A Linguistic Study of Affixation in The Burmese Language

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Abstract

The title of the study was "A Linguistic Study of Affixation in the Burmese Language". The objectives of this research were classified into two parts 1) To analyze the processes and characteristics of affixation in the Burmese language. and 2) To identify and classify the word classes derived from affixation in the Burmese language. In this research, the researcher applied qualitative research method focusing on documentary in nature. Population was ten key informants from Yangon division in Myanmar. The sources of data collection were from books, magazines, documents, theses, research articles, online webpages that were in accordance with the nature of the study and from in-depth interview ten Burmese language experts who were selected as key informants of this study. The collected data was analyzed based on the types and functions in morphology and interpreted and explained the findings with examples in the form of tables, diagrams and descriptive statements.

The results of the research were found that in Burmese language, there were many particles which can be called affixes of the word and can cause the changes of sense or type of that word. Initially, one of the three types of affixations was called as prefixes. Prefixation can be defined as one or more letters attached at the beginning of the root word in order to change its meaning or its grammatical function. It can be said that prefixes were involved at the initial part of the root word. The most common prefixes were အ /a/ and မ /ma/. Infixation can be defined as an affixation attached inside a root word which usually the root word consists of two or more words. There were not too many infixes in Burmese language. They were sometimes used in root words by combining with prefixes and suffixes. Suffixation can be defined as one or more letters attached at the end of the root word in order to change its meaning or its grammatical function. In Burmese language, there were many derivational morphemes that change the words from a word class to another by adding suffixes to the root word. The Burmese language had many suffixes more than prefixes and infixes and they were common in spoken and written.

There were two kinds of word according to the grammatical structure of Burmese language. They were single word and compound word. Word classes, often referred to as parts of speech, were a fundamental component in studying any languages. There were nine word-classes for all Burmese words according to the official Burmese grammar book used in the

government schools. The researcher found six word-classes derived from affixation in Burmese language. They were noun, verb, adjective, adverb, postpositional marker, and particles.

Keywords: Burmese Language, Affixation, Morphological Analysis, Word Class Derivation, Particles

Introduction

Burmese language also called Myanmar language is a Sino-Tibetan language, the official language of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and has more than one thousand years' history. It is also the native language of the Burmese and related sub-ethnic groups of the Myanmar, as well as that of some ethnic minorities in Myanmar as a second language. The language uses the Burmese script, derived from the old Mon script and ultimately from the Brahmi script. Burmese script like the Brahmi script is system of writing constructed from Consonants, consonant combination symbols vowel symbols related to the relevant consonants, and diacritic marks indicating tone level. Though the number of consonants and vowels, and the name and number of symbols are slightly different due to the difference in the languages which employ the Brahmi script, the Burmese writing system and those which employ the Brahmi writing system are basically the same. There are 33 consonants in the Burmese script. They are known as "Byee" in the Burmese language. Vowels are known as "Thara". Vowels are the basic building blocks of syllable formation in the Burmese language, although a syllable or a word can be formed from just consonants, without a vowel. There have ten vowels and eight independent vowels. The language is classified into two categories. One is formal, used in literary works, official publications, radio broadcasts, and formal speeches. The other is colloquial, used in daily conversation and spoken. This is reflected in the Burmese words for "language" /sɑ:/ refers to written, literary language, and /sakɑ:/ refers to spoken language. Therefore, Burmese language can mean either /mjanmasɑ:/ (written Myanmar language), or /mjanmasakɑ:/ (spoken Myanmar language). Much of the differences between formal and colloquial Burmese language occur in grammatical particles and lexical items. Different particles (to modify nouns and verbs) are used in the literary form from those used in the spoken form. Burmese language is syllabic language. Words in Burmese language are composition of one or more syllables and a syllable may also contain one or more characters. A word နိုင်ငံ /nainŋ/ can be separated into two syllables နိုင် /nai/ and ငံ /nŋ/. A character can stand as a syllable itself or a syllable in Burmese language may be made up of one or several characters. For example, five Unicode characters, i.e., န, ိ, ု, င (n, i, u, ñ and ñ constitute to form the syllable နိုင် /nai/.

