



Research Article

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## Affixation as a derivational process in Tiv

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**Abstract:** The study of morphology is of the essence in every language in order to understand the processes involved in word creation and inflection. Affixation in Tiv has been studied by many researchers, however, more attention is given to the inflectional aspect of Affixation in the language. Although, a well-cited book in Tiv treats both inflectional and derivational morphology in the language, this book does not study Affixation with a theoretical back up. In addition to that, the book features a misrepresentation about the derivational processes in Tiv, hence, the paper set to examine Affixation as a word-derivation process in Tiv using

Hockett's theory of Item-and-Arrangement and Item-and-Process. The researchers collected data for the study through primary and secondary sources. The study presents the following findings: nouns are derived from verbs by attaching the prefix {m-} to roots, formation of diminutive nouns is by adding the prefix {an-} to roots, and the derivation of nouns from adjectives is done through prefixation and suffixation of roots with {m-} and {-n} respectively. The study contributes to the existing literature on Tiv morphology by discovering the derivational processes in Tiv and removing the formation of agentive nouns from the derivational processes in the language in order to correct the misrepresentation of the agentive formation process as part of derivational Affixation.

**Keywords** – Affixation, Derivational, Language, Inflectional, Morpheme, Tiv

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Word derivation is an essential morphological process in language because the lexicon of a language is subject to expansion due to the demands of language use in different contexts. Hence, Affixation is adopted as a morphological process alongside other processes such as compounding, reduplication, borrowing, blending, clipping, backformation, desententialisation, acronyms, and abbreviations in languages, including Tiv new words. Affixation in Tiv has not been adequately investigated because of the complex nature of the language; therefore, this study is designed to examine Affixation in Tiv, acknowledging the fact that previous studies have been done on Tiv morphology.



A well-cited book by Udu (2009) treats both inflectional and derivational morphology in Tiv. However, this book does not study Tiv morphology with a theoretical backup. In addition to that, it features a misrepresentation about the derivational processes in Tiv by claiming that derivational prefixes and suffixes are attached to roots to derive agentive nouns in Tiv, citing examples in page 45 of the book as follows: {or-} 'person' + maan 'building' derives ormaan 'builder', {or-} 'person' + tesen derives ortesen 'teacher' zege + {-or} 'person' derives zegeor 'rich man', teleg + {-or} 'person' derives teleghor 'puny man'. The present researchers do not agree with this claim in the book but hold that the agglutinating process above is a compounding but not a derivational one. Previous works fail to recognize the attachment of a prefix, infix, and suffix as a single process to derive new words from verbal roots in Tiv. Hence, the paper sets to examine the derivational processes in Tiv in order to correct the misrepresentation in the book and complement the contributions on Tiv derivational morphology by discovering the derivational processes in the language. This study also intends to back up the analysis of derivational processes in Tiv with Hockett's (2004) theory of Item-and -Arrangement and Item-and-Process.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1. Conceptual review

#### Affixation

According to Adeniyi and Iyabode (2010), Affixation refers to the process of adding an affix to a stem in order to derive a new word or show inflection. O'Grady, Debrovolsky and Katambas (1997, as cited in Abubakre, 2008) say that Affixation is the attachment of an affix to a root or stem. This implies that Affixation is the process of adding either a derivational or inflectional morpheme or even both to a root. Abubakre (2008) further states that Affixation is the morphological process by which bound morphemes are agglutinated to free morphemes to form a new word(s). According to Agbedo (2000), Affixation is the process of attaching a phoneme or group of phonemes to an already existing word in order to create a new word or indicate a particular grammatical function. The author submits that any of such linguistic items involved in this process is referred to as an affix which refers to a letter or group of letters added to a word to change its meaning or grammatical function. The above view implies that Affixation is the addition of a distinctive unit of sound or group of such sounds to a stem or root in order to change the meaning and/or function of the word, which is common in Tiv language as in *sule* 'farm'; {-i} + {+h-} + *sule* → *ishule* 'farms'. This shows that Affixation is also applicable in the Tiv word formation process because words are inflected or derived from the existing ones through prefixation, infixation, and suffixation.

