Nominal Suffixes in *Elemental* Movie

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Abstract. Nominal derivational suffixes are important to create new words, making communication more efficient. Nominal derivational suffixes can be found in novel, short story, or even animated movie. Some previous studies have focused only on written media, which limits the exploration of the use of nominal derivational suffixes in spoken language. This study aims to fill this gap by identifying the forms and the functions of nominal derivational suffixes found in the Elemental movie. To collect the data, this study applied documentation method and concordance technique. The data collected were analyzed using a qualitative descriptive method. The data then presented using formal and informal methods. The findings highlighted there were thirty words with nine forms of nominal suffixes. This showed how suffixes contribute to word formation, character speech, and meaning, offering insights for future studies or learners.

Keywords: Animated Movie, Derivation, Nominal Suffixes

1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Derivational suffixes are important in language because they help create new words and change their grammatical functions. As part of morphology; the study of word formation (Lieber, 2010, p. 2) they allow speakers to form different word types, making communication more efficient. The primary role of derivational processes is to allow language users to create new words, and these newly formed words can belong to a different grammatical category than the original ones (Booij, 2007, p. 51). According to (Plag, 2018, p. 225), affixes are defined as a bound morpheme that attaches to some other morpheme. Suffixes are affixes that attach root, base, or word. This is supported by Katamba (1994), who states that any morphemes appended to the root are called affixes.

Derivational suffixes are interesting because of their ability to regenerate words into various forms. For example, the word *colony* can be regenerated into various forms such as *colonial*, and, *colonialism* (Plag, 2018, p. 204), etc. They can make new words or make words from different grammatical categories (Yule, 2010). This process could interpret the meaning of a word more accurately to represent the message. Furthermore, studying derivational suffixes also enriches our vocabulary and understanding of the flexibility of English, for example, the word *teach* added by the suffix *-er* becomes *teacher* (Plag, 2018, p. 89) is more efficient rather than using the one who teaches. According to Plag (2018, p. 87-98) divided derivational suffixes into nominal suffixes, adjectival suffixes, adverbial suffixes, and verbal suffixes.

In this article, the researcher aimed to identify and analyze the forms and the function of the nominal derivational suffixes. Because of their widespread linguistic relevance and crucial function in word creation, nominal derivational suffixes are chosen as the main focus of this study. Nominal suffixes, in contrast to other types of suffixes, have the special capacity to transform verbs, adjectives, and even nouns into nouns, therefore greatly extending the noun class. Because of their ability to create nouns that refer to people, things, attributes, or abstract ideas, nominal suffixes are particularly crucial for vocabulary expansion and language development.

The article offers important insights into the formation of new nouns by concentrating on nominal derivational suffixes, which is essential for vocabulary growth and improved language understanding. Furthermore, it also provides a base for future studies, such as exploring nominal suffix usage in different media or languages and how words are formed.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Plag (2018) proposed four types of suffixes; nominal suffixes, verbal suffixes, adjectival suffixes, and adverbial suffixes. Nominal suffixes are often employed to derive abstract nouns from verbs, adjectives, and nouns. This type of suffixes include **-age, -al, -ance (with its variants -ence/-ancy/-ency), -ant, -cy/-ce, -dom, -ee, -eer, -er (**and its orthographic variant **-or), -(e)ry, -ess, -ful, -hood, -(i)an (**and its variants **-ean), -ing, -ion, -ism, -ist, -ity, -ment, -ness,** and **-ship.** Nominal derivational suffixes perform two key functions: class-maintaining and class-changing functions. According to Bauer (1983, p. 31) a class-maintaining process of derivation can involve adding a suffix to a word without altering its grammatical category. The class-maintaining derivation using the nominal suffixes can form a noun from another noun. On the other hand, a class-changing process of derivation involves suffixes that change the grammatical category of the base word. of expression. According to Bauer (1983, p. 220-226) the class-hanging derivation using the nominal suffixes can form nouns from verbs, and nouns from adjectives.

