

The Analysis of Affixation in Taylor Swift's Song Lyric *All Too Well* (the 10-minute version)

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ABSTRACT

The main objectives in conducting this research were to find out what prefixes and suffixes appearing in a song lyric, to find out the relationship between the affixation that has the highest percentage of occurrence with the content of the song, and finally to find cultural values in the song through analyzing the affixes found. The descriptive qualitative method was used in this research with Taylor Swift's song *All Too Well (the 10-minute Version)* as the data source. The techniques in this research began with searching and marking words that have affixation, then grouping the data according to its type (prefix or suffix), its meaning, and calculating the percentage of occurrence of each affix. In the song *All Too Well (the 10-minute Version)*, there were 54 words that have affixation, which consists of 2 types of prefixes from 3 different words and 12 types of suffixes from 51 different words. Prefix re- was the prefix with the highest percentage of occurrence at 75% and found in 2 words. On the other hand, the suffix that had the highest percentage is suffix -ed, with a percentage of 33.33% and found in 17 words. The relation between the most frequent affixation data (of suffix-ed) with the content of the song *All Too Well (the 10-minute version)*, was that the frequent occurrence of suffix-ed in the lyrics described a story that happened in the past. This is in line with the dominant occurrence of the suffix -ed, which had the meaning of a past tense marker. Theoretically, this research adds literature of affixing analysis in morphology as sub-discipline of linguistics, while empirically, the findings shed light on the creative inclusion of affixing, i.e. prefixing and suffixing, in a modern popular song

INTRODUCTION

Language is the means by which humans exchange information between one another, language becomes the link between people when interacting within the scope of local and international communities. According to (Warahmah, 2022), "People are connected both locally and globally through language. They are utilized globally, spoken in the community, and have an impact on global development." Language has an essential act in the development of human activity, language has more functions and changes following the development experienced by humans. According to (Widyaswarani, 2022) "In the life of a human being, language is vital. Language serves as a picture of the lifestyle of its speakers in addition to serving as a means of communication." In its development, language is not just a means to interact and exchange thoughts, language has become a characteristic that represents the culture and daily life of native speakers. We can see how culture exists in a person by observing and learning about how a person uses language in everyday life. To learn about a person's culture through language, we can do it by studying linguistics or what is usually known as the science that studies everything about language.

Linguistics is a study of language because language is a system of communication. According to (Nurjanah et al., 2018) "A definition of linguistics is the scientific study of language. It examines every aspect of a language, including its structure, patterns, and interactions between all of its components." Human

communicate not only through language but also gesture, act, art, dress, music and etc. According to (Yastanti & Warlina, 2018) "In linguistics, it usually relates to the study of word structure and form." Linguistics explores the ins and outs of language, starting with sound, word formation, sentence formation, and language meaning. Linguistics has many branches of study, for example, phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, pragmatics, and semantics. Linguistics studies the patterns of language use in spoken and written form. For example, linguistics is used to analyze the meaning of an utterance in the context in which it occurs. In written objects, linguistics is used to understand the patterns of word and sentence formation. In this research, we focus on discussing the process of word formation, commonly known as morphology.

In linguistics, morphology is the study of words, their structure, and their relation with other words in the same language. According to (Camp, 2020) "The study of word structure is called morphology. A subfield of linguistics known as morphology designates grammatical units as the fundamental building blocks of language." According to (Larroque, 2023) "The materialization of morphemes is known as morphology. It involves analyzing word structures, including bases, root words, suffixes, and prefixes. In addition, morphology takes into account stress, intonation, and components of speech." Morphology is the study of how words are formed, a word that has a base form can develop into a new word. Morphology studies many types of word formation, such as affixation, acronyms, clipping, blending, and compounding. Affixation is the type of word formation that will be the subject of this research. According to (Giyatmi, 2019) "Important components of our language understanding are words." The unit that is added to the basic word form is called a morpheme. A morpheme has the meaning of being the smallest component of a language. The addition of a morpheme to a base word is called affixing, which is the action of adding a prefix, suffix, or both to a base word to make a new word form. Word kinds are separated into two groups in morphology: function words and content words. A content word is a type of word whose word form can be developed by adding a prefix or suffix. Examples of word classes included in the content word type are noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. According to (Bunau, 2022) "Grammar terms or function words that are solely necessary for a given grammatical context are not included, such as conjunctions, modals, prepositions, and articles. Only morphological or content words are covered by it." A function word is a type of word whose word form can be developed. Examples of word classes included in the type of function word are preposition and conjunction.

