

An Analysis of Word Formation using Suffixes in Japanese Language

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Abstract

This paper presents the structure of words in the Japanese Language, the word formation by adding suffixes from the affixation system after a morpheme. Describing word formation in the Japanese Language, the word formation in terms of adding suffixes in the Japanese Language is presented with examples. By means of this relating to word formation using suffixes in Japanese Language, it could be revealed that the types of word formation using suffixes, and whether grammar types and meanings of the original morphemes are changed by adding suffixes.

Keywords: suffixes, word formation, grammar types, changing of meaning

Introduction

This paper studies the word formation by adding suffixes in Japanese Language and in terms of three different ways: word formation by adding suffixes, word formation by adding suffixes in Chinese Words.

Literature Review

Different definitions on suffixes by Japanese researchers can be found. Suffix means “It is a part of word-formation”, “A part which changes the meaning of morpheme”, and “a part in a group of words”. In fact, the specifications of Japanese language’s suffixes are most of the suffixes in Japanese Language are dependent, but other independent words are also used as suffixes, there is a grammatical change in morpheme by adding suffixes, and there are many words which can be used as suffixes.

Most of the Japanese language’s nature and grammatical structures are similar with that of Myanmar. In terms of adding suffixes, different nature can be seen unlike with Myanmar. So, it is necessary for Japanese language teachers to comprehend the specifications of Japanese language that are different from their mother tongue. Thus, teaching different nature of Japanese language that is different from mother tongue of the learners can reinforce their understanding towards the language they learn.

Hence, this paper is going to present about adding suffixes from the grammatical structure point.

Aim

It is aimed to reveal word formation by adding suffixes in Japanese Language, to reinforce the teaching by convincing the nature of Japanese language well.

Research Question

What characteristics relating to changing word class and meanings of the original morphemes can be seen in the word formation by adding suffixes in word formation of Japanese Language?

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Materials and Method

This paper employed analytical descriptive method in finding out how new words are formed by adding suffixes in Japanese Language from the structural, grammatical and semantic point of view.

Analysis of Word Formation in Japanese Language

Word formation means forming a new word by adding affixes to a morpheme or by doubling the morpheme. In this process, form of the original morpheme and/or the meaning of the word changes, or word classes are sometimes changed and sometimes neither of them occurs. In forming a word by changing word classes, a word can be changed from a verb to a noun, from a noun to an attribute of noun, from an attribute of noun to an attribute of verb, or from a noun to a verb. The types of word formation are as follow;

3. Class changing word formation
4. Non-class changing word formation

Class changing word formation means the formation of a new word by means of affixation system or another one. In forming like this, the grammatical category of a new word changes from the original morpheme to a new one.

Non-class changing word formation means the formation of new word by means of affixation system or another one. In forming like this, the grammatical category of a new word does not change from the original morpheme. It was found that word formation can be done by two systems and it can only be revealed in Japanese Language. They are-

3. affixation
4. doubling

These two main systems can be seen in word formation of Japanese Language.

Word formation by affixation in Japanese Language

Affixation means new word formation by adding prefix, suffix, and infix to a morpheme. In Japanese Language, there are three systems of word formation by adding an affix. They are-

4. Word formation by adding a prefix
5. Word formation by adding an infix
6. Word formation by adding a suffix

This paper presents only the system of word formation by adding a suffix in Japanese Language. Word formation by adding suffix in Japanese Language can be generally divided into two parts. They are-

4. Word formation by adding suffixes in Japanese Language
5. Word formation by adding suffixes in Chinese Words

Word formation by adding suffixes in Japanese Language

By adding Japanese suffixes after noun, verb and adjective morphemes, the new words which change meaning and word class of the original morpheme can be formed. In changing word class of original morphemes, it can be categorized as following. They are-

5. suffixes that make new nouns
6. suffixes that make new verbs
7. suffixes that make new adjectives
8. suffixes that make new adverbs

Suffixes that make new nouns

By adding suffixes after noun, verb, and adjective morphemes, the change of meaning occurs and new nouns can be formed.

For examples;

Verb	+	Suffix		Noun
書きます		かけ		書きかけ
Kakimasu		kake		kakikake
ရေးသည်		တန်းလန်း		ရေးလက်စ
書きます		方		書き方
ရေးသည်		ပုံစံ		ရေးနည်း
Adj	+	Suffix	—————→	Noun
長い		さ		長さ
nagai		sa		nagasa
ရှည်သော		-		အရှည်
甘い		み		甘み
amai		mi		amami
ချိုသော		-		အချို
noun	+	Suffix	—————→	Noun
おとな		げ		おとなげ
otona		ge		otonage
လူကြီး		-		လူကြီးပုံပေါက်ခြင်း
いや		け		いやけ
iya		ke		iyake
မနှစ်သက်ခြင်း		-		မနှစ်သက်သောစိတ်