There have been several studies regarding this topic, as examples Oktriyani (2022) analyzed the derivational suffixes in a textbook, Rahayu (2019) analyzed the derivational suffixes in Jakarta Post's editorial, Putrawan (2023) analyzed derivational suffixes in short stories. However none of these studies focusing only on nominal suffixes, furthermore these studies also explored written text while this article explores an animated movie that could be the representative of the use of nominal suffixes in the spoken language.

3. METHODS

The data source of this research is an animated movie entitled *Elemental*, the data of this research are the words that contain derivational suffixes from the conversation between the characters in this movie. The *Elemental* movie has been chosen as the data source for analyzing words that contain nominal derivational suffixes in character conversations is academically justified due to its rich language. Additionally, *Elemental* is a widely distributed and globally recognized movie that presents English in a form that is accessible to a broad audience. The film explores themes like discrimination and cultural diversity, providing a unique setting for how nominal derivational suffixes are used. Furthermore, movie and television programs have been used for language learning and teaching, which is especially useful for language learners and teachers (Mahrani, 2018).

In this research, to collect the data the researcher applied several methods including the documentation method, the researcher watched the movie attentively for several times, then the movie's transcript was downloaded where and used as the movie's corpus. Furthermore, as one of concordance tool, which can help to search a specific sequence of character including word or part of words (McEnery & Hardie, 2012, p. 35) concordance techniques are applied with the help of Antconc 4.3.1 to note the appearance of the nominal suffixes and their frequencies. To analyze the data collected from the *Elemental* movie, this research employs the descriptive qualitative method, focusing on the words that contain derivational suffixes identified in the character's conversation. According to (Kothari, 2004, p. 3), the qualitative method is concerned with qualitative phenomenom. This method and technique allow the writer to explain the data found descriptively and provide the reader with a broader explanation. Sudaryanto (1993) states that there are two methods for presenting data analysis: the formal method and the informal method. The analysis of this research presented using the informal and formal method which employs a more conversational style, using verbal statements and narrative descriptions to present data findings. A tree diagram was also presented for clearer comprehension.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Forms of Nominal Suffixes

There were nine forms of nominal suffixes found in this movie. They were the form of suffixes, - **ment**, **-ity**, **-er(-or), -ion**, **-ness**, **-ance** (**-ence, -ency, -ancy**), **-ship**, **-ist**, and **-ing**.

Suffix -ment

The researcher found four words with the suffix **-ment**: **retirement**, **basement**, **environment**, and **department**. In this analysis, one of the examples is the word **retirement**. The word **retirement** is categorized as a noun based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries.

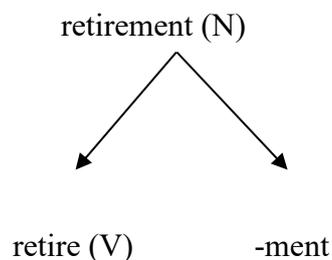**Data 1** "Sorry. I couldn't hear you through my **retirement**." (01:29:08)

retirement (N)

retire (V)   -ment

Figure 1. Suffix -ment

The derived noun in data 1 consists of the free morpheme **retire** as the base and the bound morpheme -**ment** as a nominal suffix, as it is represented in the tree diagram above. The word **retirement** is formed through a derivational process that included attaching the nominal suffix to the base. To analyze it more deeply, the base word **retire** is a derived form that consists of the prefix **-re**, which often conveys the idea of moving back or again (Plag, 2018, p. 202). Furthermore, based on the Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, **retire** is a verb that refers to leaving a job for several reasons, for instance, reaching a particular age, and others. The suffix -**ment** is commonly added to verbs to create nouns that refer to the action or result of the verb. In this case, when -**ment** is attached to **retire**, it forms the noun **retirement** referring to the act of retiring or being in the state of being retired.

