



ANALYZING AFFIX AND SUFFIX IN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN MAKASSAR

Kurniawan^{1*}, Muhammad Zulkhaer Sam¹

¹English Education Department, Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan, Universitas Islam negeri Alauddin Makassar

*Email: 20400122038@uin-alauddin.ac.id

Abstract

Effective communication is essential in all aspects of human interaction. From daily conversation to professional and academic discourse and many more. One of the crucial elements in enhancing communication is the structure of language, and within this framework, affixes (prefixes, suffixes) play an important role on itself. This paper explores how affixes, particularly suffixes, enhance communication by shaping meaning and improving the precision of messages in communication. By doing an in-depth analysis of literature, this paper demonstrates how affixation contributes to clarity and comprehension in both written and oral or spoken language. The study also explores expert opinions on how affixes aid in the adaptation of language to different contexts, both formal and informal, and highlights the pedagogical importance of teaching affixation for effective communication. Ultimately, it concludes that affixes are crucial tools in the process of clear and effective communication while facilitating both linguistic diversity and adaptability.

Keywords: Affixes; Suffixes; Effective Communication; Linguistic structure; Pedagogy

INTRODUCTION

In this globalized world, communication is an essential aspect of human society, especially when we are going to share some ideas, thoughts, or even an emotions to each other. The ability to communicate effectively is essential not only to personal relationships but also to success in education, business, and daily basic of life. The role of language in communication is crucial. And in range of the structure of language, affixes such as prefixes and suffixes have deep implications of how messages are formulated and to be understood. While affixes are bound morphemes that attach to a base word, then significantly altering its meaning and grammatical role. This enables speakers and writers to convey a meaningful messages with precision and important especially in complex or abstract communication. For instance, in Makassar, the suffix *-na* often indicates possession (*bukuna* which means “his/her book”), while *-mi* implies emphasis or completion (*selesami* which means “already finished”). Such affixation enhances communicative precision and allows speakers to adapt their messages depending on whether they are addressing a children, elder, or superior. This paper examines the role of affixes, particularly suffixes, in Makassarese communication, focusing on their linguistic and pedagogical implications.

Affixation is a fundamental aspect of morphological analysis and its role in effective communication is widely recognized in linguistic research. According to Akmajian et al. (2017) affixes serve as crucial building blocks of language which enabling speakers to modify the meaning of base words to fit specific communicative needs. The addition of a suffix such as “-er” can turn a verb into a noun. This mean the focus of a sentence and altering how the listener interprets the action. For instance, “teach” becomes “teacher,” by transforming the meaning from the action to the person performing the action. The ability to modify word meaning is essential to creating more detailed and specifics messages. Affixes also enhance the richness of vocabulary that contribute significantly to effective communication. This make the messages are both clear and precised context.

Affixation also effect Makassarese morphology as it can create and enables speakers to modify a root word to become variety of phrases and sentences for communication. Rahman (2015) points out that the Makassarese language employs an intricate system of affixes, such as prefixes which modifying meaning by preceding the root (*Ka-*, as causative) suffixes which alter grammatical rules, (*-na*, as possession) infixes as an insert within roots for emphasis, and circumfixes which surround the root of word (*ka-...-an*). These affixes not only changed the grammatical role of the root word but also introduce more meaningful word that are crucial for effective communication. Hasanuddin (2018) also points out that the diversity of affixes in Makassarese enables speakers to express a complex ideas more efficiently. For instance, prefixes like *ka-* are used to create causative forms, while circumfixes such as *ka-...-an* often used for verbal nouns. This shows as how the language's adaptability to various contexts.

Furthermore, Haspelmath and Sims (2010) state that affixation plays a universal role in linguistic morphology by expanding the semantic range of root words. In the context of Makassarese, this feature is critical for distinguishing subtle variations in tone, hierarchy, and intent, which are integral to the culture’s communicative norms.

Suffixes in Makassarese are particularly important for delivering clarity and precision in communication. Basri (2019) note that suffixes like *-na* (indicating possession) and *-mi* (denoting emphasis or completion) are both integral to the language’s syntax and semantics. For example, the word ‘*bukuna*’ means (“his/her book”) to communicates not only the object but also the relationship of ownership, enhancing the clarity of the message. Similarly, ‘*datangmi*’ means (“already arrived”). By using *-mi* to emphasize completion in temporal context.

Cummings and Simanjuntak (2017) argues that suffixes take a critical role in enriching communication by allowing speakers to articulate detailed meanings without adding extra words. This means that characteristic is shared by many languages with combined structures where suffixes are used to condense information into compact forms.

