



## A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF AFFIXES IN JOE BIDEN'S VICTORY SPEECH

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### ABSTRAK

Analisis kali ini membahas tentang imbuhan yang terdapat dalam pidato kemenangan Joe Biden sebagai presiden baru Amerika Serikat. Tujuan utama dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis jenis afiks yang digunakan dan jenis afiks yang dominan digunakan dalam pidato kemenangan Joe Biden. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan desain penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Transkrip pidato kemenangan Joe Biden digunakan sebagai sumber utama data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat delapan puluh tujuh (87) afiks infleksional dengan delapan (8) jenis sufiks yang berbeda. Selain itu, terdapat lima puluh dua (52) imbuhan turunan dengan delapan (8) jenis awalan yang berbeda dan dua puluh dua (22) jenis akhiran yang berbeda. Hebatnya, jenis afiks yang paling dominan yang sering muncul adalah afiks infleksional.

**Kata Kunci:**  
Morfologi,  
Afiks, Joe  
Biden, Pidato  
Kemenangan

### ABSTRACT

*This present analysis dealt with affixes contained in Joe Biden's victory speech as the new president of the United States. The main objective of the current study was to analyze the kinds of affixes used and the kinds of affixes dominantly used in the victory speech of Joe Biden. It was carried out using a descriptive qualitative research design. The transcript of Joe Biden's victory speech was used as the primary resource of the data. The results showed that there were eighty-seven (87) inflectional affixes with eight (8) different kinds of suffixes. Besides, there were fifty-two (52) derivational affixes with eight (8) different kinds of prefixes and twenty-two (22) different kinds of suffixes. Remarkably, the most dominant kinds of affixes that appeared frequently were inflectional affixes.*

**Keywords:**  
Morphological,  
Affixes, Joe  
Biden, Victory  
Speech

## INTRODUCTION

English has become a universal language because many countries claim it as their official language and second language. English is also a means of communication for people from different countries. Moreover, the English language is used frequently in multiple aspects of everyday life such as; politics, education, entertainment, news, etc. As a result, people must learn the English language since it is highly needed. In learning the English language, vocabulary significantly plays an important role. Without having extensive knowledge of words, language comprehension and production are extremely

limited (Thornbury, 2002). For this reason, in order to learn and enrich word capacity, English language learners have to be dealing with word construction. In the English language, the study of word construction is discussed in a field which is called morphology (Katamba, 1993).

Morphology is holding a critical impact to be successful in vocabulary development. Morphology is a branch of linguistics that studies word formation and structure in a particular language, especially English (Mayer, 2009). Morphology plays a necessary part in the construction of linguistic structures and units. According to (Crowley, 2007), morphology allows a language to change, adapt and modify the existing words. In morphology, there is the smallest unit of linguistics known as a morpheme. Based on (Katamba, 1993), a morpheme is a smallest and most meaningful unit. The morpheme is classified into two, namely free morpheme and bound morpheme. A free morpheme is a type of morpheme with a specific meaning that can stand alone as a word (Lieber, 2009). Put simply, a free morpheme can be a word. At the same time, a bound morpheme is the type of morpheme that cannot stand alone because bound morphemes need to be attached to a free morpheme (Lieber, 2009). One of many studies in morphology is affixation. Affixation is a morphological process of attaching affixes to a word with the intention to change the grammatical aspects of the word classes (McCarthy, 2002). Affixes mainly include morphemes. Affixes are bound morphemes that attach to a word or free morpheme (root or base). This process simply occurs when a bound morpheme is attached on a free morpheme orderly (Lieber, 2009).

Generally speaking, affixes are classified in two ways; a) based on the functions and b) based on the positions. Based on the functions, affixes are divided into inflectional and derivational. Lieber (2009) claimed inflectional affixes are the type of affixes that definitely do not change the word class and the meaning. Inflectional morphemes only modify and change the words' form to mark the grammatical aspects. On the other hand, Lieber (2009) stated that derivational affixes change the word classes or lexical categories. Derivational affixes are also able to change the meaning of the words. Based on the positions, there are three kinds of affixes: prefixes, infixes, and suffixes (Mayer, 2009). Prefixes are attached before the word, infixes are attached in the middle of the word, and suffixes are attached after the word.

