

Analysis of Affixes in the Lyric Song "For the Rest of My Life" by Maher Zain

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Abstract. This study aims to analyze the use of affixation in the song lyrics *For the Rest of My Life* by Maher Zain. The focus is on identifying the types of affixes—particularly prefixes and suffixes—and understanding their morphological functions in the lyrical context. A qualitative descriptive method is employed, using morphological theory to examine how affixation contributes to word formation and meaning-making in the lyrics. The results reveal that suffixes are significantly more dominant than prefixes. Suffixes such as -ing, -ed, -s, -es, and -ly appear frequently and serve various grammatical purposes, including indicating verb tenses (such as the present participle and past tense), forming plural nouns, and transforming adjectives or adverbs. These suffixes also play a role in changing word classes, for instance, from verbs to nouns or adjectives to adverbs. This shift enriches the lexical variety and enhances the emotional and poetic expression within the song. Interestingly, the research found no use of prefixes in the lyrics, which may reflect stylistic or rhythmic choices by the songwriter. The absence of prefixes may also suggest a preference for linguistic simplicity and lyrical flow, which are important in songwriting to maintain musicality and ease of listening. The findings highlight how affixation contributes not only to the grammatical structure but also to the aesthetic and expressive quality of the lyrics. The use of affixes enhances the clarity of meaning and allows the songwriter to convey emotions effectively through carefully chosen morphological forms. Moreover, this study contributes to the field of morphological analysis in linguistics, particularly in musical and literary texts. It is expected that the research will serve as a valuable reference for students, educators, linguists, and anyone interested in exploring the intersection between language, music, and literature.

Keywords: Affixation, Lyrics, Morphology, Song, Suffixes

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a distinctive human inheritance that plays a vital role in daily life, including thinking, speaking, and interacting with others. It serves as a key tool for social communication, enabling people to connect and share ideas. Without language, society as we know it would not exist, just as language cannot thrive outside of a social context Siti Yuni Nurjanah (2018). While people sometimes communicate through gestures, facial expressions, or touch, these are not substitutes for language itself. The main purpose of language remains effective communication. Among the many languages, English stands out as one of the most widely spoken across the globe (Nurjanah et al., 2018).

In the current era of globalization, English is increasingly becoming a very useful language to master. In many countries, English is widely used as an international language. People are expected to be able to speak in their native language as well as English due to global demands. This is the reason why Indonesian students need to master English (Lestari & Sholichah, 2022).

Morphology also examines how words are formed through affixation, reduplication, and composition. Affixation is a multifaceted word-formation process where affixes are attached to base word forms (Nur & Kirom, 2016). This process enables the expansion and modification of vocabulary. Affixes typically serve to generate new words from existing ones or to alter their forms. As a result, words formed through affixation can carry entirely new meanings, enriching the language. Dedi Rahman Nur and Ainul Kirom (2016).

Morphology is considered both one of the oldest and one of the newest subfields of grammar. This is because it studies morphemes the smallest meaningful units of language before they combine to form complete words. Morphemes are divided into two types: free and bound. Free morphemes can function independently as words (e.g., "book," "run"), while bound morphemes cannot stand alone and must attach to other morphemes (e.g., "-er," "-ly," "-s"). Bound morphemes are commonly referred to as affixes, which include: Derivational affixes (e.g., "-ness," "pre-"), which create new words or change word categories. Inflectional affixes (e.g., plural "-s," past tense "-ed"), which modify grammatical function without altering word meaning or class. By nature, all affixes are bound morphemes, as they rely on other word parts to convey meaning (Hamawand, 2011b).

Affixation involves the use of prefixes and suffixes, which can function independently to form new words. This linguistic process allows speakers to combine morphemes particularly through suffixation to expand vocabulary (Azizah et al., 2022). Morphology serves as a tool for analyzing the grammatical structure of any written language. When composing lyrics, songwriters often employ lengthy, intricate sentences to express detailed descriptions, convey the meaning behind their songs, and articulate their emotional experiences. Safika Nur Azizah, Melinda Limin, Prima Yuanita Anisa Dewi, Yolenta Maria Tamara, Jumanto. (April 2022).

Song lyrics exemplify a distinct application of written language, structured by grammatical rules yet enriched with artistic expression. Composers utilize lyrics to articulate personal narratives, emotions, and themes, effectively bridging written language (as textual content) and spoken or performed language (as vocalized melody). This research examines the linguistic composition of Islamic devotional music, with a specific focus on morphological analysis. The study centers on selected works by prominent artists such as Maher Zain, investigating how affixation, reduplication, and other morphological processes shape lyrical meaning and devotional messaging. (Christianto, 2018).