Suffix -ity

In this movie, there was one word using this suffix, which is the word **opportunity**. The word **opportunity** is formed by the free morpheme opportune as the base and the bound morpheme -**ity** as a nominal suffix, as it is represented in the tree diagram below.

Data 2 "You've got an **opportunity** to do something you WANT with your life!" (1:12:41)
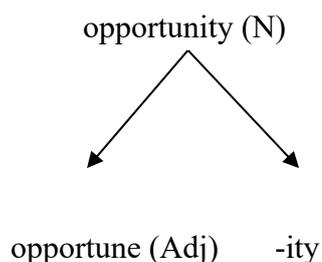
opportunity (N)

opportune (Adj)   -ity

Figure 2. Suffix -ity

The base word of the data 2 itself is categorized as an adjective that, based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, refers to a suitable time to do something so that it is more likely to be successful, and can be concluded to describe something that happens at the right time. The suffix -**ity** is a nominal derivational suffix that typically attaches to adjectives to form nouns, this suffix often denoting a state, quality, or condition. The suffix -**ity** derived the base word into **opportunity** which based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries refers to a condition or a chance to do something. When adding -**ity** to **opportune**, the ending -**e** is dropped, and the suffix -**ity** is attached. The root changes slightly from **opportune** to **opportun**-, which is the base used for noun formation. In conclusion, the suffix -**ity** changes **opportune** into **opportunity**, turning the word from a description of a good time into a noun that refers to a chance or situation where something can happen.

Suffix -er (-or)

In this movie, there were nine words found, including **customer, winner, customers, painter, stickers, sparklers, bummer, windbreaker,** and **inspector.** In this analysis, the examples are the words **painter** and **inspector**. Based on the Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, the word **painter** is categorized as a noun that refers to a person whose job is painting buildings, walls, or other surfaces, such as canvas. This word consists of **paint**, a free morpheme categorized as a noun as its base word, and a bound morpheme -**er** as its nominal suffix, as it is represented in the tree diagram below.

Data 3 "Oh don't listen to him. He's a wonderful **painter**." (54:10)
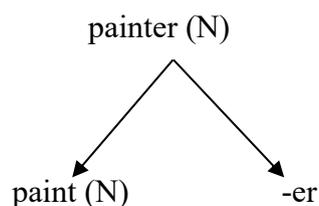
painter (N)

paint (N)   -er

Figure 3. Suffix -er

While **painter** in data 3 refers to a person, **paint** itself refers to a thing, a liquid that is put on surfaces in order to give them particular colors. When the suffix -**er** is added to **paint**, it transforms the meaning of the word and shifts the focus from the thing itself to the person performing an action associated with it. This is in line with the definition from Plag (2018, p. 89) about the function of the suffix -**er** to form nouns that refer to the person or entity who performs a specific action or participates in an event.

In the case of the word **inspector**, as it is shown in the tree diagram below, the base of this word is the free morpheme **inspect**, which is categorized as a verb and bound morpheme -**or** as its nominal suffix.

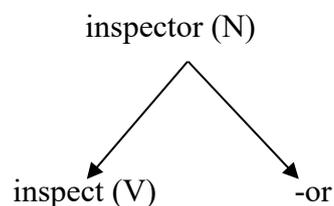**Data 4** "I sucked a city **inspector** into our pipes??" (17:13)

inspector (N)

inspect (V)   -or

Figure 4. Suffix -er

In line with Plag (2018, p. 89), when the base or the root ends with "t" or "s," the suffix -**or** is used as the orthographic variant of -**er**. Based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, the word **inspect** is a verb that refers to checking that everything is as it should be, typically implying a careful, thorough examination. When the suffix -**or** is added to **inspect**, the word transforms into **inspector**, which refers to the person whose job is to check that rules are being obeyed. In this case, the derived noun in data 4 denotes a person who performs the action of inspection, in particular, someone who is responsible for ensuring regulations or rules. It is in line with Plag's definition about suffix -**or** that it functions to denote a person that performs an action.

