inflectional affixes refer to affixes used on verbs to indicate that an event has occurred in the past. This affix is used by adding the ending ‘ed’ to the verb.

Excerpt 6:

“Thankfully, Sandiaga replied back and clarified everything.”

In this excerpt, the use of past tense inflectional affix is found. The affix is found in the word replied and clarified which shows that the event occurred in the past. The word replied and clarified in the sentence could be broken down into:

1. Reply (verb) + ed (past inflectional affix): Replied (past)
2. Clarify (verb) + ed (past inflectional affix): Clarified (past)

Past Participle

This type refers to the use of affixes that aim to show that an event occurred in the past but still has a relationship with the present. The affixes that are added in this type are the suffix 'ed'. To indicate the past participle form, we need to look for the word have or has before the verb.

Excerpt 7:

“Former Singapore transport minister S. Iswaran has resigned after being charged with corruption for receiving numerous bribes.”

In this excerpt, the use of past participle inflectional affix is found. The affix is found in the word resigned which shows that the event in the excerpt occurred in the past, but is still continuous with the present. The word resigned could be broken down into Resign (verb) + ed (past participle inflectional affix): Resigned (past participle).

Present Participle

Present participle inflectional affix is the addition of an affix that aims to show that the event that occurred is an event that is being carried out. The affix used for this type is the suffix 'ing'.

Excerpt 8:

“Don't forget to book your tickets for Kahforward 2024, where Kahf is bringing inspiring sessions to the stage, empowering Gen Z to take real action and become a source of inspiration for society.”

There are two inflectional affixes with the present participle type in this excerpt. The words bringing and empowering in the excerpt could be broken down into:

1. Bring (verb) + ing (present participle inflectional affix): Bringing (present participle)
2. Empower (verb) + ing (present participle inflectional affix): Empowering (present participle)

Derivational Affixes

In this study, the use of derivational affixes in the captions of Folkative's Instagram posts was found. Derivational affixes are additions to words that could change the meaning or the word class. These affixes are divided into prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. Prefixes and suffixes can be found in this study, while infixes were not found.

Prefix

A prefix is a type of derivational affix that is added to the beginning of a base word (root) to create a new word with a modified meaning.

Excerpt 9:

“Kasi Humas Polrestabes Makassar states that the perpetrator is suspected of having a mental disorder.”

There is a prefix found in this excerpt which is the word disorder. The prefix could change the meaning of the word. It could be broken down into dis (prefix) + order (the arrangement of a group of people or things in a list from first to last): disorder (a disease or a problem)

Suffix

Suffix is the addition of an affix at the end of a word. In derivational affixes, suffixes can change the meaning or class of a word.

Excerpt 10:

“Don't forget to book your tickets for Kahforward 2024, where Kahf is bringing inspiring sessions to the stage, empowering Gen Z to take real action and become a source of inspiration for society.”

In this excerpt, there are three suffixes found that could change the meaning or the word class. First, the word inspiring could be broken down into inspire (verb) + ing (present participle): inspiring (adjective). Second, the word action could be broken down into act (verb) + ion (suffix): action (noun). The suffix in this word could change verb into noun. Last, the word inspiration could be broken down into inspire (verb) + ation (suffix): inspiration (noun).

CONCLUSION

From this study, it was found that there was the use of inflectional and derivational affixes in the Instagram posts of the Folkative account. All types of inflectional affixes

were found in this study, consisting of plural, possessive, comparative, superlative, past, present, past participle, and present participle. Affixes that are not included in the eight types above are derivational affixes. These affixes consist of prefixes, infixes, and suffixes that could change the meaning or class of words. In this study, only prefixes and suffixes were found. This means that the Folkative Instagram account does not use infixes in their captions. The most widely used affix in writing Folkative account captions is past tense inflectional affixes with a percentage of 26.3%. This means that the writing style of the Folkative Instagram account captions uses past tense tenses which indicate that the event occurred in the past. This study only used twenty captions of posts on the folkative account so that only a little data was found. Therefore, the researchers hope that further research could take more captions as the data so that the research conducted will be more detailed.

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