

The Search for Truth: An Analysis of the Derivational Affixes Found in the Selected Poems of Fernando A. Bernardo's *The Silent Voice of Your Soul*

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Abstract

One of the most important components of language is Vocabulary, a set of words or the combinations of symbols, signs, or letters that have evolved to identify things and ideas. It is an important component of language and language learning as the lack of it hampers a person's ability to comprehend and communicate effectively. This research analyzes the derivational affixes found in the selected poems of Fernando A. Bernardo in his book entitled *The Silent Voice of Your Soul*. This research is important as it can help enrich and widen the vocabulary of readers by helping them identify derivational affixes and the functions of these affixes. This study will also help the readers understand how certain words change their word class and meaning as different affixes are added to them. Descriptive Qualitative Content Analysis was used to analyze thoroughly the derivational affixes found in the poems. Based on the analysis, there are a total of fifty-five (55) words with derivational affixes found in the poem. Twenty-five (25) words have noun-forming affixes which consist of *-ance*, *-ence*, *-ity*, *-ness*, *-ion*, and *-or*. Sixteen (16) words have adjective-forming affixes which consist of *-ty*, *-ful*, *-less*, *-ous*, *-al*, *-ry*, *-tial*, and *-ed*. Eight (8) words in the poems consist of verb-forming affixes such as *un-*, *dis-*, *ate*, and *-ing*. Lastly, six (6) words from the poems are formed with the adverb-forming affix *-ly*. Through understanding the different words used, the readers can improve their vocabulary and understanding of the language and literary texts.

Keywords: Affixes; Derivation; Morphology; Poetry; Vocabulary

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1. Introduction

Language is a vital element in human life. It is used not only as a medium to form and maintain relationships but also as a means to express one's feelings, emotions, and ways of thinking. Through language, one's experiences are shaped and exchanged, allowing humans to understand one another. Moreover, as a medium for communication, each word one uses to communicate, whether through written or spoken form, has an assigned sound and meaning that allows humans to communicate effectively. It is therefore important for every individual to understand and master the different elements of language, such as its vocabulary to better comprehend the different meanings of words as it is used in a sentence.

According to Thornbury (2002), vocabulary is one of the most obvious components of a language, and that no language exists without words. Vocabulary is the set of words or the combinations of symbols, signs, or letters that have evolved to identify things and ideas. Since every word in the English language has a basic meaning, language comprehension and production will therefore be hampered if a person lacks vocabulary. The insufficient knowledge of vocabulary is said to be one of the reasons why language learning fails. It is, therefore, central to teach vocabulary as without sufficient vocabulary language learners cannot understand others and even convey their own ideas.

One of the main areas of studying vocabulary and meaning is learning how words are coined and formed, which can be done through the study of Morphology. Morphology is the study of word formation, including the ways new words are coined in the languages of the world (Liber, 2009). It also attempts to understand how people use and understand how words work, and they should look at the relationship between words, the way the forms of words vary depending on how they are used in the sentences. Furthermore, since Morphology does not simply look at how words are formed, it goes beyond analyzing how words are built down to the smallest unit of a word called morphemes.

Morphemes are considered as the smallest units of meaning in a language. They are meaningful linguistic units that consist of words such as *cat* and *bird*, or word element, such as the *-s* at the end of *cats* and *birds*, that cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts. Morphemes are also divided into the free morpheme and the bound morphemes. Free morphemes are words that can stand alone on their own. On the other hand, bound morphemes have no linguistic meaning unless they are connected to a root or a base word. These bound morphemes are also known as affixes; examples are *-er*, *-ly*, *-s*, *-ed*. These examples require another word to form a complete word (Booij, 2005).

In the process of word formation, words normally begin with a root that forms the basis for a new word. These root words can be a complete word or a part of an entire word. Then, a prefix (a word + part that appears in front of a root) or a suffix (word + part that appears at the end of a root) is added to the root word to form a new or another word. The process called Affixation can change a word's word class (joy (Noun) to joyful (Adjective)) or a word's meaning within its word-class (big and bigger (both are adjectives))

Moreover, affixes can further be categorized to *derivational* and *inflectional affixes*. In English, both prefixes and suffixes can be derivational, but only suffixes can be inflectional (Lieber, 2017). Derivational affixes are capable of producing a new word class and a new meaning from a base, providing a more complex change. The derivational suffix *-ly*, for example, can

transform an adjective into an adverb. Further, if we add the derivational prefix *un-* to the adjective *satisfied*, the word remains an adjective, but the meaning changes completely. On the other hand, inflectional affixes produce a new word from an existing word without changing its word class or lexical category. For example, suffix *-s* can be added to the noun *teachers*, the meaning of the word has now changed, but the lexical category remains the same. Thus, it is therefore important for language learners to be able to identify derivational affixes, as they will be able to develop their vocabulary significantly.

