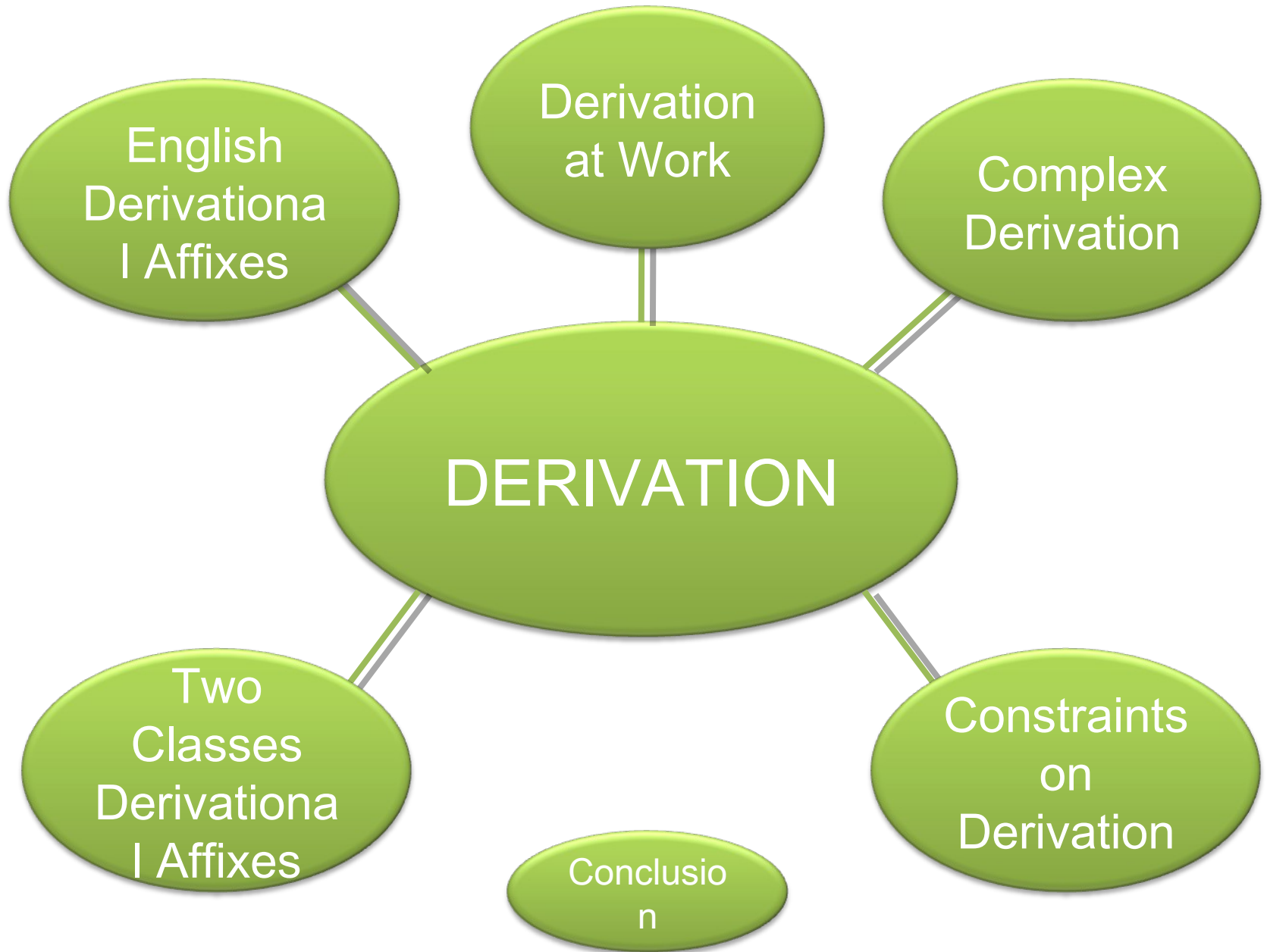# MORPHOLOGY

DERIVATION

English Languange and Literature Program
Class 3B

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Derivation

Derivation is the formation of a new word or inflectable stem from another word. It typically occurs by the **addition of an affix.**

The derived word is often of **a different word class from the original.** It may thus take the inflectional affixes of the new word class.

English Derivational Affixes

Derivational are used to make new words in the language and are often used to make words of a different grammatical category from the stem. A derivational affixes usually applies to words of one syntactic category and changes them into words of another syntactic category.

There are 4 types of change in derivational affixes:

1. Syntactic Category
2. Semantic Category
3. Syntactic and Semantic Category
4. Zero Derivation or Conversion

Some English derivational affixes

Affix	Change	Examples
Suffixes		
-able	V → A	fix-able, do-able
-(at)ion	V → N	realiz-ation
-ing	V → N	the shoot-ing, the danc-ing
-ing	V → A	the sleep-ing giant
-ive	V → A	assert-ive
-al	V → N	refusal
-ment	V → N	treat-ment
-ful	N → A	hope-ful

Some English derivational affixes

Affix	Change	Examples
Prefixes		
anti-	N → N	anti-abortion
de-	V → V	de-activate
dis-	V → V	dis-continue
ex-	N →N	ex-boyfriend
in-	A → A	in-complete
mis-	V →V	mis-place
un-	A → A	un-happy
un-	V → V	un-lock
re-	V → V	re-charge

Derivation at Work

As we know, in morphology in linguistics context, bound morphemes are divided into two categories; there are **inflectional morphemes** and **derivational morphemes.**

These morphemes are used to make new words from a particular base roots or lexical morphemes.

