

**COMPARATIVE STUDY OF COHERING SUFFIX IN ENGLISH AND INDONESIA**

**DWI PEBRINA SINAGA**

**DOSEN AMIK MEDICOM**

**Abstract**

This paper is analyzing morphologically and phonologically the morphology unit especially for the *cohering suffix* based on the theory of Morphology proposed by Boij (2012) in his book, *The Grammar of Words: An Introduction to Linguistic Morphology*, by interfacing between morphology and phonology approach. *Cohering suffix* is the suffix forms one domain of syllabification with the stem. The *cohering suffix* chosen in English is -er while in Indonesia is -an in case they have characteristics of being *cohering suffix*. Due to this research, the writer uses descriptive method with the objective of this research is to compare the *cohering suffix* in English and in Indonesia. After analyzing the data, it is able to be concluded that *cohering suffix* in English and in Indonesia has the same character which is starting from a vowel letter; -*er* in English and -*an* in Indonesia. However, there is founded a constraint in Indonesia *cohering suffix* which it does not happen with the stem ends in vowel as English does, like in *man.di.an* (that -an forms own domain of syllabification).

**Keywords:** Interface between Morphology and Phonology, cohering suffix in English, cohering suffix in Indonesia.

**Introduction**

Communication is the way people interact to each other, whether by using spoken language or sign language. Different country uses different language, like Indonesians use Indonesia to communicate and or Americans use English. Furthermore, it is known that English has been considered be an international language where it is the reason why most people in the world study and learn it, not only in the school but also in the tuition places. Basically, each language that exists in the world has different structure or form if compared with another language. Someone will meet a little bit difficulty to study and understand another language if the language s/he is going to learn has a total different structure from her/his first language. The analysis of languages is exactly studied by linguists. Languages are not only different in their structure but also in the word-formation. Nevertheless, when people have known the differences between languages and understand how it happens as well, it can even help them able to speak it and avoid misunderstanding when listening to native speaker of language they have studied. Further, they can make an analysis and talk about it to give knowledge to people. As said above, the two languages may have a difference in their word-formation or may have a similarity in it. So, it is supposed to be important to learn how the word forms in a language and this study is called morphology. Although students of language have always been aware of the importance of words, morphology, the study of the internal structure of words did not emerge as a distinct sub-branch of linguistics until the nineteenth century. Under the influence of the Darwinian theory of evolution, the philologist Max Muller contended that the study of the evolution of words would illuminate the evolution of language just as in biology morphology, the study of the forms of organisms, had thrown light on the evolution of species. But in this century, morphology has been regarded as an essentially synchronic discipline focusing on the study of word-structure at one stage in the life of a language rather than on the evolution of words. (Morphology, Francis Katamba). As the term 'word-formation' suggests, it is dealing with the formation of words. For example, the adjective *unhappy* can be analyzed as being derived from the adjective *happy* by the attachment of the element *un-*. *Happy* is so-called **free morpheme** and *un-* is so-called **bound morpheme**. Some bound morphemes, for example *un-*, must always be attached before the central meaningful element of the word, the so-called **root**, **stem** or **base**, whereas other bound morphemes, such as *-ity*, *-ness*, or *-less*, must follow the root. Using Latin-influenced terminology, *un-* is called a **prefix**, *-ity* a **suffix**, with **affix** being the cover term for all bound morphemes that attach to roots. (Word-Formation in English, Ingo Plag) A word is a complex piece of information. It links a particular sequence of sounds to a particular meaning, and also has formal properties such as a syntactic category label. The English suffix *-al*, for example, can only be attached to verbs

that end in a stressed syllable (*arrive*– *arrival*, *recite*–*recital*, *chatter*–*\*chatter-al* ). These kinds of interaction between morphology and phonology show that there must be an interface between the morphological and the phonological properties of words. (The Grammar of Words, Geert Booij). From the explanation above, the writer is interested to make an analysis of the suffixation in English and Indonesian as the writer's first language. On the name of limited time, the writer will focus only on cohering suffixes.

