CHAPTER II

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AFFIXES

An affix is a morpheme that is attached to a word to form a new word (Scalise, 1984: 79) Affixes are introduced by the derivational rules. There is no difference between the representation of affixes and the rules that introduced them. Affixes, therefore, must be bracketed not as autonomous formatives but rather as formatives that are added to other specific formatives. Not be labeled with only one syntactic category since they, in fact, express a relation between two syntactic categories (e.g. –ic forms Adjective from nouns), and be provided with a boundary symbol.

The set of affixes can be divided into two subsets, prefixes and suffixes. Depending, among other things, on the position in which they are attached. The former precede the element to which they are added, while the latter follow it. It should be noted that prefixes are different from stems (which we have seen are sometimes also referred as prefixes); while prefixes are uniquely attached to the left of their base element, stems exhibit a variety of combinatorial possibilities.

Affixation is, thus, the linguistic process speakers use to form new words (neologisms) by adding morphemes (affixes) at the beginning (prefixation), the middle (infixation) or the end (suffixation) of words.

Affixes are divided into several categories, depending on their position with reference to the stem. Prefix and suffix are extremely common terms. Infix and
circumfix are less so, as they are not important in European languages. The other terms are uncommon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affix</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Schema</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prefix</strong></td>
<td>un-do</td>
<td>prefix-stem</td>
<td>Appears at the front of a stem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suffix/Postfix</strong></td>
<td>look-ing</td>
<td>stem-suffix</td>
<td>Appears at the back of a stem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infix</strong></td>
<td>Minne-flippin'sotaist-infix-em</td>
<td></td>
<td>Appears within a stem common in Borneo-Philippines languages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Circumfix</strong></td>
<td>a-scatter-ed</td>
<td>circumfix-stem-circumfix</td>
<td>One position appears at the front of a stem, and the other at the rear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interfix</strong></td>
<td>speed-o-meter</td>
<td>stem_a-interfix-stem_b</td>
<td>Links two stems together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix</td>
<td>Example</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplifix</td>
<td>teeny-weeny</td>
<td>Incorporates a reduplicated position of a stem (may occur in front, at the rear, or within the stem).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfix</td>
<td>Maltese: k\textit{t}e\textit{b} &quot;he wrote&quot; (compare root \textit{kth} &quot;write&quot;)</td>
<td>A discontinuous affix that interleaves within a discontinuous stem.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulfix</td>
<td>mouse → mice</td>
<td>Changes a segment of a stem.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suprafix</td>
<td>produce (noun) produce (verb)</td>
<td>Changes a suprasegmental phoneme of a...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prefix and suffix may be subsumed under the term adfix in contrast to infix. In transcription, for example in the third column in the chart above, simple affixes such as prefixes and suffixes are shown connected to the stem with hyphens. Affixes which disrupt the stem, or which themselves are discontinuous, are often marked off with angle brackets.

2.1 Prefix

A prefix is an affix which is placed before the stem of a word. Particularly in the study of Semitic languages, a prefix is called a preformative, because it alters the form of the words to which it is affixed.

Examples of prefixes:

- unhappy : un is a negative or antonymic prefix.
- prefix, preview : pre is a prefix, with the sense of before
- redo, review : re is a prefix meaning again.
The word prefix is itself made up of the stem fix (meaning attach, in this case), and the prefix pre- (meaning "before"), both of which are derived from Latin roots.

2.2 Suffix

In linguistics, a suffix (also sometimes called a postfix or ending) is an affix which is placed after the stem of a word. Common examples are case endings, which indicate the grammatical case of nouns or adjectives, and verb endings, which form the conjugation of verbs. Particularly in the study of Semitic languages, a suffix is called an affirmative, as they can alter the form of the words to which they are fixed. In Indo-European studies, a distinction is made between suffixes and endings (see Proto-Indo-European root).

Suffixes can carry grammatical information (inflectional suffixes). (Derivational suffixes). An inflectional suffix is sometimes called a dissidence.

Some examples from English:

Girls, where the suffix -s marks the plural.

He makes, where suffix -s marks the third person singular present tense.

It closed, where the suffix -ed marks the past tense.
2.3 Inflectional suffixes

Inflection changes grammatical properties of a word within its syntactic category. In the example:

“The weather forecaster said it would clear today, but it hasn't cleared at all”

The suffix -ed inflects the root-word clear to indicate past tense. Some inflectional suffixes in present day English:

- -s third person singular present
- -ed past tense
- -ing progressive/continuous
- -en past participle
- -s plural
- -en plural (irregular)
- -er comparative
- -est superlative
- -n't negative

2.4 Derivational suffixes

Derivational suffix is use to form a new words, as with happy-ness and unhappy from happy, or determination from determine.
In the example:

"The weather forecaster said it would be clear today, but I can't see clearly at all"

The suffix -ly modifies the root-word clear from an adjective into an adverb. Derivation can also form a semantically distinct word within the same syntactic category. In this example:

"The weather forecaster said it would be a clear day today, but I think it's more like clearest!"

The suffix -ish modifies the root-word clear, changing its meaning to "clear, but not very clear".

Some derivational suffixes in present day English:

- -ian
- -ize/-ise
- -fy
- -ly
- -ful
- -able/-ible
- -hood
- -ness
- -less
2.6 Infix

An infix is an affix inserted inside a stem (an existing word). It contrasts with adfix, a rare term for an affix attached to the outside of a stem, such as a prefix or suffix.

English has almost no true infixes and those it does have are marginal. A few are heard in colloquial speech, and a couple more are found in technical terminology.