The Difference between Inflectional and Derivational Morphemes

- Inflectional Morphemes

No	Affix	Change	Base Roots	New Words
1.	-ing	Continuous Tense	Walk	Walking
2.	-s	Singular - Plural	Book	Books
3.	-ed	Past Tense	Walk	Walked

• Derivational Morphemes

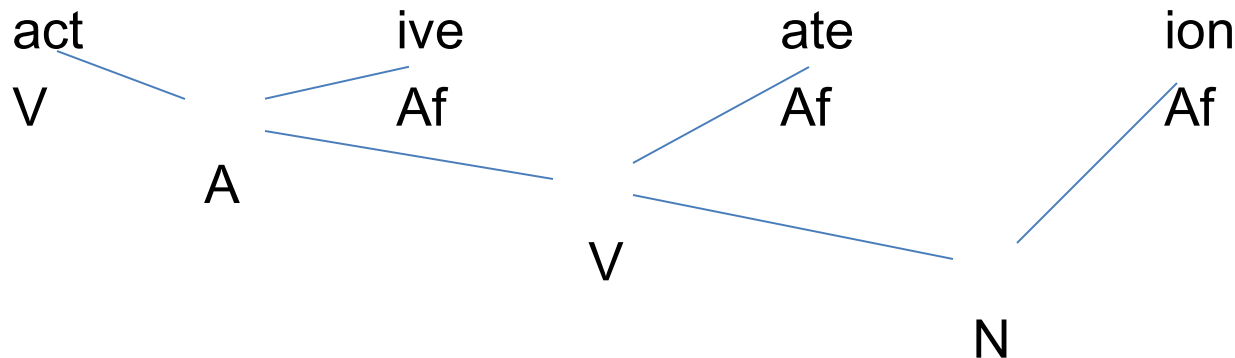| No	Affix	Change	Base Roots and Its Meaning	New words and Its Meaning
1.	-ment	V;N	Govern; to control something	government; group of people who control something/ country
2.	-ful	N;A	Cheer; shout of praise	Cheerful; feeling happy
3.	-ly	V; Adv	Cheer; give shouts of praise	Cheerily; with happy feeling
4.	-ness	A;N	Sad; unhappy looking	Sadness; the state of being unhappy
5.	-en	N;V	Fright; feels fear	Frighten; making somebody feels fear
6.	-able	V;A	Laugh; make the sounds that express amusement	Laughable; causing people to laugh

Complex Derivation

Complex derivation creates multiple levels of word structure and can change the grammatical category of a word. It can convert a V into an A, an A into a V, a V into a N, or the same word class like a N into a N.
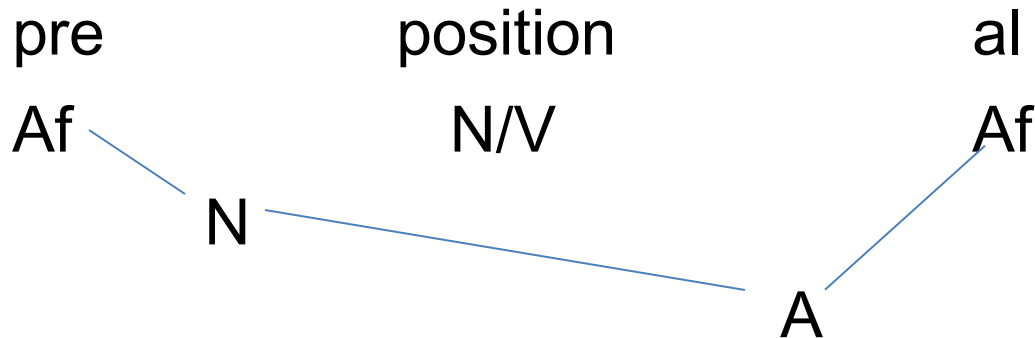
Example:

- Activation

act   ive   ate   ion

V   Af   Af   Af

A

V

N

The affix *-ive* combines with the V base *act* to give an A (active). Then the affix *-ate* combines with this A and converts it into a V (activate). After that the affix –ion is added, converting the V into a N and giving the different word (activation).
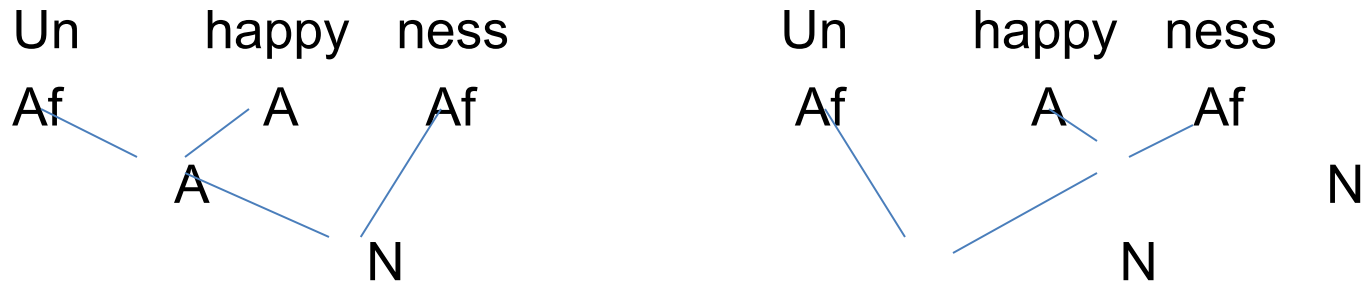
So activation converts V – A – V – N

