Derivational Morphemes on Webtoon "*Smile Brush*" by Waroo: A Morphology Analysis

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Abstract

This study aimed to identify and analyze derivational morphemes found in the Smile Brush Webtoon by Waroo, focusing on their types, word-formation processes, and their effects on word class and meaning. Derivational morphemes played an essential role in vocabulary expansion by changing grammatical categories and enriching lexical meaning. This research employed a qualitative descriptive method, using the morphological theory of Haspelmath and Sims (2010) to classify the data and focused on the role of affixation in word formation within digital media contexts. The data were collected from episodes 1 to 35 of the Webtoon, resulting in a total of 20 derivational morphemes, consisting of 16 suffixes and 4 prefixes. These morphemes were categorized into ten derivational processes, including verb to noun (dis-, -ment), adjective to noun (-ness), noun to noun (auto-, -ian), verb to verb (re-), noun to verb (un-), verb to adjective (-ful), noun to adjective (-less, -ous, -ful), and adjective to adverb (-ly). The most frequent derivation type was adjective to adverb, marked by the use of the suffix -ly, with a total of eight occurrences. The findings indicated that derivational morphemes significantly contributed to the transformation of grammatical categories and the expansion of word meanings. The dominance of suffix usage over prefixes suggested that suffixes were more productive in the morphological structure of digital narrative texts. This research provided insight into the use of derivational morphology in contemporary media and served as a reference for future linguistic analysis in digital content.

Keyword: derivational morphemes, morphology, prefix, suffix, Webtoon

Introduction

English plays a crucial role in the global context as a means of international communication (Ibsheeyah et al., 2023: 361). As a global language, mastering English involves more than just the ability to speak or write; it also requires a deep understanding of its various linguistic components. In the field of linguistics, there are several key elements of language that must be studied, one of which is morphology—a branch of linguistics that focuses on the internal structure of words and the processes by which they are formed (Kusumawardhani et al., 2024: 101–102). Understanding morphological processes is essential, as these processes not only explain how words are

constructed and modified, but also reveal how new vocabulary is created and integrated into a language system. These morphological processes include abbreviation, clipping, compound formation, blending, acronyms, as well as the use of inflectional and derivational morphemes (Zuhri et al., 2022: 302). Each of these processes contributes uniquely to the development of new words and the modification of existing ones, affecting both meaning and grammatical function.

Among these morphological processes, the concept of the morpheme serves as a foundational unit. Morphemes are the smallest elements of language that carry meaning and are generally categorized into two main types: free morphemes and bound morphemes (Hermapratiwi & Simatupang, 2022: 18677). Free morphemes are those that can function independently as standalone words, such as cat or desk, while bound morphemes cannot stand alone and must attach to a root or base word to convey meaning. In English, bound morphemes typically appear as affixes, including prefixes and suffixes, such as un- in unhappy or -ness in sadness (Cao, 2023: 683–684). Recognizing and understanding these types of morphemes is essential for linguistic analysis, especially in tracing how words are formed and how meanings evolve.

One important subtype of bound morphemes that plays a crucial role in expanding a language's vocabulary is the derivational morpheme. These morphemes play a vital role in the formation of new words by attaching affixes—either at the beginning (prefixes) or end (suffixes) of a root word—to modify its meaning or change its grammatical category (Hutagalung et al., 2023: 24542). This process enables the transformation of words from one class to another, such as turning a verb into a noun or a noun into an adjective, thereby enriching the language with new vocabulary. For example, the word friendship is derived from the base noun friend with the addition of the suffix -ship, creating a new noun that signifies the relationship between friends. Through such word formation, derivational morphemes contribute significantly to linguistic productivity and vocabulary expansion in English (Toruan, 2023: 53).

In derivational morphology, new words are formed from base forms through the addition of derivational morphemes. This process not only creates new morphological forms but also expands meanings and often changes the word class. According to Haspelmath & Sims, 2010: 86–88, there are three main categories of derivation: Derived Nouns, Derived Verbs, and Derived Adjectives, each of which includes subcategories depending on the lexical class of the base word.

Derived Nouns

Derived nouns are nouns that originate from verbs, adjectives, or other nouns. This category is the most productive in derivational processes due to the linguistic need to label objects, events, roles, and social statuses.

Deverbal Nouns (Verb → Noun):
These are nouns formed from verbs and typically denote an agent, result, instrument, or process.

Deadjectival Nouns (Adjective → Noun):
These nouns are formed from adjectives and usually express qualities or characteristics derived from the source adjective.

Denominal Nouns (Noun → Noun):
These are new nouns derived from existing nouns, often indicating size, status, gender, or geographic origin.

Derived Verbs

Derived verbs are created from base forms that may be verbs, nouns, or adjectives. The derivation of verbs often adds semantic nuances such as causation, intention, repetition, or desire.

Deverbal Verbs (Verb → Verb):
These involve modifying the meaning of a base verb to express additional semantic functions.

Denominal Verbs (Noun → Verb):
These verbs are derived from nouns and typically denote actions associated with or performed using the noun.

Deadjectival Verbs (Adjective → Verb):
These are formed by converting adjectives into verbs, often to denote the process of becoming or causing a certain quality.

