A Contrastive Study of Affixation in English and Kurdish

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Abstract

The present study is an investigation of affixation in English and Kurdish. It conducts a contrastive study of affixation in English and Northeren Kurmanji Kurdish with the aim of finding the similarities and differences between them. After describing and comparing affixation in both languages, the final finding of the study is that affixation is a common process in English which is done by using different types of affixes. Kurdish is concerned with different types of bound morphemes without paying attention to the process of affixation and the created words from affixes though both languages have the same ways of classifying affixes.

Keywords: morphology, morphemes, affixation, affixes, Kurdish.

إلإضافات: دراسة مقارنة في اللغتين الإنجليزية والكردية

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المستخلص

الدراسة الحالية عبارة عن تحقيق في الاضافات باللغتين الإنجليزية والكردية. تجري دراسة مقارنة للإضافات باللغتين الإنجليزية والكرمانجية الشمالية الكردية بهدف إيجاد أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بينهما. بعد وصف ومقارنة الاضافات باللغتين ، فإن النتيجة النهائية للدراسة هي أن الإضافات عملية شائعة في اللغة الإنجليزية تتم باستخدام أنواع مختلفة من المقاطع. بينما الكردية تهتم بأنواع مختلفة من الصيغ دون الالتفات إلى عملية الإضافة والكلمات التي تم إنشاؤها من المقاطع على الرغم من أن كلتا اللغتين لهما نفس طرق تصنيف المقاطع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: مورفولوجيا ، مورفولوجيا ، الاضافة، ، كردي.

1. Introduction

Affixation is a morphological method of creating new words. The aim of the present study is to point out affixation in English and Kurdish namely the Northern Kurmanji in an attempt to show the similarities and differences between them by defining it, giving its types and to what extend the two languages are similar or different from each other with regard to affixation. To achieve the aims of the study, it is hypothesized that the affixation exists in both languages. Affixes are classified in both languages in terms of position and function. Concerning the former, there is differences between them in both languages while concerning the later, they are the same. It is also hypothesized that the order of affixes in a word in both languages are the same, but the frequency of the number of affixes in a word is not the same. The procedure of the study gives an introduction to the morphological terms, describing affixation in English followed by affixation in Kurdish, then, analyzing the similarities and differences between both languages with respect to affixes, and generalization of the main findings and conclusions. The results shows that affix as a general term is not found in Kurdish though there are prefixes and suffixes. Thus, in the present study affix is used interchangeably with bound morphemes.

2. Literature Review
2.1 Introduction

Morphology (Crystal, 2003:301) is defined as a branch of grammar that deals with the structure or forms of words, especially, on the basis of the construction of morphemes. In other words, it analyses words into morphemes. Yule (2006:63) states that a word form, in its turn, may be formed from a number of elements called morphemes. Thus, a morpheme is defined as the smallest unit of meaning or grammatical function. Seely (2009:88) claims that morpheme cannot break down into anything smaller with having a meaning.

Morphemes can have different types of meanings. Some meanings are concrete and describable as the meanings of the words *wash*, *logic*, and *un-*. Whereas some meanings are abstract and indescribable as *al* in *logical* can be described as relating to, the meaning of *ity* in *readability* can mean the quality of being readable. Thus, it is easier for linguists to say that these morphemes have a grammatical function, but morphemes bear meaning even if the meaning is very abstract (Haspelmath, 2002: 17)

Morphemes are classified into two main types: free morphemes and bound morphemes (Katamba & Stonham, 2006:42). Free morphemes are that part of word that cannot be broken down into smaller elements. Also, they can occur alone, such as, *man*, *book*, *tea*, and *cook*. The free morphemes fall into two categories. The first class takes the most of the 'semantic content' of utterance. Since they are nouns; *John* and *mother*, verbs; *write*, adjectives; *kind*, adverbs; *quickly*. Thus, they are called lexical morphemes. Yule (2006:64) states that new lexical morphemes can be added to the language easily. So, they are called open class of words. Another class is called function words (functional morphemes). They refer to grammatical information or logical relations in a sentence, such as, articles; *a*, and, *the*, demonstratives; *this*, *that*, *those* and *these*, pronouns; *I, you, them, him…* etc, and conjunctions; *and*, *yet*, *but*, *nor*….etc. (Katamba & Stonham, 2006:42). In contrast with lexical morphemes, functional morphemes can never be added to the language, thus, they are called closed class of words. (Yule, 2006:64)