Abubakre (2008) states that Affixation is a morphological expansion process that enriches the lexicon of languages. She states that Affixation is found in Hausa and Eggon, performing different lexical and grammatical functions. Affixes in both languages are used to derive new words as well as to inflect existing words for grammatical functions. She further argues that affixes are derivational and inflectional; thus, the addition of the affixes to the root morphemes results in changing the class of the root morphemes as well as providing additional information. Traditionally, the processes of Affixation have been identified as being basically of three types, designated according to where they occur within the word. So, we have prefixation, infixation, and suffixation (Badejo, 2014), and the present study relies on this traditional notion of Affixation having prefixation, infixation, and suffixation, respectively.

Quirk and Greenbaum (2000) recognize that Affixation in English is the process of attaching a prefix to the base, which may change the word class, for example, *author*; {co-} + *author* → *co-author*; no change in the word class. According to the foregoing instances, Affixation is the process of expanding a word with a bound morpheme(s). Denham and Lobeck (2010/2013) refer to derivational and inflectional morphemes as derivational and inflectional affixes. They submit that derivational affixes attach to other morphemes to form new words that are separate entries in our mental dictionary. The affix *-able* is attached to verbs in order to derive adjectives, for example; *read* (verb) + {-able} → *readable* (adjective). Hence, we would say that the affix *-able* is a derivational affix.

## Derivational and inflectional morphemes

Scholars such as Haspelmath (2010), Denham and Lobeck (2010/2013) and Finegan (2008) classify bound morphemes into derivational and inflectional morphemes. According to Finegan (2008), a derivational bound morpheme changes the part of speech of the word to which it is added, for instance, doubtful, establishment, darken, frighten and teacher when the suffix {-ful} is added to the noun doubt, the adjective doubtful is derived. The addition of {-ment} to the verb establish derives the noun establishment. Dark is an adjective and when {en} is added to it, the verb darken is derived; fright is a noun and when {-en} is attached to it, the verb frighten is formed, teach is a verb but when {-er} is attached to it, teacher (noun) is derived. Finegan asserts that derivational morphemes are usually attached at the end of words in English. With respect to this claim, we would say that derivational Affixation in English is primarily done by suffixation but in Tiv, the process features prefixation, infixation and suffixation.

Finegan (2008) submits that inflectional morphemes change the form of a word but do not change its part of speech or meaning. The plural and past tense formations are meant to perform grammatical functions in sentences. He further states that nominal and pronominal inflections serve to mark semantic notions such as number or grammatical categories such as gender and case. For the verbal inflections, Finegan (2008) says that they mark grammatical categories such as tense or number, adjectival inflections indicate degree. Going by the above claims of Finegan, derivational morphemes are those that change the meaning of the word they are added to. They may also change the class of the stem. Whereas inflectional morphemes are those that change the forms of the words they are added to, but cannot change their lexical categories or meaning.

According to Yule (1985/1997), inflectional morpheme does not change the part of speech of a word as in, old and older; both words are adjectives. The {-er} inflection simply indicates the comparative form of the adjective. He states that, on the contrary, a derivational morpheme can change the part of speech of a word. The verb teach becomes the noun teacher if we add the derivational morpheme {-er} to it. Hence, we would say that the suffix {-er} is an inflectional morpheme attached to an adjective which indicates comparative degree of comparison and also a derivational morpheme used for forming an agentive noun. The derivational morpheme comes before the inflectional morpheme when they are attached to the same root, for instance, the derivational {-er} is attached to teach before adding the inflectional {-s} to derive teachers.

Endang (2014) agrees with Yule (1985/1997) that derivational morphemes are affixes used to derive new words by either changing the meaning or part of speech or both. Whereas inflectional morphemes never change the grammatical categories of the words or morphemes to which they are attached. An inflectional morpheme is a mere grammatical indicator or marker (Adeniyi & Iyabode, 2010). A derivational morpheme changes the grammatical class or meaning of the word to which it is added. (Adeniyi & Yabode, 2010).