## Methodology

Based on the title, this research discusses cohering suffix in English and in Indonesia. The study is done by comparing the syllabification boundaries of the English and Indonesia cohering suffix. Therefore, this research uses theories of interface of morphology and phonology in case of this study about suffix and syllabification in analyzing. Theories regarding this research are proposed by Booij in his book of *The Grammar of Words: An Introduction to Linguistic Morphology* (2012) as the grand theory. The supporting theories are taken from Katamba (1993) and Plag (2003). Since this study is about cohering suffix which is a part of interface between morphology and phonology, the writer gives description of the syllable boundaries of each 15 words after being attached the cohering suffix in the table. First, the 15 words attached cohering suffix of English with their syllable boundaries presented in the table 1. Second, the 15 words attached cohering suffix of Indonesia with their syllable boundaries presented in table 2. Third, comparing the characteristic of cohering suffix of English and Indonesia, afterward take another cohering suffix of English to credibilitize whether there is similarity or not between English and Indonesia cohering suffix that the writer chose to analyze in this study. In this case, because of qualitative descriptive researched method applying, no number is presented in the analysis.

## Word Structure

Francis Katamba (1993 : 19) states morphology is the study of word structure. This sentence may surprise people because normally speakers think of words as indivisible units of meaning. This is probably due to the fact that many words are morphologically simple. For example, *the*, *house*, *glass*, *dog*, etc., cannot be segmented into smaller units that are themselves meaningful.

## Morph

A morph is a physical form representing some morpheme in a language. It is distinctive sound (phoneme) or sequence sound (phonemes). (Francis Katamba, 1993 : 24)

e.g. I	parked	the	car	→ morpheme
/ai/	/pa:kt/	/ðe/	/ka:/	→ morp

## Allomorph

Francis Katamba (1993 : 26) states if different morphs represent the same morpheme, they are grouped together called allomorph.

e.g. plural produces (s) sound different  
as in: two cars [s]  
two dogs [z]  
two horses [ɪz]

## Morpheme

Katamba (1993 : 24) states morpheme is the smallest difference in the shape of a word that correlates with the smallest difference in the word or sentence meaning or in a grammatical structure. Morpheme can also be said a minimal linguistic unit which has a meaning or grammatical function.

Here are the kinds of morpheme:

1. **Bound Morpheme**

A bound morpheme is a morpheme that appears only as part of a larger word *and it* must be attached to other morphemes. For example, un-, -s, -es, -less, etc.

2. **Free Morpheme**

**Free morpheme** is those which can stand alone as words of a language. For example, happy, dog, patient, etc.

3. **Mono Morpheme**

Mono morpheme is containing only one morpheme, as the words *predict* and *gorilla*.

4. **Poly Morpheme**

Poly morpheme is comprising multiple morphemes; consisting two or more morphemes. For example, unpredictable.

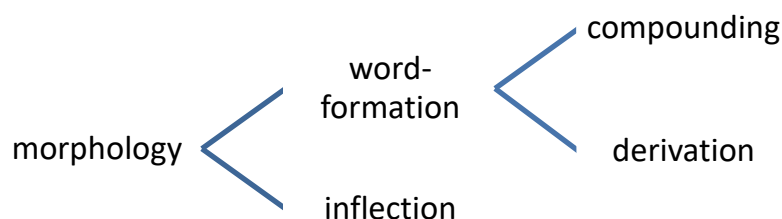
5. **Empty Morpheme**

A purely formal morpheme with no semantic content. For example, o in speedometer.