Bound morphemes are that part of word that cannot occur alone and must be attached to another part, such as, *re*, *ist*, *s*. (Katamba & Stonham, 2006:42). Such morphemes are called affixes. Bound morphemes may be lexical as *clude* in *exclude*, include and *preclude*; it can also be

grammatical as plural *s* in *boys*, *girls* and *cats* (Parker & Riley 2005: 88). In this case, the bound grammatical morpheme is termed affixes. Bound morphemes fall into two classes. The first is derivational morphemes. These derivational bound morphemes are used to make new words or to change the grammatical category of the word. The addition of the morpheme *ness* to the adjective *good* changes the word from adjective to noun *goodness*. Also, the addition of the morpheme *ful* makes the noun *care* an adjective *careful*. The second class is inflectional bound morphemes. These morphemes are not used to make new words, but they are used to show the grammatical category of the word.

Root is defined as a remaining part of the word when all the affixes are removed. Putting this another way, it is the base form of the word which is undividable. Katamba and Stonham (2006:42-43), states that a root is that obligatory part which is irreducible.

Stem is the part of word when inflectional affixes are added to it (katamba & Stonham, 2006: 46). In the words *cats* and *workers*, *cat* and *worker* are stems since *s* is a plural affix. So, *cat* is a bare root that cannot be broken down into smaller items; it is also known as simple stem. But, in *worker*, the plural suffix is added to the complex stem in which it consists of a root (work) and suffix (er) – it is used to make agentive noun from the verb, the person who performs the action. So, the word *work* is a root *er* is an affix and *worker* is a stem in which the plural suffix *s* is added to make the word *worker* plural (katamba & Stonham: 2006, 46). Additionally, stem may also contain two roots as in *blackbird* which is called a compound stem (Crystal, 2003:433)

Base is that part of word in which any type of affixes can be attached whether inflectional or derivational affixes. The word *boy* is a base. An inflectional affix *s* can be added to make it plural *boys*. Also, derivational affixes *ish* can be added to the same base to make it adjective *boyish* (katamba & Stonham: 2006,46).

Both bases and stems can be complex. The word *activity* consists of the base active and the suffix *ity*. The base *active* in its turn consists of the base *act* and the suffix *ive*. Therefore, the base that is incapable of breaking down into further components is root. Thus, in *readablity*, *read* is the root and the base of *readable* and *readable* is the base of *readability* but it is not a root (Haspelmath, 2002:19)

In short, morphemes are classified into free and bound morphemes. The former is sub classified into lexical and functional morphemes. The latter is classified into lexical bound morphemes and affixes which is the concern of the present paper. All roots are bases. Bases are stems in case inflectional affixes are attached to them. The word *boy* is a root and a base when attaching the derivational suffix *ish* to make it *boyish* or when attaching the inflectional suffix *s* to make it *boys*; it is called a stem when only the suffix *s* is attached.

2.2   Affixation in English
2.2.1 The Definition of Affixation

The process of affixation is a morphological process in which something, lexical or grammatical information, is attached to the stem or root. (Lyons, 1981: 103; Crystal, 2003:15; Fasold, R. W., 2006: 66). An affix is a type of bound morpheme; it is used only when attached to another morpheme (the root or stem). Affixes are limited in a language. In other words affixes are used as one criterion for classifying languages into types. Putting it another way, they are defined as short morphemes with abstract meanings (Haspelmath, 2002: 20). There is no word that consists of only an affix standing alone like *s, ed*, or *al* or even a number of affixes together as –al-s (Katamba & Stonham, 2006:45)

2.2.2 The Classification of Affixes
Affixes can be classified according to their position and function as follows

2.2.2.1 Positional Classification of Affixes

They are classified into four types in terms of their positions with reference to the root or the stem of the words. They are prefixes, suffixes, infixes and circumfix or ambifix.