According to Radford et al., (2009), understanding the process of affixation helps the English language learners to suspect, presume, and even figure out the meaning of the words. It also helps to build the students' knowledge of vocabulary. In conclusion, affixes analysis implicitly expands to help enrich vocabulary items.

Many pieces of research have been carried out regarding the morphological analysis of affixation. To begin with, Herlina & Kholiq (2020) analyzed derivational affixes in Edgar Alan's poem *The Black Cat*. Furthermore, Kusumawardhani (2020) examined affixes in the story of Hansel and Gretel. Similarly, Nurjanah et al. (2018) analyzed affixation in a narrative text entitled *The Ugly Duckling*. Not only that, Siboro & Bram (2020) explored the derivational affixes in the *Story of Rapunzel* by Brothers Grimm. In addition, Nurtiddini & Soraya (2019) inspected affixes in the Jakarta Post online newspaper article. These researches have analyzed the process of affixation.

As previously stated, affixation can be discovered in either spoken or written texts, such as; books, novels, magazines, newspapers, televisions, radios, movies, speeches, etc. The most common text which is often interesting to listen to is speech. Principally, speech is the act of delivering formal communication to the audience. Speech is also known as a public form of expression. A good speech is capable of giving a positive impression to

the audience. In this case, the choices of appropriate words are necessary for providing a good speech to society. Considering this fact, there are many exciting and leading words in a speech. Therefore, this paper will use speech as the resource to explore the process of affixation.

In light of previous researches, there has been limited research examining affixation in a speech. Hence, considering the previous studies and available resources, the researcher attempts to analyze the morphological affixes contained in the victory speech of Joe Biden as the new president of the United States. Since Joe Biden's victory speech is one of the phenomenal speeches, it is the obvious reason why the researcher is interested in analyzing affixation on Joe Biden's victory speech. On the other hand, this affixation analysis helps discover new words along with their meanings, forms, and usages. That is to say, the study of analyzing affixation on Joe Biden's victory speech is enriching vocabulary or word capacity of the readers, specifically English language learners.

## **METHOD**

### **Research design**

In the present research, the researcher applied a descriptive qualitative research design since the data were analyzed descriptively. Based on (Creswell, 2012), descriptive qualitative is designed to investigate the research subject in-depth. Moreover, descriptive qualitative research intends to describe how things are (Gay, 1987). Throughout this research design, the researcher planned to collect, arrange and analyze the affixes on the victory speech of Joe Biden.

### **Instruments**

During the data collection process, the researcher was the key instrument since the researcher took roles as a research designer, a data collector, a data interpreter, and a result reporter. Besides, the researcher applied observation table and document analysis as other instruments to support collecting the data. Moreover, the researcher used two kinds of resources, primary and secondary data. The primary data was taken from Joe Biden's victory speech transcript. Meanwhile, several additional references were involved as the secondary data in order to support the data.

### **Data analysis**

In analyzing the data from the resources, the researcher adopted the data analysis design of Miles & Huberman (1994). This data analysis design deals with three procedures: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. For this study, in the first step or data reduction, the words that contained affixes were selected and classified based on the affixes into three groups. They were suffix, prefix, or infix. In the second step or data display, the affixes found in the speech were then put into the table. This list helped the researcher draw the conclusion. The last step was drawing the conclusion. The conclusion was drawn based on the result of the two previous steps.

## RESULTS

### Findings

The data collection of this research was taken entirely from the script of Joe Biden's victory speech in The Inaugural Address on January 20, 2021, at the West Front of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. After analyzing the script, here are the affixes that have been found in the victory speech of Joe Biden;

