



A Study of Affixation in Korean Students' Descriptive Composition BIPA Advanced Level

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Abstract: This study aims to describe the use of affixation in narrative texts that highlight natural phenomena and the experiences of the speakers in them. Affixation is one of the morphological processes in Indonesian that plays an important role in word formation, word class changes, and the development of meaning in a discourse. This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. The research data are in the form of linguistic units containing affixation processes found in the text, including prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and confixes. The data collection technique was carried out using the listening and note-taking method through careful reading of the analyzed text. The results of the study show that the analyzed text contains the use of prefixes, suffixes, and confixes, while infixes are not found. The dominant prefixes used include *me-*, *di-*, *ber-*, and *ter-* which function to form active verbs, passive verbs, and express states and events. Suffixes such as *-an*, *-itas*, and *-nya* play a role in forming concrete and abstract nouns, as well as providing emphasis on meaning in sentences. In addition, the confixes *me-kan*, *me-i*, and *ke--an* are used to form causative meanings, processes, and certain states or situations. The absence of infixes indicates that the text makes greater use of productive and commonly used affixation forms in modern Indonesian.

Keywords: *Affixation of Korean, BIPA, Learners' Compositions, qualitative approach, Descriptive composition*

INTRODUCTION

Indonesian is the national language used by Indonesian citizens as a means of daily communication. Furthermore, it serves as a unifying language across ethnicities, nations, and cultures. Indonesian is taught to Indonesians from elementary school through university. Currently, Indonesian is not only studied and used by Indonesians; foreigners are also learning and using it as a second language.

Writing essays is a crucial aspect of learning Indonesian, as it helps students develop critical, analytical, and systematic thinking skills. By understanding the fundamentals of essay writing, BIPA students can improve their writing skills and develop critical and analytical thinking skills. Furthermore, essay writing can also help BIPA students improve their ability to communicate effectively in Indonesian.

In the context of BIPA, writing essays can also help students understand Indonesian culture and

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values, as well as improve their ability to understand and apply Indonesian language concepts.

In the process of forming new meanings in student essays, especially in the study of morphology, which is a branch of linguistics that studies the structure of words and the mechanism of word formation in a language. One of the main morphological processes is affixation, which involves adding affixes such as prefixes and suffixes to basic forms to create new words or modify the meaning and category of words. Affixation has a crucial position in vocabulary studies because it plays an important role in enriching the variety of word forms in written or spoken discourse (Asmoko et al., 2022). In Korean, affixation has a crucial role because the language is an agglutinative language rich in affixes to form verbs, nouns, and adjectives effectively. spread across various word categories in the text, thus showing a typical affixation pattern in Korean writing (Rahmadia & Usmi, 2021). Correct affixation helps Korean students develop ideas systematically, while inappropriate use of affixes causes structural errors and ambiguity in their writing (Sintaningrum et al., 2025).

In teaching Indonesian for non-native speakers (BIPA), affixation is often the most difficult part to master. This obstacle arises from the differences in morphological systems between Indonesian and the students' mother tongue (Kusmiatun & Fadilla, 2025). revealed that BIPA learners still have difficulty using affixes correctly, both in form and function in sentences. This is evident from the dominance of certain prefixes and frequent word formation errors. Mistakes in the use of the prefix *me-* are also seen in BIPA learners' writing assignments. Forms of errors include omission of affixes, incorrect sound softening, and the choice of affix forms that do not comply with Indonesian language rules. (Sanjaya, 2023) stated that affixation problems are not only technical, but also involve understanding the overall structure of words. Based on the description above, this study aims to

describe the use of affixation in Korean students' written texts. The analysis focuses on affixation forms such as prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and confixes, along with their tendency patterns in their writing.

Descriptive essay is a form of written work that describes or depicts an object or thing to the reader as if the reader feels, sees or experiences the topic in the writing himself. (Idris, Y., Thahar, HE, & Juita, N. 2014). Priyatni explains (2014) that what is meant by descriptive text is a text that explains and describes an object/condition so that the reader seems to hear, see, or feel the thing described and is categorized as a descriptive text. Descriptive text is usually to explain experiences and observations, about the shape, sound, taste, or movements. Furthermore, Mahsun (2014) explains that this type of text has a social purpose to provide and describe an object or object individually according to its physical characteristics. The description described in this text must be specific and detailed so that it becomes a characteristic of the existence of the object being described. From the opinions of several experts above, it can be interpreted that the word description is a form of paragraph that describes something according to the actual situation, so that the reader can imagine (see, hear, smell, and feel) what is described according to the author's image. Atmazaki (2015) said that descriptive is a form of writing that describes an object (place, thing, and person) the reader as if observing, listening, touching, feeling, or seeing everything that is described. In addition, descriptive must be able to attract and influence the reader's emotions as well as the reader's sensitivity and the form of the reader's imagination. Descriptive writing has the aim of describing clearly or providing a picture of something as clearly as possible, so that the reader can see and hear, read, or feel the thing being described. This can be seen in the following example of descriptive writing "This morning is beautiful. The sun is shining brightly, the birds are chirping melodiously, the breeze is blowing gently, providing a cool atmosphere." According to Semi (2013) there are several characteristics