## 2.2. Theoretical review

Hockett (1954/2004) states that morphological theories are categorized into Item-and-Arrangement and Item-and-Process. Charles Francis Hockett is an American linguist whose area of interest is structural linguistics. The Item-and-Arrangement (AP) Theory considers both roots and affixes as morphemes with at least one allomorph of each stored in the lexicon. Then, the Item-and-Process (IP) treats only roots as morphemes; therefore, only roots are listed in the lexicon. This theory takes care of the agglutinating nature of Tiv morphology and the application of morphological rules in the language.

Construction Morphology Theory was propounded by Geert Booji in 2000. Booji is a Dutch linguist and professor emeritus at the University of Leiden. Booji (2010) states that Construction Morphology Theory is concerned with explaining the relationship between syntax, morphology and lexicon, and of the meaningful features of complex words. It provides a model through which the differences and similarities of grammatical structures such as words and phrases can be analysed.

### 2.3. Empirical review

#### Review of Affixation in Tiv

Iorember and Sale (2013) submit that the formation of plural nouns in the Tiv language is a rule-governed process. The processes of plural formation of nouns in the language are regular and irregular. According to Iorember and Sale (2013), prefixes are used for indicating plural of nouns in Tiv as follows: wo 'mountain' { i-} + wo → iwo 'mountains' bamber 'piece'; { a-} + bamber → abamber 'pieces', oo-oo 'anthill'; {u-} + oo-oo 'anthill' → u-oo-oo 'anthill'. They also submit that suffixes are attached to roots to reflect plurality in Tiv, for example; won 'in-law'; won + ov → wonov 'in-laws'; and the plural formation through replacive and infixation, citing examples with tom 'job' → ityom 'jobs', tar 'nation' → ityar 'nations'. This submission accounts for the formation of plural nouns in Tiv by listing {i-}, {a-}, {u-} as the prefixes and {-ov}, {-ev} as the suffixes used for the plural inflections. However, they have not considered the prefix {mba-} which is used in forming the plural forms of agentive nouns such as orkristu 'a Christian' → mbakristu 'Christians, ortwer 'a medical worker' → mbatwewev 'medical workers' among others. The inflectional process of changing tom 'job' and tar 'nation' into ityom 'jobs' and ityar 'nations' respectively does not feature replacive, but rather prefixation and infixation contrarily to the claim of the researchers.

Jija (2012) states that prefixation is a morphological process of plural formation in Tiv. He justifies his assertion with the following examples: angev 'illness' (singular) iangev/ 'illnesses'(plural), haav 'roof' / ihaav 'roofs' or 'person' / ior 'persons' kpenga 'container' ikpenga 'containers' ho 'tunnel' / iho 'tunnels' wo 'mountain' / iwo 'mountains'. Orkar (2013) claims that plural nouns in Tiv are formed through prefixation. He gives examples to justify his support as follows: kômitii 'committee' (singular) / ukômitii 'committees'(plural) lahadi 'week' / ulahadi 'weeks' mkohol 'meeting' / mbamkohol, 'meetings', msen prayer' mbamsen 'prayers' / mhen 'thought' / mbamhen 'thoughts'. Udu (2009) and Iorchugh (2009) submit that plural nouns are formed in Tiv through prefixation as follows: kasua 'market' / ukasua 'markets', wondo 'pair of trousers' / uwondo 'pairs of trousers' mato 'car' / umato 'cars' or 'person' / ior 'persons' gbenda 'road' / igbenda 'roads', kpan 'slave' / ikpan 'slaves' adua 'church' / mbaadua 'churches'.

Orkar (2013), Iorember and Sale (2013), and Iorchugh (2009) claim that plural nouns are formed in Tiv through prefixation and infixation. He gives examples of the morphological process as follows: tahav 'strength' ityahav 'strengths' ku 'death' ikyu 'deaths' tembe 'Courtyard' / ityembe 'courtyards' sule 'farms' ishule 'farms'. In the plural formations of the above nouns, apart from the {i-} the morpheme {-y-} or {-h-} is inserted in the root as a result of morphophonemic transformation. The choice of either {-y-} or {-h-} depends on the sound which begins the stem – the singular form of the word. In other words, if the singular noun begins with /t/, /k/, and /i/, it takes the infix {-y-}, and if it begins with /s/, it takes the infix {-h-}.