**Table 1.1** Inflectional Affixes

No	Word	Based	Affixes			Note
			Prefix	Infix	Suffix	
1	advisers	adviser			-s	plural
2	american's	american			- 's	possessive
3	americans	american			-s	plural
4	angels	angel			-s	plural
5	asking	ask			-ing	present participle
6	battles	battle			-s	plural
7	begins	begin			-s	third person singular
8	believed	believe			-ed	past participle
9	birthdays	birthday			-s	plural
10	broadest	broad			-est	superlative
11	called	call			-ed	past participle
12	captures	capture			-s	third person singular
13	cities	city			-es	plural
14	constructed	construct			-ed	past participle
15	creates	create			-es	third person singular
16	cures	cure			-s	third person singular
22	darkest	dark			-est	superlative
17	dedicated	dedicated			-ed	past participle
18	delawareans	delawarean			-s	plural
19	delivered	deliver			-ed	past participle
20	democrats	Democrat			-s	plural
21	diseases	disease			-s	plural
23	dreams	dream			-s	plural
24	eagle's	Eagle			- 's	possessive
25	educators	educator			-s	plural
26	elected	Elect			-ed	past tense
27	enemies	enemy			-es	plural
28	experts	expert			-s	plural
29	family's	family			- 's	possessive
30	folks	folk			-s	plural
31	forces	force			-s	plural
32	freer	free			-er	comparative
89	given	give			-en	past participle
33	gives	give			-es	third person singular
34	goes	goes			-es	third person singular
35	going	go			-ing	present participle
36	graduations	graduation			-s	plural
37	hands	hand			-s	plural

No	Word	Based	Affixes			Note
			Prefix	Infix	Suffix	
38	healed	heal			-ed	past participle
39	hearts	heart			-s	plural
40	impulses	impulse			-es	plural
41	jill's	jill			- 's	possessive
42	jobs	job			-s	plural
43	ladies	lady			-es	plural
44	life's	life			- 's	possessive
45	looking	look			-ing	present participle
46	lower	low			-er	comparative
47	lowest	low			-est	superlative
48	makes	make			-s	third person singular
49	means	mean			-s	third person singular
50	millions	milion			-s	plural
51	moments	moment			-s	plural
52	opponents	opponent			-s	plural
53	opportunities	opportunity			-es	plural
54	parts	part			-s	plural
55	placed	place			-ed	past participle
56	points	point			-s	plural
57	presidents	president			-s	plural
58	promises	promise			-es	plural
59	reminded	remind			-ed	past participle
60	republicans	republican			-s	plural
61	respected	respect			-ed	past tense
62	scientists	scientist			-s	plural
63	seeing	see			-ing	present participle
64	seeks	seeks			-s	third person singular
65	shaped	shape			-ed	past participle
88	spoken	speak			-en	past participle
66	spouses	spouse			-s	plural
67	strengthened	strengthen			-ed	past participle
68	supported	support			-ed	past tense
69	surprised	surprise			-ed	past tense
70	sustains	sustain			-s	third person singular
71	talked	talk			-ed	past participle
72	tells	tell			-s	third person singular
73	times	times			-s	plural
74	treating	treat			-ing	present participle
75	tried	tire			-ed	past participle
76	volunteered	volunteer			-ed	past tense
77	volunteers	volunteer			-s	plural
78	voted	vote			-ed	past participle
79	votes	vote			-s	present participle
80	walked	walk			-ed	past tense
81	wanted	want			-ed	past tense
83	watching	watching			-ing	present participle

No	Word	Based	Affixes			Note
			Prefix	Infix	Suffix	
84	weddings	wedding			-s	plural
85	wings	wing			-s	plural
86	worked	worked			-ed	past tense
87	years	year			-s	plural

**Table 1.2** Derivational Affixes

No	Word	Based	Affixes			Note
			Prefix	Infix	Suffix	
1	action	act			-ion	verb → noun
2	administration	administrate			-ion	verb → noun
3	adviser	advice			-er	noun → noun
4	alike	like	a-			noun → adjective
5	commitment	commit			-ment	verb → noun
6	compassion	compass			-ion	verb → noun
7	convincing	convince			-ing	verb → adjective
8	cooperate	operate	co-			verb → verb
9	demonization	demonize			-ation	verb → noun
10	disability	disable			-ity	verb → noun
11	disappointment	appoint	dis-		-ment	verb → noun
12	education	educate			-ion	verb → noun
13	educator	educate			-or	verb → noun
14	embark	bark	em-			noun → verb
15	ethnicity	ethnic			-city	adjective → noun
16	fairness	fair			-ness	adjective → noun
17	former	form			-er	verb → noun
18	governor	govern			-or	verb → noun
19	honorary	honor			-ary	noun → adjective
20	hopefully	hope			-fully	noun → adverb
21	humbled	humble			-ed	verb → adjective
22	importantly	important			-ly	adjective → adverb
23	independent	depend	in-		-ent	verb → noun
24	inflection	inflect			-ion	verb → noun
25	making	make			-ing	verb → noun
26	mysterious	mystery			-ous	noun → adjective
27	official	office			-ial	noun → adjective
28	outpouring	outpour			-ing	verb → noun
29	overdue	due	over-			adjective → adjective
30	particularly	particular			-ly	adjective → adverb
31	possibility	possible			-ity	adjective → noun
32	presidential	president			-ial	adjective → noun
33	prevail	vail	pre-			verb → verb
34	progressive	progress			-ive	noun → adjective
35	prosperity	prosper			-ity	verb → noun
36	rebuild	build	re-			verb → verb
37	refusal	refuse			-al	verb → adjective
38	renew	renew	re-			verb → adjective