and markers of descriptive writing as well as differentiating it from other types of writing, descriptions make more effort and attempt to show details or details about the object. This means that to be able to produce good descriptive writing, a writer must be able to show an object in detail and in more detail. For example, the writer wants to describe a boy, then the writer must be able to describe how old the boy is, what his clothes are like, what his hair is like and so on.

In previous research, the BIPA Program, held at several campuses in Indonesia, including Muhammadiyah University of Tangerang, provided services to foreign nationals who wanted to learn Indonesian. In accordance with the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) guidelines, BIPA learning is divided into levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. This is based on the level of understanding of foreign learners in understanding Indonesian material. The learning provided covers four skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. This is in line with Susilo's opinion (2016) that Indonesian language learning is in principle directed towards mastering four language skills, including: a) listening, learners are expected to be able to understand language sounds, commands, instructions, announcements, news, and so on, b) speaking, learners are expected to be able to express opinions, ideas, and information verbally, such as how to get acquainted, greet, tell stories, and so on, c) reading, learners are expected to be able to understand reading texts through reading aloud, intensive reading, fluent reading, silent reading, and so on, d) writing, learners are expected to be able to write such as describing objects, writing letters, composing, and so on. In addition, the material provided must be based on the learner's ability level..

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. This method was chosen to provide a systematic and in-depth description of the affixation phenomenon found in the texts written by Korean BIPA students. The data sources in this study are narrative texts written by

Korean students consisting of several titles, namely Gunung Api by Jihye Kim, Korean Music that Goes Global by Kim Insook, and the Flood Phenomenon in Jakarta by Kim Hee Eun. The research data are in the form of lingual units containing morphological processes including prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and confixes.

The data collection techniques were carried out by: a) Collecting data in the form of essays by BIPA students from Afghanistan at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang, b) Reading all the collected data, c) Marking by underlining words that receive affixes or affixations, and d) Grouping data based on the type of affixation. The data analysis techniques used were: a) After grouping the data, then the process of identifying words that receive affixes or affixations based on the forms of affixation which include (Prefix, Infix, Suffix, and Confix), b) Describing errors in the forms of affixation used in the essay, c) Corrections were made to the errors used in the essays of BIPA students, d) Calculating the number of errors in the form of affixation in the essays of BIPA students, and e) Drawing conclusions from the results of the analysis carried out on errors in the form of affixation in the essays of BIPA.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Essay Data 1

Based on the analysis of Kim Insook's text entitled "Korean Music that Goes Global," it can be seen that the text contains various forms of affixation in Indonesian. Affixation is a morphological process that occurs through the addition of affixes to root words, either at the beginning of the word (prefix), at the end of the word (suffix), or simultaneously at the beginning and end of the word (confix). This affixation process plays an important role in forming meaning, adjusting word classes, and the smooth delivery of ideas in the text. In this analysis, the affixations found include prefixes, suffixes, and confixes. Meanwhile, after a thorough observation of all the data, no use of infixes was found. This indicates that the text uses more productive and commonly used forms of affixation in modern Indonesian, especially in informative and popular texts.

A prefix is an affix attached to the beginning of a root word. In the text "Korean Music that Goes Global," the prefixes found include *me-*, *di-*, and *ber-*. These prefixes generally function to form active verbs, passive verbs, and adjectives that support the content of the text. The prefix *me-* is found in words such as watching, imitating, carrying, learning, trying, using, making, becoming, assuming, and studying. These words are derived from the root word with the prefix *me-*, thus forming an active verb. The use of this prefix indicates that the subject in the sentence is performing an action directly. For example, the word "watching" indicates the active activity of enjoying a K-pop music video, while the word "imitating" describes the attitude of fans who follow the enthusiasm of idols. The prefix *me-* in this text strengthens the role of the subject as the actor of the action and makes the sentence feel more lively.

In addition, the prefix *di-* is found in the words "memorized" and "known." The prefix *di-* functions to form passive verbs, which are verbs that indicate the subject receives an action. In the context of the text, the word "memorized" emphasizes that the rhythm of K-pop songs easily sticks in the listener's memory, while the word "known" indicates that idols have a certain image in the eyes of the public. The use of the prefix *di-* helps focus attention.