Derived Adjectives

Derived adjectives originate from verbs, nouns, or other adjectives. Although less numerous than nouns or verbs, they serve important functions in expressing potentiality, possession, relational characteristics, or degrees of intensity.

Deverbal Adjectives (Verb → Adjective):
These adjectives indicate qualities or capabilities based on the action of a verb.

Denominal Adjectives (Noun → Adjective):
These involve converting nouns into adjectives that denote relationship, possession, or material composition.

Deadjectival Adjectives (Adjective → Adjective):
These adjectives are derived from other adjectives to express intensification, negation, or gradational variations of the original quality.

Most people are probably familiar with the Webtoon application for reading comics of various genres. Almost every age group, from children to adults, considers Webtoon to be one of their favorite reading platforms with a variety of interesting animations. With smartphones making it easier to read comics, all comic lovers can enjoy their reading by using applications available in the Play Store, both offline and online. Simultaneously, several digital companies are competing to develop other intriguing animated/manhwa/manga comic platforms for a variety of applications. Webtoon is one of the most popular comic reading apps with more than 600,000 total app downloaders and around 7,000 comics in the genres of romance, horror, comedy, superhero, and others, all provided by Webtoon for free (Fauziah, 2023).

Some researchers that are relevant to this research, one of which was conducted by Rahmadewi et al., 2023, studied morphological analysis of derivational morphemes on YouTube BBC News. This research focuses on derivational morphemes found in YouTube BBC News by using a qualitative descriptive method and Fromkin's theory. The results show that there are 3 data points from noun to adjective, 3 from verb to noun, 3 from adjective to adverb, 2 from adjective to noun, 1 from verb to adjective, 1 from adjective to verb, 1 from noun to noun, 2 from verb to verb, and 3 from adjective to adjective. In addition, this study found a new type of derivational morpheme, namely from adverb to adjective, with the word earlier as an example. Furthermore, Herina & Zuriati, 2023 showed that there are 39 derivational morphemes, consisting of 18 verbs to nouns, 12 adjectives to adverbs, 2 adjectives to nouns, 1 adjective to adjective, 3 nouns to adjectives, and 3 nouns to nouns. This paper ultimately contains similarities and differences with previous studies. The current research has the same focus but uses

a different object of study.

This study focuses on the analysis of derivational morphemes found in the Webtoon titled Smile Brush. Derivational morphemes play an important role in word formation because they can change the grammatical category of a word, modify its basic meaning, and enrich the speaker's vocabulary. However, many language learners still struggle to understand derivational morphemes, especially in terms of identifying their types and explaining their functions.

This is supported by the findings of Ibsheeyah et al., 2023: 361–3673, which revealed that even third- and fourth-year English major students at Al-Mergib University in Libya frequently made errors in using derivational morphemes. The most common mistakes were related to word class conversion, particularly in transforming adjectives into adverbs and verbs into nouns. These findings indicate that understanding morphological structure remains a major challenge, thereby necessitating a more focused approach in both teaching and analysis.

In response to this issue, this research uses a popular and engaging medium— Webtoon—as the source of data. Smile Brush was selected not only for its entertainment value but also for its rich use of derivational forms that are relevant for linguistic analysis. The analysis of derivational morphemes in this Webtoon is expected to provide insights into how language is used in modern digital media, while also helping learners expand their vocabulary and improve their understanding of language structure. Moreover, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, no previous studies have specifically analyzed derivational morphemes in the Webtoon Smile Brush, making this research a novel contribution to the field of linguistics.

Method

Creswell & Creswell, 2023: 47 describe the descriptive method in qualitative research as an analytical strategy where researchers remain closely connected to the data, apply minimal theoretical frameworks or interpretations, and categorize the findings into thematic groupings. The research process includes emerging questions and processes, data obtained in participant settings, data analysis that is built inductively from specific themes to broader themes, and the researcher's interpretation of the meaning of the data. Researchers used a qualitative descriptive method in analyzing this research, this method was used to find, identify, analyze and describe the types of derivative morphemes in the *Smile Brush* on Webtoon. The researcher read the Webtoon *Smile Brush* and then determined the derivativational morphemes. The researcher also used the words in *Smile Brush* and classified the words containing derivational morphemes and transformed them into new meanings. The object of this research is the comic *Smile Brush* in Webtoon. Thus, the data analyzed in this study are comics entitled *Smile Brush* in the Webtoon application from episode 1 to episode 35 with a total of 20 data that researchers took. The data were analyzed by categorizing them based on Haspelmath & Sims (2010)' theory, analyzing the data that had been categorized to find what interpretations were inherent in them, and drawing conclusions based on the research findings.

Results

After analyzing the *Smile Brush* Webtoon, there were 20 words that received word class changes involving 4 words of derivational prefixes and 16 words of derivational suffixes.

