Research Article

AIDING THE TRANSLATION PROCESS WITH AFFIXAL ANALYIS – A CASE STUDY IN "THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA"

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ABSTRACT

Affixes have been of a great interest, attracting more and more translators' attention. While English is an inflectional language, Vietnamese is an analytical one. This morphological difference requires translators to invest more time for the translation process and affects the quality of the translation. This study examines the semantic contribution of English suffixes and prefixes in the translation process by categorizing and analyzing various English affixes in the source texts and proposing their Vietnamese equivalent for the target texts. The results reveal that implementing an affixal analysis in the translation process (1) enhances the translation quality, (2) accelerates the translation process, and (3) conveys patterns of meaning associated with affixal stress and intonation. These findings yield practical translation practices, thereby ensuring the equivalence and consistency in English–Vietnamese translation.

Keywords: affixes translation; English affixes; prefixes; suffixes; *The Old Man and The Sea*

1. Introduction

In recent years, the interest in having a great command of the English language has become common to the Vietnamese people, especially those who work in the translation industry. English morphology is of significance in mastering the English language, but translators have trouble absorbing the new words, which leads to some specific difficulties to the full understanding of any source texts, including those in literature. Despite numerous scientific research relevant to utilizing English affixes, those on English prefixes still have their limitations. In their research named "The reader over your shoulder", Graves and Hodge (2018) pointed out that English prefixes [that are used in the early stage of the acquisition of English as a second or foreign language] help to identify verbs, prepositions and other English parts of speech. This means that a prefix creates some changes in parts of speech; therefore, English prefixes may function as an indicator of the so-called syntactic meaning. Levin (1977) and Wulandari (2018) pointed out that a literary work was associated with the author's intention which the readers needed to study via different linguistic aspects.

They stated that poetry, which included the language and some of the poetic sequences, was formulated by the grammar to convey the meanings and confirmed to contribute the ideas to the language analysis. That is why poetry constitutes to the description of sentences. While figuring out some related findings, the authors also considered the questions about the evaluation of the English grammar in terms of English morphology. They also mentioned the essence of a poem to support the above idea. The characteristic of being "enduring" appeared in the poetry, which was not merely stationary, instead, changing from one literary to another. They quoted the conclusion of Paul Valéry in his book "The art of poetry" (1938) that the identity among the poems was the noted feature, or formed into an explanation to display themselves in their way. Therefore, this study aims at researching the efficiency of English affixes with a focus on prefixes, in the view of semantics features to discover better rules enhancing the quality of translation, then drawing some insightful implications in translation training.

In order to explore and have an insight view of the changing roles of teachers in this age, this qualitative study was conducted with the book "The Old Man and The Sea" with the specific following research questions:

 - RO1: How effectively do English -Vietnamese translators take advantages of affixes in translation process?
 - RO2: How are affixes used in the target texts?

2. Literature review and Methodology

2.1. Literature review

2.1.1. Some basic concepts

As regards forming a new word, there are two categories, namely derivation and inflection. For example, Figure 1 shows that the part of speech is changed or unchanged when attaching a prefix regardless of the difference in meanings. Table 1 presents an example on suffix PRE_ (according to Cambridge dictionary) as follows:

Table 1. Diagram of how the words stayed the same in terms of prefixes

Prefix	Part of Speech	
	Maintenance	
PRE_	Historic (adj)	Prehistoric (adj)
	Important or likely to be important in history	Describing the period before there were written record
Hyper_	Tension (noun)	Hypertension (n)
	A feeling of nervousness before an important or difficult event	A medical condition in which your blood pressure is extremely high

"Prehistoric" is formed by the base morpheme "historic" and the bound morpheme suffix "-pre". The category of "historic" is an adjective while "-pr" is a prefix. The prefix "-

pre" creates the grammatical form from the same verb with the same part of speech. It is called the inflectional prefix of an adjective (Adjectival prefixes).