For several years, various research have been conducted to analyze the derivational and inflectional affixes of different text to understand morphemic structure of words and how vocabulary learning affects the overall second language performance, including comprehension and spelling ability. The study by Rizkia (2020), for example, identified the derivational and inflectional morphemes that occur in the Deen Squad lyrics. The researcher aimed to describe the dominant type of derivational and inflectional affixes in the songs. The data of the study showed 17 derivational morphemes which were classified into four (4) types. The most frequent morpheme in the lyrics was inflectional progressive type, which occurred 37 times. In this study, the researcher also mentioned that the primary thing in mastering a language is learning different words as this deals with morphology that influences spelling, reading comprehension, and vocabulary

In another study by Andini and Pratiwi (2013), on the other hand, identified the derivational affixes found in Ahmad Fuadi's novel entitled *The Land of Towers* which was inspired by the life story of the author himself. The researchers also analyzed the contribution of grammar meaning in the discourse. Based on the data found the author used the prefixes *en-*, *in-*, *un-*, *a-*, *non-*, *re-*, *im-*,. On the other hand, suffixes *±ly*, *-able*, *-er*, *-al*, *-ous*, *-ate*, *-cy*, *-y*, *-ee*, *±tion*, *-ion*, *-ize*, *-ship*, *-ment*, *-ism*, *-ist*, *-en*, *-ful*, *-age*, *-tic*, *-ish*, *-ary*, *-cent*, *-ive*, *-ance*, *-less*, *-ence*, *-ity*, *-ant*, *-or*, *-ness*, *-ure*, *-fy* were also found in the novel. These derivational affixes were classified based on the part of speech, in which 199 words are adjective, 188 words are noun, and 266 words are verb. According to the researchers, mastering the English language is not easy if the student lacks vocabulary. Thus, the researchers suggest that the readers should learn how to breakdown words into its root words and affixes to further improve their mastery of vocabulary.

Further, it was said that second language learners often have trouble in learning the English word systems that have roots and standard rules for the way affixes are used. Thus, Kim (2013) in his study investigated that the best way for the non-speaker of English to formally learn the prefix and suffixes. The experiment was carried out for ten (10) weeks to fifty-four (54) students at a private English School in Korea. Half of the students were tasked to memorize English words using the knowledge gained from their teachers' affixation lectures, while the other half of the student studied without instruction about affixation. The goal of this study was to determine how students acquire affixation pattern of English words, how these expanded their vocabulary knowledge. It was concluded that basic knowledge of commonly used affixes would help language learners to comprehend English vocabulary much faster.

For this research, the researchers understand that there are different ways of learning and expanding one's vocabulary, and one of them is through reading Poems. Since language is the medium for Poetry, it has also become the ideal vehicle to illustrate culture, society, feelings, and language use. Compared to other forms of literature like prose and drama, Poetry has different elements as it contains lines, stanzas, rhyming, alliteration, diction, and full of imagery to beautify

the poem. Therefore, since the meaning behind a poem becomes difficult to comprehend due to the structure used in Poetry, the researchers decided to use poems as a source of data for this study.

This research is essential as it can help enrich and widen the vocabulary of the readers by helping them identify derivational affixes. This study will also help the readers understand how certain words change its world-class and meaning as different affixes are added to the word. Moreover, this study can help educators in teaching grammar and literature as it will present theory and results that can be used as a basis for the discussion of word-formation. Lastly, this research will help in the instructions of English as the result can give awareness in derivational morphology which will help the learners to manipulate derived words and produce new derivation of words.

Generally, this study aims to analyze the derivational affixes found in the selected poems of Fernando A. Bernardo which are found in his book, *The Silent Voice of Your Soul* (2003). Specifically, it aims to: (1) identify the derivational affixes used in Fernando Bernardo's poem entitled *The Search for Truth* and *The Ember and Floodlight of Life*; and (2) analyze the functions of derivational affixes found. This research is different from other research studied in the past, as the researchers will focused its study in analyzing poems which is not often done before, as most researchers focused their studies on prose such as essays, novels, and short stories. Since Poetry contains different elements from prose, most often, the words used in poetry is often more difficult to comprehend. Thus, this researcher will be able to fill the gap between how the words are used and created in poems and what these words mean as used in the poems.

