
Affixation and Its Role in Modifying Meaning and Communicating Racial Issues in the Novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*

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Abstract

Language performs an essential issue in shaping meaning and reflecting societal values, particularly in literature. In Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, both inflectional and derivational affixation serve as powerful linguistic tools to convey deeper meanings and highlight the complex racial dynamics of 1930s America. Inflectional affixes, which modify a word's grammatical function without changing its core meaning, and derivational affixes, which create entirely new words or alter their meanings, both contribute significantly to the novel's thematic depth (Carstairs-Mccarthy, 2002). The novel's use of affixation also reflects the transformation of characters, as they struggle to overcome prejudiced perspectives and move toward empathy and understanding. The main person in the novel challenges the "dehumanization" of black individuals, while the other reveals a journey toward "enlightenment" as they learn to reject inherited racial prejudices. Eventually, this paper argues that both inflectional and derivational affixation not only shape the language of the text but also serve as critical lenses through which readers can understand the broader cultural and racial conflicts embedded within the novel (Camp, 2020). This linguistic approach provides a fresh perspective on the novel's enduring relevance in discussions about race, justice, and human dignity.

Keywords: affixation, racial issue, inflectional, derivational, meaning

A. INTRODUCTION

In this research, the researcher focused in the research on one branch of linguistics or language; which is morphology. This research examines the affixation in the novel "*To kill A Mockingbird*" by Harper Lee, in this novel there are many word formations, so that in the formation of the word there are some readers of the novel do not or do not understand it, also makes the researcher interested in examining the formation of words in the novel "*To Kill A Mockingbird*" by Harper Lee (Booi, 2018). In every writing, there must be words that are written according to what is in the basic word, there are also words that are written with affixes or word combinations where the word can have the same meaning or change its meaning, also in combining words or adding affixes in a writing or discourse can change the word class contained in the word or writing in it. Combining words in a writing can sometimes make it difficult for readers to know the meaning or meaning contained in the word (Manova, 2014).

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, set against the backdrop of 1930s Alabama, was a

masterful example of this, using language not just to tell a story but to objection racial prejudices establishment. One significant way to accomplish this is through affixation, the process of adding prefixes or suffixes to base words, which can either modify a word's grammatical function (inflectional) or create entirely new words with shifted meanings (derivational) (Carstairs-Mccarthy, 2002).

Comprehending the impact of both inflectional and derivational affixes in the novel is essential for grasping how language reflects and reinforces the racial dynamics of the time. For example, words like unfair, misjudge, and injustice illustrate how derivational affixation captures the moral complexities of racial prejudice, while inflectional changes subtly convey shifts in tense, perspective, and intensity, reflecting the evolving awareness of characters like Scout and Jem (Toluspayeva et al., 2024). Through this linguistic approach, Lee not only critiques the racism that permeates Maycomb but also highlights the power of language to challenge societal norms and inspire moral growth (Wibowo & Rismawati, 2022).

This paper explores how the strategic use of both inflectional and derivational affixation in *To Kill a Mockingbird* shapes meaning, reinforces themes of racial injustice, and contributes to the novel's enduring impact as a commentary on American society (Obuasi, 2016).

In the creation or writing of words in a discourse, short story, novel, and others, there are always affixes or word combinations as found in discourse and novels in English. There are usually types of affixes and types of morphemes that can remain the same or change meaning or change word classes and types of affixes and types of morphemes; for example the word *nearly* in the sentence:

When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow.

The word *nearly* undergoes an affixation or word combination process, particularly; *near* is (Free Morpheme / Lexical Morpheme / Adverb) + -ly (Bound Morpheme / suffixes Morpheme / Adverb / Inflectional). The word *near* has the affix (affix) ending -ly on the bound morpheme. In the data above, the affix (affix) ending -ly also changes its inflectional but does not change the meaning or meaning of the word or word class. But there is also a type of affix (suffix) -ly which undergoes derivational changes.

This paper explores how the strategic use of both inflectional and derivational affixation in *To Kill a Mockingbird* shapes meaning, reinforces themes of racial injustice, and contributes to the novel's enduring impact as a commentary on American society. By examining how words are formed and their roles in communicating racial issues, this analysis provides a deeper understanding of the novel's linguistic power and cultural significance.