In linguistics, morphology is the study of words, how they are formed, and their relationship to other words in the same language. It analyzes the structure of words and parts of words such as stems, root words, prefixes, and suffixes. Morphology also looks at parts of speech, intonation and stress, and the ways context can change a word's pronunciation and meaning. Morphology differs from morphological typology, which is the classification of languages based on their use of words, and lexicology, which is the study of words and how they make up a

language's vocabulary. Morphology is the study of the way words are built up from smaller meaning-bearing units, morphemes. Morphemes are either free or bound forms, with the free forms corresponding to word level units and the bound forms to a closed class of grammatical affixes. For example, the word မြစ် /mji/ (river) consists of a single morpheme (the morpheme မြစ် /mji/ (river) while the word ကြောင်များ /kjaʊmjaː/ (cats) consists of two: the morpheme ကြောင် /kjaʊ/ (cat) and the morpheme များ /mjɑː/ (s).

Affixation is the process of adding a morpheme or affix to a word to create either a different form of that word or a new word with a different meaning. An affix is a bound morpheme that attaches to a root or stem to form a new word, or a variant form of the same word. Affixes may be derivational or inflectional. Derivation is mostly found in the Burmese language by means of affixation and reduplication. Derivation by means of affixation is the process of changing the form, grammatical class and meaning of a word by adding a prefix, an infix or suffix to a root. Derivational affixes create new words. Inflectional affixes create new forms of the same word. Derivational is an adjective that refers to the formation of a new word from another word through derivational affixes. Burmese is highly analytic with no inflection of morphemes. Morphemes can be combined freely with no changes. Syntactically, Burmese is typically head-final, where the functional dependent morphemes succeed the content independent morphemes and the verb constituent working as the root of a sentence always appears at the end of a sentence. Inflectional is the combination of a word stem with a grammatical morpheme, usually syntactic resulting in a word of the same class as the original stem, and usually filling some syntactic function like agreement. Burmese has a relatively simple inflectional system which contains noun, verb and adjective, not adverb. Derivation is the combination of a word stem with a grammatical morpheme, usually resulting in a word of a different class, often with a meaning hard to predict exactly. For example, the verb စား /saː/ can take the derivational suffix ခြင်း /kjɲ/ to produce the noun စားခြင်း /sɑːkjɲ/.

Burmese language is very complex compared to English and other languages. Burmese has complex morphological structure so that for models in which words are treated as basic unit to construct distributed representation, there may be problems for those rich morphological words. On the other hand, it is necessary to deal with out-of-vocabulary words and word segmentation problem is also one of the important problems for Burmese language. Words are important to be learned because they commonly hold the key of the text which means vocabulary has variable form. Previous research works were done about word formation of Burmese language in morphological analysis in general. The researcher found the gap to research about specific affixation, how many prefixes, infixes, suffixes and how they function in word formation of Burmese language. Therefore, the researcher chose this title, "A linguistic study of affixation in the Burmese language," to analyzes affixes and the functions of affixes in word formation of Burmese language and it can be understood the way to form the word in Burmese language. Besides, word form has deep relation with meaning. The meaning of the new word

form is influenced by the process of forming a word. Studying word formation is very important for people who will focus on the language learning.

Objectives of the Research

This study was conducted with two main objectives:

1. To analyze the processes and characteristics of affixation in the Burmese language.

2. To identify and classify the word classes derived from affixation in the Burmese language.

Research Methodology

The study entitled "A linguistic study of affixation in Burmese language" aimed to analyze the word formation process by using affixes in Burmese language and studied the word classes derived from affixation in Burmese language. The research methodology was necessary for conducting a reliable study. The researcher mainly focused on the following points:

Research Design

In this research, the researcher applied qualitative research focusing on a documentary method in nature to study and analyze affix and its function in word formation of Burmese language and the word classes derived from affixation in Burmese language and gathered the data from primary, secondary, other published and unpublished sources of books, theses, documents, magazines, research journals, webpages and blogs related to this study to get data and information about affixes, the functions of affixes and word classes derived from affixation used in Burmese language. The researcher made an in-depth interview to ten Burmese language experts who have experience in Burmese language and live in Yangon city to get data and information of affixation and the word classes derived from affixation used in Burmese language.

Population and Key Informants

The researcher selected questioners of ten people who are expert in Burmese language, living in Yangon in Myanmar as key informants of the study. The researcher found key informants for in-depth interview to get data and information about affixation, and the word classes derived from affixation in different terms of Burmese morphology. Before the interview, the researcher asked for their permissions to let the researcher interview them. The key informants would be the scholars of Burmese language: Burmese language professors of universities and teachers of high school, the student specialization of the Burmese language, local people who had experience in the Burmese language. They had different age level, education background, sex, occupation and they had to live in Yangon, Myanmar.