Fernando A. Bernardo is an Agricultural Scientist known for being the first President of the then named, Visayas State College of Agriculture (VISCA) now known as Visayas State University (VSU). Fernando A. Bernardo is recognized more in writing scientific research, providing knowledge in the fields of Agriculture. The researchers used Bernardo's works to also recognize his skills in poetry and to understand deeper his poems that were created from his pondering thoughts and constant contemplation on the philosophical questions he has had since experiencing the solitude of life and the silence of retirement.

2. Method

Generally, this study aims to analyze the derivational affixes found in the selected poems of Fernando A. Bernardo which are found in his book, *The Silent Voice of Your Soul* (2003). Specifically, it aims to: (1) identify the derivational affixes used in Fernando Bernardo's poem entitled *The Search for Truth* and *The Ember and* In this study, the researchers used Descriptive Qualitative Content Analysis. According to Moleong (2006), the qualitative method is a procedure that can help identify descriptive data that contain spoken and written words, which also helps identify the behavior of people. The aim of this method is to provide a complete and detailed description of what has been observed. Moreover, this study also includes the descriptive method of collecting the data needed for the study. Based on the process of descriptive method as mentioned by Etna, Widodo, and Mukhatar (2000), the researchers first identified and collected the words that contains derivational affixes. Then, the researchers analyzed each word to know its lexical category. Lastly, the researchers then identified the linguistic functions of the data identified. This method is the most appropriate for this research as the objectives are answered with systematic and accurate descriptions that deal with the facts and characteristics of the research data.

The data collected for this research are the words that contain derivational affixes. The data of this research are taken from the poems of Fernando A. Bernardo in his book *The Silent Voice of Your Soul*. The two specific poems analyzed are *The Search For Truth* and *The Ember and Floodlight Of Life*. The book, *The Silent Voice of Your Soul* is a collection of thirty-five (35) poems with thirty (30) paintings by Bernardo himself. This book is a reflection on the human condition that speaks about life, birth, adolescent, family, and human passions - love, anger, bitterness, depredation, revenge, and solitude.

3. Finding and Discussion

Based on the findings of this research, the researchers were able to find fifty-five (55) derivational affixes from the two poems of Fernando A. Bernardo entitled *The Search For Truth* and *The Ember and Floodlight Of Life*. The *Silent Voice Of Your Soul*. From the fifty-five (55) derivational affixes found twenty-five (25) words are Noun Derivation, sixteen (16) words are Adjective Derivation, six (6) are Adverb Derivation, and eight (8) are Verb Derivation.

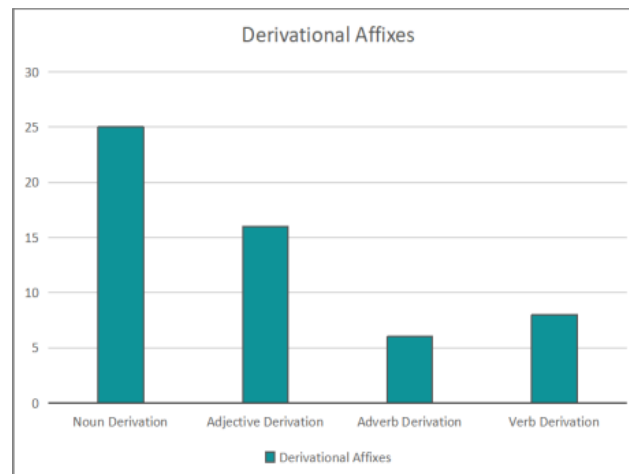


Figure 1. Derivational Affixes Found

3.1. Noun-forming Affixes

Noun-forming affixes change the word or morpheme to noun. Based on the result of the data collection, there are twenty-five (25) words containing noun-forming derivational affixes. Out of the twenty (25) words, eighteen (18) words with noun-forming derivational affixes are found in the poem *The Ember and Floodlight of Life*, while seven (7) words with noun-forming derivational affixes are found in the poem *The Search for Truth*. The examples of these words are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Table for the Noun-forming Affixes found in the poems of Fernando A. Bernardo

Suffix	Origin		Product
	Root Word	Word Class	
-ance	extravagant	Adjective	<i>extravagance</i>
	abundant	Adjective	<i>abundance</i>

Suffix	Origin		Product
	Root Word	Word Class	
-ity	secure	Adjective	<i>security</i>
	generous	Adjective	<i>generosity</i>
	simple	Adjective	<i>simplicity</i>
	diverse	Adjective	<i>diversity</i>
	serene	Adjective	<i>serenity</i>
-ness	lavish	Adjective	<i>lavishness</i>
	happy	Adjective	<i>happiness</i>
	empty	Adjective	<i>emptiness</i>
-ion	create	Verb	<i>creation</i>
-or	create	Verb	<i>creator</i>
	invent	Verb	<i>inventor</i>

The Noun-forming suffixes, also known as Nominal suffixes, are used to form nouns from verbs, adjectives, and nouns. These nouns can denote actions, results of actions, or other related concepts, it can also denote properties and qualities (Plag, 2003).