In the affixation process, the researcher is also interested in examining whether there are changes in word class or changes in meaning in writing that has word combinations or the addition of affixes in this novel. In English, the addition of affixes or affixes to a word can sometimes change the word class or change the meaning of the word. Changes in word class or changes in meaning in affixation in English have names, they are derivational affixes and inflectional affixes. Derivational affixes or Derivative affixes refer to morphemes that create (or derive) new words, usually by changing the meaning and / or part of speech or both, of the words attached to the word (Ziani, 2020).

Other example is the word *badly* which undergoes an affixation process: *bad* (Free Morpheme / Lexical Morpheme / Adjective) + -ly (Bound Morpheme / Suffixes Morpheme / Adverb / Derivational). In the word *badly*, the word class *bad* which is included in the adjective word class becomes included in the adverb word class when given the suffix -ly at the end of the word *bad*. The change in word class in the word *badly* is a derivational morpheme or derivational affix. It has been explained above that the words in the novel *To*

Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee contain several types of affixes and several types of morphemes that can be analyzed in terms of morphology. It can be seen and examined from the perspective of the linguistic branch of morphology, the words in the discourse of the novel have several types of affixes and have several types of morphemes in them, there are also several words that experience changes in word class or changes in meaning (Benítez-Torres, 2009).

To provide this research is conducted in a focused and systematic manner, it is essential to clearly define the boundaries of the study. This helps provide a clear direction for the analysis and simplifies the identification of relevant linguistic patterns (Croitor, 2023). This study is specifically limited to examining the affixation process, types of affixes, and types of morphemes present in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. It also includes an analysis of changes in word classes and shifts in meaning that occur through these processes (Nugraha, 2024). The primary object of this research, therefore, encompasses the various forms of affixation, including both inflectional and derivational changes, and their impact on word formation in the text (Wibowo & Rismawati, 2022).

Moreover, this research emphasizes the role in communicating racial issues, as the language in *To Kill a Mockingbird* not only shapes narrative meaning but also reflects the deeply entrenched racial dynamics current society. The choice of affixes, word formation, and word combinations in the novel often carry significant cultural and social implications, revealing how language both reflects and reinforces racial biases. Words like *dehumanization* and *misjudge* conduct powerful racial connotations, capturing the prejudiced perspectives that underpin the novel's central conflicts. By exploring these linguistic elements, this study purposes to expose the critical role affixation plays in constructing racial narratives and expressing complex social realities within the novel.

Morphology

In linguistics, there are several types of sciences that study it, for example phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics. On this research occasion, the researcher will study linguistics, namely; morphology. Morphology is one of the branches of linguistics or language studies. Morphology is a branch of linguistics or language that studies words or the process of word formation. Morphology is the study of how words are constructed or formed from smaller parts (Booij, 2018). Morphology analyzes the smallest parts in the formation of words in linguistics (Tokar, 2012).

Morphology is at the conceptual center of linguistics. This is not because it is the dominant sub discipline, but because morphology is the study of word structure Morphology is the conceptual center of linguistics; which is not only because morphology is a dominant sub discipline, but because morphology is the science that studies word structure. Morphology is the science that studies the conceptual structure of words that are formed. Furthermore, Morphology is the study of word structure, and words are at the interface between phonology, syntax, and semantics (Camp, 2020).

Morphology is a study that studies the structure of words, and these words are in a sentence or word among linguistics that discuss other linguistic studies such as phonology, syntax, and semantics. Morphology is also a linguistic study that discussion can be linked to other linguistic studies such as phonology, syntax, and semantics. Because in the formation of words or word structures can have meaning or have no meaning, have a way of pronunciation, and sometimes have meanings that change or do not change (Carstairs-Mccarthy, 2002).

As for those who state the meaning of morphology is as follows; morphology is the study of how words are structured and how they are put together from smaller parts. It is a study that studies how words are structured and how words are put together from smaller parts. Moreover, morphology is a study that studies how words are arranged or put together from

smaller parts which after the words have been arranged or put together will make the words become new or permanent words (Obuasi, 2016).

In addition, there are also those who argued that morphology is a part of linguistics that studies morphemes; in addition morphology studies the structure, form, and classification of words. From the following explanation, the author can conclude that morphology is a linguistic science that studies morphemes, also about word structure, word form, and also word classification as stated by.