"Hypertension" is the word that constituted from the base morpheme "tension" and the bound morpheme prefix "hyper-". The category of "tension" is a noun, while "hyper-" is a prefix. Prefix "hyper-" is added, but the two words stay the same in part of speech. It is called the inflectional prefix of a noun (nominal prefixes).

According to Sharma (2019), the parts of speech stay the same when coining a new word. Table 2 illustrates an example on suffix _IZE (according to Cambridge dictionary) as follows:

Table 2. *Diagram of how the words stayed the same in terms of suffixes*

Suffixes	Part of Speech	
_IZE	(to) weatherize	weatherized (past form)
Meaning	to protect a building against the bad effects of the weather	
Example	You can reduce your heating costs by up to 30 percent by weatherizing your home	

2.1.2. Related studies

As stressed previously, a translation technique using affixation is a powerful tool frequently employed in acquiring English vocabulary; therefore, there is no question why the issue has been brought into the research field by some scholars worldwide.

The research papers of Apel and Diehm (2013) and Nagy et al. (2013) discovered the assess to prefix and suffixes through morphological awareness. The former used these affixes in education, and the latter was focused on students that used chunks to acquire morphological knowledge only, which would be a great opportunity for translators themselves and translator learners to be shaped correctly in the early time of their working career. The validity is not sufficient enough for the massive number of English language translators.

On shedding light on this issue, Tucci et al. (2014) and Reeves (2010) carried out investigations using the prefixes and suffixes in the English language teaching. They agreed that learners seem to be more fluent, and therefore, manipulate by using these affixations. There were still limitations that should be addressed. These studies centred on the teachers' responsibility rather than learning autonomy, which has a great impact upon the opportunities to use and apply the affixation. Just supposed that translators are able to prefer self-studying, which would be applicable in comparison with attending the traditional classes as the Teacher-Student model.

In a study by Bowers and Kirby (2009), to improve the vocabulary knowledge in terms of using new words, they investigated a number of 20 parts related to the structure of word in morphology. They said that prefixes and suffixes have fixed spellings despite the change in pronouncing, which is relevant in derivations.

German et al. (2012), Elizabeth et al. (2007), and Murray and Sayeski (2011) also discussed this problem. Notably, the authors gave a closer look at affixation in a nutshell. Moreover, the first author merely conducted in the difficulties in words used in speech and language room two-syllable words or three-syllable words which are akin to prefixes and suffixes, or the influence between the mother tongue and English which is relevant to prefixes and suffixes from common to not common words, or the main focus on spelling obtaining from the prefixed and suffixed –word map students used relatively.

One of the pioneering studies on applying affixation into the English language is conducted by Michońska-Stadnik (2013), who first presented an overview of studies knowing the morphology in derivation and its influence on vocabulary acquisition. He realizes that getting the lexical items into the brain and remembering them are two separate processes. He searched for the so-called instruction in metacognition in terms of derivational morphology to absorb the English words. In this case, there are some examples displayed— the affixes, their meaning, their parts of speech carefully. Learners in general, or translators, in particular, have the chance to be interested in tasks including the word fields and helping in developing the analytical abilities. The research concluded that the participants were able to be more active and comfortable in swallowing the lexical items by applying the memory and cognitive strategies, so finding a way to acquire a second language is essential. The study could provide significant background and practical recommendations.

2.2. Research methodology

As the initial purpose of ensuring reliability and validity, the method applied in this study is observation that mainly concentrates on the current set of background knowledge explained and discovered (Cropley, 2019, p. 60). That is why this study employed a qualitative approach which offers more advantages than a quantitative one within the scope of the study. The study is associated with the depth and comprehension of a particular topic. The researcher plays two roles: either a person to conduct or to be studied, in which more information is illustrated in a variety of angles under analysis and comparison. In essence, this method is concerned with the diversity of semantics, styles, motivations, and others associated with a higher level of relationships, processes, and phenomena (Maxwell, 2013).

