Derivation (Affixation) 18 November 2011

Derivation

- Derivational affixes: English has over 60 common derivational affixes, and there is no theoretical limit to their number.
- Unlike inflectional affixes, derivational affixes can change the word class of the item they are added to.
- If both inflectional and derivational affixes are used, then the derivational affixes are inner, closer to the stem, and inflectional affixes are outer, furthest from the stem.
- E.g. fright + en + ed = frightened resign + ation + s = resignations

Derivational affixes

- They are usually divided into class-changing and class-maintaining affixes.
- Class-changing derivational affixes change the word class of the word to which they are added. In English, they are usually suffixes.
  - resign (verb) + ation = resignation
  - active (adjective) + ist = activist.

Class-changing der. affixes

- NOMINALIZERS (noun derivational affixes, nominal affixes)
- VERBALIZERS (verb derivational affixes, verbal affixes)
- ADJECTIVIZERS (adjective derivational affixes, adjectival affixes)
- ADVERBIALIZERS (adverb derivational affixes, adverbial affixes)

Class-maintaining der. affixes

- Class-maintaining derivational affixes do not change the word class of the word to which they are added. They are mainly prefixes:
  - anti+malaria → anti-malaria
  - dis+agree → disagree
  - scholar + ship → scholarship
  - un + tie → untie
  - ex + wife → ex-wife
  - green + ish → greenish
  - re + open → reopen
  - Mis, be, ex, ma, re, un, dis, in,

Nominal suffixes

Nominal suffixes are often employed to derive abstract nouns from verbs, adjectives, and nouns. Such abstract nouns can denote actions, results of actions, or other related concepts, but also properties, qualities, and the like.

- -age
  This suffix derives nouns that express an activity (or its result) as in coverage, leakage, spillage, and nouns denoting a collective entity or quantity as in acreage, voltage, yardage. Due to inherent ambiguities of certain coinages, the meaning can be extended to include locations, as in orphanage. Base words may be verbal or nominal and are often monosyllabic.

- -al
  A number of verbs take -al to form abstract nouns denoting an action or the result of an action, such as arrived, overthrowal, rested, referral, renewal. Base words for nominal -al all have their main stress on the last syllable.
Nominal suffixes
- -ance (with its variants -ence/-ency)
Formations in -ance refer to characteristics, activities, or states which are associated with the base. Examples include sadness, happiness, excitement, and activity.

- -ant
Formations in -ant refer to performers of actions, as in dancer, actor, painter, or editor. These are often derived from nouns or verbs.

- -ation
Formations in -ation refer to processes or states, as in civilization, religious, or education. These are often derived from verbs.

- -er
Formations in -er refer to agents, as in teacher, actor, lawyer, or hunter. These are often derived from verbs or nouns.

- -ful
Formations in -ful refer to qualities or characteristics, as in useful, successful, or powerful. These are often derived from adjectives.

- -ee
Formations in -ee refer to subjects of actions, as in winner, employee, or legend. These are often derived from verbs.

- -ion
Formations in -ion refer to results, processes, or states, as in formation, production, or creation. These are often derived from verbs.

- -ology
Formations in -ology refer to the study or science of things, as in biology, psychology, or chemistry. These are often derived from nouns.

Verbal suffixes
- -ate
Formations in -ate refer to actions or activities, as in blacken, broaden, or quicken. These are often derived from verbs.

- -en
Formations in -en refer to actions or activities, as in open, close, or write. These are often derived from verbs.

- -en
Formations in -en refer to actions or activities, as in open, close, or write. These are often derived from verbs.

- -ify
Formations in -ify refer to the process of making something, as in beautify, riddance, or retardance. These are often derived from verbs.

Phonologically, -ify is closely related to the suffix -en, which can be seen as a more general category of formations. -ify is often used for processes of change or improvement, while -en is used for processes of completion or attainment.
Adjectival suffixes

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 of the derived adjective. For example, adjectival relational meanings include 'conforming to the rules of grammar', but which also has a qualitative sense 'conforming to the rules of grammar', as in grammatical), they usually have adopted a qualitative sense.