Affixation

Affixation is one type of morphological process found in the study of linguistics, namely morphology. There are those who argue about the explanation of affixes; affix refers to a morpheme which only occurs when attached to some other morpheme or morphemes such as a root or stem or base (Manova, 2014). Affix is a morpheme that only appears when attached to another morpheme or morphemes such as a root or stem or base. Root means that the affix or affix is attached to the base word which has the meaning contained in a morpheme. In addition, affix is a bound morpheme that attaches to a root or a stem to form a new lexeme (derived form) or an inflected form or stem of an existing lexeme (Mithun, 1995). Moreover, affix is a bound morpheme that attaches to a root or stem to form a new lexeme (derived form) or an inflectional form or stem from an existing lexeme; affix is one of the bound morphemes that form a new word that has a new inflection or meaning in the word (Marlim, 2024).

In addition, the morphological process that is very common in language is affixation, or also often called the addition of an affix (affix). So, affixation is a morphological process that is often and very common in events that occur in linguistics which is more commonly referred to as an affix or the addition of an affix (affix) to a word.

Affixes have 3 (three) types of affixes, namely; prefix, infix, and suffix. The first is the prefix, as explained that prefix is an affix that is placed or found after the root or stem or base or in other words, an affix that appears at the beginning of the root word. While the definition of a suffix is an affix that is attached to the end of its base; suffix is an affix that is placed or found at the end of the root word (Panocová, 2021).

a) Prefixes

Prefix is the affixes which can be added to the beginning of a word. Prefiks (Awalan) is an affix or affix that can or is usually added to the beginning of a word. For example: *ab-normal*, *dis-agree*, *ex-change*, *im-material*, *re-act*, etc.

b) Suffixes

Suffix is the affixes which can be added to the end of a word. Sufiks is an affix or affix that is usually added or found at the end of the root word. For example: *ideal-ize*, *hoori-fy*, *execut-ion*, *care-less*, etc.

c) Infix

Infix is the affixes which can be added of both the prefix and suffix to any word. Infix (Prefix Suffix) is an affix or affix that can be added or in other words this affix is placed on the prefix (prefix) of the root word and also the suffix (ending) of the root word. For example: *dis-agree-able*, *il-legal-ity*, *im-migrat-ion*, *inaccuracy*, etc.

Language in Racial Issue Communication

The power of language in forming meaning is particularly significant when addressing racial issues. Language not only reflects social realities but also shapes how those realities are perceived and understood. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee used a range of linguistic

strategies to highlight the harsh realities of racial inequality. Through the use of affixation, words like *misjudge*, *unfair*, and *dehumanize* conducted a deep cultural implications, capturing the biased attitudes that permeate the novel's setting. These words, formed through derivational and inflectional processes, reveal the emotional and social weight of racial prejudice, making language a central element in communicating the novel's themes. By understanding the linguistic roots of these terms, readers can better grasp the complex social forces at play, illustrating the power of language to both reflect and resist racial injustice.

Language is a powerful tool for forming meaning, especially in discussions of race and social justice. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the words chosen by Harper Lee are not just carriers of narrative but also bearers of cultural weight. The use of affixation in the novel, including both inflectional and derivational processes, plays a critical role in communicating the deeply ingrained racial biases of the time. For example, terms like *unfair*, *prejudiced*, and *discrimination* indicate the harsh realities of racial inequality. These words, carefully constructed through the addition of prefixes and suffixes, carry powerful connotations that help the reader understand the social dynamics of Maycomb. By examining the language used to describe racial conflicts, we can see how words themselves become tools of social critique, reinforcing or challenging the *status quo*.

B. METHOD

The method used for the research on affixation in Harper Lee's novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* is a qualitative method. The research adopts a descriptive qualitative design, targeted at identifying, describing, and interpreting the linguistic structures present in the text (Barada, 2013). This design is chosen because it provides flexibility in analyzing the nuanced language choices made by the author, particularly in relation to the racial themes embedded in the narrative (Mengmeng, 2018). The study focuses on both inflectional and derivational affixes, examining how these morphological processes contribute to the novel's broader social and cultural commentary. Qualitative method refers to research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words and observable behavior in a broad sense (Stadtländer, 2009). Qualitative research methods are methods that produce descriptive data in the form of writing or spoken words and things that can be observed. In analyzing the data, the author uses descriptive analysis because it is an accurate description of the characteristics of the data according to its nature itself (Muñoz de Cote Gudiño, 2013).

