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LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS (PAPER XI)

MORPHOLOGY (E-NOTES)

PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

1. Word-Formation Processes:

- ❖ It is easy to understand a word both grammatically and semantically, if we know how that word is formed.
 - ❖ In English new words are formed by using word-formation processes like:
 - ❖ **Affixation**- rewrite, writer.
 - ❖ **Compounding** –teapot, sunrise.
 - ❖ **Conversion** – Pen (V), work (N).
 - ❖ **Clipping**- fridge, lab.
 - ❖ **Blending** –Brexite, brunch.
 - ❖ **Reduplication**- tick-tock, nit-wit.
 - ❖ **Back derivation**- edit, laze.
 - ❖ **Acronymy**- UNO, NASA- National Aeronautics and space administration.
 - ❖ **Affixation, Compounding and conversion**-major word-formation process and the remaining are the minor word-formation process.
 - ❖ **Affixation is a very common and creative word**-formation process.
 - ❖ It involves forming new words by adding an affix or affixes to the base of the word.
 - ❖ In prefixation a prefix is attached in the beginning of a base of a word.
 - ❖ Suffixation involves adding one or more suffixes in the end of a base.
 - ❖ Prefixes and suffixes are very commonly used in English.
 - ❖ **Prefixes**-
 - ❖ All the prefixes in English are derivational. They are used to derive new words.
 - ❖ They are divided into class changing and class maintaining prefixes.
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A) Class Changing Prefixes-

- ❖ A few prefixes can change a class of a word.
- ❖ Friend is a noun. When **be** is affixed to it- befriend, it becomes a verb.

- ❖ The examples are asleep, becalm, encage, deforest, disbar non-stick and unhorse.

B) Class Maintaining Prefixes-

- ❖ The majority of the prefixes, except mentioned above, are class maintaining prefixes.
- ❖ Their addition to the root of the word creates a new word but does not change the class or part of speech of the root word.
- ❖ For example happy- unhappy and generate-degenerate.

C) Semantic classification of prefixes in English-

1. Negative Prefixes-

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Un	The opposition of Not	Adjectives Participles	Unfair, unhappy Unassuming, unexpected
Non	Not	Various classes	Non-smoker nonviolence
In	Not	adjectives	Insane, incorrect, incomplete
Dis	Not	Adjectives verbs	Disloyal Dislike
A	Lacking in	Adjectives Nouns	Amoral asymmetry

2. Reversative or privative prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Un	To reverse action	Verbs	Undo, untie,
De	To reverse action	verbs	decode
Dis	To reverse action	Verbs Participles Nouns	Disconnect Discoloured Discontent

3. Pejorative Prefixes-

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Mis	Wrongly Astray	Verbs Abstract nouns Participles	Misinform, misunderstanding Misconduct Misleading.
Mal	Badly	Verbs Abstract nouns	Maltreat, malpractice malfunction

		Participles Adjective	malformed malodorous
Pseudo	False	Nouns	Pseudo-science, pseudo-intellectual

4. Prefixes of degree and size

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Arch	Highest	Nouns	archduke
		Mainly human	Arch-enemy,
Super	Above	Nouns	Superman, supermarket
	Better	adjectives	Supernatural
		Adverbs	Superfast
Out	To do something faster, longer than	Verbs	Outrun, outlive.
		Adjectives	Outsmart
Sub	Lower than, less than	Adjectives	Subhuman, substandard
	Over and above	Nouns	Surtax, surcharge.
Over	Too much	Nouns	Overconfidence
		Verbs	Overeat
		Participles	overdressed
		Adjectives	Overconfident.
Under	Too little	Verbs	Undercook
		Participles	Underprivileged
Hyper	Extremely	adjectives	hypercritical
		Nouns	hypertension
Ultra	Extremely	Adjectives	Ultra-violet Ultra-modern.
Mini	Little	Nouns	Minicomputer, mini-skirt.

5. Prefixes of attitude

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Co	With , joint	verbs	Cooperate
		Nouns	Co-pilot, co-author
Counter	In opposition to	verb	Counteract, counter-attack
		Abstract nouns	Counter-revolution
Anti	Against	Nouns	Anti missile
		Adjectives	Anti-social

		Adverbs	Anti-clockwise
Pro	On the side of	Nouns	Pro-common market
		Adjectives	Pro- communist

6. Locative prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Super	Over	Nouns	Superstructure
sub	Beneath	Nouns	Subway
		Adjectives	Subconscious, sublet
Inter	Between, among	adjectives	International
		Nouns	Interschool, interaction
		Verbs	intermarry
Trans	Across, from one place to another.	Verbs	transplants
		adjectives	Transatlantic