Research Instruments

In this study, the researcher applied qualitative research method collecting data and information from books and in-depth interview. For the first one of collecting data, the researcher collected books and theses to get data and information about affixation and word classes derived from affixation used in Burmese language. For the second way of collecting data, this study

conducted through in-depth interview to get general view of affixation and the word classes derived from affixation used in Burmese language. the purpose of this study was to analyze the processes and characteristics of affixation and identify the word classes derived from affixation in the Burmese language based on the morphology. it divided into 4 parts: prefixation, infixation, suffixation, and word classes derived from affixation.

Data Collection

The researcher applied qualitative research focusing on a documentary method to study and analyze affixation in word formation of Burmese language and the word classes derived from affixation in Burmese language. In this study, the primary sources of data collection were from in-depth interview of ten key informants who were expert in Burmese language and the secondary sources of data were from documentary survey such as academic books, theses, academic articles and journals. These things are used for supporting information in this study. Documentary survey could be well guidelines to progress the research completed from the previous study. the researcher collected data and information about affixation and word classes derived from affixation in Burmese language.

Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher intended to use of documentary and qualitative analysis. It made us easier to see the types of the affixation in Burmese language and the word classes of Burmese language derived from affixation. There were some steps that the researcher followed when the research was tried to analyze. Firstly, the researcher analyzed the secondary sources of data found from the different academic books, journals, articles and previous research works on linguistics. The researcher analyzed the primary sources of data from in-depth interviews of ten key informants following the research objectives designed by using content analysis technique, context, and present in description with citing other research works. The researcher analyzed the data based on the types, prefixes, infixes, suffixes and functions, prefixation, infixation, suffixations and word classes derived from affixation in morphology. Then, the researcher interpreted and explained the findings with examples in the form of tables, diagrams and descriptive data.

Results of the Research

The study entitled "A linguistic study of affixation in the Burmese language" aimed to analyze the processes and characteristics of affixation in the Burmese language. and identify and classify the word classes derived from affixation in the Burmese language. The researcher presented the results of data collected from primary, secondary sources and key informants with the exact examples of each category in the following points:

1. Prefixation in Burmese Language

In Burmese language, there are many particles which can be called affixes of the word and can cause the changes of sense or type of that word. Initially, one of the three types of affixations is called as prefixes. Prefixes can be defined as one or more letters attached at the

beginning of the root word in order to change its meaning or its grammatical function. It can be said that prefixes are involved at the initial part of the root word.

The prefix အ /a/ is often used to form nouns, adverbs and adjectives, as well as to indicate a general sense of something. Here are some of the primary uses of the prefix အ /a/.

အ /a/ (prefix)	လုပ် /loʊ/ (work, verb)	အလုပ် (job, noun)
အ /a/ (prefix)	မြန် /mjan/ (fast, verb)	အမြန် (fast, adverb)
အ /a/ (prefix)	နီ /ni/ (being red, verb)	အနီ (red, adjective)
အ /a/ (prefix)	ချို /ʧo/ (sweet, adjective)	အချို (sweet, noun)

The comparative degree is expressed in Burmese language by သာ၍ /θarwe/ (more) or ပို၍ /porwe/ (more) while in English the comparative degree is marked by adding the prefix "more" before an adjective or by the suffix "er" after an adjective.

| သာ၍ /θarwe/ | ကောင်း /kaʊ/ (good) | သာ၍ကောင်းသော (better) |
| ပို၍ /porwe/ | မြန် /mjan/ (fast) | ပို၍မြန်သော (faster) |

The superlative degree is formed by prefixing အ /a/ and suffixing ဆုံး /soʊ/ (most) to the adjective.

| အ /a/ (prefix) | ကောင်း /kaʊ/ (good, positive) | ဆုံး /soʊ/ (suffix) | အကောင်းဆုံး (best, superlative) |

The prefix မ /ma/ is widely used with several grammatical functions. မ /ma/ is frequently used to negate verbs and adjectives, functioning similarly to the English "not" or "do not."

| မ /ma/ | စား /sa/ (eat, verb) | မစား (not eat) |
| မ /ma/ | လှ /hla/ (beautiful, adjective) | မလှ (not beautiful) |

2. Infixation in Burmese Language

In Burmese language, infixes are a type of affix inserted within a word stem, altering the meaning or grammatical role of the word. While Burmese primarily relies on prefixes and suffixes, infixation can also occur, though it's not as common as in some other languages. Infixes can be defined as an affixation attached inside a root word which usually the root word consists of two or more words. There are not too many infixes in Burmese language. They are sometimes used in root words by combining with prefixes and suffixes.