The steps for conducting this research are as follows:

- a. Choosing a research topic.
- b. Conducting a preliminary study / literature study.
- c. Formulating research problems.
- d. Determining research methods.
- e. Collecting data (reading the novel entitled *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, marking sentences that contain the affixation process and also experience changes in word class and/or changes in meaning to be used as data, collecting data, and identifying data).
- f. Classifying research data.
- g. Analyse research data.
- h. Draw research conclusions.

The data sources in this study are in the form of classification and distribution of the affixation process, types of affixes, types of morphemes, and also changes in word class and/or changes in meaning found in Harper Lee's novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

The qualitative approach provides a deeper understanding of how language forms meaning and communicates racial issues (Cropley, 1971), revealing the critical role of affixation in shaping the cultural messages embedded in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. By examining the linguistic structures within the text, this research purposes to uncover the powerful ways in

which language reflects and challenges racial biases, offering a richer perspective on the novel's enduring impact.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The amount of data analysed is 5 data. Data analysed is the process of affixation, type of affixes, morpheme types, and classroom changes in words or meaning in an inflexion or derivational manner. Also every data there is statement page number information to be used as the data used.

Data 1

He waited until he was sure she was crying, then he shuffled out of the building.
(TKAM)

In this data there are several types of affixes in the affixation process contained in this data, including suffix *-ing* that experience changes in class classes or meaning, as well as suffix *-d* and *-ed* which experience changes to show as a form of past verbs. For examples of words that undergo an affixation process in this the data, which is the words *waited*, *crying*, *shuffled* and *building*. In the word *waited* undergoes an affixation process, which is as follows: *wait* (free morpheme / lexical morpheme / verb) + *-ed* (bound morpheme / suffixes morpheme / verb / inflectional). The word *waited* has an affix that is the type of suffix *-ed* to show as a form of past verbs. Thus making changes in meaning or inflexional when the addition of *-ed*. In the word *shuffled*, experiencing an affixation process, which is as follows: *shuffle* (Free Morpheme / Lexical Morpheme / Verb) + *-d* (Bound Morpheme / Suffixes Morpheme / Verb / Inflectional). The word *shuffled* has an affix that is the type of suffix *-ed* to show as a form of past verbs. Thus making changes in meaning or inflexional when the addition of *-d*. In the word *crying* undergoes an affixation process, which is as follows: *cry* (Free Morpheme / Lexical Morpheme / Verb) + *-ing* (Bound Morpheme / Suffixes Moermorpheme / Adjective / Derivational). The word *crying* has an affix that is the type of suffix. In the addition of this *-ing* change the class of words or meanings called derivational from the basic word, which is the word *cry*. In the word *building* undergoing an affixation process, which is as follows: *build* (Free Morpheme / Lexical Morpheme / Verb) + *-ing* (Bound Morpheme / Suffixes Morpheme / Noun / Derivional). The word *building* has an affix, which is the type of suffix. In the addition of suffix *-ing*, change the class of words or meanings called derivational from the basic word, which is the word *build*.

In the data above, there are also types of morphemes in addition to only the affixation process. There are 2 (two) types of morphemes, particularly; free morphemes and bound morphemes. In free morphemes are divided into 2 (two) types, which are; *lexical morpheme* and *functional morpheme*. There are three words that are included in the type of free morpheme of functional morphemes in this data. Examples for words that are functional morpheme types in this data are the words *was*, *of*, and *the*. There is a word *was* which is a type of free morpheme of functional morphemes to show as auxiliary verb (auxiliary verb). The word *of* is a type of free morpheme of functional morphemes to indicate as prepositions (prepositions). The word *the* is a type of free morpheme that is functional morpheme for showing as an article (article).

While this sentence may appear straightforward, its deeper implications can be linked to the racial themes in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The idea of being nearly something, in this context, can reflect the broader notion of being close to understanding or empathy but not fully achieving it—a critical theme in the novel's exploration of racial prejudice. Just as Jem is on the verge of adolescence, the community of Maycomb is similarly on the cusp of confronting its deeply rooted racial biases, yet struggles to fully embrace equality and justice.