2.2.2.1.1.Prefixes: a prefix is an affix that precedes a root, stem or base like *re* in *re make*, *un* in *unkind*, and *in* in *inaccurate* (Kuiper & Allan,1996:151; Katamba & Stonham, 2006:45; Radford, Atkinson, Britain, Clahsen & Spenser, 2009: 140). It is a term which is used in morphology to refer to an affix coming at the beginning of the root or stem. The process of forming new words by adding prefixes is called prefixation. This process is common in English as (para, mini and un), but there is no prefixes to inflect words in English (Crystal, 2003:367). There are some prefixes that do not change the part of speech or the grammatical

category of the word as in *dis + like (V) = dislike (V)* and *un + like (V) = unlike (V).* There are also some examples of prefixes in English that do change the grammatical category of the word like *anti +freeze (V) = antifreeze (N)* (Widdowson, 1996:46-47).

2.2.2.1.2. Suffixes: a suffix is an affix that follows a root, stem or base like *ly* in *kindly*, *er* in *waiter*, and *ed* in *walked* ((Parker & Riley, 2005: 98; Katamba & Stonham, 2006:45). It is a term used in morphology to refer to the affix that comes at the end of the root or stem of the word. The process of forming new words by adding derivational suffixes in English is common and it is called suffixation or suffixing (Crystal, 2003:444). There are some suffixes that do not change the part of speech of the word as *friend (N.) + ship = friendship (N.)* (Fromkin & Rodman, 1983:117; Widdowson, 1996: 46-47). There are some suffixes that do change the part of speech of the word such as *like (v.)+ ness = likeness (n.), like (adj) + ly = likely (adv), like (adj) + ly = likely (adv) +hood =likelihood (n.), boy (n.) + ish = boyish (adj)* and *moral (n.) + ize = moralize (v.)*

2.2.2.1.3. Infix: an infix is a term used in morphology to refer to an affix which comes within a root or a stem of the word. The process of infixation does not exist in English but do exist in some other languages e.g. Arabic (Crystal, 2003:233). The only infix stated by Allan, Bradshow, Finch, Burridge and Heydon (2010:50) in English is when the word *bloody* inserted to the stem *kangaroo*, e.g. *kangabloodyroo* in which the stem is the root, whereas for Crystal (2006:238) the emphatic forms exist in English as *abso-bloomin- lutely.*

2.2.2.1.4. Circumfix: circumfix is an affix that occurs on both sides of the base e.g. *enlighten* (Haspelmath, 2002:19). The causative en- Adj- en is the only circumfix in English as the above example and *embolden*. (Allan, Bradshow, Finch,Burridge & Heydon ,2010:50)

In short, regarding the position, affixes in English are divided into four types: prefixes, suffixes, infixes and circumfixes. The first two types are common since most linguists divide affixes in English into only prefixes and suffixes. The last two types are rare, and few sources have mentioned them as types of affixes.

2.2.2.2. Functional Classification of Affixes

In terms of function, affixes are divided into two types: inflectional and derivational affixes.

2.2.2.2.1. Inflectional affixes: inflectional affixes are affixes that are used to modify the word to fit the particular syntactic position. There are eight inflectional morphemes in English. They are plural s, possessive s, second person s, past tense, past participle, present participle, and comparative and superlative forms of adjective.

Inflectional affixes do not change the part of speech of the root to which they are attached such as *cat (sng N)* and *cats (plu N)* (Aitchison, 2003: 61). Concerning the position of the inflectional affix in relation to the root is located to the very end of the word or after any derivational affixes as in *nationalities* in which *nation* is a root, *al* and *ity* are derivational affixes and *s* is the inflectional affix. Another important point is that only one inflectional affix is added to the root except the case of cats' which means that the word is both plural and possessive in meaning. (Falk, 1973 & 1978: 29-30). Actually, these two inflections do not attach to the same category, but *plural s* is attached to the noun while *possessive s* is attached to the noun phrase as illustrated in this example *the cats on the floor*, *the cat on the floor's owner* (Parker & Riley, 2005:98). Concerning their distribution, all inflectional affixes are suffixes. Inflectional affixes have a wide range of use; they are used with almost all members of the particular category, for instance, *plural s* is used with almost all types of nouns but the non- count nouns (Parker & Riley,2005:95).