The noun-forming affixes found in the poems are *-ance*, *-ity*, *-ness*, *-ion*, and *-or*. The author uses the suffix *-ance* to convert the word *extravagant*, which is an adjective, to *extravagance*, which is a noun, meaning elaborate or excessive. The author also used the suffix *-ity*, which is added to a word to denote a state or condition. One example of this derivational suffix is the word *simplicity* from the root word *simple*. The word *simplicity* means the quality or condition of being plain or natural. The suffix *-ness* is also found in the poems. The suffix *-ness* is commonly used to denote a state of quality; for example, the word *happiness*, derived from the adjective *happy*, meaning a feeling of pleasure or contentment.

Moreover, *-ion* is also found by the researchers. The suffix *-ion* denotes the verbal actions or an instance of this (Soanes and Stevenson, 2004). Based from the table above, the word *creation* is a result of the verb bounded together with the suffix *-ion*. Lastly, the suffix *-or* is attached to a verb which means *the doer* of the verb itself, just like the example *inventor* from the verb *invent*.

3.2 Adjective-forming Affixes

The adjective-forming suffixes change the word class to verb. These affixes are added to make a word that you can use to describe something. Based on the data found, there are sixteen (16) adjective-forming words found in Bernardo's poems. Out of the sixteen (16) words, fourteen (14) are found in the poem *The Ember of Floodlight and Life*, while two (2) are found in the poem *The Search for Truth*. The examples of these words are shown in the table below.

Table 2. Table for the Adjective-forming Affixes found in the poems of Fernando A. Bernardo

Suffix	Origin		Product
	Root Word	Word Class	
-ful	wast	noun	<i>wasteful</i>
	delight	noun	<i>delightful</i>
-less	life	noun	<i>lifeless</i>
	death	noun	<i>deathless</i>
	end	noun	<i>endless</i>
-ous	luxury	noun	<i>luxurious</i>
	ingenuity	noun	<i>ingenious</i>
-al	universe	noun	<i>universal</i>
-ry	star	noun	<i>starry</i>
-ed	trigger	verb	<i>triggered</i>
-tial	essence	noun	<i>essential</i>

The suffixes that are used to create an adjective can be added to a verb or noun. The adjective-forming suffixes can be divided into two groups: *relational adjective* and *qualitative adjective*. Relational adjective-forming suffixes are added to a word to make a word relate to the noun the adjective qualifies to the base word of the derived adjective. Relational adjectives do not express a property but rather a relation to a concept designated by a noun. For example, *algebraic mind* means 'a mind having to do with algebra, referring to algebra, characterized by Algebra. On the other hand, qualitative adjectives are words that describe the features or qualities of a noun. These words are gradable with superlative, comparative, and positive forms (Plag, 2003). From the table above, the adjective-forming suffixes that are found are *-ful*, *-less*, *-ous*, *-al*, *-ry*, *-ed*, and *-tial*.

The suffix *-ful*, as used by the author, derives measure partitive nouns, similar to expressions such as a lot of, a bunch of, from nominal base words that can be construed as containers, such as the examples above *wasteful* and *delightful*.

The suffix *-less* can be seen as antonymic to the suffix *-ful*. This suffix denotes the description of being without an X. The examples above are *deathless*, *endless*, and *lifeless*.

The suffix *-ous* creates adjectives from nouns and bound roots. Suffix *-ous* has general sense, possessing, full of. Examples found in the poem are *ingenious*, which means clever or inventive, and *luxurious*, which means elegant or enjoyable, especially in a way that involves great expense..

The relational suffix *-al*, just like the examples above, these suffix attaches almost exclusively to Latinate bases, such as the word *universal*.

The suffix *-ed* derives adjectives with the general meaning 'having X, being provided with X, just like the example above, which is *triggered*, a word that denotes an emotion caused by a particular action or activated by a trigger.

3.3 Adverb-forming Affixes

Adverb-forming affixes change the word or morpheme to an adverb. Based on the result of the data collection, there are six (6) words containing adverb-forming affixes. The six (6) words with adverb-forming affixes are all found in the poem *The Ember and Floodlight of Life*, while there are no adverb-forming affixes found in the poem *The Search for truth*. The examples of these words are shown in the table 3.