The prefix *ber-* focuses the reader on the object or result of an action, not on the actor. The prefix *ber-* is found in the words "practice" and "various." "practice" indicates an activity carried out repeatedly and continuously by idols before their debut. Meanwhile, "various" functions to indicate the diversity of countries and cultures united by K-pop music. The prefix *ber-* in this text functions to indicate states, activities, or characteristics that support the author's explanation. Overall, the use of prefixes in this text serves to clarify actions, states, and characteristics related to the K-pop phenomenon. These prefixes help build a coherent and easily understood flow of explanation for the reader.

In addition to prefixes, the text also contains the use of suffixes, which are affixes attached to the end of root words. The suffix found in this text is *-nya*. The suffix *-nya* functions as a marker of ownership, emphasis, or pointer that clarifies the meaning of the word in a particular context. In the word *musiknya*, the suffix *-nya* indicates ownership or emphasis of the K-pop music being discussed. This word emphasizes that the music

has certain characteristics that make it popular with many people. Meanwhile, in the word *penggemarnya*, the suffix *-nya* refers to a group of people who are K-pop fans. The use of this suffix helps clarify the reference of the word and makes the sentence feel more effective. Overall, the suffix *-nya* in this text serves to strengthen the meaning of the word and clarify the relationship between the concept being discussed and the context of the sentence.

A confix is an affix consisting of a combination of prefixes and suffixes attached simultaneously to a root word. In the text "Korean Music that Goes Global," the confixes found include *di-...-i*, *me-...-kan*, and *me-...-i*. These confixes are often used to form verbs with more complex meanings. The confix *di-...-i* is found in the word "liked." This word comes from the root word "*suka*" and forms a passive verb, indicating that K-pop music is a favorite object of many people. The use of this confix emphasizes K-pop music's position as something that is accepted and appreciated by society. The confix *me-...-kan* is found in the words "dengar," "menemukan," and "gabung." This confix functions to form active verbs that are often causative or express a certain process. The word "dengar" indicates the activity of consciously enjoying the song, while the word "menemukan" indicates the process of obtaining or encountering something. Meanwhile, the word "kuat" (uniting) emphasizes the role of K-pop music in connecting various nations and cultures. This confix is very important in conveying the idea of cause and effect and process in the text. In addition, the confix *me-...-i* is found in the word "follow" and "possess." In the word "follow," this confix indicates the active act of imitating an idol's lifestyle, while in the word "have," this confix indicates the possession of a certain trait or characteristic, such as the rhythm and choreography of a K-pop song. The use of this confix makes the explanation more detailed and clear.

Based on the analysis, no infixes were found in the text "Korean Music that Goes Global." Infixes are affixes inserted in the middle of root words, such as *-el-*, *-em-*, or *-er-*. The absence of infixes indicates that this text uses a more common form of affixation that is commonly used in contemporary Indonesian, particularly in popular and informative texts.

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that Kim Insook's text entitled "Korean Music that Goes Global" contains a fairly diverse

use of affixes, including prefixes, suffixes, and confixes, while infixes are not found. Prefixes are used to form verbs and adjectives that describe the actions, states, and characteristics of K-pop. Suffixes function to clarify ownership and emphasize meaning, while confixes form verbs with more complex meanings, especially in explaining the process and impact of the K-pop phenomenon. Overall, affixes in this text play an important role in building clarity of meaning, sentence cohesion, and smooth delivery of information to the reader.

Essay Data 2

Based on the analysis of texts discussing the flooding phenomenon in Jakarta, it can be seen that the texts contain various forms of affixation in Indonesian. Affixation is the process of forming words by adding affixes to root words, either at the beginning, at the end, or simultaneously at the beginning and end of the word. Affixation plays a crucial role in forming meaning because it can expand the meaning of words, form new word classes, and adapt words to the context of the sentence, particularly in descriptive and explanatory texts.

In this analysis, the affixes found included prefixes, suffixes, and confixes (a combination of a prefix and a suffix). After a thorough search of all the data, no infixes were found. This indicates that the text "Flood Phenomenon in Jakarta" makes greater use of common and productive affixation forms in modern Indonesian, particularly in informative texts discussing natural and social events.

A prefix is an affix attached to the beginning of a root word. In the analyzed text, the prefixes found include *me-*, *di-*, *ber-*, and *ter-*. These prefixes function to form active verbs, passive verbs, and supporting adjectives.

Conveying information about the causes and impacts of flooding. The prefix *me-* is found in words such as disturb, affect, complain about, cause, flow, and overcome. These words are derived from root words that have undergone a functional change into active verbs. The use of the prefix *me-* in this text emphasizes an action or process, whether carried out by nature or humans, such as the process of water disrupting community activities or government efforts to address flooding.