Derived Noun

Table 1. The formation Verb to Noun by derivational suffix –ment

"There was laughter of **astonishment**"

Ep. 2

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
1.	Astonishment	astonish	-ment	astonish + -ment =astonishment	Verb→Noun	a feeling of very surprise	an action that causes someone to feel amazed

"I was getting **treatment** in a hospital but I couldn't stand it any more so I booked a date for suggery"

Ep. 31

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
2.	Treatment	treat	-ment	treat + -ment =treatment	Verb→Noun	something that is done to cure an illness or injury to make feel better	to give medical or attention to a person, an injury, etc.

In Episode 2 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, there is a scene that portrays the atmosphere inside a subway train. A baby was crying non-stop until an elderly woman gave the baby a piece of candy. Miraculously, after the candy was placed in the baby's mouth, the crying immediately stopped, as if it had never happened. This moment caused all the passengers to laugh together, creating a warm and unusual moment in a public space like a train. Waroo then wrote, "There was laughter of astonishment. Never in my life had I seen everyone on the subway laugh together." The word astonishment in that sentence is derived from the verb astonish, which means to surprise or amaze someone. By adding the suffix –ment, the word changes into a noun that means 'a feeling of amazement' or 'great surprise'. This type of word formation is called derivation, which refers to the process of changing a word's form, often resulting in a change in its word class. In this case, the change occurs from a verb to a noun. This analysis is in accordance with Carstairs & McCarthy (2018: 54–55)' theory, which states that explain

the suffix –ment can be used to form a noun from a verb, typically expressing the result of an action.

In Episode 31, The word treatment is used to describe the medical procedure that Jay received before undergoing surgery. Morphologically, treatment is derived from the verb treat, which means 'to provide care' or 'to handle a medical condition'. By adding the suffix –ment, it becomes the noun treatment, which means 'an action or process of providing care to cure an illness'. This process represents a change in word class from a verb to a noun, and it falls under the category of derivational morphemes, specifically the suffix –ment, which functions to indicate the process or result of an action.

Table 2. The formation Verb to Noun by derivational prefix dis-
"It's my second time buying it so how about a **discount**?"
Ep. 3

No	Word	Root	Prefix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
3.	Discount	count	Dis-	dis- + count =discount	Verb→Noun	determine the total number of people, objects, and others	a deduction from the usual cost/price

In table 2, there is a prefix at dis- which shows the change of Verb to Noun word class. The prefix Dis- is added to the base word meaning "not" or "the opposite of". It can also be attached to verbs to indicate undoing an action and creating new meanings. In Episode 3 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the story tells about the moment when Waroo realizes that he has lost volume 25 of his favorite comic series. He searches all around the house but cannot find it. Wanting to continue reading, he decides to buy the comic again. While paying, he says to the cashier, "It's my second time buying it, so how about a discount?" This sentence shows the use of the word discount in the context of requesting a price reduction because he has purchased the same item twice. The word discount comes from the base word count, which is a verb meaning 'to calculate'. With the addition of the prefix dis-, the word changes to discount, which in this case functions as a noun, meaning 'a reduction in the amount that must be paid'. This is an example of a derivational morpheme, where the prefix dis- causes a change in word class from verb to noun. Although in some contexts discount can also function as a verb (as in 'to discount something'), in this episode it is used as a noun, referring to the concept of a price reduction. The prefix dis- in this word formation not only alters the structural form of the base word but also adds a new meaning that is semantically different from the original. This aligns with the explanation by Haspelmath & Sims, 2010: 86–87, who state that derivational prefixes can change the meaning of a root word and sometimes even its word class. In the context of the story, the word discount reflects Waroo's request for a price reduction—ironically, a few days later, he discovers that he already had two copies of volume 17, not the missing volume 25.

Table 3. The formation Adjective to Noun by derivational suffix -ness
"At the end of this cave of **laziness**, I found myself"
Ep. 20

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
4	Laziness	lazy	-ness	lazy + -ness =laziness	Adjective→Noun	the quality of being unwilling to do work or make an effort	Disinclined to activity or showing a lack of effort

In table 3 in the same part, it results in a change of word class from Adjective to Noun. The suffix -ness is a derivational morpheme that means a condition or a state where the suffix -ness can change the base word into a Noun word by forming a new meaning as listed in the table above. This analysis is proven by the theory (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010: 42) that the use of suffix -ness is to show nouns can be derived from adjective. This is also related to the theory of Carstairs & McCarthy (2018: 55) which states that the addition of the suffix -ness can change the base word class of Nouns derived from members of other word class adjective and the suffix -ness is used to derive nouns from adjectives, indicating a particular state or condition of a person. In episode 20 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the word "laziness" appears in the sentence, "At the end of this cave of laziness, I found myself." The word laziness is the result of a derivational process, specifically a change in word form from an adjective to a noun through the addition of the suffix -ness to the base word lazy. In this case, lazy, which means 'unwilling to work' or 'disinclined to activity,' is an adjective that describes a person's attitude or behavior. When the suffix -ness is added, it forms the noun laziness, which refers to the condition or quality of being lazy.