## Word-Formation

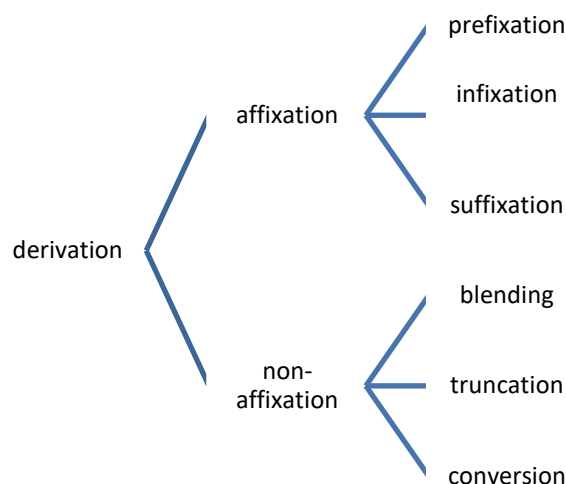
Words can be chopped into smaller pieces. At the phonological level, words can be divided into syllables or segments, and segments into their constituent phonological features. Words can be composed of smaller units, called morphemes, and that there are many different ways to create new words from existing ones by affixational, non-affixational and compounding processes.

According to Ingo Plag (Word Formation in English), the realm of morphology can be described as follow:



From the table above, it is seen that word-formation is divided into compounding and derivation. **Compounding** is a word by combining two bases, for example *apartment building*, *green house*, *team manager*, *truck driver*). While **derivation** is a letter or sound, or group of letters or sound (a morpheme) is added to a word and which changes the meaning or function of the word, for example, *play* as a verb plus -er becomes *player* as noun. *Play* and *player* have not only different meanings but also different parts of speech (function). This process of word-formation is called derivation.

Derivation is processed by two which are affixation and non-affixation. Then, affixation is divided into three processes; prefixation, infixation and suffixation. Non-affixation is divided into three also, they are blending, truncation and conversion. It is described by the tabel below:



**Prefixation** is an affix attached before a root/stem/base, for example, *unkind*. *un-* is the prefix that attached before *kind*.

**Infixation** is put within a word. In English, there is no infix. But in another language like Indonesia there is infixation, for example, *jemari*. The infix is *em* that is put within word *jari*.

**Suffixation** is an affix attached after a root/stem/base, for example, *lazyness*. *-lazy* is the suffix that attached after *lazy*. Furthermore, in the interface between morphology and phonology, there are cohering suffix and non cohering suffix. Moreover, in this study, the writer will put more focused on cohering suffix.

### **Morphology and Phonology**

There can be seen an interaction between morphology – phonology in the selection of the form that manifests a given morpheme; it may be influenced by the sounds that realise neighbouring morphemes (Katamba, 1993 : 13). For example, the indefinite article in English. It has two manifestations. It is *a* before a word begins with a consonant sound (e.g., *a* uniform /'ju:nifo:m/) and *an* before a word that begins with vowel sound (e.g., *an* hour /'auə(r)/).

From the indefinite case above, it can be seen surely there is an interface between morphology and phonology. Morphology is not a module of grammar on a par with the phonological or the syntactic module, which are modules that deal with one aspect of linguistic structure only. Boij (The Grammar of Words : 155) states morphology is word grammar, and similar to sentence grammar in its dealing with the relationships between three kinds of information (the phonological form, the morphological structure, and the meaning). It is only with respect to the domain of linguistic entities that morphology is different from sentence grammar: morphology has the word domain as its primary focus. One of examples of a relation between phonological and morphological form is non-cohering and cohering suffixes of English.

### **Non-cohering Suffix**

Based on Boij on the Grammar of Words, non-cohering suffix is the suffix forms is own domain of syllabification. The example non-cohering suffix of English is suffix *-less*. The adjective *help-less*, for instance, is syllabified as *help.less*, with a syllable boundary coinciding with the internal morphological boundary. Compare the syllabification of this adjective to the syllabification of the word *staples*, which is *sta.ples*, with a syllable boundary before the consonant cluster /pl/.