Numerous study have been conducted in context analisis of affixes, the research from (Yastanti & Warlina, 2018) The purpose of this study is to identify Affixes on songs lyric of Adele in her latest albums "25". Descriptive qualitative is used as the method of the analysis.

The research data in this analysis was taken from Song Lyrics of Adele in her latest albums “25”. The result of this research are; (1). There are 22 words Suffixes and two words Prefix (2). There are seven adjective, nine plural, five nouns, two verbs, and one preposition. Moreover research by (Setyawan et al., 2014) The result of the research is 188 data of words containing affixes in the English song lyrics on Resistance Album by Muse. There are 30 data of words containing derivational affixes or 15.96% and 158 data of words containing inflectional affixes or 84.04% from 188 data. finds 30 data or 7.86% derivational affixes that consists of prefix pro 1 data or 0.53%, prefix dis 1 data or 0.53%, prefix a 1 data or 0.53% and prefix re also 1 data or 0.53%. And then suffix cy 2 data or 1.06%, suffix ful 2 data or 1.06, suffix ion 1 data or 0.53%, suffix ed 2 data or 1.06%. suffix dom 1 data or 0.53%, suffix ly 7 data or 3.72 %, suffix ness 2 data or 1.06% , suffix ion 2 data or 1.06%, suffix acy 1 data or 0.53%, suffix th 3 data or 1.60%, suffix ical 1 data or 0.53% and suffix less 2 data or 1.06%. In conclusion, the meaning of affixes that used in the data source is indicator of changing the class of the category. At the end of analysis, the researcher finds that the addition of affixes into the word would influence either the meaning of the existing word. Also research by (Manalu & Purba, 2024) The data collection process involved five steps: downloading, reading, underlining, classifying, and coding. The results showed that out of 469 data, 464 data (98%) were found to be inflectional affixes. The details are -s/es as much as 188 data (40%), -ing suffix as much as 103 data (21%), -ed suffix as much as 97 data (20%), -en suffix as much as 32 data (6%), -'s suffix as much as 25 data (5%), -est suffix as much as 15 data (3%), and -er suffix as much as 4 data (0.8%). A total of 5 data (1%) are derivative affixes which only consist of the suffix -less. This research provides a deeper understanding of the use of affixes in song lyrics, and shows the flexibility and richness of the English language through morphological processes.

The analysis of affixes in song lyrics across multiple studies reveals significant insights into morphological patterns in English music. Research on Adele's album 25 (Yastanti & Warlina, 2018) highlights a predominance of suffixes (22) over prefixes (2), with affixes frequently forming adjectives, plurals, and nouns. Similarly, Setyawan's (2014) study on Muse's Resistance album shows a higher frequency of inflectional affixes (84.04%) compared to derivational ones (15.96%), with suffixes like -ly and -th being prominent. Meanwhile, Manalu's (2024) research further confirms the overwhelming prevalence of inflectional affixes (98%), particularly -s/es (40%) and -ing (21%), with derivational affixes being rare (1%, mostly -less). These findings collectively demonstrate that inflectional affixes dominate song lyrics, likely due to their role in maintaining grammatical structure without altering word

meaning. Derivational affixes, though less frequent, contribute to lexical diversity, enriching lyrical expression. The studies underscore the flexibility of English morphology in music, where affixation serves both grammatical and stylistic purposes, enhancing both clarity and artistic impact. Future research could explore genre-specific variations or the influence of affixation on listeners' linguistic perception (S. Meinawati & Alawiyah, 2018).

Despite extensive linguistic studies on song lyrics, few analyze affixation in Islamic English songs like Maher Zain's *The Rest of My Life*, the researcher plans to analyze Maher Zain's songs by examining the affixation phenomenon present in his lyrics. His songs feature various prefixes and suffixes, providing listeners with opportunities to learn new vocabulary through the practical application of affixation. Additionally, Maher Zain's lyrics convey uplifting messages about religion and life lessons, which are relevant to Indonesian students. Since his music is widely popular among students who tend to prefer listening to music over reading it serves as an effective medium for language learning and moral inspiration (Putra, 2022).