In Makassarese, this ability to modify words directly through suffixes helps maintain the efficiency of communication and spoken or oral communication between people. Yule (2014) supports this perspective by illustrating how suffixes enhance clarity in linguistic expressions across languages. He said that suffixes often serve as grammatical markers for tense, mood, or even a possession in order to create an ideas with correct precision. This is particularly evident in Makassarese, where suffixes not only indicate grammatical relations but also reflect cultural nuances where it is shown as respect and politeness towards specific people especially elders or superior.

The sociolinguistic role of affixation in Makassarese cannot also be underestimated. Carstairs-McCarthy (2002) highlights the importance of affixes in mediating social interactions, which particularly in hierarchical society. In Makassarese, suffixes like *-ka* with soften tone would stand as politeness. And by that, it will resonate respectful communication in both formal and informal settings. For instance, the imperative '*tolongka*' means ("please help") demonstrates the use of *-ka* to reduce the directness of the command and aligning with the cultural value of maintaining harmony in interactions. Hasanuddin (2018) also notes that such linguistic features are crucial for navigating social dynamics in Makassarese-speaking communities. Depending on the situation, the speakers might express authority, solidarity, or respect by using particular affixes. Because of its adaptability, affixation become vital tool for successful communication in circumstances including cultural sensitivity.

According to Syarifuddin (2019), understanding affixation is the key to expanding vocabulary and decoding new words. For example, students who take the function of suffixes like *-na* or *-mi* can be more easily convey meanings and grammatical roles. And then with that, students can improve their overall language proficiency. This also aligns with the findings of Derwing and Munro (2005). They both emphasize that teaching morphological features aids in developing both receptive and productive language skills. Moreover, the study of affixation contributes to the preservation of Makassarese by fostering a deeper appreciation of its linguistic and cultural heritage. According to Basri (2019) that teaching affixation is not only improves communication skills but also instills a sense of pride in local language traditions, which is crucial for their survival in an increasingly globalized world.

In comparative studies, Haspelmath and Sims (2010) place affixation in Makassarese within the broader context of linguistic morphology. They argues that affixation is a universal phenomenon, with languages like Turkish, Finnish, and Swahili exhibiting similar agglutinative or combined patterns. Matthews (2007) further notes that the efficiency of affixation in condensing information is a hallmark of agglutinative languages, which make it a valuable feature for effective communication in daily basis. In Makassarese, this universality is reflected in its affix system's ability to balance clarity and

brevity like a trait shared with other Austronesian languages. Aitchison (2012) and Pinker (1994) emphasize that these linguistic traits not only make communication easier but also provide explanations for the way speakers encode and evaluate meaning by reflecting the cognitive processes that enable language usage.

Pedagogical significance of affixation extends beyond linguistic theory to practical applications in language learning and preservation. According to Bloomfield (1933), he underscored that the importance of teaching morphological structures especially affixation is to enhance language comprehension and production. For Makassarese, this is particularly relevant given the language's rich morphological system which can be challenging for learners over unfamiliar with combined languages.

METHOD

The primary data that researcher use for this study were obtained from peer-reviewed journal articles, linguistic textbooks, and ethnographic studies on Makassarese language and morphology. Key sources include works by Rahman (2015), Hasanuddin (2018), Basri (2019), and foundational linguistic texts such as Bloomfield (1933), Yule (2014) and many more. These sources provide insights into the structural, functional, and sociolinguistic aspects of affixation in Makassarese.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study reveal that affixes, particularly suffixes, play a crucial role in effective communication in the Makassarese language. These findings are organized into key thematic insights drawn from the analysis of the literature and linguistic frameworks.

Morphological functions of suffixes in Makassarese

Makassarese suffixes serve diverse grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic functions of complexity and richness of the language. Hasanuddin (2018) and Basri (2019) have identify suffixes such as *-na*, *-mi*, and *-ka* as central to the language's morphological structure.

1. Grammatical role

Suffixes in Makassarese often determine tense, aspect, or the grammatical relationship between words. For example, the suffix *-na* is commonly used to denote possession or definiteness, as in '*buku-na*' means (his/her book). This aligns with findings by Yule (2014) who emphasizes the role of affixes in enhancing grammatical precision.

2. Semantical role

Semantically, Makassarese suffixes enable speakers to convey nuanced meanings. The suffix *-mi*, for instance, functions as an intensifier or to signify immediacy, as in ‘*makan-mi*’ means (come eat now). The ability to modify meaning through suffixation is similar to what has been observed in other agglutinative languages by Haspelmath and Sims (2010).

3. Pragmatic role

Suffixes also play a significant role in pragmatic communication, particularly in expressing politeness or emphasizing social hierarchy. For instance, *-ki* is often used to convey respect or deference, as in ‘*juku-ki*’ means (please take the fish). Carstairs-McCarthy’s (2002) also has pointed that affixes are instrumental in maintaining appropriate social dynamics during communication.