Suffix -ion

According to Plag (2018, p. 91), the suffix -**ion** denotes an event or result of processes. This suffix frequently derives nouns from verbal bases, though it can also derive from other bases. It can be reflected in the words found, such as **connection, citation, inspection, explosion, station, and collection**. One of the examples is the word **connection**, as it can be seen in data 5 below. To join together two or more things is the definition of **connect**, the base word of **connection**, which is a free morpheme, while the bound morpheme -**ion** acts as a nominal suffix, as it is represented below.

Data 5 "Take breath, make **connection**." (08:26)
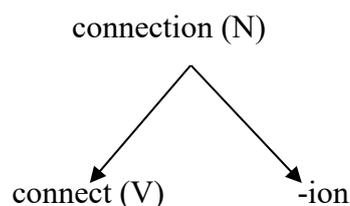
connection (N)

connect (V)   -ion

Figure 5. Suffix -ion

Based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries **connect** itself is categorized as a verb. This word is through a derivational process where the base word is attached by the suffix, creating

connection which refers to something that connects two ideas or others. This suffix converting **connect** into **connection**. The word **connect** is a verb that emphasizes its function as an action, the derived noun in data 5, refers to the result of the action. In line with Plag (2018, p. 91), the suffix **-ion** denotes the result of a process; thus, **connection** represents the result of the act of connecting.

Suffix -ness

According to Plag (2018, p. 92), the suffix **-ness** practically can attach to any adjectives and some other bases. It is less restricted and can be considered as the most productive suffix of English. However, in this movie, this suffix is found only in the word **sadness**. As previously mentioned, the suffix **-ness** practically can be attached to a wide range of adjectives to form nouns. For example, in the word **sadness**, the base word of this word is **sad**, which is a free morpheme categorized as an adjective. After being added by the suffix **-ness**, it becomes **sadness** which is now categorized as a noun. The representation of the base word and the suffix attached to the word **sadness** can be seen in the tree diagram below.

Data 6 "I made you a painting. It's of a lonely man awash in **sadness**." (01:19:42)
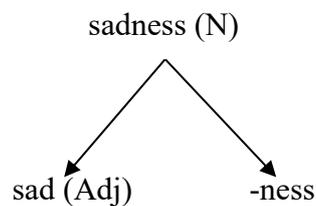
sadness (N)

sad (Adj)   -ness

Figure 6. Suffix -ness

Through the derivational process, the derived noun in data 6 experiences a shift in meaning. The meaning of **sad**, which is showing unhappiness, changed into **sadness**, the feeling of being sad or unhappy (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries). The suffix **-ness** shifts the meaning from **sad**, the emotional state of unhappiness, into **sadness**, the condition or feeling of being unhappy.

Suffix -ance (-ence, -ency, -ancy)

According to Plag (2018, p. 88) **-ance** and its variant **-ence** can be interpreted as deverbal, and other variants like **-ancy** and **-ency** formations as de-adjectival. In this movie, only the suffix **-ance** and its variant **-ence** were found, it is shown in the words **entrance** and **silence**.

The first analysis of this form of nominal suffix is on the word **entrance**. The word **entrance** in data 7 is formed by a free morpheme **enter** as its base word and a bound morpheme

-**ance** as its nominal suffix. The representation of the base word and the nominal suffix of the word **entrance** is represented in the tree diagram below.