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This study examines the use of affixation in the lyrics of Islamic songs, aiming to demonstrate how English learning particularly regarding affix types and their grammatical functions can be facilitated through song lyrics. Specifically, the research seeks to analyze the various forms, meanings, and roles of affixes. The study focuses on selected songs by Maher Zain, such as "For the Rest of My Life", as primary data. While it does not explore all morphological aspects, it establishes clear boundaries by concentrating solely on words containing prefixes and suffixes. By narrowing the scope to affixation, this research ensures a precise and manageable investigation of the topic (E. Meinawati & Alawiyah, 2018).

2. METHOD

To gather data, this study relies on library research, which involves compiling various sources such as textbooks, journals, articles, virtual resources, and online materials. The primary focus of the research is the analysis of several song lyrics by Maher Zain, particularly *For the Rest of My Life*.

The researcher employs a qualitative research approach, as it involves collecting, analyzing, and interpreting non-numerical data through observation. Qualitative research is effective for describing and understanding the perspectives and meanings that individuals or groups associate with social or human experiences. It provides valuable insights into group dynamics and individual interpretations.

The research process includes formulating research questions, gathering data from relevant sources, analyzing the data inductively (moving from specific details to broader themes), and interpreting the findings. In accordance with this methodology, the researcher will analyze selected songs by Maher Zain, including *For the Rest of My Life*.

Data Resources

In research, data plays a crucial role, as valid and accurate data ensures clear and reliable results. This study utilizes two types of data sources: primary and secondary sources, both of which must be credible and well-documented to maintain the study's integrity.

- Primary sources consist of original materials such as documents, artifacts, or firsthand accounts that come directly from events or eyewitnesses. In this context, primary data refers to information obtained directly from the research subject. For this study, the researcher collects primary data from Maher Zain's song lyrics, specifically *For the Rest of My Life*, sourced from Google Lyrics.
- Secondary sources are materials that interpret, analyze, or discuss primary sources, often created by individuals who were not direct observers. These sources help support and enrich the research findings. In this study, secondary data includes books, encyclopedia entries, Maher Zain's official YouTube channel, scholarly reviews, and other relevant publications.

By combining both primary and secondary sources, the researcher ensures a well-rounded and thorough analysis. The song lyrics from Maher Zain that researchers would analyze in this study are songs from Maher Zain with entitled:

Song Lyric "For the Rest of My Life" by Maher Zain

I praise Allah for sending me you my love
You found me home and sail with me
And I`m here with you
Now let me let you know
You`ve opened my heart
I was always thinking that love was wrong
But everything was changed when you came along.... ooooh
And there`s a couple words I wanna say
For the rest of my life I`ll be with you
I`ll stay by your side honest and true
Until the end of my time I`ll be loving you, loving you
For the rest of my life
Through days and nights
I`ll thank Allah for opening my eyes
Now and forever I I`ll be there for you
I know it deep in my heart
I feel so blessed when I think of you
And I ask Allah to bless all we do
You`re my wife and my friend and my strength
And I pray we're together in Jannah
Finally now I`ve found myself
I feel so strong
I guess everything was changed when you came along ooooh
And there`s a couple of words I wanna say
For the rest of my life I`ll be with you
I`ll stay by your side honest and true
Untill the end of my time
I`ll be loving you, loving you
For the rest of my life Through days and nights
I`ll thank Allah for opening my eyes
Now and forever I
I`ll be there for you
I know it deep in my heart and now that you`re here
In front of me I strongly feel love. And I have no doubt
And I sing it loud that I`ll love you eternally
For the rest of my life I`ll be with you
I`ll stay by your side honest and true
Untill the end of my time
I`ll be loving you, loving you
For the rest of my life
Through days and nights
I`ll thank Allah for opening my eyes

Now and forever I I'll be there for you I know it deep in my heart.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

Kinds of Affixes in “For the Rest of My Life” Song Lyrics of Maher Zain

Table 1

No	Word Found	Roots	Kinds Of Affixes		Note
			Suffix	Prefix	
1	Sending	Send	-ing		Send (Verb) + <i>ing</i> = Sending (Noun)
2	Opened	Open	-ed		Open (Adjective) + <i>ed</i> = Opened (Adjective)
3	Thinking	Think	-ing		Think (Verb) + <i>ing</i> = Thinking (Noun)
4	Changed	Change	-ed		Change (Verb) + <i>ed</i> = Changed (Adjective)
5	Loving	Love	-ing		Love (Noun) + <i>ing</i> = Loving (Adjective)
6	Words	Word	-s		Word (Noun) + <i>s</i> = Words (Plural)
7	Opening	Open	-ing		Open (Adjective) + <i>ing</i> = Opening (Noun)
8	Nights	Night	-s		Night (Noun) + <i>s</i> = Nights (Plural)
9	Days	Day	-s		Day (Noun) + <i>s</i> = Days (Plural)
10	Blessed	Bless	-ed		Bless (Verb) + <i>ed</i> = Blessed (Adjective)
11	Eyes	Eye	-es		Eye (Noun) + <i>es</i> = Eyes (Plural)
12	Finally	Final	-ly		Final (Adjective) + <i>ly</i> = Finally (Adverb)
13	Strongly	Strong	-ly		Strong (Adjective) + <i>ly</i> = Strongly (Adverb)
14	Eternally	Eternal	-ly		Eternal (Adjective) + <i>ly</i> = Eternally (Adverb)

