

**MORPHOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF FORMAL RELATIONS
BETWEEN WORDS: AFFIXATION AND WORD FORMATION MODELS**

Abstract

Morphology provides the basis for understanding the internal structure of words and their formal relationships within a language. Through processes such as affixation and various word formation models, new words are created and organized into structured lexical systems. This article explores the key morphological mechanisms that shape the relationships between words, focusing on how affixation and word formation manifest in the German language. Examples from German illustrate the systematicity and productivity of these morphological processes.

Keywords: Morphology, Affixation, Word Formation, German Language, Compounding, Derivation, Inflection, Lexical Families, Linguistic Structure.

**МОРФОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ ОСНОВЫ ФОРМАЛЬНЫХ
ОТНОШЕНИЙ МЕЖДУ СЛОВАМИ: МОДЕЛИ АФФИКСАЦИИ И
СЛОВООБРАЗОВАНИЯ**

Аннотация. Морфология обеспечивает основу для понимания внутренней структуры слов и их формальных отношений в языке. Благодаря таким процессам, как аффиксация и различные модели словообразования, новые слова создаются и организуются в структурированные лексические системы. В этой статье рассматриваются ключевые морфологические механизмы, которые формируют отношения между словами, уделяя особое внимание тому, как аффиксация и словообразование проявляются в немецком языке. Примеры из немецкого языка иллюстрируют систематичность и продуктивность этих морфологических процессов.

Ключевые слова: морфология, аффиксация, словообразование, немецкий язык, словосложение, деривация, словоизменение, лексические семьи, языковая структура.

Introduction. Morphology, as a branch of linguistics, is concerned with the study of word structure and formation. It examines how morphemes—the smallest units of meaning—combine to form words and how those words relate to each other within the language system. One of the most essential aspects of morphology is the formation of formal relations between words, such as those found in derivational families. These relationships are established through regular and predictable morphological processes, especially affixation and structured word formation patterns.

It investigates how **morphemes**—the smallest meaningful linguistic units—combine to create complex word forms and how these forms function within a given linguistic system.

One of the central objectives of morphological analysis is to elucidate the **formal relationships between words**, particularly within **derivational word families**, where words share a common root and are systematically related through affixation or other morphological operations. These relations are not random but rather follow **predictable and rule-governed patterns**, which can be generalized across a wide array of lexical items.

A key mechanism underlying such formal relationships is **affixation**, encompassing the addition of prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and circumfixes to base forms. Through affixation, new words can be derived from existing ones, frequently involving a shift in grammatical category (e.g., from noun to adjective) or a modification in semantic content. For instance, in English, the noun *nation* can yield *national*, *nationalize*, and *international*, all of which are morphologically and semantically connected to the original root.

In addition to affixation, **structured word formation models**—such as compounding, conversion, and reduplication—play a significant role in expanding

the lexicon and reinforcing semantic networks within a language. These models enable speakers to generate new lexical items that conform to the morphological norms of their language, thereby ensuring both **productivity** and **regularity** in word formation processes.

Understanding the morphological foundations of word formation is essential not only for theoretical linguistics but also for applied domains such as language acquisition, lexicography, computational linguistics, and foreign language pedagogy. The study of morphological structures reveals how languages economize and systematize meaning, linking seemingly diverse lexical items through coherent morphological paradigms. German, with its rich morphological system, provides a valuable perspective on how affixation and compounding contribute to the formal cohesion of the lexicon.

Affixation refers to the attachment of prefixes, suffixes, or infixes to a word base to form new words or grammatical forms. German is highly productive in both **derivational** and **inflectional** affixation. Affixation is a core morphological mechanism that entails the attachment of bound morphemes—commonly known as **prefixes, suffixes, infixes, or circumfixes**—to a base or root in order to form new lexical items or to express grammatical relationships. This process is foundational in both the **derivational** and **inflectional** subsystems of morphology.

In the context of derivation, affixation facilitates **lexical expansion** by generating new words, often altering the grammatical category or meaning of the base form. For example, in German, the addition of the prefix *ver-* to the verb *kaufen* (to buy) yields *verkaufen* (to sell), demonstrating both a semantic shift and a productive pattern of verb formation. In the domain of inflection, affixation serves to **encode grammatical features** such as tense, mood, number, case, gender, and person without significantly altering the core lexical meaning. German, with its rich inflectional morphology, illustrates this through examples like *Haus* → *Häuser* (house → houses) and *gehen* → *ging* (go → went), where suffixal changes indicate pluralization and tense, respectively.

German, as a morphologically rich language, exhibits **high productivity** in both derivational and inflectional affixation. Its systematic use of affixes enables the generation of complex and semantically nuanced words, contributing to the language's expressive capacity and structural coherence. The regularity and predictability of these affixational patterns not only enhance communicative efficiency but also provide a framework for linguistic analysis and language learning.

Derivational affixes create new words, often changing the word class or meaning. Examples include:

Prefixation:

- *lesen* → *vorlesen* (to read → to read aloud)
- *kaufen* → *verkaufen* (to buy → to sell)

Suffixation:

- *freundlich* → *Freundlichkeit* (friendly → friendliness)
- *fahren* → *Fahrer* (to drive → driver)

Inflectional affixes indicate grammatical features such as tense, number, person, or case. Examples include:

- *gehen* → *ging, gegangen* (go → went, gone)
- *Haus* → *Häuser* (house → houses)
- *der Mann* → *des Mannes* (nominative → genitive)

These affixes maintain the core meaning of the base word but adapt it to grammatical contexts.

Conclusion. Affixation and word formation are fundamental to the morphological system of German. These processes not only expand the lexicon but also establish formal, semantic, and syntactic relationships between words. Examining how these mechanisms function in German offers insights into the structural richness of the language and its capacity for precise and creative expression.

References:

1. Abdurakhmonova, Nilufar. (2019). Corpus Based Teaching Uzbek As A Foreign Language. IRAL - International Review of Applied Linguistics in Language Teaching. 6. 131-137.
2. Shirinboyevna, M. D. (2020). Basic Features Of Advertising Language. JournalNX, 6(10), 325-330.
3. Karshieva, B. F. (2023). The current state of teaching English to technical students, methodological approaches." *Xorijiy tillarni o'qitishda innovatsion yondashuvlar" mavzusida Xalqaro miqyosidagi ilmiy-amaliy konferensiya*, 4, 135-138.
4. Karshieva, B. F. (2023). Methodological model of teaching technical students in english on the basis of integrated bilingual education. In interdisciplinary innovation and scientific research conference (Vol. 1, No. 9, pp. 58-60).
5. Rakhimova, S. (2024). GIVING FORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN WORDS IN A PARALLEL CORPUS (EXAMPLE OF UZBEK-GERMAN LANGUAGES). Science and innovation, 3(C5), 28-31.