The key objective of this research is to investigate a description of the study context through prefixes; explore whether the judgments of using prefixes is a reasonable way to comprehend English words, and interpret English vocabulary appropriately. Besides, suffixes are also collected and tested by looking at the English words and their Vietnamese translations to compare and contrast in all dimensions of the use of affixation in English vocabulary.

First, the collected data would be classified to determine whether the affixes are powerful, which corresponds to the first research question. All the words in the description are critically described to enable a substantial contribution to the contextual context, enhance

the speaker's skill, and recommend improved techniques for interpreting words in various situations. The accuracy of the analysis is also clearly seen. The words are expected to be solved whether translators concern these kinds of affixation by analysing the data gathered from the survey, which would seek the frequency of using each type of individual affixation. The synthesis of all the findings would help draw recommendations.

After that, for each question, the data would be analysed in categories and tables in which statistics such as percentage and frequency counts are calculated.

With each issue, the data will be evaluated in groups and tables in which figures such as proportion and occurrence counts will be measured.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. *The current state of applying the two kinds of affixation in literary work*

The findings suggested a new platform for translators to find strategies to discover English vocabulary properly. The translated words in suffixes are used almost 600 times in frequency with only the first half (46 pages), while the prefixes are collected on the whole one. Statistically, 91.2 per cent of the collected words are used as suffixes. Interestingly, most of them are used as a verb, which is relatively straightforward and fulfilled in using affixation as an active and passive English vocabulary. According to the survey data, the variables in parts of speech are defined with the following items: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Specifically, suffixation is the first choice affixation to using the English version in the translation process among the three. Also, certain English words are repeatedly used in various forms to show the author's implication, but the translators adapt those words to best fit the context in the target texts. However, the Vietnamese translated words are not fixed and vary from reduplication, verbs, or adjectives, which sometimes lead to the readers's fully understanding the issues.

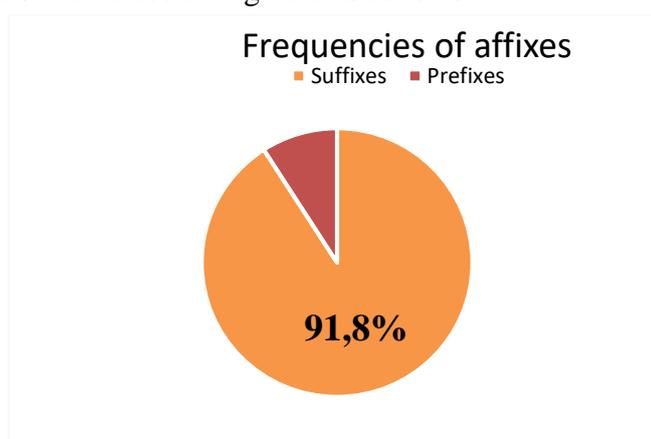The points are summarized in Figure 1 as follows:

Frequencies of affixes
■ Suffixes ■ Prefixes

91,8%

Figure 1. *The frequency of using affixes in the literary work*

3.2. *The useful language device in translation process*

3.2.1. Prefixes

Through the analysis from "The Old Man and the Sea" translated by Prof. Dr. Le Huy Bac and published by Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House in 2019, there are some significant findings which are listed in the following. Figure 2 shows the frequency of the prefix usage in The Old Man and the Sea.
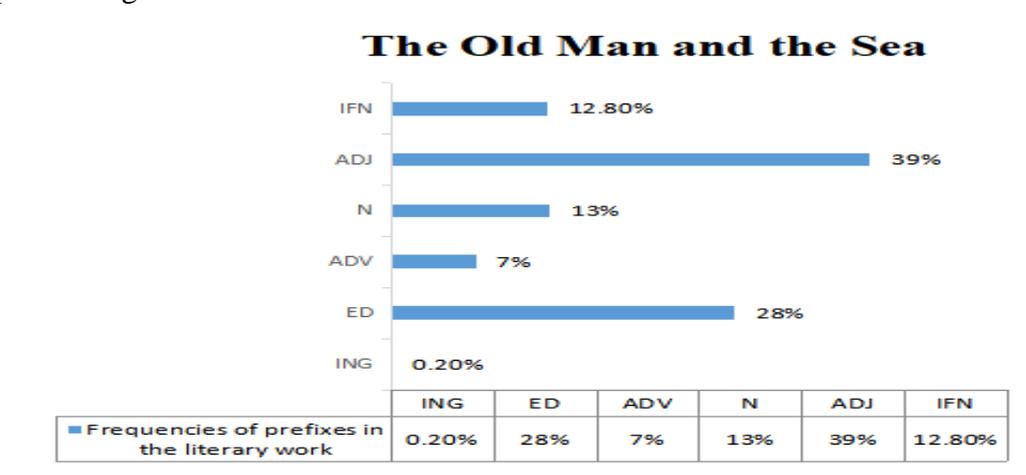

Figure 2. *The frequency of using prefixes in The Old Man and the Sea*

It can be seen that the adjectives using prefixes are commonly used while the -ing form is just a few, and -ed forms also are utilized in the work, which accounts for 28%.

3.2.2. Prefixes as a tool to express emotions and implications

During the analysis, there are some other findings which illustrate the effective usage of prefixes to clarity their ideas. Table 3 gives information on Vietnamese - English comparison of affixes.

Table 3. *The Vietnamese - English version to show the flexibility of using prefixes*

Source test (English version)	Target text (Vietnamese one)
(1)	
[...] It will uncramp though, he thought. Surely it will uncramp to help my right hand…… It must uncramp. It is unworthy of it to be cramped…. and at noon the old man's left hand was uncramped [...]	"Dẫu sau thì nó cũng sẽ khỏi, lão nghĩ. Chắc chắn nó sẽ duỗi ra để giúp bài tay phải. …Nó phải thôi cái thói chuộc rút ấy đi. Bị chuột rút thì chẳng còn chút giá trị gì nữa. ….và đến trưa, bàn tay trái của ông lão hết bị chuột rút." [...]
(2)	
[...] When he and the boy fished together they usually spoke only when it was necessary [...] [...] It was considered a virtue not to talk unnecessarily at sea [...]	[...] "Hai ông cháu chỉ nói khi thật cần thiết. " [...] [...] "Những người đi biển kiêng nói chuyện nhảm." [...]

(3)	
unlucky	"vận rủi"
undefeated	"không hề đánh bại"
disgraceful	"xấu hổ"
unbelievably	"không thể tưởng tượng nổi"
imperceptible	"chỉ là con số không"
untendingly	"bất tận"
intolerable	"được đôi phần"
unavoidable	"không thể nào tránh khỏi"

In the example (1), the words with prefixes are repeatedly used, making the flows of the story more attractive. In the Vietnamese translation, it varies with many forms, a verb or a phrase, partly contribute to avoiding a word many times. Earnest Hemingway aims to use "uncramp" in this scenario so that the main ideas can be emphasized. Moreover, "tựa lưng" represents a feeling of taking a rest after working so hard.

In the example (2) shows that after understanding the core meaning of the words, the translators are able to use the suitable words since translators do not have to take much to absorb the words in the source and then verify the number of words to satisfy the ideas in the target text.

When it comes to example (3), it is essential to mention the meaning of words. The translators understand the underlying meanings of the words thanks to prefixes since there are many ways to handle the words in Vietnamese why it is "vận rủi" instead of "không may", or "đôi" in "đôi phần", "nổi" in the phrase "tưởng tượng nổi" which create the unique features and effective methods when applying the prefixes into translation.

Through the points mentioned above, the prefixes should be utilized to highlight the noted meanings as a whole. The translator needs to pay attention to the suffixes to figure out the meanings of the author. Besides, it is easily recognized from these words the tones and rhythms of the sentences: whether the characters are feeling good or in a bad mood.