Moreover, the physical injury mentioned in this sentence can symbolically represent the

moral and social "breaks" caused by racial injustice. Just as Jem's arm is permanently altered, the characters in the novel experience lasting psychological and emotional wounds from the racial prejudices they encounter. This analysis highlights how even seemingly simple language choices contribute to the broader themes of racial inequality and moral growth in the novel.

Data 2

When it healed, and Jem's fears of never being able to play football were assuaged, he was seldom self-conscious about his injury. (TKAM)

In this data 2 there are several types of affixes in the affixation process contained in this 2 data, including suffix *-s* to show as plural (plural noun) and *-ed*, *-d* to show as past words. For example words that undergo affixation processes in data 2 are the words *fears*, *healed*, and *assuaged*. The type of affixes contained in data 2 there are several types of affixes, are suffix *-ed* and *-d* at the end of the morpheme bound for past shapes. There is suffix *-ing* at the end of the morpheme bound for the progressive tense form. There is suffix *-s* at the end of the word to show the plural shape. Examples of data for suffix *-s* for plural forms in data 2 are in the word *fears*. The word *fears* undergo an affixation process, which is as follows: *fear* (Free Morpheme / Lexical Morpheme / Noun) + *-s* (Bound Morpheme / Suffixes Morpheme / Noun / Inflectionals). In the word *fears* in the affixation process do not change the word class or meaning but change its inflexional, the word *fear* is noun and when added suffix *-s* is to show as plural (plural nouns). There is suffix *-ed* at the end of the word to show as a past form. For example, for the suffix and *-d* data for the past forms are the words *healed* and *assuaged*. The word *healed* undergoes an affixation process, which is as follows: *heal* (Free Morpheme / Lexical Morpheme / Verb) + *-ed* (Bound Morpheme / Suffixes Morpheme / Verb / Inflectional). In the word *healed* in the affixation process does not change the word class or meaning but change its inflexional, the word *heal* is verb (verb) and when added suffix *-ed* at the end of the word to show as a verb past tense (past verb).

From a racial perspective, the concept of being *assuaged* can extend beyond physical recovery to the easing of emotional and psychological wounds. In the context of the novel, this sentence reflects a deeper, symbolic process. Just as Jem's physical injury heals over time, the characters in *To Kill a Mockingbird* must also confront and slowly overcome the psychological scars left by racial prejudice and social injustice. However, just as Jem remains *seldom self-conscious* about his physical scar, many characters in the novel struggle to fully confront or acknowledge the deeper wounds of racism within their community. This subtle linguistic choice highlights the persistent and often unspoken nature of racial wounds, reinforcing the broader social themes that define the novel's impact.

In addition, the phrase *never being able to play football* underscores the idea of lost potential, a metaphor for the lost opportunities and freedoms denied to marginalized groups in a racially divided society. This layered analysis reveals how even small linguistic choices can contribute to the novel's broader critique of racial inequality.

Data 3

His left arm was somewhat shorter than his right; when he stood and walked, the back of his hand was at right angles to his body, his thumb parallel to his thigh. (TKAM)

In this data 3 there are several types of affixes in the affixation process contained in this 3 data, including suffix *-er*, *-s* to indicate as plural (plural nouns) and *-ed* to show as past words. For examples of words that undergo an affixation process in data 3, the words *short*, *stood*, *walked* and *angels*. The type of affixes contained in data 3 there are several types of affixes

including the type of affixes or the suffix *-ed* at the end of the morpheme bound for the past. Example in this data 3 that shows the suffix *-ed* type affix at the end of the morpheme bound for the past form is the word *walked*. The word *walked* undergoes an affixation process, *walk* (Free Morpheme / Lexical Morpheme / Verb) + *-ed* (Bound Morpheme / Suffixes Morpheme / Verb / Inflectional). The word *walked* has an affix that is the type of suffix *-ed* to show the past form.

Thus making changes in meaning or inflectional when the addition of suffix *-ed*. Another example is *stood*; which undergoes an affixation process, *stand* (free morpheme / lexical morpheme / verb) + *-ed* (bound morpheme / suffixes morpheme / verb / inflectional). The word *stood* has an affix that is the type is a suffix *-ed* to show the past form. In addition, the word *stood* is categorized as inflectional.