Jija (2012) acknowledges the role of replacives in the formation of plural nouns in Tiv with the following examples: wegh 'hand' ave 'hands', kwagh 'thing' / akaa 'things', wan 'child' / ônov 'children', icor 'raphia' /atsor 'raphias', tsa 'tail' / ica 'tails' zwa 'mouth' ijô 'mouths'. Based on the above examples from Jija (2012), replacive formation in Tiv is not just a process of replacing the initial phoneme in the singular nouns with another one; it entails a total change in the structure of singular nouns.

Udu (2009) asserts that the prefix 'or' is a highly productive inflectional prefix and gives examples as follows: sule 'farmer' / orsule 'farmer' tato 'hunt(ing)' / ortoto 'hunter' iwan 'disability' / oriwan 'disabled person' Kristu 'Christ' / orkristu 'Christian'. The researchers disagree with Udu on his claim that {or} 'person' is an inflectional prefix since the attachment of {or} 'person' changes the meaning of each word it is attached to, and {or} 'person' can stand on its own as a root. Orsule 'a farmer' is a compound word just like others, formed through the combination of two separate words. Hence, we would say that agentive nouns in Tiv are formed through compounding.

### 3. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Inflectional morphology has attracted the attention of researchers on Tiv language more than derivational morphology. Put differently, the researchers on this study have observed that previous studies on Tiv treated majorly the inflection of nouns to indicate number. They have also observed a misrepresentation of the agentive formation process in one of the previous works on Tiv language as an aspect of derivational morphology whereas agentive formation in the language is an aspect of compounding. Owing to the observation of the aforementioned situations by the researchers, the study entitled Affixation as a derivational process in Tiv is designed to fill the knowledge gap by exploring the derivational processes in the language and correcting the misrepresentation.

### 4. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study is anchored on Hockett's view about morphological theories of Item-and- Arrangement (IA) and Item-and-Process. Hockett (1954/2004) says that morphological theories are categorized into Item-and-Arrangement and Item-and-Process (IP). The Item and Arrangement (IA) model is a morphological theory that accounts for the list of morphemes and their arrangement in a language (Bauer, 2004). Put differently, IA considers a language as a structure that has components arranged or patterned in a particular order (Aronoff and Fudeman, 2005/2011). The arrangement of morphemes can be seen in these examples: buds, necks and glasses. In these examples, we would say that the plural suffix {-s} is realized as /z/, /s/ and /iz/ in different environments, however, indicating the same grammatical function of plurality.

The formation of the above plural nouns involves the attachment of the plural suffix [-s] which has variants in pronunciation based on the environment in which it is found. Item-and Arrangement takes care of the arrangement of morphemes in a string to form words. Hence, we have the following :{ buds}, {necks} and {glasses}, respectively pronounced as /bʌdz/, /neks/ and /gla:siz/. It is imperative to note that the pronunciation of these words is phonologically conditioned as follows: If the base ends with a voiced sound, the {-s} added to it, is pronounced as /z/ in /bʌdz/, we add /z/. If the stem ends with a voiceless sound, {-s} added to it, is pronounced as /s/ as in /neks/ and if the base ends with a sibilant, the {-s} added to it, is pronounced as /-iz/ as /gla:siz/. The concern of IA is to split words into meaningful segments. For example, in the word necks we would say that the plural noun is comprised of two meaningful segments called morphs: /nek/ and /-s/. Bauer (1988/2003) defines a morph as the physical representation of a morpheme.

The Item and Process (IP) model refers to the morphological rules guiding the attachment of bound morphemes to roots either to derive new words or inflect words to express grammatical functions (Bauer, 2004). For example, the plural maker {-s} is realised as /s/ in necks, /z/ in buds, cars, and /iz/ in glasses. This is to say, the plural marker {-s} is pronounced as /s/ in a voiceless environment as in necks, /z/ in a voiced environment as is cars, and /iz/ if a root ends with a sibilant such as /s/, /z/, /ʒ/, /tʃ/ et cetera as in classes, judges, churches and clashes. Matthews (1998) asserts that the Item and Process framework can be used to account for inflections in regular and irregular nouns. He cites the following examples: seas; we would say that seas is formed from the lexeme sea which undergoes the process of pluralisation and the morpheme is realised into /z/, therefore, this accounts for the pluralisation of regular nouns. Besides, IP is applied to account for the pluralisation of irregular nouns such as feet, teeth and geese. With this, we would say that feet, teeth and geese are derived from foot, tooth and goose respectively and the process involves changing the vowel sound /u/ or /u:/ to the long vowel /i:/ (Matthews, 1998).