Table 4. The formation Noun to Noun by derivational Prefix auto-
"ah, **autograph.. autograph**"
Ep. 34

No	Word	Root	Prefix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
5	Autograph	graph	Auto-	auto- + graph =autograph	Noun→Noun	a famous/celebrity person's signature	I2mages diagram consist of a line

Table 4 shows the prefix auto- which means "oneself or own". It is often used to mean that an object does something by itself where the prefix auto- can change meaning but does not change the word class. In Episode 34 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, a humorous moment is depicted when Waroo meets a foreigner who speaks in a language that is difficult to understand. While feeling confused by the mixture of unclear words and gestures, Waroo finally grasps the foreigner's intention upon hearing the word

"artist" and noticing a signing motion. Waroo then says, "Hm, artist sign?" and eventually realizes that what the person meant was "autograph." The word autograph is derived from the base word graph, which is a noun meaning 'writing' or 'drawing.' When the prefix auto- is added, the word becomes autograph, which remains a noun but carries a new meaning: 'a signature of a well-known person, especially given to a fan.' The prefix auto- itself means 'self' or 'by oneself', so literally, autograph means 'one's own handwriting.' This process falls under the category of derivational morphemes, in which the word class remains the same (noun to noun), but the lexical meaning of the word changes significantly. This aligns with Haspelmath & Sims (2010), who explain that derivation does not always involve a change in word class, but can create a new word with a meaning different from its root.

Table 5. The formation Noun to Noun by derivational Suffix –ian
"he must be a musician"
Ep. 35

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
6	Musician	Music	-ian	music + -ian =musician	Noun→Noun	A person who play a musical instrument or writes music	vocal or instrumental sounds

In table 5 in the Derived Noun section there is a Noun to Noun word class that does not change word class but changes meaning. In Episode 35 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the story follows a character carrying a guitar after finishing band practice. While walking with the guitar, he immediately attracted the attention of people around him. They began commenting and assuming, "He must be a musician," and started guessing what genre of music he might play, such as heavy metal. The word musician in the sentence "He must be a musician" is an example of derivation from the base word music, which is a noun. By adding the suffix –ian, the word musician is formed, which remains in the noun class but carries a more specific meaning: 'a person who plays or creates music'. This process falls under derivational morphology, specifically noun-to-noun derivation, where there is no change in word class, but the meaning becomes more focused on the profession or identity of the person associated with the root word. The suffix –ian is used to form nouns that refer to individuals who have a connection with, are involved in, or have expertise in a particular field—in this case, music. This analysis is related to Nisa (2020: 88) that suffix -ian does not change the word class (Noun to Noun), which states that the suffix –ian can be used to form nouns indicating profession or affiliation without changing the word class.

This research has the same topic as research conducted by Rahmadewi et al. (2023) and Herina & Zuriati (2023), namely derivational morphemes. The results of this research and Herina & Zuriati's (2023) research have similarities and differences even though the objects are different. The research conducted by Rahmadewi et al. (2023) and Herina & Zuriati (2023) took talkshow and BBC News data. As an alternative, this research uses derivational morphemes because there are word classes and word meanings that change which become the object of research. Due to the difference in the object of research, the derivational morphemes that undergo changes in word class and

word meaning will have a different effect on the object. Derivational morphemes are needed because they can help recognize, analyze word structure, how language develops and how words evolve over time. The results of research from Herina & Zuriati (2023) have derived nouns, namely Verb to Noun (suffix -er, -or, -ment, -ion), Adjective to Noun (suffix -ity), Noun to Noun (suffix -ity), and Noun to Adjective (suffix -ful, -ic,) while research conducted by Rahmadewi et al. (2023) also has derived nouns consisting of Verb to Noun (suffix -ion, -ment, & prefix Re-), Adjective to Noun (suffix -ies & prefix im-), Noun to Noun (suffix -er), and Noun to Adjective (suffix -ern, -ty, -al). The difference between this research and previous researches is that this research does not have Noun to Adjective.

Derived Verb

Table 6. The formation Verb to Verb by derivational Prefix re-
"on my **return** to the same spot..."
Ep. 1

No	Word	Root	Prefix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
7	Return	turn	re-	re- + turn =return	Verb→Verb	Come or go back to a place or person	change position or direction,

In the derived verb section, there are 2 words that contain derivational morphemes where there are 2 prefixes in the *Smile Brush* webtoon. In table 6, the prefix -re is found which means again, back or it indicates repetition. The word produces a new meaning by adding these affixes but the word class does not change, namely Verb to Verb. This analysis relates to Fromkin et al. (2010: 89) theory that by adding prefix -re can change the base word to Verb. This states that it can change from Verb to Verb. Derivational morphemes as discussed by Rugaiyah (2018: 77–78) also states that the Re- prefix can change the meaning of the word but does not change the word class from Verb to Verb. In Episode 1 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the word return appears in a narrative that describes a humorous and unexpected situation. The story begins with the main character waiting for the bus while holding a cup of coffee. When the bus arrives, he hurriedly runs to catch it and accidentally leaves his coffee behind. Two hours later, he returns to the same place and finds that his coffee is still there. The narration then says, "On my return to the same spot, I saw the coffee I left behind." In this sentence, the word return is used as a noun, meaning 'someone's act of going back to a previous place'. The word return comes from the base word turn, which is a verb meaning 'to move around' or 'to change direction'. By adding the prefix re-, the word return is formed, which generally means 'to go back' or 'to return to a previous place'. In this context, return can function as either a verb or a noun, depending on how it is used. In the sentence above, return functions as a noun, as shown in the phrase "on my return." This process is an example of derivational morphology, where the addition of the prefix re- to a verb does not directly change its word class but extends its lexical meaning to indicate repetition or the act of going back.