According to (Abeyweera, 2020) "The process of creating a new word with a distinct definition or a different form of an existing word is called affixation." Affixation is a type of word formation that involves adding a prefix, suffix, or both prefix and suffix to the base form to make a new word. According to (Fediany & Indriani, 2021) "The term "affix" is inextricably linked to language. In order to create derived or inflected forms, it is a grammatical element connected to a word, stem, or phrase." In the affixation process, prefixes and suffixes have an important role in changing the meaning of a word. In some cases, the addition of prefixes or suffixes also has an impact on changing the word class. The results of affixation are divided into two types, namely inflectional morphology and derivational morphology. According to (Tariq et al., 2020) "Prefixes and suffixes can be attached to certain morphemes in the English language through derivational and inflectional morphemes." The process of creating a new word by appending a prefix or suffix to a base word without altering the word class is known as inflectional morphology. Derivational morphology is the act of creating new words with different meanings and word classes by appending a prefix or suffix to a base word.

This study aims to comprehend the science of morphology more deeply, especially in the process of word formation, or what is called affixing. In this study, we will use song lyrics as the object to be studied. We chose the song as a data source because the song contains many words, which are the main points in our research. The song that we will examine in this study is *All Too Well (the 10-minute version)*. We chose the song lyric as a data source because the song is very popular among many people, and this song contains a lot of life lessons told by the author.

In this research, we examine Taylor Swift's *All Too Well (the 10-minute version)* song as a study material. The song, written by Taylor Swift herself, was released on November 12, 2021, and is included in the album *Red (Taylor's Version)*. Inside the song, Taylor Swift recounts how she navigates through her

emotions upon learning that her relationship with Jake Gyllenhaal has come to an end. The song is available on a number of music services, including Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube, and others. On October 22, 2012, the song that was originally included on the album *Red* was re-released because of Taylor Swift's copyright disputes with a former corporation. With more colorful and subtle phrases, this version of the song may heighten the listener's experience and feelings. The lyrics have been slightly modified from the original.

Taylor Swift describes in these lyrics how she dealt with her feelings when she realized her relationship was about to end. She acknowledges that she can still clearly recall all of their special times together. Taylor reminisced fondly about spending time with her former partner's family. The lyrics give the impression that the two have a tight friendship. They actually have aspirations of creating a future together. In the lyrics, Taylor revealed a more intimate situation. She conveyed her pain at her ex-boyfriend's perceived concealment of their connection. The song's lyrics make reference to her ex-boyfriend, who it seems dated a lady Taylor's age after their breakup.

Literature Review

In this research, we conducted a study by looking at previous studies that had the same subject matter as this research. We use previous studies as reference materials in making this research, and later we will also compare the results of our research with previous studies. The following are some previous studies that became reference materials for our research.

The research conducted by (Cahya et al., 2022), contains an analysis to find words that have prefixes and suffixes in a novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars*. In the study, researchers used morphology analysis and grouped words that had prefixes and suffixes according to their type, process, and meaning. Then, the researcher also calculated the percentage of prefixes and suffixes that appear most often in the novel.

In another study conducted by (Shofa et al., 2022), it contains an analysis to find words that have suffixes in the newspaper *The Los Angeles Times Newspaper*. In the study, researchers collected data on words that had suffixes and calculated the percentage of suffixes that appeared most often in the newspaper, and then analyzed the data with morphology analysis.