### **Cohering Suffix**

Cohering suffix is the suffix forms one domain of syllabification with the stem to which it has been attached. The example cohering suffix of English that will be discussed and analyzed is suffix *-er*. The word *baker* is syllabified in the same way as the word *father* in which the sequence *-er* is not a suffix. The sound sequence *-er* forms one syllable with the preceding consonant in both words: *ba.ker*, *fa.ther* (the dots indicate syllable boundaries) Thus, the morphological boundary between *bak-* and *-er* in *baker* is not respected in phonology, in the sense that it does not coincide with a syllable boundary. (Boij on the Grammar of Words)

### **Finding and Discussion**

The example of cohering suffix of English is suffix *-er*. Suffix *-er*, after being attached after a word will form one domain of syllabification with the stem. For example, the word *baker* is syllabified in the same way as the word *father* in which the sequence *-er* is not a suffix. The sound sequence *-er* forms one syllable with the preceding consonant in both words: *ba.ker*, *fa.ther*. See the consonant *k* coheres with the suffix *-er* and it has the same syllable boundaries with word *father* that is *-er* here is not suffix. Then, *-er* is so-called cohering suffix of English.

While the example of cohering suffix of Indonesia in suffix *-an*. This suffix *-an*, after being attached a word will form one domain of syllabification with the stem. For example, the word *makanan* is syllabified in the same way as the word *kanan* in which the sequence *-an* is not a suffix. The sound sequence *-an* forms one syllable with the preceding consonant in both words: *ma.ka.nan*, *ka.nan*. See the consonant *n* coheres with the suffix *-an* and it has the same syllable boundaries with word *kanan* that is *-an* here is not suffix. Then, *-an* is so-called cohering suffix of Indonesia.

### **Cohering Suffix of English**

The following are the examples of cohering suffix *-er* of English. All the examples are put in table. The left column is the word with suffix *-er* and the right column is their syllable boundaries; to help us know their sound sequence *-er* forms one syllable with the preceding consonant or not.

**Table 1**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Word + -er</b>	<b>Syllable Boundaries</b>
1.	Baker	ba.ker
2.	Player	pla.yer
3.	Writer	wri.ter
4.	Listener	lis.te.ner
5.	Reader	rea.der
6.	Researcher	re.sear.cher
7.	Founder	foun.der
8.	taller	tal.ler
9.	Sweeter	swee.ter
10.	Sooner	soo.ner
11.	Darker	dar.ker
12.	Keeper	kee.per
13.	Catcher	cat.cher
14.	Runner	ru.nner
15.	Brighter	Brigh.ter

### **Cohering Suffix of Indonesia**

The following are the examples of cohering suffix *-an* of Indonesia. All the examples are put in table. The left column is the word with suffix *-an* and the right column is their syllable boundaries; to help us know their sound sequence *-an* forms one syllable with the preceding consonant or not.

**Table 2**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Word + <i>-an</i></b>	<b>Syllable Boundaries</b>
1.	makanan	ma.ka.nan
2.	Minuman	mi.nu.man
3.	Aturan	a.tu.ran
4.	Tontonan	ton.to.nan
5.	Mainan	ma.i.nan
6.	Kenalan	ke.na.lan
7.	Kerjaan	ker.ja.an*
8.	Lemparan	lem.pa.ran
9.	Panggilan	pang.gi.lan
10.	Tulisan	tu.li.san
11.	Mandian	man.di.an*
12.	Kampungan	kam.pu.ngan
13.	Dorongan	do.ro.ngan
14.	Pelukan	pe.lu.kan
15.	Kasih	ka.si.han

From the table above, there are two words that are not showing the process of cohering suffix which the sound sequence *-an* forms one syllable without the preceding consonant. Here, suffix *-an* can form own domain of syllabification in the words *kerjaan* dan *mandian* with a note that if the stem is ending in vowel letter that it makes two vowels meet since the suffix *-an* is started with vowel *a*.