Table 7. The formation Noun to Verb by derivational Prefix un-
"that hose **unplugs** while I'm gone?"
Ep. 9

No	Word	Root	Prefix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
8	Unplug	Plug	Un-	un- + plug =unplug	Noun→Verb	disconnect (an electrical devices) by removing its plug from a scoket	to plug electrical equipment from electronic items

In table 7 the prefix -un is found where the word return changes the word class from Noun to Verb. Prefix un- usually means no or the opposite meaning of the original word. With the addition of prefixes, it will produce new meanings as listed in the table above which shows the word formation process. The theory Plag (2003: 33) states that adding the prefix un- to the base word can turn it into a Verb. This analysis is supported by Aziez & Mulyanti (2021: 99–102) that the mining of the un- prefix can change the meaning of the word and change the word class to Verb which is attached to the base word. In Episode 9 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the story focuses on Waroo's excessive anxiety when he is about to leave the house after washing his blankets. Since the washing process takes two hours, he decides to go to an internet café to wait. However, before he can actually leave, he starts imagining various worst-case scenarios, one of which is: "Wait! What if… did that hose unplug while I'm gone?" This sentence reflects his worry about the possibility that the hose might become detached or unplugged while he is not at home. Although the situation is quite ordinary, the main character's anxiety escalates to the point where he never ends up going out. The word unplug is derived from the base word plug, which is a noun, meaning 'an electrical plug' or 'a connector'. With the addition of the prefix un-, it becomes the verb unplug, meaning 'to disconnect from an electrical socket' or 'to remove something from a connection'. This process falls under derivational morphology, specifically a change from noun to verb (Noun → Verb).

The difference between this study and the research conducted by Jimmi & Sulaeman (2022) is that there are no changes in word classes from noun to verb, as their focus is on derivational morphemes in Dwayne Johnson's speech. In contrast, this study identifies a change in word class from noun to verb (the prefix un- + plug (the base word in the noun class) = unplug). Both this study and the research by Jimmi & Sulaeman (2022) share a similarity in that they both involve changes in word classes from verb to verb (the base word in the verb class, wrestle + (suffix) -er = wrestler). However, in this study, the change from verb to verb is represented by the prefix (re-) + (the base verb turn) = return. Furthermore, the difference between this study and the previous research by (Yastanti et al. (2021) lies in the absence of changes from verb to verb in their findings, while they report three changes in word class from noun to verb: leading, wasting, and resigned. In contrast, this study identifies one change in word class from noun to verb and one instance that does not involve a change in word class, which is from verb to verb.

Derived Adjective

Table 8. The formation Noun to Adjective by derivational Suffix -less
"a **homeless?**....it's not what you think!"
Ep. 1

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
9	Homeless	Home	-less	home + -less =homeless	Noun→Adjective	someone who does not have a place to lives	To a place where someone lives

The findings on the derived adjective in Table 8 have changed the word class of Noun to Adjective by adding the suffix -less to the base word. The suffix -less has the meaning of without so that with the presence of the suffix it will form a new meaning. This can also be found in Carstairs & McCarthy (2018: 58–59) theory that there are suffixes that form the Adjective word class from Noun. The word homeless is derived from the base word home, which is a noun meaning 'a house' or 'a place to live'. By adding the suffix –less, the word becomes homeless, which functions as an adjective meaning 'without a home'. The suffix –less in this case indicates the absence or lack of something, and it falls under the category of derivational morphemes that change the word class from a noun to an adjective.

Table 9. The formation Noun to Adjective by derivational Suffix -ous
"radioactive stuff is very **dangerous**"
Ep. 31

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
10	Dangerous	Danger	-ous	danger + -ous =dangerous	Noun→Adjective	tends to hurt or harm someone who might cause trouble	situation that has the potential to harm something or someone

In Episode 31 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the word dangerous appears in the context of a story about a character named Jay who is undergoing a medical procedure for a throat condition. Jay explains that after a long period of hospital treatment, he finally decided to have surgery. Although the operation was quick, he reveals that the liquid he drank beforehand was radioactive material, which made the procedure still risky. In the narration, Jay says, "That pop was actually radioactive material, so it was pretty dangerous." He also adds, "They told me that radioactive stuff is very dangerous, so I shouldn't eat anything or spit for two hours." In these sentences, the word dangerous is used to describe the potential harm of the radioactive substance he consumed as part of his medical treatment.

The next finding listed in table 9 shows the suffix -ous which results in the change of Noun to Adjective word class. The suffix -ous is used to form adjectives and means

"having quality" or "full". When attached at the end to the base word with suffix -ous, it will change the meaning of the word. This is also supported by Fromkin et al. (2010: 89) theory that by adding suffix -ous to the base word can result in a change of word class to Adjective. The word dangerous is derived from the base word danger, which is a noun meaning 'a threat' or 'risk of harm'. By adding the suffix –ous, the word becomes dangerous, an adjective meaning 'harmful' or 'having the potential to cause injury, damage, or problems'. The suffix –ous is a derivational suffix that functions to change the word class from a noun to an adjective, and it adds the meaning 'having the quality or nature of the base word'.