No	Word	Based	Affixes			Note
			Prefix	Infix	Suffix	
39	represent	present	re-			verb → verb
40	republican	republic			-an	noun → noun
41	restore	store	re-			verb → verb
42	scientist	science			-ist	noun → noun
43	senator	senate			-or	noun → noun
44	serving	serve			-ing	verb → noun
45	steadily	steady			-ly	adjective → adverb
46	strengthen	strength			-en	noun → verb
47	systemic	system			-ic	noun → adjective
48	teaching	teach			-ing	verb → noun
49	tireless	tire			-less	noun → adjective
50	transition	transit			-ion	verb → noun
51	victory	victor			-y	noun → adjective
52	vitality	vital			-ity	adjective → noun

## DISCUSSION

### The kinds of affixes that were used in Joe Biden's victory speech

For the inflectional affixes, the affixes that occurred were eighty-seven (87) suffixes. There were no prefixes and infixes. There were eight (8) different types of suffixes, such as; -s/es indicating plural, -s/es indicating third-person singular, -ed indicating past tense, -ed/en indicating past participle, -ing indicating present participle, -'s indicating possessive, -er indicating "comparative" and -est indicating "superlative". For the derivational affixes, the affixes that occurred were eleven (11) prefixes, forty-one (41) suffixes, and no infixes. There were eight (8) different kinds of prefixes, such as; a-, co-, dis-, em-, in-, over-, pre-, and re-. While, there are twenty-two (22) different types of suffixes, such as; -ion, -er, -ment, -ing, -ation, -ity, -or, -city, -ness, -ary, -fully, -ed, -ly, -ous, -ial, -ive, -y, -less, -ic, -en, and -ist.

### The kinds of affixes that were dominantly used in Joe Biden's victory speech

The data showed that the number of inflectional affixes was higher than the derivational affixes. It means inflectional affixes became the most dominant affixes that Joe Biden used in his victory speech.

Over and above that, the data claimed that suffixes were frequently used in both inflectional and derivational affixes. There were only a few prefixes, and even no infixes appeared in Joe Biden's victory speech. The suffixes mostly appeared in inflectional affixes. Then, the suffix -ion mostly appears in derivational affixes.

## CONCLUSION

From the results of data analysis, the researcher found both inflectional and derivation affixes in the victory speech of Joe Biden. In particular, there were eighty-seven (87) inflectional affixes and fifty-two (52) derivational affixes. For the inflectional affixes, there were eight (8) different types suffixes, such as; -s/es indicating "plural", -s/es indicating "third person singular", -ed indicating "past tense", -ed/en indicating "past participle", -ing indicating "present participle", -'s indicating "possessive", -er indicating

“comparative” and -est indicating “superlative”. Meanwhile, for the derivational affixes, there were eight (8) different types of prefixes, such as; a-, co-, dis-, em-, in-, over-, pre-, and re- and twenty-two (22) different types of suffixes, such as; -ion, -er, -ment, -ing, -ation, -ity, -or, -city, -ness, -ary, -fully, -ed, -ly, -ous, -ial, -ive, -y, -less, -ic, -en, and -ist. As a result, inflectional affixes become the most dominant affixes which are being used in Joe Biden’s victory speech. Furthermore, since the analysis of this paper is still limited, the other researchers are advised to develop further studies with different data resources.

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