2.2.2.2.2. Derivational affixes: derivational affixes are morphemes that are used to create new lexemes. The number of derivational affixes is infinite. It is impossible to enumerate them like *ly, ing, ize, ment, ness, un, dis, anti.*

Derivational affixes do change the part of speech of the root to which they are attached and change the meaning as well such as *nation (N)* changes after the addition of the suffix *al* which becomes *national (Adj)* (Aitchison,2003:61). Some others are used to modify the meaning of the word without changing the grammatical category of the word such as *kind (Adj)* and *unkind (Adj).* This type is an important means since new words are created in a language. Derivational affixes are located next to the root or another derivational affix in the word. Another point which shows the contrast with the inflectional affixes is that many derivational affixes can be added to the root such as *un+ kind +ly* in which *un* and *ly* are derivational affixes added to the root *kind*. Similarly the words *protect+ive+ly = protectively, consider+ ation= consideration* and *dis+*

proportion+ ate= disproportionate characterized with the same distribution (Falk, 1973, 1978: 29-30). Derivational affixes are used with a limited number of lexical morphemes, for instance, the affix *a* is used with *atypical*, *aphasia* (Parker & Riley, 2005:95).

To sum up, functionally, affixes in English are divided into two types: inflectional and derivational affixes. They have some differences between them with respect to their effect on grammatical category, distribution, order of appearance, number of allowance affixes, and range of application.

3. **Affixation in Kurdish**

3.1 The Classification of Affixes

Affixes in Kurdish are classified into positional and functional classification of affixes

3.1.1 Positional Classification of Affixes

According to Abdullah and Ali (2011:161-163), a bound morpheme is classified into five types: prefixes, suffixes, interfixes, and infixes. Ali and Munib (2016:70), adds circumfixes to the previously mentioned types.

3.1.1.1Prefix (pêşgir): prefix is the bound morpheme that comes at the beginning of the words (noun, adjectives, adverbs and verbs) and gives the word a new meaning which means it creates a derived word. Prefixes in Kurdish are *ra : raêxist (furnuturized), hel, hil : helweşand (cancelled), da:daxistin (to lock), wer: wergêran (translation), be, bi: bihêz (strong), bê: bêhêz (weak), der:, derhênan (director), ve: vexwarin (to drink), tê: têkdan (to destroy), çê: çêkirin (to make), pê:, Pêzanîn (information), jê: jêgirt (chose)* and *pêk: pêkhatin (agreement)*

Prefixes (ra, hil, da) cannot change the grammatical class when added to the word such as the verb *girt (caught)* it remains verb. There are some prefixes that change the grammatical class of the word such as the addition of the prefixes *bê*, *bi* to the nouns *hêz* (*strength)* and *şerim (shame)*. Such prefixes turn them to adjectives.

It is worth mentioning that in Kurdish language more than one prefix can occur in one word or example. Examples of words having two prefixes are

tê + wer + kir= Têwerkir (threw),Pê + da + çu = Pêdaçu (review) and *jê + ve + kir = Jêvekir (cut).* There are also some examples of having three prefixes as in *Pê + ve + ra +bu= Pêverabu , Pê + ve + hil + kir = Pêvehilkir and Pê +ve + hil + bu = Pêvehilbu.*

3.1.1.2. Suffix (paşgir): a suffix is that bound morpheme which occurs at the end of the word or base verb and results a new derived word.