The prefix *di-* is found in words like *terendam* (submerged) and *diperbarkan* (worsened). This prefix forms passive verbs, indicating that the subject experiences a situation without

emphasizing the agent. In the word *terendam* (submerged), this prefix describes the conditions in the Jakarta area that are affected by flooding. Meanwhile, the word *diperbarkan* (worsened) indicates that the flooding conditions are getting worse due to certain factors, without having to explicitly mention the agent. The prefix *ter-* is found in the words *terjadi* (occurred) and *menghambat* (blocked). This prefix functions to indicate a state or event that occurs naturally or accidentally. In the text, the use of the prefix *ter-* emphasizes that flooding and clogged drains are conditions that arise as a result of natural processes and human habits.

In addition to prefixes, this text also contains suffixes, which are affixes attached to the end of root words. The suffixes found include *-an* and *-nya*. The suffix *-an* is found in words such as phenomena, activities, changes, buildings, and environments. This suffix functions to form nouns that describe certain events, results, or concepts. The use of the suffix *-an* helps concretize the ideas discussed, so that the information in the text becomes clearer and more systematic. The suffix *-nya* is found in negatives and everyday words. This suffix functions as a marker of ownership or emphasizes meaning, which strengthens the emphasis on the impact of flooding on people's lives.

A confix is an affix consisting of a combination of prefixes and suffixes attached simultaneously to a base word. In the analyzed text, the confixes found include *me-...-kan*, *me-...-i*, and *ke-...-an*. The confix *me-...-kan* is found in the words "causes," "disturbs," and "reduces." This confix forms a causative verb, which is a verb that expresses an action that produces a certain effect. For example, the word "causes" is used to explain the causal relationship between heavy rain and flooding, while the word "reduces" indicates the hope for reduced flood impacts through cooperation between the government and the community.

The confix *me-...-i* is found in the words to influence and to cross. This confix functions to form active verbs that indicate a process or direct relationship between subject and object. In the context of the text, the word "affect" is used to describe the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns, while the word "traversing" describes the condition of the rivers flowing through the Jakarta area. The confix *ke-...-an* is found in the word "hidup." This confix forms an abstract noun that expresses a particular state or situation, in this

case related to the daily lives of people affected by flooding.

Based on the overall analysis, no infixes were found in the analyzed text. Infixes are affixes inserted in the middle of basic words, such as -el-, -em-, or -er-. The absence of infixes indicates that the text "Flood Phenomenon in Jakarta" uses a more common form of affixation and is frequently used in contemporary Indonesian, particularly in explanatory texts and reports of social phenomena.

Overall, the analysis results show that the text "Flood Phenomenon in Jakarta" is rich in the use of prefixes, suffixes, and confixes, but does not contain infixes. Prefixes play a role in forming verbs and adjectives that describe the process and conditions of flooding. Suffixes function to form nouns that express events, conditions, and abstract concepts, while confixes form more complex meanings, especially in explaining the cause-and-effect relationship between natural factors and human activities. Thus, affixation in this text plays an important role in building clarity of meaning, coherence of discourse, and the effectiveness of conveying information about the flood phenomenon in Jakarta.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of affixation analysis of several narrative and informative texts, with the title of Korean music composition that went global, the phenomenon of flooding in Jakarta, it can be said that the use of affixation in these texts is often found in the formation of meaning. The most frequently found affixes include prefixes, suffixes, and confixes. Prefixes such as *me-*, *di-*, *ber-*, and *ter-* are most often used to form active verbs, passive verbs, and to express natural and social conditions or events. The use of prefixes makes it easier to describe actions, processes, and conditions clearly and structured. Meanwhile, the suffixes found, such as *-an*, *-nya*, *-is*, function to form clear or common nouns and help clarify the emphasis of meaning in a sentence. Meanwhile, confixes such as *me-...-kan*, *me-...-i*, *di-...-kan*, *ke-...-an*, and *pe-...-an* have an important role in forming a more complete meaning, especially to explain cause-effect relationships.

Overall, the results of the research that has been conducted make it clear that the use of affixation has a very important role in forming clear meaning, discourse cohesion, and appropriateness of information delivery in the narrative texts created. The dominant use of

prefixes, suffixes, and confixes shows that the texts analyzed use a form of affixation that is often used in modern Indonesian, especially to compose narrative texts. Thus, affixation does not only function as a morphological process, but also as an important element in the formation of language structure and clear text meaning.

Analyzing the use of affixation must be continuously conducted to determine and measure the level of understanding of foreign learners of Indonesian, especially regarding the use of affixation. This is due to the crucial role of affixation, as it relates to affixes and the resulting meaning of the words to which they are attached. Furthermore, affixation is one of the challenges faced by foreign learners in learning Indonesian. Material related to affixation can be emphasized in writing lessons.

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