Furthermore, the research conducted by (Azizah et al., 2022), contains morphology analysis on words that have prefixes and suffixes. In the study, researchers used song lyrics from a famous singer as a data source, identified data, grouped data, and calculated the percentage of prefix and suffix occurrences that most often appeared in song lyrics.

Moreover, the research conducted by (Amelia et al., 2022), contains an analysis of the lyrics of the theme song of the movie produced by Disney. Researchers look for words that have prefixes and suffixes, and then group the data according to their type after being analyzed using morphology analysis.

Furthermore, the research conducted by (Fadhila, 2020), contains an analysis of affixation in a music album. The research was conducted by reading and marking the affixation found, identifying the form of affixation (prefix or suffix), analyzing the function and affixation, and drawing conclusions from the analysis that has been done.

METHOD

We employed a descriptive qualitative method in this study. According to (Bhangu et al., 2023) explained that "Methods of inquiry that depend on non-numerical and non-statistical means for gathering, analyzing, and producing information are known as qualitative research approaches". This methodology is used to describe data in the form of description variables, which are then subjected to many ways of analysis in order to provide information. According to (Aspers & Corte, 2019) "Through an iterative process of drawing new and important differences from a closer examination of the phenomenon under study, qualitative research aims to improve understanding for the scientific community". It is anticipated that through the data that we collect and analyze, many people will get new insights after read this research paper.

We chose song lyrics as the source of data to be studied. The song that will serve as the study's data source is the song *All Too Well (the 10-minute Version)*, written and popularized by a famous singer from the

United States, Taylor Swift. This song contains a romantic relationship that must run aground for an unreasonable reason. Taylor Swift, as a singer and writer in this song, tells about a bad experience in the world of romance and shares a message about her struggle to open a new page in her life. This song has many moral messages that are very related to the love stories of the younger generation today. Many people from all over the world like Taylor Swift's songs because they teach a lot about the values of life. The reason we chose this song to be the source of research data is because this song is very popular and has many positive messages.

The following is the methodology used to gather data for this study: we observe the song lyrics, and the data taken is in the form of words that have affixations. The collected data will be grouped into a table according to the type of affixation (prefix or suffix), and the number of occurrences of prefix and suffix will be counted to find out what affixation is dominant or appears most often in the song.

After the data is grouped into a table and the percentage of occurrence is known, we will analyze the findings using morphology analysis. According to (Álvarez & Ritchey, 2015) "The study of word forms' structures, primarily through the use of the morpheme construct, is known as morphology in grammar." The objective of the analysis is to find out the development of forming a new word.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the researcher used Taylor Swift's song lyric *All Too Well (the 10-minute version)* as the data source. The researcher did an analysis and found 52 words that had prefixes and suffixes. We categorize the words based on the type of affixation. Here are the data that we found:

Table 1 Table 1. Data of prefix in the song lyric of All to well (the 10-minute version) by Taylor Swift

| No | Word | Prefix | Meaning |
|----|-------------|--------|---------|
| 1 | Disposition | Dis- | Not. |
| 2 | Returning | Re- | Again. |
| 3 | Reminds | Re- | Again. |

Table 2

Table 3 Table 2. The percentage of prefix occurrences in the song lyric of All to well (the 10-minute version) by Taylor Swift

| Prefix | Occurrence in Data | Percentage |
|--------|--------------------|------------|
| Dis- | 1 | 25% |
| Re- | 2 | 75% |