In Kurdish, there are a number of suffixes that are added to the words and create new ones. New word is added to the dictionary. Some of them do not change the part of speech of words like *asin (N) + ger = asinger (N) (blacksmith),* and *xwarin (N)+ geh = xwaringeh(N) (restaurant).* Suffixes that change the parts of speech of words: suffixes that turns the adjective into a noun *bilind (Adj.) (high) + ahî = bilindahî (N) (height)* and *ciwan (Adj) (beautiful) + î + ciwanî (N) (beauty).* Suffixes that changes the base verb to a noun as *nivîs (V) (write) + er = nivîser (N) (writer)* and *bêj (V) (speak) + er = bêjer (N) (presenter).* Suffixes that changes past verb into noun: *xwand(V) (read) + evan = xwandevan.(N) (reader)*and *girtî (V) (suspended) + xane = girtîxane (N) (prison).*Suffixes that turns the base verb into adjectives*: zan (V) (know)+ a = zana (Adj) (expert)* and *tiris (V) (fear) + nak = tirsinak (Adj) (coward).* Suffixes that change nouns into adverbs*: bihar(N) (spring) + ê = biharê (Adv.) (in Spring)* And *êvar (N) (evening) + î = êvarî (Adv) (in the evening).*Suffixes that changes adverbs to nouns*: Bin (adv.) (under) + ar = binar (n.) (downhill)*

In Kurdish language, there are many words that have two suffixes as *asin +ger + î = asingerî (metalwork), rojname + ger + î = rojnamegerî (press).* On the other hand, there are few words having three suffixes such as *hon + er + mend + î =honermendî (arts).* The suffix *î* is usually the last suffix in the word when having more than one suffix.

3.1.1.3. Interfix (navbend): interfix is a bound morpheme that creates one type of compound word in Kurdish language. It differs from the compound conjunctions since it creates a compound word, but compound conjunction creates either a compound clause or compound sentence. Some examples of interfixes are *e: avemast(a drink) , sererim (prominent), Berdereş (an erea) , u: danustandin (conversation) , an: seranser (all over) , baranber (in front of) , Be, bi : xolîbiser (a negative word directed to someone), karbedest (clerk), golberoj (sunflower)* and *aw: rengawreng (colorful) , corawcor (different).*

3.1.1.4. Infixes (nêvgir): infix is a bound morpheme that enters the word or the root as entering *e* into the word *şînwar (monument),* and it becomes *şînewar* the same goes with the word *rênma (instruction)* and *rênema.* Kurdish scientists have different views about having this type. According to some linguists, there are no such examples, but others refer to infix as a bound morpheme that exists in Kurdish. Infix is a bound morpheme that takes the middle of the base verb, and it has a transitive role as in the following examples:

> *Ê* and *A* in northeren kurmanji are infixes
> Axift (spoke)(intransitive) zaro axift (the child spoke)
> axêft (transitive) ewê zaro axêft. (she spoke to the child)
> axaft (transitive) ewê zaro axaft (she spoke to the child)

3.1.1.5. Circumfixes (lagir): circumfix means when a word has both prefixes and suffixes at the same time as *ne +sax + î =nesaxî (illness), wer +girt + î =wergirtî (admitted)* and *bê +hal + î = bêhalî (bad situation)*

In sum, Kurdish linguists has classified affixes with regard to position into prefix (pêşgir), suffix (paşgir), interfix (navbend), infixe (nêvgir), and circumfixe (lagir). On the other hand, Amêdî mentions only prefixes, suffixes and infixes. Circumfixe is not considered as one type of affixes in Kurdish since it is an affix which consists of two parts in which the first part comes at the beginning of the root and the second part comes at the end of the root. The two parts of this type of affix cannot be regarded as a prefix and suffix.

3.1.2 Functional classification of affixes

Functionally bound morphemes are divided into two types: inflectional or grammatical bound morpheme and derivational morpheme.