7. Prefixes of time and order

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Fore	Before	Verbs	foretell
		Abstract nouns	foreknowledge
Pre	Before	Nouns	Pre-war, pre-lunch
		adjectives	Pre-marital
Post	After	Nouns	Post-lunch, post-war
		Adjectives	Post-classical
Ex	Former	Human nouns	Ex-husband, ex-minister
Re	Again	verbs	Rebuild, re-evaluate,
		Abstract nouns	Resettlement

8. Number prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Uni - Mono	One		Unilateral, monotheism
Bi, Di	two		Bilingual, dipole
Tri	three		Tripartite
Multi Poly	Many		Multi-racial, multipurpose, multinational, polysyllabic

❖ **Suffixes-**

- ❖ English suffixes are inflectional or derivational. Inflectional suffixes come at the end of the word.
 - ❖ English language has a limited number of inflectional suffixes. They are used to present grammatical meaning.
 - ❖ They are affixed to a stem of a word (such as Noun, Verb, Adjective and Adverb) to create different grammatical part of the same word.
 - ❖ The inflectional suffixes are as follows:
 - ❖ **The plural suffix- s** –they are added to the singular noun- apples, books, churches, babies.
 - ❖ **Genitive or possessive suffix- s-** is used to mark the possessive case as in John's, boy's, girls or Socrates.
 - ❖ **The present tense-** walks, moves, catches.
 - ❖ **Past tense suffix- ed-** is used to indicate simple past tense- played, talked, wanted etc.
 - ❖ **Present participle suffix-ing** is used to form the present participle of verbs. Coming, going, asking etc.
 - ❖ **Comparative suffix-er** taller, sooner etc.
 - ❖ **Superlative suffix-est-** tallest, soonest etc.
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Classification of Derivational suffixes- class maintaining derivational suffixes and class changing derivational suffix

- ❖ **Class maintaining derivational suffixes**-suffixes are added to the word but their class is not changed. For example suffix hood child-childhood, brother-brotherhood.

1. English language has a limited number of class maintaining derivational suffixes

1. Noun- noun suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Ster	Person engaged in as occupation or activity	Nouns	Gangster
Eer	Same as above	Personal nouns	Engineer
Er	Varied meanings	Nouns	Teenager, Londoner
Let	Small, unimportant	nouns	Booklet, piglet
Ette	Small, compact	Nouns	Kitchenette, statuette

Ess	Female	Nouns	waitress
Y, IE	-----	Nouns	Daddy, auntie
Hood	Status	Nouns	Boyhood, childhood, brotherhood.
Ship	Status, condition	Nouns	Friendship, dictatorship
Dom	Domain, condition	Nouns	Kingdom, stardom
Ocracy	System of government	Nouns	democracy
(E)ry	Behaviour, place of activity or abode	Nouns	Slavery, refinery, nunnery, machinery
Ful	The amount which contains	Nouns	Mouthful, handful

2. class changing derivational suffix (verb-noun suffix)

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
ER, OR,	Agentive and instrumental	verbs	Driver, receiver, actor
Ant	Same as above	Verbs	Inhabitant, disinfectant
Ee	Passive	verbs	employee
Ation	State, action, institution	verbs	Organization, exploration, examination
Ment	State, action	verbs	Management, amazement, appointment
Al	action	Verbs	Refusal, dismissal
Ing	Activity Result of activity	Verbs	Driving Building
Age	Activity Result of activity	Verbs	Drainage.

3. Adjective- Noun suffixes-

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Ness	State, Quality	adjectives	Happiness, smartness,
Ity	State, Quality	adjectives	sainty

4. Verb suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Ify	Causative	adjectives	Simplify, Qualify,
Ize	Causative	Nouns	Popularize Summarize

En	Causative Become X	Adjectives	Deafen Sadden
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5. Noun –adjective suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Ful	Having Giving	Nouns	Useful, helpful, handful,
Less	Without	Nouns	Childless, careless, helpless
Ly	Having the qualities of	Nouns	Cowardly, friendly, separately
Like	Having the qualities of	Nouns	Childlike.
Y	Like, covered with	Nouns	Creamy, hairy, floury
Ish	Belonging to Having the character of	Nouns	Turkish, foolish, childish
Ian	In the tradition of	Nouns	Darwanian, indian.

6. Some adjective suffixes common in borrowed and neo-classical words.

1. Al, ial, iacI- criminal, editorial, musical, classical.
2. Ic – heroic
3. Ive- attractive, affirmative, sensitive,
4. Ous- virtuous, courteous, vivacious.

7. Other adjective suffixes

1. Able- readable
2. Ible- forcible
3. Ish – youngish
4. Ed- balconied.

8. Adverb suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Added to	Examples
Ly	In a manner	adjectives	Happily, strangely, smartly,
Ward(s)	Manner, direction	Adverbs	backwards
Wise	In the manner of As far as is concerned.	Nouns	Crabwise Weather -wise