Table 4 Table 3. Data of suffix in the song lyric of All to well (the 10-minute version) by Taylor Swift

| No | Word | Suffix | Meaning |
|----|-----------|--------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Asked | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 2 | Buried | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 3 | Called | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 4 | Charmed | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 5 | Glistened | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 6 | Happened | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 7 | Loved | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 8 | Needed | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 9 | Paralyzed | -ed | Past tense indicator. |

| | | | |
|----|--------------|-------|---|
| 10 | Reached | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 11 | walked | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 12 | watched | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 13 | Wondered | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 14 | Went | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 15 | Said | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 16 | Made | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 17 | Held | -ed | Past tense indicator. |
| 18 | Dancing | -ing | Continuous tense indicator. |
| 19 | Singing | -ing | Continuous tense indicator. |
| 20 | Skiping | -ing | Continuous tense indicator. |
| 21 | Telling | -ing | Continuous tense indicator. |
| 22 | Thinking | -ing | Continuous tense indicator. |
| 23 | Trying | -ing | Continuous tense indicator. |
| 24 | Returning | -ing | Continuous tense indicator. |
| 25 | Turning | -ing | Continuous tense indicator. |
| 26 | Lookin' | -ing | Continuous tense indicator. |
| 27 | Asking | -ing | Gerund indicator. |
| 28 | Swearing | -ing | Gerund indicator. |
| 29 | Running | -ing | Gerund indicator. |
| 30 | Thinking | -ing | Gerund indicator. |
| 31 | Turning | -ing | Gerund indicator. |
| 32 | Bones | -s | Plural indicator. |
| 33 | Cheeks | -s | Plural indicator. |
| 34 | Days | -s | Plural indicator. |
| 35 | Glasses | -es | Plural indicator. |
| 36 | Jokes | -s | Plural indicator. |
| 37 | Keys | -s | Plural indicator. |
| 38 | Months | -s | Plural indicator. |
| 39 | Nights | -s | Plural indicator. |
| 40 | Stories | -es | Plural indicator. |
| 41 | Goes | -es | Present tense indicator. |
| 42 | Reflects | -s | Present tense indicator. |
| 43 | Reminds | -s | Present tense indicator. |
| 44 | Smells | -s | Present tense indicator. |
| 45 | Casually | -ly | Adverb indicator (The manner of something.) |
| 46 | Lovely | -ly | Adjective indicator (Someone or something as being like of a particular kind of person or thing.) |
| 47 | Translation | -ion | An action or process. |
| 48 | Lifeless | -less | Without or lacking. |
| 49 | Refrigerator | -or | A person or thing. |
| 50 | Older | -er | Comparative indicator. |
| 51 | Patriarchy | -y | Something or someone as having a characteristic. |

Table 5 Table 4. The percentage of suffix occurrences in the song lyric of All to well (the 10-minute version) by Taylor Swift

| Suffix | Occurrence in Data | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| -ed | 17 | 33,33% |
| -ing (Continuous tense indicator) | 9 | 17,65% |
| -ing (Gerund indicator) | 5 | 9,80% |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------|
| -s and -es (Plural indicator) | 9 | 17,65% |
| -s and -es (Present tense indicator) | 4 | 7,84% |
| -ly (Adverb indicator) | 1 | 1,96% |
| -ly (Adjective indicator) | 1 | 1,96% |
| -ion | 1 | 1,96% |
| -less | 1 | 1,96% |
| -or | 1 | 1,96% |
| -er | 1 | 1,96% |
| -y | 1 | 1,96% |