Matthews (1998) states that we could use Item-and-Process to explain the formation of past tense and past participle in English such as worked and (have) worked. He suggests that the formula: "X → X + [d]" could aid the analysis, where [ X] represents a verb and [d] represents the past tense and past participle morphemes. These examples show that worked originates from the verbal stem work, which takes the suffix {-ed} to indicate 'past tense' and 'past participle' respectively. Matthews (1998) claims that the IP formula helps in accounting for regular and irregular pluralisation, likewise the formation of regular and irregular past tense and past participle

respectively. Item-and Arrangement and Item-and-Process is suitable for the study of Affixation in Tiv because the theory accounts for the concatenation of morphemes to derive new words in Tiv and accounts for the morphological rules applied the derivation of new words from the existing ones in Tiv.

## 5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The survey design was used for this study because it could enable the researchers to collect data that were analyzed to discover the derivational processes in Tiv affixation. Hence, native speakers of Tiv granted oral interviews to the researchers in order to enable them to collect data for the study. The oral interviews were structured in such a manner that the interviewees were asked pre-determined questions on Affixation as a derivational process in Tiv. The researchers also used their intuitive knowledge of Tiv language to collect data for the study. The collected data were arranged in rows and analysed based on the study's objectives, which were to discover the derivational processes in Affixation in Tiv.

## 6. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

### A. Formation of nouns through verbs and the prefix {m-}

Verbs	Prefix	Derivative (Noun)
tsaha 'punish'	m-	mtsaha 'punishment'
tuhwa 'curse'	m-	mtuhwa 'the act of cursing'
kilè 'wash'	m-	mkile 'washing'
civir 'worship'	m-	mcivir 'worship'
kôôn 'reform'	m-	mkôôn 'reformation'
pase 'confess'	m-	mpase 'act of confessing'
soo 'love'	m-	msoo 'act of loving'
pav 'divide'	m-	mpav 'division'
koso 'save'	m-	mkoso 'act of saving'
gbide 'beat'	m-	mgbide 'act of beating'
tese 'teach'	m-	mtese 'teaching'
har 'vote'	m-	mhar 'act of voting'
tee 'sell'	m-	mtee 'act of selling'
yem 'depart'	m-	myem 'departure'
mem 'rest'	m-	mmem 'rest'
yila 'call'	m-	myila 'calling'
rumun 'agree/accept'	m-	mrumun 'agreement/acceptance'
yima 'save'	m-	myima 'salvation'

The above data reveal that nouns are derived from verbs through the addition of the prefix {m-} to the root words (verbs) which confirms Hockett (1954/2004) theory of Item-and-Process.

### B. Formation of nouns through verbs and the prefix {i-}, Infix {-y-/-h-}, and (suffixes)

Verb	Prefix/Infix/Suffix	Derivative (Noun)
bume 'fool around'	i-/y-/-gh	ibyumegh 'foolishness'
bum 'swear'	i-/y-/-m	ibyumum 'swearing-in'
sombo 'fracture'	i-/h-/-m	ishombon 'fracture'
tuhwa 'curse'	i-/y-/-nev	ityuhwanev 'curse'
laha 'insult'	i-/y-n	ilyaha 'insult'
hee 'embarrass'	i-/y- /-n	ihyeen 'embarrassment'

pàsé 'confess'

i-/y-/n

ipyásèn 'confession'

The above data prove that nouns are derived from verbs by adding a prefix, infix and (suffix) to the root words respectively. This is connected to the (1954/2004) Hockett's theory of morphological structure analysis because derivation of nouns in Tiv involves the arrangement of elements and this is done according to certain morphological rules.