Data 7 "I was hoping to make a more heroic **entrance**." (01:21:23)
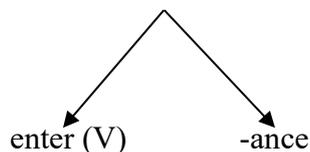
entrance (N)

Figure 7. Suffix -ance

Based on Oxford Learners Dictionaries, **enter** is categorized as a verb that refers to come or go into something. After being attached by the suffix -**ance**, it became **entrance** which is a noun that refers to a door or a gate used to enter a place. During the morphological process in data 7, there is a modification of the word's base ending. The base word **enter** based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, historically comes from Latin *intrare*, and the noun form **entrance** is derived from Old French *entrer* + -**ance**, where the suffix replaces the ending to form a noun. Furthermore, in line with Plag (2018, p. 88) statement, the suffix -**ance** practically attaches verbs to create an action noun, which is shown in the process of **enter** becoming **entrance**.

The second analysis of the suffix -**ance** is its variant -**ence**. This suffix appeared in the word **silence** as shown in the tree diagram below.

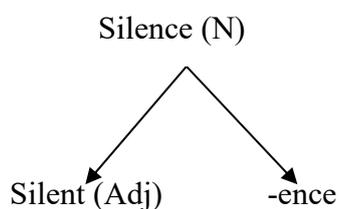**Data 8** "**Silence!!**" (01:16:28)

Silence (N)

Figure 8. Suffix -ance

In the case of data 8, suffix -**ence**, the variant of suffix -**ance**, occurred. The base of this word is **silent**, which is categorized as an adjective. When forming the noun, the adjective ending -**ent** is replaced by -**ence**. Based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, **silent** refers to where there is little or no sound. The attachment of suffix -**ence** changed the base word into **silence** which is now categorized as a noun that refers to a complete lack of noise or sound.

Suffix -ship

In this movie, the word **internship** was the only word found. The analysis is presented below.

Data 9 "Dad, I'm sorry the **internship** is so far away." (01:30:11)
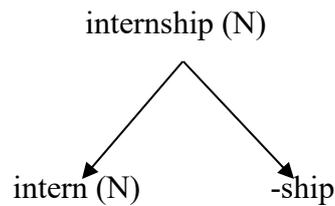
internship (N)

intern (N)   -ship

Figure 9. Suffix -ship

The derived noun in data 9 is formed by a free morpheme **intern** as its root and a bound morpheme **-ship** as its suffix. The word **intern** itself refers to a student or new graduate who is getting practical experience in a job, Oxford Learner's Dictionaries further categorized **intern** as a noun. According to Plag (2018, p. 92) the suffix **-ship** mostly attaches to person nouns, as in the word **intern** into **internship**. The word **internship** itself is categorized as a noun that refers to a period when students or new graduates get practical experience in a job.

Suffix -ist

In this movie, the word found was only one, that is the word **artist**. The analysis is presented below.

Data 10 "Oh nonsense, I'm just an architect. The real **artist** is my brother Harold." (54:00)
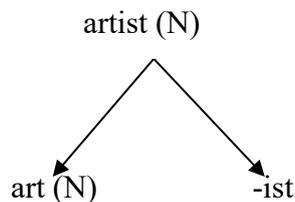
artist (N)

art (N)   -ist

Figure 10. Suffix -ist

Based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, the word **artist** is categorized as a noun. The derived noun in data 10 itself is formed from a bound morpheme **art**, as its base word, and the free morpheme **-ist** as its nominal suffix. The suffix **-ist** changed **art** which is a noun that refers to the use of imagination to express ideas or feelings into **artist**. In line with the theory from Plag, the suffix **-ist** derives nouns that represent persons and mainly derive from nominal and adjectival bases (Plag, 2018, p. 91), as in the word **artist**, which represents a person who creates works of arts.

Suffix -ing

In this movie, the words found were **building, reading, painting, blessing,** and **wedding.** The example of this analysis is the word **building**, as it is represented in the tree diagram below.