တ /ta/ (prefix)	ကွဲပြား /kwɛbja/ (differ, verb)	တ /ta/ (infix)	တကွဲတပြား (differently, adverb)
အ /a/ (prefix)	မြတ်နိုး /mjàtnòʊ/ (adore, verb)	တ /ta/ (infix)	အမြတ်တနိုး (lovingly, adverb)
မ /ma/ (prefix)	ရဲ /rɛ/ (brave, adjective)	တ /ta/ (infix)	မရဲတရဲ (tentatively, adverb)

3. Suffixation in Burmese Language

Suffixes can be defined as one or more letters attached at the end of the root word in

order to change its meaning or its grammatical function. Most of the suffix words are particle that derive a new word form by attaching to the root word but their stem form remains unchanged when suffix removal.

The suffix မှု /m̥ṵ/ is used to create abstract nouns from verbs or adjectives, often indicating a state, situation, event, or action. It can also express the idea of responsibility or incident. The suffix is similar to "-ness" "-tion" or "-ment" in English.

ကောင်း /kàʊ/ (good,)	မှု /m̥ṵ/	ကောင်းမှု (good deed)
တီထွင် /ɲèɪtɕã/ (invent)	မှု /m̥ṵ/	တီထွင်မှု (invention)

The suffix စွာ /swà/ is typically added to turn adjectives into adverbs, or expressing the manner in which something is done. It is similar to the English suffix "ly".

လေးစား /lézà/ (respectful)	စွာ /swà/	လေးစားစွာ (respectfully)
ကောင်း /kàʊ/ (good,)	စွာ /swà/	ကောင်းစွာ (well)

The suffix ခြင်း /tʃĩɲ/ plays an important role in transforming verbs or adjectives into abstract nouns, much like the suffix "-ing" or "-tion" in English. It is used to indicate an action, process, state, or condition of something.

ကံကောင်း /kã̀kàʊ̃/ (lucky)	ခြင်း /tʃĩiɲ/	ကံကောင်းခြင်း (luck)
တီထွင် /tìthwiɲ/ (invent)	ခြင်း /tʃĩiɲ/	တီထွင်ခြင်း (invention)

The suffix စရာ /səjà/ is used to create nouns that denote something to do, something to use, or something needed. It functions similarly to "something to ...." or "able" in English, indicating that something can or should be done or used in a particular way.

ကစား /kəzá/ (play)	စရာ /səjà/	ကစားစရာ (toy)
သောက် /θaʊ/ (drink)	စရာ /səjà/	သောက်စရာ (drink)

The suffix ဖို့ /foʊ/ and ရန် /jæn/ are used to indicate the infinitive form of verbs, which often expresses the purpose or intention of an action. It is similar to the English "to" as in "to do" or "to go." The verb roots are combined with ဖို့ /foʊ/ and ရန် /jæn/ to show the action that is intended or desired.

သွား /θwɑ:/ (go)	ရန် /jæn/	သွားရန် (to go)
စား /sɑ:/ (eat)	ဖို့ /foʊ/	စားဖို့ (to eat)

The suffix များ /mjã/ တို့ /toʊ/ တွေ /tweɪ/ are used as a plural marker. They are attached to nouns to indicate that the noun is plural, similar to adding an "s" or "es" at the end of words in English.

ကျောင်းသား /kyáʊŋθá/ (student)	များ /mjã/	ကျောင်းသားများ (students)
ဆရာ /səjɑ/ (teacher)	တို့ /toʊ/	ဆရာတို့ (teachers)
ကလေး /kəleɪ/ (child)	တွေ /tweɪ/	ကလေးတွေ (children)

In the Burmese language, there are many derivational morphemes that change the words from a word class to another by adding suffixes to the root word. The Burmese language has many suffixes more than prefixes and infixes and they are common in spoken and written.