*Mandian* is syllabified as *man.di.an*, *i* in *mandi* meets *a* from suffix *-an*. Further, the same is happened also in word *kerjaan*. *Kerjaan* is syllabified as *ker.ja.an*, *a* in *kerja* meets *a* from suffix *-an*. This notion refers to the way in which cohering suffix *-an* does not fuction like it if the stem ends in vowel.

In English, the two vowels from the stem or base and suffix *-er* will not meet because the base which ends in vowel will automatically be ommited after suffix *-er* being attached to it. For example, *bake* + *-er* = *baker*, the *e* in *bake* is automatically ommited.

So, the conclusion is cohering suffix cannot be happened if the base or stem or root ends in vowel because if it is so, the two vowels will meet and affect the syllable boundaries becomes own domain of syllabification not one domain of syllabification like in the example of cohering suffix in Indonesia. On the other hands, the constraint happens in Indonesia cohering suffix does not happen in English since the attachment of suffix *-er* to the stem which ends in vowel will automatically make the vowel-ending in stem is ommited while in Indonesia not. So, there is no two vowels meet and the syllable boundaries created is the sound sequence *-er* forms one slyllable with preceding consonant.

### **Comparison of Cohering Suffix in English and Indonesia**

In case of comparing the cohering suffix in English and Indonesia, it is hoped that there will be founded whether there is a similarity or not between both. First, let us see what the characteristics of cohering suffixes in English and Indonesia by seeing the order of letter; column The Amount of Letter says how many letters the suffix itself; Letter Order says whether the suffix consists of vowel or consonant and tells in order.

**Table 3**

	Cohering Suffixes	The Amount of Letter	Letter Order
English	-er	2	Vowel consonant
Indonesia	-an	2	Vowel consonant

From the table above, it is seen that cohering suffixes in English and Indonesia have the similarity which consists of two letters with formula vowel-consonant. There must be a reason why the formulation of cohering suffixes in English and Indonesia same. It is because to form one domain of syllabification with the stem to which it has been attached, the suffix must be started with vowel since most suffixes started with vowel cannot stand by itself to form its own domain of syllabification. It will tend to form own domain of syllabification if the suffix started with consonant, like -less in help.less, -ment in de.part.ment, etc. Pay attention to suffix -al. It has the similarity with suffix -er and -an. Now, let us attach it to the stems. It presents in a table below:

**Table 4**

No.	Word + -al	Syllable Boundaries
1.	National	na.tio.nal
2.	Arrival	a.rrival
3.	Recital	re.ci.tal

Take one the example above, na.tio.nal (-al suffix) has same syllabification with the word not attached -al, ca.pi.tal. Suffix -al coheres with the consonant of the stem (or it can be said inversely) shows that suffix -al also forms one domain of syllabification with the sound sequence -al forms one syllable with the preceding consonant.

## **Conclusion**

The discussion has come to result, from the analysis of cohering suffix of English, that the attachment of cohering suffix to the stem will form one domain of syllabification with the stem. It is, the cohering suffix -er used in this study makes sound sequence -er forms one syllable with the preceding consonant. The same result also happens in the cohering suffix of Indonesia, with the cohering suffix -an used here, result sound sequence -an forms one syllable with the preceding consonant. Based on the description in **table 2: cohering suffix of Indonesia**, found that there is a constraint with an analysis that it does not happen with the stem ends in vowel. Inversely, the stem ends in consonant will result sound sequence -an forms one syllable with the preceding consonant, or it is said that it forms one domain of syllabification with the stem to which it has been attached. This result only happens in Indonesia and not in English because the stem of English which ends in vowel will be automatically omitted after being attached to cohering suffix (like in arrive + -al = arrival) while in Indonesia not (mandi + -an = mandian). To form one domain of syllabification with the stem to which it has been attached, the suffix must be started with vowel since most suffixes started with vowel cannot stand by itself to form its own domain of syllabification. However, this study is objective to only English and Indonesia which means there is possibility different from other languages.

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