It was found that new plural nouns can be formed without changing the original meaning. For example;

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noun	+	Suffix	—————→	Noun
家族		ぐるみ		家族ぐるみ
Kazoku		gurumi		kazokugurumi
မိသားစု		-		တမိသားစုလုံး
町		ぐるみ		町ぐるみ

machi	gurumi	machigurumi
မြို့	-	တမြို့လုံး
あなた	たち	あなたたち
Anata	tachi	anatatachi
မင်း	-	မင်းတို့
大人	たち	大人たち
otona	tachi	otonatachi
လူကြီး	-	လူကြီးများ

Looking at the aforementioned examples, adding suffixes change original morphemes. Moreover, except noun morphemes, verbs and adjectives change not only original meanings but also word classes.

Suffixes that make new verbs

By adding suffixes in front of a noun, a verb, and an adjective morphemes, the new words of new meaning and word class can be formed. The examples are as follow;

noun	+	Suffix	→	verb
いなか		じみる		いなかじみる
Inaka		jimiru		inakajimiru
တော		-		တောပုံပေါက်သည်
あせ		ばむ		あせばむ
Ase		bamu		asebamu
ချွေး		-		ချွေးထွက်သည်
Adj	+	Suffix	→	verb
うれしい		がる		うれしがる
Ureshii		garu		ureshigaru
ဝမ်းသာသော		-		ဝမ်းသာနေသည်
ふるい		びる		ふるびる
Furui		biru		furubiru
ဟောင်းသော		-		ဟောင်းနွမ်းလာသည်
verb	+	Suffix	→	verb
たべます		つける		たべつける
Tabemasu		tuskeru		tabetsukeru
စားသည်		-		စားနေကျဖြစ်သည်
かきます		さす		かきさす
Kakimasu		sasu		kakiasu

noun	+	Suffix	—————→	adverb
道		すがら		道すがら
Michi		sugara		michisugara
လမ်း		-		လမ်းလျှောက်ရင်း
見舞い		かたがた		見舞いかたがた
Mimai		katagata		mimaikatagarta
လူနာမေးခြင်း		-		လူနာမေးရင်း

The previous examples indicate new words which change meaning and grammar types can be formed by adding suffix to noun morphemes.

Word formation by adding suffixes in Chinese Words

Not only suffixes in Japanese Language also those in Chinese Words are used extensively in forming new words in Japanese language by adding suffix.

The examples are as follow;

noun	+	Suffix	—————→	noun
会社		員		会社員
Kaisha		in		kaishain
ကုမ္ပဏီ		-		ကုမ္ပဏီဝန်ထမ်း
一日		中		一日中
Ichinichi		juu		ichinichijuu
တနေ့		-		တနေ့လုံး

verb	+	Suffix	—————→	noun
疲れます		気味		疲れ気味
Tukaremasu		gimi		tuskaregimi
ပင်ပန်းသည်		-		ပင်ပန်းသလိုခံစားမိခြင်း
分かります		次第		分かり次第
Wakarimasu		shidai		wakarishidai
နားလည်သည်		-		သိသိချင်း

adj	+	Suffix	—————→	noun
幸福な		感		幸福感
Koofuku		kan		koofukukan
ပျော်ရွှင်ချမ်းမြေ့သော		-		ပျော်ရွှင်ချမ်းမြေ့သောစိတ်ခံစားမှု
残念な		至極		残念至極
Zannenna		shogoku		zannenshigoku
စိတ်မကောင်းသော		-		အရမ်းစိတ်မကောင်းဖြစ်ခြင်း

The aforementioned instances show adding suffixes in Chinese Language to noun, verb, and adjective morphemes results in forming new nouns. The new words are those meaning another one and emphasized original meaning.

Findings

According to aforementioned examples, forming words by adding suffixes in Japanese Language is the wide use of Chinese and Japanese Language suffixes, forming new nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs by adding Japanese Language suffixes, and forming new nouns by adding Japanese Language suffixes. It was investigated that new words by adding suffixes are emphasized the original meaning, forming a new meaning, changing word classes of original morphemes and most of the added-morphemes are nouns.

Discussion

In forming new words by adding suffixes, it can be reflected from grammatical and semantic point of view. New words can be formed by adding suffixes to noun, verb, adjective, and adverb morphemes. They are new words that emphasized the meaning and also those changed in terms of meaning totally. It can be seen that in forming new words by adding suffixes in Japanese Language, there are both Class and Non-class changing word-formations since the word classes of new words are changed in many ways.

Conclusion

In studying word formation by adding suffixes in Japanese language, it was revealed that these are different types of prefix and the specification of adding prefix system are also discussed. Depending on these findings, it would be advisable for the teachers to invent more comprehensive teaching systems and they do more comparative study on Japanese and Myanmar word formation.

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