Sometimes, relational adjectives can adopt qualitative meanings as can be seen with the derivative grammatical, which has a relational meaning 'having to do with grammar' in the sentence "He is a grammatical person," but which also has a qualitative sense 'knowing the rules of grammar," as in "He is a grammatical person." Note that relational adjectives usually occur only in attributive position, i.e. as prenominal modifiers (as in "He is a grammatical person." As in this sentence it is grammatical, they usually have adopted a qualitative sense.

Adjectival suffixes

- -y
This suffix attaches to three kinds of base word: mostly to monosyllabic words, to words stressed on the final syllable, and to words stressed on the penult syllable by a final syllable ending in unstressed /i/ (e.g. hasty, nasty, glossy). This suffix sometimes has the effect that -y is a phonologically conditioned allomorph of the suffix -ary, which is preferred in attributive position (cf. He is a hasty person). Alternatively, -y could be considered phonologically conditioned allomorphs.

- -al
This suffix attaches to three kinds of base word: mostly to monosyllabic words, to words stressed on the final syllable, and to words stressed on the penult syllable by a final syllable ending in unstressed /i/ (e.g. hasty, nasty, glossy). This suffix sometimes has the effect that -y is a phonologically conditioned allomorph of the suffix -ary, which is preferred in attributive position (cf. He is a hasty person). Alternatively, -y could be considered phonologically conditioned allomorphs.
### Adjectival suffixes

- **-ful**
  - This affix is appended to nouns and adjectives. With base nouns denoting...  
  - **-y**
    - This affix is appended to nouns and adjectives. With base nouns denoting...  
  - **-ly**
    - This affix derives adverbs from nouns, with two distinguishable subgroups:...  
  - **-less**
    - This affix derives adverbs from nouns, with two distinguishable subgroups:...  

### Adverbal suffixes

- **-ly**
  - The presence of this exclusively adverbal suffix is in the majority of cases...  
  - **-wise**
    - This affix derives adverbs from nouns and adjectives, with two distinguishable subgroups:...  

### Prefixes

The prefixes of English can be classified semantically into the following groups:

- **Time**
  - pre-, intro-, pre-, prep-  
- **Number**
  - mono-, bi-, tri-, co-, mult-, multi-, un-, un-, in-, inter-, extra-  
- **Place**
  - in-, ex-, in-, intra-, inter-, trans-, extra-, intra-, inter-, trans-  
- **Degree**
  - hyper-, hyper-, super-, super-, over-  
- **Privation**
  - anti-, un-, de-, dis-, pre-, dis-, dis-, sub-, sub-, under-  
- **Size**
  - super-, sub-, un-, in-, inter-, trans-, extra-, intra-, inter-, trans-  

Only three prefixes, which are no longer productive in English, systematically change the part of speech of the root:

- **e-NY**
  - A oblige, allege, ost, astonish, abash, address,  
- **e-NAN**
  - Y erect, before, beside, become,  
- **e-NAN**
  - Y enlarge, ensure, encircle, encase, entrap, encase, entrance,  

Other prefixes change only the meaning of the root, not its class. Prefixes fall into a number of semantic classes in English, depending upon the meaning that they contribute to the root. Furthermore, some prefixes may fit into more than one category; e.g. under-, expresses both degree (in underpenetrating) and place (in underdeveloped). Prefixes may often attach to more than one part of speech; e.g. instead (N) and mishandled (V).
Prefixes

Second, there are numerous locative prefixes such as circum- (circumnavigate, circumorbital), counter- (counterbalance, counterenact), endo- (endocrine, endocrinology), exo- (extravagant, extraterrestrial), intro- (introduce, introspection), para- (paradoxical, parapsychology), para- (parasitic, paralytic), post- (postmedieval, postfootball), pre- (precede, pre-), retro- (retrograde, retroversion), sub- (subtle, subterranean), trans- (transatlantic, transcontinental), and many more.