Contribution to effective communication

Suffixes enhance communication in Makassarese by increasing clarity, adaptability, and cultural relevance. The ability to modify root words with suffixes allows speakers to convey specific meanings and grammatical relationships, which mean it could reduce ambiguity in both written and oral communication. For instance, the distinction between *baca*/(read) and *baca-na*/(his/her reading) illustrates how suffixes can clarify meaning. This aligns with Bloomfield’s (1933) observation that affixation supports linguistic precision. Moreover, the flexibility of suffixes enables speakers to adapt their language to various social and situational contexts. The suffix *-ka*, for example, can add a sense of urgency or command, as in ‘*pergi-ka*’ means (go now). Spencer’s (1991) also said that affixes facilitate dynamic language use across formal and informal settings.

Additionally, suffixes in Makassarese are deeply intertwined with cultural norms and social etiquette for their people. The respectful suffix *-ki* exemplifies this, as it conveys politeness and respect for elders. This shows how affixation plays a role in maintaining cultural identity during communication.

Pedagogical implications

Teaching affixation in Makassarese offers significant opportunities to enhance language proficiency and communication skills. In Makassarese, by recognizing and understanding suffixes such as *-na*. Learners have the abilities to understand related terms and definitions. As example in “*rumah-na*” which means (his/her house). This supports the pedagogical frameworks outlined by Derwing and Munro (2005) who emphasize the importance of affixation in language acquisition. Furthermore, learning suffixes helps students develop the complexities of both formal and informal communication. For

instance, the respectful use of *-ki* in formal situations fosters a culturally sensitive and effective interactions.

Comparative insights

Suffix usage in Makassarese is similar to that of other agglutinative languages, which demonstrating a larger linguistic trends. In Turkish, for example, suffixes such as *-lar* (plural) and *-ci* (agent) perform functions similar to Makassarese suffixes like *-na* and *-ka*. Similarly, Finnish employs suffixes such as *-ssa* (in) and *-lle* (to) to denote spatial relationships, which is also a feature observed in Makassarese as well. These comparative insights underscore the universality of affixation in enriching communication while underscoring the unique linguistic and cultural contributions of Makassarese suffixes.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates the significant role of affixes, particularly suffixes, in effective communication within the Makassarese language. Suffixes are indispensable tools for achieving linguistic precision, clarity, and adaptability, enabling speakers to modify root words to convey nuanced meanings and grammatical relationships. The findings highlight that suffixes not only facilitate clear and unambiguous communication but also enhance the speaker's ability to adapt language to various social, cultural, and situational contexts. For instance, suffixes like *-na*, *-mi*, and *-ka* provide specific grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic functions, while culturally significant suffixes such as *-ki* reflect the values of politeness and respect inherent in Makassarese communication practices.

From a pedagogical perspective, teaching affixation is essential for improving vocabulary acquisition and language proficiency. By understanding the structure and function of suffixes, learners can decode new words, form appropriate sentences, and navigate formal and informal communication with ease. This connected with broader linguistic theories that emphasize the importance of morphological awareness in language learning. Additionally, the use of suffixes in Makassarese parallels patterns observed in other agglutinative languages, such as Turkish and Finnish, underscoring the universal importance of affixation while also illustrating the unique cultural and linguistic identity embedded in Makassarese suffixation practices.

REFERENCES

- Aitchison, J. (2012). *Words in the Mind: An Introduction to the Mental Lexicon*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Akmajian, A., Farmer, A. K., & Stump, M. (2017). *An Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press.

- Basri, H. (2019). *Makassarese Cultural Values in Language*. Makassar: Nusantara Press.
- Bloomfield, L. (1933). *Language*. George Allen & Unwin Ltd.
- Carstairs-McCarthy, A. (2002). *An Introduction to English Morphology: Words and Their Structure*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Cummings, P., & Simanjuntak, R. (2017). *Language and Society in Indonesia*. Jakarta: National Language Press.
- Derwing, T. M., & Munro, M. J. (2005). *Second Language Accent and Pronunciation Teaching: A Research-Based Approach*. TESOL Quarterly.
- Hasanuddin, B. (2018). *Makassarese Grammar and Usage*. University of Indonesia Press.
- Haspelmath, M., & Sims, A. D. (2010). *Understanding Morphology*. Hodder Education.
- Matthews, P. H. (2007). *Oxford Concise Dictionary of Linguistics*. Oxford University Press.
- Pinker, S. (1994). *The Language Instinct*. William Morrow and Company.
- Rahman, A. (2015). *Morphological Studies on Indonesian Regional Languages*. Makassar: Pustaka Timur.
- Syarifuddin, H. (2019). *Teaching Regional Languages in Indonesia*. Jakarta: Education Press.
- Spencer, A. (1991). *Morphological Theory: An Introduction to Word Structure in Generative Grammar*. Blackwell Publishers.
- Yule, G. (2014). *The Study of Language*. Cambridge University Press.