- Prepositional

pre   position   al

Af   N/V   Af

       N

                                 A

The affix *pre-* combines with the N base *position* to give a N also (preposition), or *position* can be a V and if it combines with affix *pre-*, it becomes a N (preposition). It doesn't change the word class. Then the affix *-al* combines with this N and converts the N into an A (prepositional).

So prepositional converts N/V – N – A

- Unhappiness

Un   happy   ness   Un   happy   ness

Af   A   Af   Af   A   Af

A   N

N   N

The first *unhappiness* converts A – A – N and the second *unhappiness* converts A – N – N.

The important point to remember here is that even in the case of quite complex words, derivation involves the same steps found in simpler words. In all cases, a derivational affix combiness with the appropriate type of base and yields a new word of a particular type.

Constraints on Derivation

Derivation often does not apply freely to the members of a given category. For instance, the suffix –ant can combine only with Latinate bases (i.e. bases borrowed from Latin or Romance languages which are traceable back to Latin) – as in defendant, assailant, contestant, servant and so forth. This is why it cannot occur with bases such as fight and teach (*fightant , *teachant) which are of native English origin.

Sometimes, a derivational affix is able to attach only to bases with particular phonological properties. A good example of this involves the English suffix –en, which combine with adjective to create verbs with a causative meaning ('cause to become x') as Table 4.15 illustrates, however, there are many adjectives with which –en cannot combine.

Table 4.15 Restriction on the use of –en

Acceptable	Unacceptable
Whiten	*abstracten
Soften	*bluen
Madden	*angryen
Quicken	*slowen
Liven	*greenen

The suffix –en is subject to this phonological constrain: it can only combine with a monosyllabic base that ends in an obstruent but not to abstract, which is both monosyllabic and in an obstruent, but not to abstract, which has two syllables, or to blue, which does not end in an obstruent.

Two Classes Derivational Affixes

In English it is common to distinguish between two sets of derivational affixes which we will call class 1 and class 2. Class 1 affixes (most of which are Latinate) normally trigger changes in the consonant or vowel segments of the base with which they occur. In addition, they usually also affect the assignment of stress.

Typical effects of class 1

Affix	Sample Word
-ity	Public-ity
-y	Democrac-y
-ive	Product-ive
-(i)al	Part-ial
-ize	Public-ize
-ious	Audac-ious
-ion	Nat-ion

Typical class 2 affixes

Affixes	Sample Word
-ness	Prompt-ness
-less	Hair-less
-ful	Hope-ful
-ly	Quiet-ly
-er	Defend-er
-ish	Self-ish
-able	Commend-able

In contrast, class 2 affixes (which are mostly native) tend to be phonological neutral, having no effect on the segmental make up of the base or on stress assignment. When class 1 and class 2 affixes appear in the same word. The former type of morpheme normally occurs closer to the root than the latter. Thus, while a class 1 affix can follow another class 1 affix and while a class 2 affix can follow a class 1 or another class 2 affix. a class 2 affix does not normally come before a class 1 affix.

Conclusion

- **Derivation** is the formation of a new word or inflectable stem from another word. It typically occurs by the **addition of an affix.**

- **English Derivational Affixes** are used to make new words in the language and are often used to make words of a different **grammatical category** from the stem, in many cases, derivational affixes change both the **syntactic category and the meaning (semantic).** But sometimes derivational affixes do not necessarily modify the **syntactic category**, they modify the **meaning of the base**.

- **Bound morpheme** are divided into two categories; there are inflectional morphemes and derivational morphemes. **The inflectional morphemes** did not change the word class, but the **derivational morphemes** change the word class with or without the meaning (semantic).

- **Complex Derivation** creates multiple levels of word structure and it can change the grammatical category of a word.

- There are some **constraints** in adding the affixes in derivation. For the example in suffix **–ant** can combine only with **Latinate bases** as in **defendant, assailant, contestant, servant** and so forth. So, it can not occur with bases such as **fight** and **teach** (***fightant,** ***teachant**) which are of native English origin.

- There are two classes in derivational affixes, class 1 and class 2. **Class 1 affixes** (most of which are Latinate) normally trigger changes in the consonant or vowel segments of the base with which they occur. In addition, they usually also affect the assignment of stress. **Class 2 affixes** (which are mostly native) tend to be phonological neutral, having no effect on the segmental make up of the base or on stress assignment.