Table 10. The formation Noun to Adjective by derivational Suffix -ful
"AM **successful** applicants"
Ep. 7

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
11	Successful	Success	-ful	success + -ful =successful	Noun→Adjective	reference to the achievement of a desired result	The accomplishment of the purpose

"I've always been **careful** not to allow my foods to mix"
Ep. 31

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
12	Careful	Care	-ful	care + -ful =careful	Noun→Adjective	done with or show thought and attention	feeling of worried about something or someone

In Episode 31 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the word careful appears in a narration that describes the character Jay after undergoing a medical procedure involving radioactive material. After the surgery, Jay was instructed not to eat or spit for two hours for safety reasons. Once the time had passed, Jay finally ate a burger with Waroo. In the narration, he says, "I've always been careful not to allow my foods to mix," which indicates that he has a habit of keeping his food separate. This sentence reflects Jay's cautious attitude toward cleanliness and health, especially after going through a high-risk procedure.

In table 10 there is suffix -ful which is used to form adjectives that have the meaning of "full" or "characterized by". Suffix -ful added at the end of the base word or root word will change the meaning of the word and the word changes the word class from Noun to Adjective. This analysis can also be obtained in Carstairs & McCarthy (2018: 58–59) which shows that the suffix can produce a change in word class from Noun to Adjective and is also supported by Fromkin et al. (2010: 89) theory that by adding suffix -ful to the base word can experience a change in word class to Adjective. The word careful is derived from the base word care, which can function as a noun or verb, meaning 'attention' or 'concern'. By adding the suffix –ful, the word becomes careful, which is an adjective meaning 'full of caution' or 'doing something with

attention'. The suffix –ful is a derivational suffix that changes the word class from noun to adjective, and gives the meaning of 'having' or 'filled with' something—in this case, care.

In Episode 31 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the word successful appears in the short phrase "AM successful applicants", which is part of an announcement or notice board. This phrase refers to applicants who have been accepted or declared successful in a selection or admission process. In this context, the word successful functions as an adjective that describes the applicants as having achieved the desired or expected outcome—namely, being accepted or passing the selection. The word successful is derived from the base word success, which is a noun meaning 'achievement' or 'satisfying result'. By adding the suffix –ful, the word becomes successful, which is an adjective meaning 'having succeeded', 'victorious', or 'achieving a goal'. The suffix –ful is categorized as a derivational morpheme, which serves to change a word class from a noun to an adjective, and semantically adds the meaning of 'having' or 'full of' something. In this case, successful means 'having success' or 'full of success'. This explanation aligns with the theories of Carstairs & McCarthy (2018: 58–59) and Fromkin et al. (2010: 89), who state that the suffix –ful can be used to form adjectives that express the characteristics or qualities derived from the base noun.

Table 11. The formation Adjective to Adverb by derivational Suffix -ly
"I feel **totally** free in my sandals"
Ep. 27

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
13	Totally	Total	-ly	total + -ly =totally	Adjective→Adverb	Completely and the degree with the other person's opinion or something	Everything is counted or added

Table 11 shows the suffix -ly which means "full of" and with the addition of the suffix will produce a new meaning and Suffix -ly changes the word class from Adjective to Adverb. This analysis also obtained Fromkin et al. (2010: 89) the theory that adding suffix -ly to the base word can change the word class to adverb.

in Episode 27 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the sentence "I feel totally free in my sandals" is used by the main character to express a sense of comfort and freedom while wearing sandals. The word totally in this sentence functions as an adverb that strengthens the meaning of the adjective free, indicating that the freedom felt is not partial, but complete or at the highest degree. Morphologically, totally is derived from the base word total, which is an adjective meaning 'whole' or 'complete'. With the addition of the suffix –ly, the word becomes an adverb through a derivational process classified under derivational morphology. The suffix –ly is a highly productive form in English used to transform adjectives into adverbs and is often employed to express the manner, degree, or intensity of a condition or action.

"the baby took it in his mouth and **suddenly** stopped crying"
Ep. 2
"then, **suddenly**..charlie really misses cheolsoo"
Ep. 29

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
14	Suddenly	Sudden	-ly	sudden + -ly =suddenly	Adjective→Adverb	happening unexpectedly without warning	Describes acts or condition for which there has been no preparation

The word suddenly appears in two different episodes of the Webtoon Smile Brush and plays an important role in expressing an abrupt change in situation. In Episode 2, the sentence "The baby took it in his mouth and suddenly stopped crying" illustrates a rapid shift from a noisy, panicked moment to calmness in an instant, as the baby immediately stopped crying after receiving the candy. Meanwhile, in Episode 29, the sentence "Then, suddenly... Charlie really misses Cheolsoo" shows a sudden emotional change, where the character unexpectedly feels a strong sense of longing for his friend. In both contexts, the word suddenly is used to describe something that happens unexpectedly and without warning, whether physically (the baby stopping his cry) or emotionally (the feeling of missing someone). The word suddenly comes from the base word sudden, which is an adjective meaning 'unexpected' or 'abrupt'. With the addition of the suffix –ly, the word becomes suddenly, which is an adverb. The suffix –ly in this case is a derivational morpheme that changes the word class from an adjective to an adverb and indicates the manner or timing of an action or state.

