

STUDENTS' ERRORS IN CHANGING NOUNS INTO ADJECTIVES

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Abstract: The main objective of this research was to investigate the errors or mistakes students made in changing nouns into adjectives. The population of this research was the seventh grade students of one private junior high school in Palembang in the academic year of 2016-2017. The sample of this study was 36 students who were selected randomly by using cluster sampling. To collect the data, a written test was given to the sample. The results of the test were analyzed descriptively. The findings showed that the students made errors in changing nouns into adjectives with the suffixes “-less”(58.3%), “-ful” (66.6%), “-able” (61.1%) and “-y” (55.5%) and they made mistake with the suffixes “-ly” (52.7%) of the incorrect answers. It is expected that the results of this research can be used as consideration for the English teachers in their teaching, especially the one focusing on changing nouns into adjectives.

Keywords: *error, mistake, adjectives, suffixes*

Four aspects of English that should be associated with each other are grammar, pronunciation, spelling and vocabulary. Vocabulary has an important role in the learning of the four language skills which consist of speaking, listening, reading and writing. According to Fauziati (2005, p. 155), vocabulary is the essence of language so without a sufficient number of words, English language learners may not communicate effectively or may have difficulty to express their ideas in both oral and written forms.

A noun is one of the most important parts of speech (Marcella, 1998, p. 38). Its arrangement with the verb helps to form the sentence core, which is essential to every complete sentence. Noun is a word used as the name of a person, place, or thing.

Sometimes students have problems to get the meaning of a word although the word contains the word formation such as prefixes and suffixes. According to Yule (1999, p. 7), suffixes are the other affix forms are added to the end of word. Suffixes are the other affix forms are added to the end of word

(Brockman, 1999, p. 7). They are used in many forms of writing such as newspaper, articles, and stories. Richards et al. (2000, p. 381) defines suffix as a letter or sound or group of letters or sounds which are added to the end of a word, and which change the meaning or function and there are some suffixes that can change nouns into adjectives, for example, *fatherly*, *monthly*, *womanly* (noun + -ly).

This article reports the result of the investigation on adjective-forming suffixes that are formed from noun. The suffixes are intended to be discussed are: -ly (having the qualities of, in the manner of), -less (without), -ful (full of, having the quality of), -able (showing qualities of) and -y (quality, somewhat like). The investigation on adjective-forming suffixes that are formed from noun can be analyzed to help students increase their mastery of English vocabulary.

METHODOLOGY

This study applied a descriptive method. This method aims to collect some actual information which describes the facts in detail. According to Isaac and Michael (1980), "Descriptive method describe systematically the facts and characteristics of a given population or area of interest, factually and accurately." The descriptive method is a kind of a research method which analyzed a problem by using interpretation or the factors existing. This method was used in this research because in this research the writer only described and explained the data.

There were some steps taken in doing this research as follow: 1) Reading relevant books, 2) Identifying the research problems, 3) Reviewing

the literature on the topic as completely as possible, 4) Stating the problems in question forms, 5) Investigating the question forms, 6) Analyzing the data, 7) Drawing the conclusions and 8) Writing the research report.

This study got involved the seventh grade students at SMP Sriguna Palembang. The total population was 216 students. Because the number of the seventh grade students of SMP Sriguna Palembang was more than one hundred, so the writer chose cluster random sampling in this research. In cluster sampling the subjects were chosen in group or knowledge for the students especially vocabulary in changing nouns into adjectives. The test had a function to identify and analyze the errors made by the students in handling a target language. The steps of cluster random sampling applied were as follows. First, the names of the classes were written on a paper, Next, they were put in a box and one of the paper contained the name of the class was selected randomly. The number of the students was 36.

To collect the data a written test was given to the sample. It consisted of 20 items which were in the form of sentence completion test. The students who were asked to change the words in form of noun into adjectives by adding suffixes "-ly" (4 items), "-less" (4 items), "-full" (4 items), "-able" (4 items) and "-y" (4 items). The detail of the written test is presented in Table 1.