3.1.2.1. Inflectional or grammatical bound morpheme (morfîma zimanî): it is that type of bound morpheme that has a grammatical function as a plural morpheme *an* in *zimanan*. (Abdullah & Ali, 2011:160-161). It does not create a new word. Inflectional or grammatical morphemes are definable like *eke*: definite, *ek*: indefinite, *tir*: comparative, *tirîn*: superlative, *ne*: negative. This type do not change the grammatical category of the word such as the addition of the diminutive morpheme *k* to *ber* (N) (stone) turns it to *berik* (N) *(small stone),* reş (Adj) (black) remains adjective *reştir (more black)* after adding the comparative morpheme *tir*. Grammatical morpheme occurs at the end of the word or it comes after the derivational

morpheme in the word as in *cotyarek (a farme*r). Grammatical morphemes are restricted in their use. There are verbal morphemes that cannot be used with noun and the same in the case of noun and adjectives. The plural morpheme *an* is only used with nouns. In Kurdish language, two or more grammatical morphemes can be used in one word as in *girtbom (was arrested)*.This type of morpheme has a wide range of use for instance negative morpheme *ne* can be used with all past verbs (Ali & Munib, 2016: 80-82).

3.1.2.2. Derivational affixes (morfîma darştinê): is that type of bound morpheme that has a derivational function as the morpheme *er* in *nivîser (writer)* (Abdullah & Ali, 2011:160-161). This type consists of prefixes and suffixes; the addition of one of them produces a new derived word. More than one prefix or suffix can combine in one word as in *têwerdan (interfer)*. Derivational morpheme changes either the meaning or the category of the word. There are some derivational morphemes that change the grammatical category of the word such as *êvar (N) (evening)* turns to *êvarî (Adv) (in the evening), koj (V) (kill)* turns to *bikoj (N) (killer)*. Also, there are some derivational morphemes that do not change the grammatical category of the word such as *girt (V) (keep) ragirt (V) (stop)* and *dar (N) (tree) darvan (N) (woodsman)*. Most derivational morphemes do not close the word; another derivation or a grammatical one can follow it as in *dar+ van+ î+ yo = darvanîyo*. The uses of derivational morphemes are restricted as (stan, xane, geh); they all refer to place, but they cannot be used interchangeably: *kurdistan*, *xestexane (hospital), xwaringeh (restaurant). ∗kurdgeh*, *∗xestgeh*, *∗xwaristan*. There are derivational morphemes that are used only with nouns or verbs with some exception as in *bi* can occur with noun as *bihez (strong)* and with verb as *bikir (costumer)*. Derivational morphemes are not definable like *ra, da, mend, yar, ger, hil, er, bar* (Ali & Munib, 2016: 80-82).

3. Methodology

This study is carried out by the following steps. The first, an introduction to important and technical terms relating to affixation is given. The second is dealt with affixation in English by giving its definition and then classifying affixes with respect to position and function and illustrating their types. The third one is presenting and describing affixation in Kurdish. The fourth one is analyzing affixation in both English and

Kurdish languages. The last is showing the similarities and differences between English and Kurdish with respect to affixation.

The description of Kurdish affixation is translated. All examples are transliterated and translated.

5. Results

After the description of affixation in English and Kurdish languages, a number of results can be shown.

1. In English language, the process of affixation exists and defined as the morphological way of producing new words with or without changing their meaning or grammatical category. Such words are formed by adding affixes to the roots in which they are combined following a number of rules. Although, there are prefixes, suffixes, interfixes and infixes in Kurdish language and their uses are common and are added to the root and create new words either with changing their meaning or their grammatical category but there is no term used to refer to the process of affixation or affixes instead bound morpheme (morfîma bend or grêdayi) is used as an umbrella to cover different types of affixes.

2. In both languages, affixes are classified according to two criterions: the position and the function. English in terms of position is classified into four types: prefixes, suffixes, infixes and circumfixes. Whereas, Kurdish language following Abdullah and Ali (2011) includes four types: prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and interfixes. Whereas according to Ali and Munib (2016) circumfix is added as the fifth type of affixes in Kurdish. Functionally, both languages are classified into two types: derivational and inflectional affixes.

3. In both languages, circumfix is described as one type of affixes. Following Fasold's definition of circumfixing "it is a two parts or discontinuous morpheme that surrounds a root". Examples applied on this type in English are rare while this type does not exist in Kurdish, and Kurdish words cannot be applied as stated by Ali and Munib (2016) in which it is defined as the presence of prefixes and suffixes in one word since a huge number of English and Kurdish words do consist of both prefixes and suffixes as *reliable* in English and *wergirti (admission)* in Kurdish.