Discussion

The table above shows that are 14 words attached with a suffix and not found word attached with a prefix in song lyrics For the Rest of My Life. The suffixes attached to the words are: *-ing* (4), *-ed* (3), *-s* (3), *-es* (1), *-ly* (3).

The analysis of affixes in the song lyrics "For the Rest of My Life" by Maher Zain reveals a strong reliance on suffixes to modify word meanings and grammatical functions. All identified affixes were suffixes, with no prefixes appearing in the selected words. This suggests that the lyrics primarily use suffixation to achieve linguistic and poetic effects. Among the most common suffixes were *-ing* (4), *-ed* (3), *-s* (3), and *-ly* (3).each serving distinct purposes in word formation.

The suffix -ing was frequently used to convert verbs into nouns, as seen in "sending" (from "send") and "thinking" (from "think"), or to turn adjectives into nouns, such as "opening" (from "open"). This suffix often conveys continuous action or a state of being, which aligns with the song's themes of enduring love and reflection. Meanwhile, the suffix -ed and -ing was predominantly used to transform verbs into adjectives, such as "opened", "changed", "blessed", and "Sending", "Thinking" indicating a resulting state or condition. Pluralization was another key function, achieved through -s and -es, as in "words", "nights", and "eyes". These plural forms contribute to the universality of the lyrics, making the experiences described more relatable to listeners.

Additionally, the suffix -ly played a significant role in converting adjectives into adverbs, such as "finally" (from "final"), "strongly" (from "strong"), and "eternally" (from "eternal"). These adverbial forms add emphasis and emotional depth, reinforcing the song's messages of permanence and devotion. The absence of prefixes in the analyzed words suggests a preference for simplicity and rhythmic flow in the lyrics. The consistent use of suffixes demonstrates how morphological transformations can enhance both meaning and musicality in songwriting. The patterns observed such as verb-to-noun or adjective-to-adverb shifts highlight the flexibility of English word formation and its application in artistic expression.

Conclusion: The findings illustrate how suffixes in Maher Zain's lyrics serve grammatical, stylistic, and thematic purposes. By systematically altering word forms, the lyrics achieve emotional resonance and poetic clarity. Further research could explore whether these patterns are consistent across other songs or genres, providing deeper insights into the role of morphology in music.

4. CONCLUSION

The analysis of affixes in Maher Zain's song *For the Rest of My Life* reveals a predominant use of suffixes to modify word meanings and grammatical functions. The study identified 14 words with suffixes, including -ing, -ed, -s, -es, and -ly, but no prefixes were found in the selected lyrics. These suffixes served various purposes, such as converting verbs into nouns (e.g., "sending," "thinking"), forming adjectives (e.g., "opened," "blessed"), pluralizing nouns (e.g., "words," "eyes"), and creating adverbs (e.g., "finally," "eternally").

The findings highlight how suffixation contributes to the song's lyrical flow, emotional depth, and thematic expression, particularly in conveying enduring love and devotion. The absence of prefixes suggests a preference for simplicity and rhythmic harmony in the lyrics. This study underscores the role of morphology in artistic language use, demonstrating how

affixation enriches both meaning and musicality. Further research could explore these patterns in other songs or genres to deepen understanding of morphological processes in music.

This study contributes to the field of linguistic analysis by systematically examining affixation patterns in Maher Zain's devotional music, revealing how suffixes (-ing, -ed, -s, -ly) dominate lyrical construction to enhance both grammatical function and emotional expression. The findings demonstrate music's pedagogical potential for teaching English morphology, particularly in ESL contexts, while establishing a replicable analytical framework for future research on artistic language use. Future studies could productively explore cross-genre comparisons of affixation patterns and investigate the cognitive effects of morphological choices on listener interpretation, building on this study's foundation of understanding how word formation processes contribute to musical meaning-making and language learning.

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