- **a(n)-**
  - This prefix attaches to verbs and nouns to form reversative or privative verbs: desolate, desiccate, destitute, destine, destitute very often, des- verbs are parasynthetic formations, as evidenced by homographs like desiccation and desiccant. This prefix attaches to verbs: desolate, desiccate, destitute, destine, destitute very often, des- verbs are parasynthetic formations, as evidenced by homographs like desiccation and desiccant. As already discussed in chapter 2, a(n-) can attach to verbs and sometimes nouns (predictably native stocks) to yield a reversative or privative (foreground X) meaning undone, undo, undo, undo, undo. The prefix is also used to negate simple and derived adjectives: unscathed, untrap, untrap, untrap, untrap. As already discussed in chapter 2, a(n-) can attach to verbs and sometimes nouns (predictably native stocks) to yield a reversative or privative (foreground X) meaning undone, undo, undo, undo, undo. The prefix is also used to negate simple and derived adjectives: unscathed, untrap, untrap, untrap, untrap. However, the prefix is not found in deverbal derivatives behaving like adjectives (cf. anti-freeze movement). Are you pro-abortion or anti-abortion? Another type of denominal anti-derivative is nouns denoting something like the opposite of an X or 'not having the proper characteristics of an X': as in antithesis, antiparticle, antiparty.

- **mis-**
  - Closely related semantically to un- and do, the prefix mis- forms reversative verbs from foreign verbal bases: dissemble, dismutate, discharge, disidentify, disaffirm disaffirm (verb) from deriving reversative verbs, the suffix uniquely offers the possibility to negate the base verb in much the same way as could negation alone: 'not agree, disagree, not agree, disagree, not agree, disagree.'

- **non-**
  - This prefix attaches to verbs and nouns to form reversative or privative verbs: nondesediccate, nondesiccate, nondesitute, nondestine, nondestitute very often, non- verbs are parasynthetic formations, as evidenced by homographs like nondesiccation and nondesiccant. This prefix attaches to verbs: nondesolate, nondesiccate, nondesitute, nondestine, nondestitute very often, non- verbs are parasynthetic formations, as evidenced by homographs like nondesiccation and nondesiccant. As already discussed in chapter 2, a(n-) can attach to verbs and sometimes nouns (predictably native stocks) to yield a reversative or privative (foreground X) meaning undone, undo, undo, undo, undo. The prefix is also used to negate simple and derived adjectives: unscathed, untrap, untrap, untrap, untrap. However, the prefix is not found in deverbal derivatives behaving like adjectives (cf. anti-freeze movement). Are you pro-abortion or anti-abortion? Another type of denominal anti-derivative is nouns denoting something like the opposite of an X or 'not having the proper characteristics of an X': as in antithesis, antiparticle, antiparty.

- **post-**
  - Closely related semantically to un- and do, the prefix mis- forms reversative verbs from foreign verbal bases: dissemble, dismutate, discharge, disidentify, disaffirm disaffirm (verb) from deriving reversative verbs, the suffix uniquely offers the possibility to negate the base verb in much the same way as could negation alone: 'not agree, disagree, not agree, disagree, not agree, disagree.'

- **pre-**
  - Closely related semantically to un- and do, the prefix mis- forms reversative verbs from foreign verbal bases: dissemble, dismutate, discharge, disidentify, disaffirm disaffirm (verb) from deriving reversative verbs, the suffix uniquely offers the possibility to negate the base verb in much the same way as could negation alone: 'not agree, disagree, not agree, disagree, not agree, disagree.'

- **retro-**
  - Closely related semantically to un- and do, the prefix mis- forms reversative verbs from foreign verbal bases: dissemble, dismutate, discharge, disidentify, disaffirm disaffirm (verb) from deriving reversative verbs, the suffix uniquely offers the possibility to negate the base verb in much the same way as could negation alone: 'not agree, disagree, not agree, disagree, not agree, disagree.'