4. In the two languages, inflection is used as a process of forming words with different grammatical functions. Only one inflection occurs in a word. In English, inflections are always suffixes which are added at the end of the word. Kurdish inflections include both prefixes and suffixes. In English, inflections are eight in number whereas Kurdish ones cannot be numerated.

5. Derivation is used as a process of making new words with or without differences in their meaning or grammatical class. Most characteristics of derivations in both languages are the same regarding their position, they are located next to the root, more than one derivation can come with the same word, they do not close the word; inflections can follow them. There are some differences as well, derivations does not have meanings in Kurdish as (da, mend) while in English, they have meanings (anti: against, less: without, ful: having, ity: status).

6. In both languages, more than on affix (prefixes or suffixes) are added to the same word to make complex words. In English only one prefix but more than one suffix are added to the word while in Kurdish more than one prefix and more than one suffix are added to the word.

6. Discussions

In the present study, the hypotheses that are stated are accepted. The first hypotheses are verified since affixation as a morphological phenomenon is available in both languages. In both languages, affixes are classified in accordance with position and function. The classification of affixes with respect to position is not the same in both languages whereas in terms of function the classification of affixes in both languages is the same. This confirms the second hypotheses. Concerning the order of affixes whether prefixes or suffixes are the same, but the number of prefixes and suffixes in one word is different therefore the last hypothesis is verified.

7. Conclusion

The present study has come up with a number of conclusions. They are shown in the following similarities and differences.

7.1 The similarities

1. Affixes are there in both English and Kurdish languages and their uses are common.
2. Affixes can be defined as the addition of a letter or more combined with a word for its lexical meaning or grammatical use.
3. Both languages classify affixes in terms of the position and function.

4. Both languages have the three types of positional affixes: prefixes, suffixes, infixes

5. Prefixes and suffixes are common in both languages.

6. Suffixes in both English and Kurdish are of two types: there are some suffixes that change the grammatical category of the word (class changing suffixes). The other type includes suffixes that do not change the grammatical category of the word (class maintaining suffixes).

7. In both languages, affixes (prefixes or suffixes) are added to the words to create complex words.

8. Root is that morpheme that carries the core meaning of the word.

9. Both languages have two types of functional affixes: derivational and inflectional or grammatical affixes.

10. Both languages include the processes of derivation and inflection in creating words. Derivation means the process of creating new lexical categories by adding derivational affixes to the root while inflection is the process of creating new words that indicates the grammatical functions of the word.

11. In both languages, inflectional affixes have a grammatical function in which they do not change the category of the word.

12. In both languages, inflectional affixes are definable or their meaning can be described.

13.   With respect to the position, inflectional affixes come at the end of the word or after the derivational affixes in both languages.

14. Inflection is closer to the grammar in both languages.

15. Inflections are used with comparative and superlative in both languages.

16. Both languages are inflected in plurality.

17.   In both English and Kurdish languages, inflections are restricted in their use.

18. Inflections have a wide range of use in both languages.

19. In both languages, derivational affixes can change the meaning and the grammatical category of the word or modify meaning without changing the grammatical class of the word.

20. In both languages, more than one derivational affixes can occur with a root.

21.   Derivational affixes are prefixes and suffixes in both languages.

22. In both languages, derivational affixes are restricted in their use with few exceptions. This means that an affix is used in a word

which cannot be used with another word within the same word class.

7.2 The Differences

1. The morphological process of producing new words is called affixation in English.

2. Affixation in English is based on affixes.

3. In Kurdish, the process of forming new words by adding prefixes and suffixes exists, but there is no term used to refer to affixation as a process.

4. Bound morpheme, in Kurdish, is used as a cover term for prefixes, suffixes and other types.

5. Prefixes in English as well as in Kurdish are of two types: some change the grammatical category of the word and some others do not change the grammatical category of the word.