4. Word Classes Derived from Affixation in Burmese Language

In Burmese language, segmenting sentences into words is a challenging task because there is no space separation between words. Spaces may sometimes be inserted between words and even between a stem word and the associated post-position. To find the stem word in the Burmese text, it is needed to cut the sentence into word segments. Word classes, often referred to as parts of speech, are a fundamental component in studying any language. According to Burmese grammar books, Burmese language includes nine-word classes or nine Part-of-Speech. These are noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, conjunction, postpositional marker, particles and interjection. The researcher found six word-classes derived from affixation in Burmese language, noun, adjective, verb, adverb, postpositional marker and particle.

1) Nouns in Burmese Language

Nouns in Burmese can be classified based on their function and meaning. Common nouns (အများဆိုင်နာမ်) /əmjà sàɪn nàn/ refer to general people, places, things, or ideas. They are not specific to any particular individual, location, or object and are often used in everyday speech to refer to general categories. Example, အိမ် /eɪn/ (house), သစ်ပင် /θɪtpìn/ (tree), ခွေး /khwé/ (dog).

Proper nouns (တစ်ဦးဆိုင်နာမ်) /taúsàinàn/ are used to identify specific names of people, places, organizations, or titles. They refer to unique entities and usually stand-alone without additional modifiers. Example, ရန်ကုန် /jàngòʊn/ (Yangon), ဗုဒ္ဓ /boʊdà/ (Buddha), အောင်ဆန်း /àʊnsn/ (Aung San).

Abstract nouns (စိတ္တဇနာမ်) /seitəzanàn/: abstract nouns refer to ideas, qualities, emotions, or states that are intangible and they cannot be touched or seen directly. Example, အချစ် /ətʃit/ (love), အမုန်း /əməʊn/ (hate), သတ္တိ /θətɪ/ (courage).

Collective Nouns (အစုပြနာမ်) /əsùpjanàn/: a collective noun is a noun that describes a group of people or things as a unit. Example, မိသားစု /mḭθázṵ/ (family), စစ်တပ် /sɪtət/ (army), အဖွဲ့ /əphwɛ̰/ (team).

2) Verbs in Burmese Language

Verbs are one of the core word classes in the Burmese language, playing a crucial role in constructing sentences and conveying actions, states, and events. However, the Burmese language has unique features in its verb system that make it distinct, especially in how verbs interact with grammatical particles and postpositional markers to denote tense, aspect, and politeness.

Example, စားသည် /sáðì/ (eat, present or past): စား /sá/ (eat) + သည် /ðì/ (postpositional marker). စားနေသည် /sánèðì/ (eating, continuous): စား /sá/ (eat) + နေ /nè/ (particle) + သည် /ðì/ (postpositional marker).

3) Adjectives in Burmese Language

Adjectives are a vital component of the Burmese language, serving to describe, modify, and provide more information about nouns. Just as in other languages, adjectives in Burmese help convey attributes such as size, color, shape, and quality, enriching sentences with additional detail. However, the way adjectives are structured and used in the Burmese language differs from other languages due to its unique syntactic patterns and the use of post-positional particles. Most common adjectives are formed by adding a suffix to a noun or verb.

ပြော /pjɔ́/ (talk, verb)	သော /ðɔ́/ (suffix)	ပြောသော (talked)
ဝယ် /wὲ/ (buy, verb)	သော /ðɔ́/ (suffix)	ဝယ်သော (bought)
နီ /nì/ (red, noun)	သော /ðɔ́/ (suffix)	နီသော (red)

An adjective is located in front of the noun that qualifies as တော်သော ကျောင်းသား /tɔ̀ðɔ́ kyáʊθá/ (clever student) through the connective သော /ðɔ́/. But in Burmese language, the adjectives can also be used after the noun such as နှုတ်ခမ်းနီ /n̥oʊkhánnì/ (lips red), ကားဖြူ /káphju/ (car white).

4) Adverbs in Burmese Language

Adverbs are an essential component of the Burmese language, serving the crucial function of modifying verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs to provide more detail about how, when, where, or to what extent an action is performed. Burmese adverbs are always before verb and there can be more than one adverb for one verb. There are two forms of adverbs in Burmese Language: first, those that are original like ကြိုတင် /dʒoʊtìn/ (already), အမြဲတစေ /əmjɛ́təzeɪ/ (always) and second, those that are derived. The formation of derived adverbs is varied by suffixing စွာ /swɑ/. That is a very common adverbial termination as ကောင်းမြတ် /káʊmjʊ/ (excellent) and it can be prefixed to form ကောင်းမြတ်စွာ /káʊmjʊswɑ/ (excellently).