"alright, **finally**!...okay, now for some water..."
Ep. 4
"I kept my cool and was **finally** standing up to leave"
Ep. 23
"I **finally** felt a little bit more relaxed"
Ep. 30

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
15	Finally	Final	-ly	final + -ly =finally	Adjective→Adverb	A state towards the end of an activity or event	after long time, typically involving difficulty

The word finally appears in several episodes of the Webtoon Smile Brush to indicate an achievement or change that occurs after a period of waiting, effort, or tension. In Episode 4, the expression "Alright, finally!... okay, now for some water…" reflects a sense of relief and satisfaction after completing something, most likely after a tiring or time-consuming activity. In Episode 23, the sentence "I kept my cool and was finally standing up to leave" shows that the character had been holding back or staying patient for quite some time, and

finally marks an important moment when they were able to take action and leave. Meanwhile, in Episode 30, the sentence "I finally felt a little bit more relaxed" indicates that the feeling of calm did not come immediately, but only arrived after a tense or anxious situation—most likely following the medical procedure the character experienced.

Morphologically, finally is derived from the base word final, which is an adjective meaning 'last' or 'ultimate'. With the addition of the suffix –ly, it becomes finally, which functions as an adverb meaning 'at last' or 'in the end'. The suffix –ly here is a derivational morpheme that changes the word class from an adjective to an adverb, and it serves to indicate time or sequence of events. In all of these contexts, finally functions as an adverb of time, marking a turning point that comes after a process or a certain pause.

"**eventually** they let me do the audition"
Ep. 7

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
16	Eventual ly	Event ual	-ly	eventual + -ly =eventuall y	Adjective→Adve rb	As the final outcome of events wil happen after period of time	That might happen in the future or as a result of certain circumstan ces or occurring at the end

In Episode 7 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the word eventually appears in the sentence "Eventually they let me do the audition", which is spoken by the main character while recounting his experience auditioning for a music club. Initially, he faced an obstacle because the audition was scheduled at the same time as one of his classes. However, after a delay and possibly some effort or negotiation, he was finally allowed to take the audition at a different time. The word eventually in this context is used to indicate that the result or decision did not happen immediately, but rather after a certain process or period of waiting. Its use reinforces the meaning that a result was achieved after sufficient time or through a non-instant situation.

Morphologically, eventually is derived from the base word eventual, which is an adjective meaning 'final' or 'happening in the end'. With the addition of the suffix –ly, it becomes eventually, which is an adverb meaning 'in the end', 'finally', or 'after some time'. The suffix –ly functions as a derivational morpheme that changes the word class from adjective to adverb, and in this context, eventually falls into the category of adverb of time. This word not only describes when an event takes place but also implies a process, delay, or a series of steps that occurred before the outcome was reached.

"1,000 won is **roughly** 0.98 USD"
Ep. 14

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
17	Roughly	Roug	-ly	rough +	Adjective→Adve	approximat	violent or

| h | -ly =roughly | rb | ely but not exactly | harsh |

In Episode 14 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the word roughly appears in the sentence "1,000 won is roughly 0.98 USD", which is used to provide an approximate currency exchange value. In this context, the word roughly functions as an adverb, indicating that the number mentioned is not exact, but rather an approximate estimate. In other words, the author intends to convey that 1,000 won is not always precisely equal to 0.98 USD, but the value is close enough or generally acceptable in casual or illustrative conversation. Morphologically, roughly is derived from the base word rough, which is an adjective meaning 'coarse', 'not smooth', or in another context, 'inexact or estimated'. By adding the suffix –ly, it becomes roughly, which is an adverb meaning 'approximately' or 'not precisely'. The suffix –ly here is a derivational morpheme that changes the word class from an adjective to an adverb, and in this case, it functions to describe the manner or degree of accuracy of certain information. In the sentence from this episode, roughly is categorized as an adverb of approximation, which is commonly used to convey numerical or statistical information that is not exact.

"but he **bravely** enters the classroom anyway"
Ep. 29

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
18	Bravely	Brave	-ly	brave + -ly =bravely	Adjective→Adverb	In a way that shows courage	requiring or showing courage

In Episode 29 of the Webtoon Smile Brush, the sentence "but he bravely enters the classroom anyway" describes the main character who still enters the classroom despite feeling nervous or lacking confidence. The word bravely in this sentence is used to indicate that the action is carried out with courage, even though there may be fear or anxiety. Morphologically, bravely is derived from the base word brave, which is an adjective meaning 'courageous'. With the addition of the suffix –ly, the word becomes bravely, which functions as an adverb meaning 'with bravery' or 'in a brave manner'. The suffix –ly in this case is a derivational morpheme that serves to change the word class from an adjective to an adverb and expresses the manner or attitude in which an action is performed.