6. One prefix occurs with a word in English.

7. In Kurdish, more than one prefix can occur. There are words with three prefixes

8. In English, infixes are rare, but they are common in Kurdish.

9. In Kurdish words with infixes has a transitive rule while English lucks this rule.

10. In Kurdish, infixes enter some words without changing the meaning; this depends on the speaker's accent as in *şînwar (monument)* and *şînwar*.

11. Circumfix as a type of positional affixes is rare in English whereas Kurdish lacks this type.

12. Interfix is one common type of affixes in Kurdish, but English lacks this type.

13. In English, the plural suffix is used with compound words as *chair men*, but in Kurdish, there are affixes (interfixes) that are used to create compound words as *av a mast (one type of drink)*.

14. Interfix is used to create different classes of compound words in Kurdish as verbs, *nexweşbon (illness);* nouns, *reşeba (strong air)*; adjective*, kurtebala (dwarf);* and adverbs, *zî bi zî (in a hurry)*

15. In English, there are much more derivational affixes than inflectional ones but the inflectional affixes are used much more frequently than the derivational ones.

16. In Kurdish, there is a large number of both derivational and inflectional affixes, but inflectional ones are used more commonly than derivational ones.

17. In English, All inflectional affixes are suffixes. In Kurdish, inflectional morpheme are prefixes and suffixes

18. In English, only one inflectional affix is used in a word, but in Kurdish more than one inflectional affixes can be used in a word.

19. Inflectional affixes in English are limited in number, but in Kurdish they are not.

20. Inflectional affixes are based mainly on verbs and nouns in Kurdish.

21. In Kurdish, there is an inflectional affix used with the imperative verbs *bi* as in *bikoje* (kill him), but in English such affix is not found.

22. In Kurdish, there is an inflection used with future, but in English there is no inflection used with future.

23. In Kurdish, there are inflections to show definiteness (ek), indefiniteness (eke), gender (ya, ye) whereas such inflections are not found in English.

24. There are inflections in Kurdish that are used with transitive and intransitive verbs such as *ez geryam (I toured)*, *min tu gerandî (I toured you)* whereas, in English, there is no inflections to show the transitive and intransitive verbs.

25. English uses inflection *s* for only third person singular, while Kurdish use inflections for all persons singular and plural: *hatim* (1st person singular) *hatin* (1st person plural), *hatî* (2nd person singular), *hatin* (3rd person plural).

26. Derivational affixes are definable in English, but they are not definable in Kurdish language.

27. The last derivation that usually comes in Kurdish is the derivation *î.*

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List of Transliterations

Kurdish symbol	Kurdish Examples	English meaning	IPA
'	'erd	Floor	/ʕ/
A a	Sar	Cold	/ a /
B b	Bira	Brother	/b/
C c	Ciwan	Beautiful	/dʒ /
Ç ç	Çak	Good	/tʃ/
D d	Dar	Tree	/d/
E e	Ser	Head	/ æ /
Ê ê	Nêr	Male	/e/
F f	fer	Important	/f/
G g	Gerim	Hot	/g/
H h	Havîn	Summer	/h/
Ĥĥ	Ĥolî	Smooth	/ħ/
I i	Mir	Died	/ɪ/

Î î	Şîr	sword, milk	/i/
J j	Jan	Pain	/ʒ/
K k	Kar	Job	/k/
L l	Lêv	Lip	/l/
M m	Mam	Uncle	/m/
N n	Nerim	Soft	/n/
O o	Roj	Sun	/o/
P p	Perde	Curtain	/p/
Q q	Qed	Piece	/q/
R r	Pir	Full	/ɾ/
R r	Pir	Bridge	/r/
S s	Sor	Red	/s/
Ş ş	Şirîn	Sweet	/ʃ/
T t	Ter	Wet	/t/
U u	Tu	You	/ʊ/
Û û	Pertûk	Copybook	/u: /
V v	Heval	Friend	/v/
W w	War	Homeland	/w/
X x	Xalet	Aunt	/χ/
Ẍ ẍ	aẍa	Agha	/ɣ/
Y y	Heyv	moon	/j/
Z z	Zava	bridegroom	/z/