Table 1
The written test

Suffix	Items number
-ly Noun+ -ly	1, 5, 9, 12
-less Noun+ -less	3, 7, 13, 19
-able Noun+ -ful	6, 8, 10, 16
-ful Noun+ -able	2, 4, 15, 17
-y Noun+ -y	11, 14, 18, 20

It was considered as the most reliable way to get some information about ability and knowledge for the students especially vocabulary in changing nouns into adjectives. The test had a function to identify and analyze the errors made by the students in handling a target language.

To analyze the data, the writer applied the following steps: 1) Identifying the students' incorrect

answers in changing nouns into adjectives, 2) the number and the percentages of the students' incorrect answer, 3) Determining whether the students' incorrect answers as errors or mistakes based on the number and the percentages and 4) Discussing the students' errors.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The following is the details of the students' test result.

Table 2
Students' responses in changing noun into adjectives

Suffix -ly		Correct answer
		N (%)
1	The moon, the star and the sun are (heaven).....bodies.	20 (55.5)
5	The patient is a little more (live).....this morning	20 (55.5)
9	That man is absolutely (fear).....he climed to the top of radio tower in a high wind and made the necessary repair.	12 (34.5)
12	Delita is a (friend).....person.	18 (50.9)
Suffix -less		
3	James never seems to get tired. His energy is (end).....	19 (54.1)
7	It is (point).....to attempt to carry water in a basket.	17 (48.7)
13	By nodding, he is (speech).....in saying yes.	15 (41.6)
19	Jhon is a (job).....person.	13 (36.1)
Suffix -ful		
2	These insects are very (harm).....Please don't touch them.	15 (41.6)
4	Fery is a (wonder).....singer.	16 (44.4)
15	Mr. Suharto was a (power).....Man in 1980s.	13 (36.1)
17	Lina brought a (color).....umbrella.	16 (44.4)
Suffix -able		
6	Her clothes are always (fashion).....	14 (38.8)
8	Her answer are very (reason).....	16 (44.4)
10	It more (value).....than I through.	10 (27.7)
16	Don't throw that tire away. It is still (service).....	9 (25)
Suffix -y		
11	I'm cold. There's a (chill).....in the air this	10 (27.7)

	morning, isn't there.	
14	The trouble with my wife is that she doesn't know who is the (boss).....	8 (22.2)
18	Her (mood)....change very quickly;one moment she's cheerful and the next complaining about her life.	16 (44.4)
20	My bag is (dirt).....	17 (48.7)

The calculation was also conducted to see number of students who made the mistakes and errors in changing nouns to adjectives (see Table 3).

Table 3
The written test

Suffix	Items number	% of making error/mistake
-ly	1	44.5
	5	44.5
	9	65.5
	12	49.1
-less	3	45.9
	7	51.3
	13	58.4
	19	63.9
-able	6	61.2
	8	55.6
	10	72.3
	16	65.5
-ful	2	58.4
	4	55.6
	15	63.9
	17	55.6
-y	11	72.3
	14	77.8
	18	55.6
	20	51.3

Based on the result of the written test, it was found out that the students made lexical error in changing nouns into adjectives with the suffixes “-ly”, “-less”, “-ful”, “-able”, and “-y”. Errors are the students’ incorrect answers which reached more than 50% of all the students’ answers in changing nouns into adjectives, while the mistakes are the students’ incorrect answers which reached less than 50% of all the students’ answer

in changing nouns into adjectives. The students made many errors are probably because they lack of knowledge. In other words the students did not exactly understand the rules in changing nouns into adjectives.

Table 3 provides the summary of number of students who made the errors in changing nouns into adjectives.

Table 3
Number of students’ errors in changing nouns to adjectives

No	Suffixes	Number of students	% of making errors
1.	“-ly”	19	52.7
2.	“-less”	21	58.3
3.	“-ful”	24	66.6
4.	“-able”	22	61.1
5	“-y”	20	55.5

Based on the result of the test, the errors the students made were 58.8%. The result showed that changing nouns into adjectives was challenging for the students and with 41.2 % of correct answer, it could be concluded that their ability to change nouns into adjectives can be categorized into “low” level .

CONCLUSION

As shown by the findings of this study, the students made lexical error in changing nouns into adjectives with the suffixes “-ly”, “-less”, “-ful”, “-able”, and “-y”. This means

changing nouns into adjectives were challenging for the seventh grade students of this school. Giving the students more practice can become an alternative for the English teachers to help the students improve their ability.

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