### C. Formation of diminutive nouns using the prefix {an-}

Root (Noun)	Diminutive	Derivative (Noun)
Ivo 'goat'	an-	anivo 'small goat'
kpev 'he-goat'	an-	ankpev 'small goat'
hunda 'door'	an-	anhunda 'small door'
iyòùgh 'house'	an-	aniyough 'small house'
kyègh 'chicken'	an-	ankyegh 'small chicken'
tyumbe 'hut'	an-	antyumbe 'small hut'
kwagh 'thing'	an-	ankwagh 'small thing'
kasua 'market'	an-	ankasua 'small market'
tsuà 'cooking pot'	an-	antsuà 'small pot'
mato 'car'	an-	anmato 'small car'
takeda 'book'	an-	antakeda 'small book'
or 'man'	an-	an-or 'small man'
agugu 'motorcycle'	an-	anagugu 'small motorcycle'
kwase 'woman'	an-	ankwase 'small woman'
tica 'teacher'	an-	antica 'small teacher'
Huror 'friend'	an-	anhuror 'small friend'
Ya 'home'	an-	anya 'small house'
Bokoti 'bucket'	an-	anbokoti 'small bucket'
Makeranta 'school'	an-	anmakeranta 'small school'

It is gathered from the above data that diminutive nouns are derived from nouns through the addition of the diminutive prefix {an-} to the nouns, which is an aspect of item-and -arrangement. When the diminutive prefix {an-} is added to nouns, the nouns are described based on their smallness. This analysis clearly shows that derivational morphology is hinged on Hockett's theory of Item and Arrangement and Item-and-Process, therefore, derivation of new words involves assembling morphological units together and certain processes are strictly followed.

### D. Formation of nouns with adjectives, the prefix {m-} and (the suffix {-n})

Adjective	Prefix/Suffix	Derivative (Noun)
tsee 'hot'	m-	mtsee 'heat'
dôhól 'cold'	m-	mdôhól 'coldness'
kehe 'fat'	m-/n	mkehe(-n) 'fatness'



doo 'beautiful'	m-/-n	mdoo(-n) 'beauty'
nyoho 'sweet'	m-/-n	myoho(n) 'sweetness'
vihi 'ugly'	m-/-n	mvihi(-n) 'ugliness'
yùà 'bitter'	m-	myua 'bitterness'
àngè 'sour'	m-	m-ange 'sourness'

The above data indicate that nouns are derived through the addition of the prefix {n-} and the suffix {-m} to adjectives and this process is in accordance with the claim of Item-and-arrangement which involves the arrangement of elements to form words. It also agrees with the claim of Item-and -process because the derivation of nouns from adjectives is done through a process.

## 7. RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

From the discussions above, the study has explored the derivational processes in Tiv. Notwithstanding, the study of Tiv morphology is inexhaustible. That is to say subsequent researches can be carried out on the morphology of the language. Therefore, the research implications of the study are as follows:

- ✓ This paper can be relevant to future researchers who may want to study Tiv morphological structures, and the relationship between morphology and syntax, phonology and semantics in Tiv and even the morphology of other languages.
- ✓ This paper can be relevant to students who may wish to research Tiv morphology to write a project, dissertation, and thesis.

## 8. CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND FUTURE RESEARCH

The study contributes to the existing literature on Tiv morphology by removing the formation of agentive nouns from the derivational processes in the language in order to correct the misrepresentation of the process as part of derivation. This study also complements the submissions on the derivational processes in Tiv by discovering that prefixation, prefixation and suffixation, and prefixation, infixation, and suffixation (as a single process) are the derivational processes in the language. It also demonstrates the applicability of Hockett's theory of Item-and -Arrangement, and Item-and -Process in Tiv derivational morphology.

## 9. CONCLUSION

The paper establishes that affixation is a derivational process in Tiv language because nouns are derived from verbs through the addition of the prefix {m-} to roots and the attachment of a prefix {i-}, infix {-y-/ -h-} and suffix {-m/gh/nev/n} respectively to verbal roots. In a similar vein, diminutive nouns are derived from nouns through the addition of the diminutive prefix {-nev} to the roots. Nouns are derived from adjectives through the addition of the prefix {m-} and the suffix {-n} to adjectives and that; some adjectives accommodate only the prefix {m-} without taking the suffix {-n}.

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