Table 3. Table for the Adverb-forming Affixes found in the poems of Fernando A. Bernardo

Suffix	Origin		Product
	Root Word	Word Class	
-ly	slow	adjective	<i>slowly</i>
	sure	adjective	<i>surely</i>
	consistent	adjective	<i>consistently</i>
	constant	adjective	<i>constantly</i>
	abundant	adjective	<i>abundantly</i>
	selfish	adjective	<i>unselfishly</i>

The affix that makes an adverb in this study is the suffix -ly. From the table above, the words with this suffix are *slowly*, *surely*, *consistently*, *constantly*, *abundantly*, and *unselfishly*.

Based on the data above, the suffix -ly functions as an adverb maker that changes an adjective word to an adverb. In the poems, the suffix -ly provides a clearer explanation about the expression of the poem or the condition that had happened stated in the poem. The author also used this suffix to also denote the manner of how something is done to make it clear for the readers to understand.

For example, the adverb *surely* has the root word *sure*, which is an adjective. The suffix -ly is then added to modify the word which turns the adjective *sure* to the adverb *surely*. This adverb indicates the manner of how to do something. Thus, the word *surely* refers to the state of being certain. Moreover, this can also emphasize the belief of the author in his poem.

3.4 Verb-forming Affixes

Verb-forming affixes are kinds of affixes that form or change a current word class into a verb. From the data gathered, there is a total of eight (8) words containing verb-forming affixes. Out of these eight (8) words, four (4) are found in the poem *The Ember of Floodlight and Life*, while another four (4) words containing verb-forming affixes are found in the poem *The Search for Truth*. The examples of these words are shown in the table 4.

Table 4. Table for the Verb-forming Affixes found in the poems of Fernando A. Bernardo

Suffix	Origin		Product
	Root Word	Word Class	
<i>un-</i>	cover	noun/verb	<i>uncovered</i>
<i>dis-</i>	cover	noun/verb	<i>discover</i>
<i>-ated</i>	origin	noun	<i>originated</i>

<i>-ing</i>	wave	noun	<i>waving</i>
	sway	noun	<i>swaying</i>

The verb-forming affixes found in the poems are *un-*, *dis-*, *-ate*, and *-ing*. The prefixes *un-* and *dis-* in the poem are used to denote the opposite and negative meaning of the base form of the word. In the poem, these prefixes are used in the words *uncovered* and *discover*.

The suffix *-ing* is also found in the poem as used in the word *waving* and *swaying*. The suffix *-ing*, when added to a word, denotes action or process.

Based on the data gathered above, derivational affixes are found in the poems of Fernando A. Bernardo. The result of the study can further the students' knowledge on how affixes can change the word-class and meaning of a certain word, helping them learn the meaning of words and how these words are formed. Through this study, educators will see the importance of each word as it is used in any literary work, thus, it can improve their teaching styles and strategies in teaching grammar while incorporating literary works in teaching the English language. Educators can also test the students skills by giving them poem writing and story reading activities and other grammar activities to further the students knowledge and understanding of words. The use of literary works will not only enhance the students knowledge on words and meaning, it will also promote the love for reading and writing that will improve the learner's vocabulary and reading comprehension skills making it easier for them to effectively express and communicate their thought s and ideas using the English Language.

4. Conclusion

The morphological description of the derivational morphemes explains the process of producing a new word, changing the meaning of words, and changing the grammatical category of word. The derivational morphology shows certain aspects of morphology that have syntactic implications. For example, nouns can be derived from verbs, verbs from adjectives, adjectives from nouns, and even adverbs from adjectives.

This research analyzes the derivational affixes found in the poems of Fernando A. Bernardo entitled *The Ember and Floodlight of Light* and *The Search for Truth*. From the study, there are four formations of derivational morphemes found in the works of Fernando A. Bernardo, and these are Noun Formation, Verb formation, Adjective formation, and Adverb formation. There is a total of fifty-five (55) words with derivational affixes found in the poem. Twenty-five (25) words have noun-forming affixes which consist of *-ance*, *-ence*, *-ity*, *-ness*, *-ion*, and *-or*. Sixteen (16) words have adjective-forming affixes: *-ty*, *-ful*, *-less*, *-ous*, *-al*, *-ry*, *-tial*, and *-ed*. Eight (8) words found in the poems consist of verb-forming affixes such as *un-*, *dis-*, *ate*, and *-ing*. Lastly, six (6) words from the poems are formed with the adverb-forming affix *-ly*.

Through this study, it is further shown that Affixation is one of the ways of forming new words, which helps the readers to understand the meaning of difficult words in a given text like poems. Through understanding the different words used, the readers can improve their vocabulary and understanding of the language.

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