In this study, we used the song *All Too Well (the 10-minute version)* from Taylor Swift as a data source. We analyzed and found 52 data points in the form of words that have prefixes and suffixes. For prefixes, we found 2 prefixes in 3 words, namely, dis- (not) and re- (again). The prefix Dis- has a percentage of occurrences of 25%. While the prefix re- has a percentage of occurrence of 75%. For the suffix itself, we found 51 words that have 11 different suffixes, namely: -ed (past tense indicator), -ing (Continuous tense indicator), -ing (gerund indicator), -s/-es (plural indicator), -s/-es (present tense indicator), -ly (adverb indicator), -ly (adjective indicator), -ion (an action or process), -less (without or lacking), -or (a person or thing), -er (comparative indicator), and -y (something or someone having characteristics). From the data above, suffix -ed has a 33,33% occurrence percentage, suffix -ing (continues tense indicator) has a 17,65% occurrence percentage, suffix -ing (gerund indicator) has a 9.80% occurrence percentage, suffix -s/-es (plural indicator) has a 17.65% occurrence percentage, suffix -s/-es (present tense indicator) has a 7,84% occurrence percentage, suffix -ly (adverb indicator) has 1,96% occurrence, suffix -ly (adjective indicator) has 1,96% occurrence, suffix -ion has 1,96% occurrence, suffix -less has 1,96% occurrence, suffix -or has 1,96% occurrence, suffix -er has 1,96% occurrence, and suffix -y has 1,96% occurrence. From our analysis, we relate our findings to the song we are researching, and we find that the suffix -ed becomes the most frequent suffix in the song *All Too Well*. Suffix -ed appears a lot because the song talks about the singer's past events, this is the reason why the suffix -ed becomes the dominant suffix in this song. While the prefix itself, prefix Re- becomes the prefix that appears frequently in the song *All Too Well*. Prefix re- appears frequently because the singer in this song seems to retell about her love story.

Cultural Values

Every song must have a meaning behind its lyrics. According to (Rany Selvyanti & Via Eka Lestari, 2022) "Lyrics in songs play an important role in conveying messages from the singer to the listener." A songwriter writes song lyrics based on a combination of many aspects, such as past experiences, future hopes, imagination, and others. According to (Setiadi, 2019) "Songs are not only a form of amusement; people use them to express their goals, their imaginations, messages that aim to sway listeners, and criticism of the status of the environment in which they live." A song is written in the form of beautiful words that are neatly arranged. Behind the beautiful words in a song lyric, there is an explicit or implied sense that a songwriter wants to reveal. The explicit message of a song will certainly be immediately easy to understand for the listeners. On the other hand, implied messages are sometimes inserted in a song; most likely, a listener will not immediately know the meaning that a songwriter wants to convey. The listener may need to listen to the song many times to get an implied meaning of a song.

Morphology studies how a word can be formed. A morpheme, which is a letter, has a big impact if added to a word. A morpheme can have an impact on changing the meaning and class of a word. This proves that small details such as morphemes have an important function in a language.

According to (Febrianty & Irawan, 2022) "A person listening to a music will be able to comprehend, experience, and interpret information from the lyrics." A message implied in a song may not be visible if we don't pay attention to it in detail. As with morpheme, an implied message is a very, very small detail, but behind a small detail is a big meaning that a songwriter wants to convey.

In this research, we analyzed and observed the small details in the lyrics of *All Too Well (the 10-minute Version)*. We tried to find an implied message contained in this song. We found some words that have a unique pattern and writing style. Here are the results of our findings in finding an implied message in the lyrics of the song *All Too Well (the 10-minute version)*:

1. "You almost ran the red 'cause you were **lookin'** over at me." [Chorus] (*All Too Well (the 10-minute version)* by Taylor Swift)
2. "And your mother's telling stories **'bout** you on the tee-ball team." [Verse 3] (*All Too Well (the 10-minute version)* by Taylor Swift)
3. "**'Til** we were dead and gone and buried." [Verse 3] (*All Too Well (the 10-minute version)* by Taylor Swift)
4. "**'Cause** there we are again in the middle of the night." [Chorus] (*All Too Well (the 10-minute version)* by Taylor Swift)

The data that we highlighted in bold shows a common characteristic, which is that they are both written with abbreviated word forms. The word *lookin'* is an abbreviated style of the word looking, the word *'bout* is an abbreviated style of the word about, the word *'til* is an abbreviated style of the word until, and the word *'cause* is an abbreviated style of the word because.