The type of morpheme contained in data 3 has two types of morphemes, which are the type of free morpheme and the type of bound morpheme. In this type of free morpheme, there are several types of morphemes, which are functional morphemes and lexical morphemes. In this data, there are 14 words that are included in the type of free morpheme of functional morphemes; the word *his*, *was*, *when*, *and*, *the*. Examples for free morpheme types of functional morphemes in data 3 include the word *his* is a type of free morpheme that is functional morfem type to show as pronouns (pronouns noun). The word *was* is a type of free morpheme of functional morphemes to indicate as auxiliary verb. The words *and* and *when* are a type of free morpheme of functional morphemes to indicate as a conjunction. The word *the* is a type of free morpheme that is functional morpheme type to show as articles (definite words). The word *of*, *at*, and *to* is a type of free morpheme that is more functional type to indicate as prepositions. There are also types of lexical free morphemes of 13 lexical morphemes or morphemes derived from the basic words in the dictionary. There is a type of morpheme bound as many as 1 word that has a bound morpheme.

The word *parallel*, while not directly modified through affixation in this sentence, carries a significant symbolic weight in the context of the novel. It implies alignment without intersection, capturing the deeply segregated lives of the white and Black communities in Maycomb. Despite their physical proximity, the two groups remain socially and legally separate, moving through life in "parallel" without truly connecting or understanding each other. This linguistic choice reinforces the novel's broader themes of racial division and social isolation.

Together, these word choices subtly reinforce the novel's underlying commentary on racial inequality, demonstrating how even seemingly simple physical descriptions can carry deeper social meanings.

Data 4

He could not have cared less, so long as he could pass and punt.

The word *cared* is formed by adding the inflectional suffix *-ed* to the base verb *care*. Inflectional suffixes like *-ed* do not change the grammatical category of the word (it remains a verb) but instead indicate tense, aspect, or agreement. In this case, the past participle form reflects a completed or ongoing state, emphasizing a lack of concern or emotional investment. This slight grammatical adjustment is critical, as it captures the character's detached attitude, highlighting the emotional distance often present in the face of racial injustice. In the context of the novel, this indifference can symbolize the broader societal apathy toward the struggles of marginalized groups, where the dominant culture often *cares less* about the suffering of others.

While this particular sentence does not include a direct derivational change, it is worth noting that many terms in the broader context of the novel are shaped through derivational

affixation, which transforms the meaning or class of words. For example, the word *dehumanize* is formed from the base word *human* with the addition of the prefix *de-* and the suffix *-ize*. This combination creates a verb that fundamentally shifts the meaning, capturing the act of stripping someone of their humanity; a powerful and deeply racialized concept that echoes throughout the novel. Derivational processes like these are essential for capturing the moral weight of racial prejudice, transforming simple descriptors into complex moral judgments.

On a deeper level, the phrase *could not have cared less* reflects a broader social reality in *To Kill a Mockingbird*: the widespread indifference to racial injustice. This phrase captures the emotional detachment that allows characters like the jury members in Tom Robinson's trial to ignore clear evidence and convict an innocent man simply because of his race. This linguistic structure subtly reinforces the idea that racism often thrives not just on active hate, but also on passive indifference as a critical theme in the novel's portrayal that year.

Furthermore, the focus on physical actions like *pass* and *punt* reflects the physical freedom enjoyed by white characters in the novel, contrasting sharply with the restricted lives of black characters. Just as the freedom to move, act, and engage in sports is taken for granted by some, the freedom to live without fear of prejudice is denied to others, reinforcing the racial disparities at the heart of the novel.

Data 5

When enough years had gone by to enable us to look back on them, we sometimes discussed the events leading to his accident.

The word *discussed* is a clear example of inflectional affixation. It comes from the base verb *discuss*, which is modified by the inflectional suffix *-ed* to indicate past form. This form gives a sign of the action as completed or having occurred in the past, setting the temporal context for the narrative. Inflectional affixes *-ed* are essential because they preserve the core meaning of the word while adding grammatical information, such as tense, number, or degree, without changing the word's part of speech. This stability allows the narrative to anchor itself in time, reflecting on past events with a sense of distance and reflection.