5) Postpositional Markers in Burmese Language

Postpositional marker is used to describe the relation of two words. It is a functional word that combined with phrases of a noun or pronoun or noun to form a prepositional phrase which may have an adverbial or adjectival relationship to another word. In the Burmese language, prepositions usually appear after the noun or pronoun they modify. Post-positional markers are words suffixed to a noun, pronoun to designate it as the subject, object and to a verb to indicate time, mood, etc. There are two types of post-positional marker: noun marker and verb marker.

Noun markers

Noun	Marker	Prepositional Phrase
မန္တလေး /màntəlé/ (Mandalay)	မှ /m̥a̰/ (from)	မန္တလေးမှ (from Mandalay)
ကျောင်း /kyáʊ/ (school)	သို့ /ðɰ̰/ (to)	ကျောင်းသို့ (to school)
မင်း /mín/ (you)	နှင့် /n̥ɪ̰n/ (with)	မင်းနှင့် (with you)

Verb markers

Verb	Marker	Verb Tense
စား /sɑ/ (eat)	သည် /θɪ/ (present, past)	စားသည် (eat)
သွား /θwɑ/ (go)	မည် /mjì/ (will)	သွားမည် (will go)
ကြည့် /kyì/ (see)	ပါရစေ /pɑjɑzeɪ/ (may)	ကြည့်ပါရစေ (may I see)

6) Particles in Burmese Language

The language of Burmese makes prominent use of particles that are untranslatable words that are suffixed or prefixed to words to indicate degree of importance, grammatical tense, or mood. The words that emphasize the meaning of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs and change the word classes are called particles. There are three kinds of particles in a brief, noun particle, verb particle and particle changing the words. According to Burmese dictionary, there are over four hundred particles in Burmese language. The particles are very common in literary and colloquial in daily life.

Noun/Verb	Particle	Meaning
စား /sá/ (eat)	ချင် /tʃìn/ (want)	စားချင် (want to eat)
ကျောင်းသား /kyáʊ θá/ (student)	များ /mjá/ (s)	ကျောင်းသားများ (students)
စား /sá/ (eat, verb)	ခြင်း /tʃìn/	စားခြင်း (eating, noun)

Conclusion

This study entitled "A linguistic study of affixation in the Burmese language" aimed to analyze the processes and characteristics of affixation and identify and classify the word classes derived from affixation in the Burmese language. The qualitative method was used for this research. It is mainly composed of documentary research by analyzing the data collected from primary source of in-depth interview of ten key informants who are Burmese native speakers and expert in Burmese language and secondary source of academic books, theses, journals and articles.

In Burmese language, affixes play an important role in forming words and modifying their meanings. While Burmese does not use affixes in the same way as some Indo-European languages, it does employ prefixes, suffixes, infixes and other markers to indicate grammatical relationships, politeness, or nuances of meaning. Prefixes in Burmese language perform a variety of grammatical and semantic functions, depending on the base word they attach to. The main functions include negation, causation, intensification, nominalization, and modification of meaning or category. For instance, the prefix အ /a/ is often used to form nouns, adverbs and adjectives, as well as to indicate a general sense of something. Prefixation often serves to form nouns, verbs, or adjectives and to express negation or intensity. Infixation is rare and less productive compared to prefixation and suffixation. Burmese is largely analytic in structure, which means that words typically consist of single morphemes and grammatical relationships are expressed through syntax and particles

rather than through internal morphological changes. Suffixation in the Burmese language plays a vital role in its morphological and grammatical system. Suffixes remain the most productive type of affixation in the language. They are widely used to indicate tense, aspect, mood, politeness, nominalization, plurality, and derivation, making them an essential feature of Burmese word formation and sentence structure. Most of the suffix words are particle that derive a new word form by attaching to the root word but their stem form remains unchanged when suffix removal. In Burmese language, there are many derivational morphemes that change the words from a word class to another by adding suffixes to the root word.