Data 11 "The **building** flooded a few years later. So I missed my one chance to see a Vivisteria." (35:10)
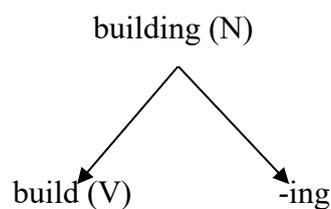
building (N)

build (V)   -ing

Figure 11. Suffix -ing

The derived noun in data 11 is formed by a free morpheme **build** as its base word and the bound morpheme **-ing** as its nominal suffix. The word **build** itself is categorized as a verb that refers to making something by putting parts together. The suffix **-ing** usually acts as an inflectional suffix that denotes processes; however, according to Plag (2018, p. 90) it can be used to represent the results of the processes. As in the word **build** after being attached by -**ing**, it becomes **building** that refers to a structure such as a house or school, and it can be concluded that **building** is the result of the process of building.

Function of Nominal Suffixes

Class-Maintaining

- Noun from Noun

  In the nominal suffixes type, there are six forms in total of nominal suffixes that function as class-maintaining. These forms of nominal suffixes include, **-ment, -er (-or), -ion, -ship, -ist,** and **-ing.** Some words that show this function are data 3, data 9, data 10. One of the examples is the data 3. The derived noun in data 3 is the word **paint**, which, based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, is categorized as a noun. After being attached by the suffix **-er**, this word becomes painter, which remains a noun. This process changes the meaning from a thing into a person; however, it maintains the category as a noun. This reflects the function of suffix -er in data 3 functions as a class-maintaining suffix.

Class-Changing

- Noun from Verb

  The nouns from verbs in the *Elemental* movie were found in the forms of -**ment, -er (-or), -ion, - ance (-ence, -ency, -ancy),** and **-ing**. As shown in data 1, data 4, data 5, data 7, and data 11. One of the examples is the data 4. The derived noun in data 4 shows the variant of suffix **-er**, which is **-or**, functions as a class-changing suffix. This suffix attached to **inspect**, based on Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, is categorized as a verb into **inspector**, which is categorized as a noun. This process not only changes the meaning

from an activity into a person, but also changes the word's category from a verb into a noun.

- Noun from Adjective

    Words in data 2, data 6, and data 8 are the representative data of nouns from adjectives found in the *Elemental* movie. Three forms of nominal suffixes reflect the change from adjectives into nouns they **were -ity, -ness,** and **- ance (-ence, -ency, -ancy).** Words found were **opportunity**, **sadness**, and **silence**. One of the example is [3-2], the word **opportunity** was formed by the adjective **opportune** and attached by the suffix **-ity**, this process transformed the word class of **opportune** from an adjective into **opportunity** that is a noun (Oxford Learner's Dictionary). This process reflected the function of the suffix **-ity** as a class-changing suffix that changed the meaning and the category of the base to which it attached.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study of nominal derivational suffixes in the animated movie Elemental demonstrates the significant role these suffixes play in English word formation and language development. The research identified thirty words with nine forms of different nominal suffixes, representing the use of nominal suffixes in modern media. It can be noted that the nominal suffixes were found to be the most frequently used due to their various forms. Nominal suffixes have 20 forms in total that could derive nouns from verbs, adjectives, and other nouns. Furthermore, the nominal suffixes are used to reflect the results of actions, persons, and even states experienced by the characters in the *Elemental* movie.

The findings highlight that nominal suffixes serve two main functions: class-maintaining (where the base word remains a noun) and class-changing (where the suffix transforms verbs or adjectives into nouns), with class-changing being the most prevalent. This dual function not only enriches the vocabularies but also provides flexibility and nuance in communication, allowing speakers and writers to efficiently express complex ideas, actions, and attributes. The predominance of the class-changing suffixes reflects their functional necessity; they allow language to generate new words in order to serve different grammatical roles.

By analyzing a globally recognized film, the study bridges academic linguistic analysis with popular culture, making the topic accessible and relevant to a wider audience beyond just teachers and students. The use of *the Elemental* movie as a data source demonstrates how nominal suffixes are actively used in everyday language to convey meaning. It is suggested for

future studies to explore different media and widen the topic to all types of derivational or inflectional affixes.

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