"...but that pop was **actually** radioactive material..."
Ep. 31

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
19	Actually	Actual	-ly	actual + -ly =actually	adjective→adverb	Something that is real or fact	used to correct someone in polite way

In this sentence, the word actually is used to provide emphasis and contrast between the initial impression (that the surgery seemed minor) and the surprising reality (that the liquid he drank contained radioactive material). This word strengthens the element of surprise and draws the reader's attention to an important piece of information

that was previously unexpected. The word actually is derived from the base word actual, which is an adjective meaning 'real' or 'genuine'. By adding the suffix –ly, it becomes actually, which functions as an adverb and means 'in fact', 'truly', or 'in reality'. The suffix –ly is a derivational morpheme that generally changes the word class from an adjective to an adverb, and provides the meaning of how an action is performed or comments on the truth of a statement.

<div style="text-align:center">

"but everyone seemed to look at me **differently**.."
Ep. 35

</div>

No	Word	Root	Suffix	Process	Word Class	Meaning of Word	Meaning of Root
20	Different ly	Differ ent	-ly	different + -ly =differentl y	Adjective→A dverb	In varied ways, diversely	not the same/like as another or each other

The sentence "But everyone seemed to look at me differently..." appears in Episode 35 when the main character brings a guitar to campus after finishing band practice. Although he had no intention of performing or showing off, the presence of the guitar on his shoulder caused people around him to start looking at him differently. This sentence indicates a change in how others perceived him, simply because he carried an item commonly associated with musicians. The word seemed in this sentence suggests that this is the main character's perception—a subjective observation. Meanwhile, the word differently is an adverb derived from the adjective different with the addition of the suffix –ly, which is a derivational morpheme. This process changes the word class from adjective to adverb, and in this context, differently means 'in a different way'. In meaning, this sentence implies how outward appearance or carried items can shape social perception. People who saw him might have assumed he was a talented musician or someone with an "artistic" image, even though in reality, he just happened to be carrying a guitar.

The research conducted by Anjariah (2021) analyzes derivational morphemes by identifying 17 prefixes, including re-, un-, en-, dis-, im-, and pre-, as well as 46 suffixes such as -ship, -ly, -ful, -ous, -ion, -ment, -en, -hood, -able, -ity, -ism, -er, -ian, -ness, -dom, and -ty in Donald Trump's inaugural speech, without explaining the changes in word classes. Furthermore, the study conducted by Fitria (2020) identifies adjective-forming suffixes, which include -able, -al, -ful, -ic, -cal, and -ous, but does not provide a detailed explanation of changes in word classes or changes in word meanings. Additionally, the research by Hermapratiwi & Simatupang (2022) describes several words that fall into the categories of bound and free morphemes. This study also identifies some changes in word classes from adjectives to adverbs and from verbs to adjectives; however, it does not address changes in word classes from nouns to adjectives. Conversely, this research finds several words that undergo changes in word classes using suffixes such as -less, -ous, -ful, and -ly in the webtoon *Smile Brush*, and these words experience changes in meaning.

From the above results, the researcher concludes that the derivational morphemes contained in the Webtoon *Smile Brush* with a total of 20 words consisting of 4 prefixes and 16 suffixes. The derivational morpheme is classified into 10 processes, those are: first, derived Noun: Verb to Noun consists of 1 prefix (dis-) and 2 suffixes (-

ment), Adjective to Noun consists of 1 suffix (-ness), Noun to Noun consists of 1 prefix (auto-) and 1 suffix (-ian). Second, derived verb: Verb to Verb consists of 1 prefix (re-), Noun to Verb consists of 1 prefix (un-), Verb to Adjective consists of 1 suffix (-ful), Noun of Adjective consists of 4 suffixes (-less, -ous, (-ful twice), and Adjective to Adverb consists of 8 suffixes (-ly). The most dominant type of derivation morphemes is Adjective to Adverb with a total frequency of 8 words.

Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, there is a change in word class and word meaning in *Smile Brush* Webtoon. In this analysis, the researcher found 4 derivational morphemes prefix and 16 derivational morphemes suffix applied in Webtoon *Smile Brush* out of 20 data in total. The 15 data of derivational morphemes suffix are grouped from several classifications, namely 2 words of Verb to Noun, 1 word of Adjective to Noun, 1 word of Noun to Noun, 1 word of Verb to Adjective, 4 words of Noun of Adjective, 8 words of Adjective to Adverb. While the 4 data of derivational morphemes prefix are grouped from several classifications, namely 1 word of Verb to Noun, 1 word of Noun to Noun, 1 word of Verb to Verb, and 1 word of Noun to verb. The results show that suffix derivational morphemes are often used to change word class and word meaning in the *Smile Brush* Webtoon. In addition, the researcher can conclude that derivational morphemes have an important role in the formation of words before they are assembled into a sentence and function to change the meaning of words. Finally, the researcher hopes that this research can be further elaborated by future researchers in this field by providing an explanation why suffix derivational morphemes are more widely used to change word class and word meaning than prefix derivational morphemes.

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