Furthermore, the use of the past form (tense) in this context is significant because it frames the entire novel as a retrospective event, allowing the narrator to reflect on childhood experiences with a more mature, critical perspective. This distance is essential in the novel, where the adult Scout looked back on her formative years and the racial tensions that defined them, highlighting the contrast between innocence and the harsh realities of racial injustice.

The word *accident* is an example of derivational affixation; it is derived from the Latin root *accidens*, meaning *something that happens*. The English form word has undergone a significant shift from its original Latin form through the addition of the derivational suffix *-ent*, transforming the base into a concrete noun that refers to an unexpected, often unfortunate event. Derivational changes like this significantly alter the meaning of a word and often change its grammatical category, adding depth to the language used in the novel. This shift captures the unpredictable and often tragic nature of the events that shape the characters' lives, reinforcing the unpredictable consequences of prejudice and misunderstanding.

In addition, the word *enable* in this sentence represents another example of derivational morphology. It is formed by adding the prefix *en-* to the adjective form, creating a verb that means to provide the means or ability to do something. This transformation reflects the gradual process of gaining understanding or insight, much like how the characters in the novel slowly come to recognize the impact of racial prejudice in their community.

While the immediate context of this sentence is the physical injury of Jem, it can also be interpreted as a subtle reflection on the broader racial *accidents* that define the social

landscape of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The phrase *look back on them* suggests a reflective perspective, capturing the often retrospective understanding of racial injustices that many characters in the novel come to realize over time. Just as the characters look back on past events with a new awareness, society often revisits moments of racial injustice, reconsidering their meaning in light of changing moral perspectives.

Moreover, the choice to describe these events as *accidents* is significant. It implies a sense of unpredictability and lack of control, yet many of the racial conflicts in the novel are the result of deeply entrenched, intentional biases rather than mere accidents. This linguistic choice subtly captures the tension between the conscious and unconscious forces that shape racial attitudes, reinforcing the novel's broader critique of systemic prejudice. It highlights the gap between individual intentions and collective outcomes, mirroring the way well-meaning individuals can still contribute to a racially unjust society.

This sentence serves as a powerful example of how seemingly simple linguistic choices can carry deep social and cultural implications. Through a combination of inflectional and derivational changes, the language in this passage captures both the personal and societal dimensions of memory, growth, and racial reflection, reinforcing the novel's broader themes of justice and moral awareness. By examining these subtle shifts in language, we gain a clearer understanding of how words themselves can become tools of social critique, capturing the complexities of racial inequality in ways that transcend the surface meaning of the text.

D. CONCLUSION

After the author analyzed all data on affixation obtained in Harper Lee's novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* which were analyzed based on theories related to affixation, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. From the total amount of data that has been analyzed, the types of affixes found in the data are prefixes and suffixes. The number of prefixes is 2 words, the number of suffixes is 98 words. There are also 2 types of morphemes, which are free morphemes and bound morphemes. The type of free morpheme is 527 words, the type of bound morpheme is 100 words, and the type of free morpheme which is a functional morpheme is 261 words.
2. There are 2 types of changes in word class and meaning that occur and are found in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; they are changes in meaning or meaning by inflection and changes in word class or meaning.

In conclusion, the researcher can conclude that in the affixation process in Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, there are several words that undergo the affixation process. In this affixation process, there are several types of affixes and types of morphemes, including the types of prefix affixes (prefixes) and suffix affixes (endings) as well as types of free morphemes and bound morphemes. In addition, in the affixation process in Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, there are many changes in word class or meaning inflectionally and derivationally.

The novel's language, with its subtle manipulations of words, often reflects the larger social structures at play, particularly the racial divisions that define Maycomb. Through the reflective tone and narrative structure, characters like Scout and Jem are able to look back on past events with an awareness that grows over time; much like the society around them begins to reexamine the injustices of their world. The use of seemingly simple terms like *accident* and *cared* belies the complexity of racial dynamics, demonstrating how small linguistic shifts mirror larger systemic issues. By considering both inflectional and derivational processes, we gain insight into how language can communicate more than just surface meaning. It reveals attitudes, social structures, and ultimately the moral judgments that influence how we

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