Discussion

This research was a linguistic study of affixation in the Burmese language and the objectives of this research were to analyze the processes and characteristics of affixation and identify and classify the word classes derived from affixation in the Burmese language. Therefore, the affixation and word classes derived from affixation were works to study in details all of them. The research method employed for this study was qualitative, using various sources. As the researcher mentioned related research works in the chapter two, the findings of this research were consistent with previous studies and the literature discussed. The researcher focused on examining affixation in Burmese language and word classes derived from affixation in Burmese language. These findings were relevant to the study of intonation. Based on objectives of the study, the researcher could discuss the results to draw the support of research works of scholars who had studied the relevant or similar to this study.

This research was relevant to Yadanar Oo's study entitled "Joint word segmentation and stemming for Myanmar language". The method of her research is qualitative research method. The objective of her research is to select the root words and named entity from Myanmar sentences using morphological stemming. She stated that since Myanmar written language does not use blank spaces to indicate word boundaries, segmenting Myanmar texts becomes an essential task for Myanmar language processing. Besides word segmentation, it is necessary to identify the stem words in the sentence. Stemming refers to the process of marking each word in the word segmentation result with a correct word type, for example, root word, single word, prefix, suffix, etc. The segmentation and stemming process are denoted as morphological analysis. The researcher, Yadanar Oo, stated in her research that there are eight-word classes in Myanmar language, noun, verb, adjective, adverb, postpositional markers, particles, conjunction and interjection. In this research, the researcher mentioned nine-word classes according to Myanmar grammar book pressed Myanmar Language Commission such as noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, postpositional markers, particles, conjunction and interjection.

New Knowledge of Research

Studying affixation in the Burmese language involves analyzing how prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and sometimes reduplication or compounding contribute to word formation and

grammatical functions. Studying affixation in the Burmese language provides valuable insights into how words are modified and expanded in meaning through the attachment of affixes, primarily suffixes to root words. Affixation in Burmese is not as complex or productive as in some inflected languages, but it plays a crucial role in determining grammatical function, social meaning, politeness, and emphasis. Unlike languages with a rich system of prefixes and suffixes, Burmese uses suffixation almost exclusively, and the meanings conveyed by these suffixes are deeply tied to both the syntax and the social context of the language. It relies heavily on suffixation rather than prefixation or infixation, and affixation in general plays a pivotal role in grammatical constructions, politeness marking, and the derivation of new lexical items.

One of the most important roles of affixes in Burmese is in marking tense and aspect within verbal expressions. Burmese does not use auxiliary verbs to indicate time as in English; instead, it employs verbal suffixes to show whether an action has occurred, is occurring, or will occur. For example, the suffix တယ် /dὲ/ marks a present or habitual action, as in စားတယ် /sá dὲ/ meaning "eat" or "eats." To indicate future tense, Burmese uses the suffix မည် /mjì/, as in သွားမည် /θwá mjì/, meaning "will go." For past actions, ခဲ့ /gὲ/ is used, such as in လာခဲ့တယ် /là gὲ dὲ/, meaning "came." These suffixes help the speaker convey the timing and nature of an event clearly and efficiently, underscoring how affixation is indispensable to Burmese verbal grammar. Affixes in Burmese also play an essential role in expressing politeness and social relationships, which are deeply embedded in Burmese culture. Politeness markers are typically found at the end of sentences in the form of suffixes such as ပါ /pà/ or ပါတယ် /pà dὲ/, which convey respect, especially when speaking to elders, superiors, or strangers.

Suggestions

1. Suggestion for Burmese Language Learners

Try to learn the word order in Burmese that is different from English. Burmese follows the subject-object-verb (SOV) order. For example, "I water drink" Instead of "I drink water". Pay attention to particles and postpositional markers, as they are essential in sentence formation and meaning. Try to learn that Burmese has borrowed words from languages like Pali and English, especially in areas such as religion, administration, and technology. Learn about Burmese customs, traditions, and etiquette. Burmese has various levels of politeness, often influenced by gender, age, and social status.

2. Suggestion for Further Studies

In the Burmese language, there are nine word-classes which are a little bit different from English language. It is very interesting to analyze each word classes or make comparative studies with other languages like a comparative study of verbs between Burmese and English languages. The compound words are very common in Burmese and it has many ways to form compound words. So, the researcher suggests that it would be interesting to study compound words in Burmese language. In Burmese language, particles and postpositional markers are in very

important role in literary and colloquial in daily life. The researcher would like to give suggestions to study and analyze about particles and postpositional markers in Burmese language.

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