According to (Wulandari et al., 2021) "The usage of slang is universal among teenagers. Its applications are highly varied, adapting to the needs of the community and the communication strategy." The use of words in abbreviated form is a habit often used by young people when communicating. We conclude that the reason there are many words that appear in abbreviated form in this song is because Taylor Swift, as the author of this song, wants to state that she wrote this song and that it is intended for her fans, namely young people. Taylor Swift tries to adapt the content of the song she wrote to the culture and habits that are popular among young people.

Comparison with Previous Research

Previous research becomes one of the important references in conducting this research. Previous research provides an overview of the concept and results of a study. We try to conduct research by bringing some different points compared to previous studies. The following is a comparison that we observed through the results of our research with the results of research conducted by other researchers.

We compared our research with research conducted by (Cahya et al., 2022) The purpose of their research is the same as ours, which is to analyze prefixes and suffixes. The distinguishing point between their research and ours is the difference in the data source studied; they used a novel as the data source, while we used song lyrics as the object of research. We use the same data collection technique, which involves grouping the data according to the type of affixation and counting the number of occurrence frequencies of an affixation. Our research has similarities in the percentage of affixation occurrences; the most frequent affixation in the data they studied was suffix-ed (past tense marker), with a percentage of 22% of 50 data points. This is the same as our findings, where suffix-ed (past tense marker) becomes the most dominant affixation.

We compared our research with research conducted by (Shofa et al., 2022), We have different research objectives. They analyzed words that have suffixes found in a newspaper. They only analyzed words that have suffixes, while we analyzed both prefixes and suffixes that appear in a song. We used the same data collection concept, which is to group the data according to the type of affixation and count the number of frequencies of the occurrence of a song. We use the same concept of data collection, which is grouping data according to the type of affixation and counting the number of occurrence frequencies of an affixation. We have different research results; the most frequent affixation in their data is suffixing, with a percentage of occurrences of 34% of 50 data points. Whereas, in our data source, the most frequent affixation is suffix -ed.

Moreover, we compared our research with research conducted by (Azizah et al., 2022). We have the same research goal, which is to analyze words that have affixation in song lyrics. They used 3 different songs

as the data source, while we only used 1 song as the data source. They found the suffix -s as the most frequent affixation, with a percentage of 44% out of 50 data points. In our findings, suffix -ed is the most frequent affixation.

Furthermore, we compared our research with research conducted by (Amelia et al., 2022). Our research does not focus on whether or not there is a word class change in the affixation process; we focus on the number of affixation occurrences and try to correlate the dominant affixation with the content of the song we studied. They used four different songs as data sources, and they found the suffix -s as the most frequent affixation 16 times out of 50 data points. We only used 1 song as a data source, and the result was that suffix -ed became the most frequent affixation.

Furthermore, we compared our research with research conducted by (Fadhila, 2020). We have the same research goal, which is to analyze words that have affixation in song lyrics. Fadhila used a music album consisting of 14 different song titles as the data source, while we only used 1 song as the data source. We use the same data collection technique, which involves grouping data according to the type of affixation and counting the number of occurrence frequencies of an affixation. In her research, Fadhila found 69 words that have suffixes from 112 words; we found 51 suffixes from 52 words.

CONCLUSION

From the morphological analysis in the song *All too well (the-10 minute-version)*, we can know that this song describes a love story that has ended with meaningful words. Suffix -ed is one of the most frequent types of affixations in this song, because it shows that the event has already happened and cannot be changed anymore. This research can also help us understand how English is used as a means of communication and expression of emotions in the context of literary works.

In addition, this research also provides an overview of the development of the English language over time and how it is influenced by social and cultural factors, for example in this song there is a depiction of the culture that developed in young people. That culture is the behavior of abbreviating a word in conversation. Thus, this research contributes to the development of linguistics and English literature. Further research can be done by analyzing other affixations in other popular songs, or by comparing affixations between English and other foreign languages. In other words, this study shows that English is not only a formal communication tool, but also a tool of self-expression and social values.

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