3.2.3. Suffixes

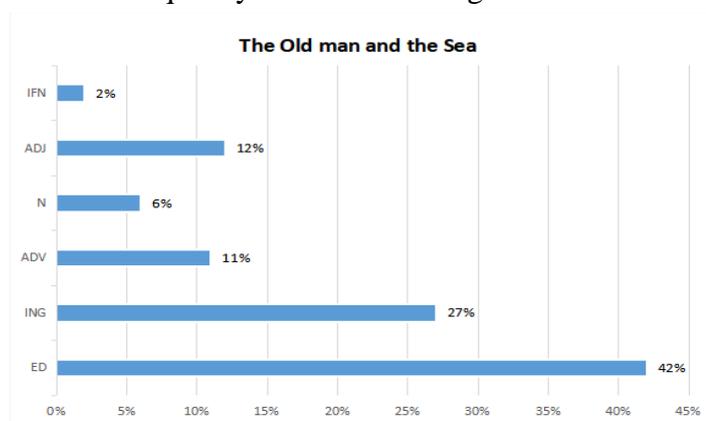The Figure 3 shows the frequency of the suffix usage in The Old man and the Sea.

Figure 3. *The frequency of using suffixes in The Old Man and the Sea*

The most frequently used by the translator is -ed form while there are few of the bare form of infinitives, which means that the style of Earnest Hemingway is using the -ed form to express the meanings.

Table 4 gives information on Vietnamese - English comparison of affixes.

Table 4. *The Vietnamese - English version to show the flexibility of using suffixes*

Source test (English version)	Target text (Vietnamese one)
Words in different parts of speech	
[...] He loved green turtles and hawls-bills with their elegance and speed and their value and he had a friendly contempt […]	[...] Lão yêu giống rùa xanh, lưng khòm, duyên dáng, nhanh nhẹn và giá trị lớn của chúng và lão có tình cảm suồng sã theo kiểu bạn bè […]
Words within a sentence that contribute to the meaning	
[...] the female fish had stayed by the side of the boat […]	[...] con cá đực vẫn cứ sán lại bên mạn thuyền […]
[...] He was beautiful, the old man remembered, and he had stayed […]	[...] Nó thật đẹp, ông lão nhớ, và nó thủy chung […]
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[...] Then he rested against the bow. He rested sitting on the un-stepped mast […]	[...] Rồi lão tựa lưng vào mũi thuyền. Lão ngồi nghỉ trên đống cột buồm chưa dựng […]
Words expressed in the source text and the target text	
loved	quý
politely	từ tốn
happily	hanh phúc
naturally	rõ rồi
quietly	khẽ
motionless	bất động
desperately	bất động
circled	bay vòng
wildly	loạn xạ
cheerfully	háo hức
falsest	man trá
harshness	sự nghiệt ngã ấy
widens	nới rộng thêm
added	tăng
tired	thấm mệt
promptly	vội

The first illustration shows that "elegance" is a noun, but it turns into an adjective with the reduplication form in the target text to describe the person's characteristics. Besides, "suồng sã" is used here with a purpose. In Vietnamese, it means to express the actions related to each other, that is, to display the relationship between the character and the fish. In this case, the meaning is straightforward when analyzing "friend" as a noun and "friendly" as an

adjective. Those who are not able to identify the Vietnamese words also understand the meanings here. Furthermore, the translator also does not need to spend so much time searching for the purpose, which significantly improves the speed of translation.

In the example (2), one word is used in similar parts of speech in English, but the Vietnamese forms are different, ranging from verb (tựa lưng, ngồi nghỉ, sán) to an adjective (thủy chung). Therefore, with just a word, a translator can quickly know the writer's meaning and purpose so that the right ideas can be transferred into the target text. Besides, "thủy chung" is a beautiful word that indicates a very satisfying affection between human beings and the fish.

In example (3), thanks to suffixes, translators have a better way to select the most meaningful words in Vietnamese. Some of them are "vội," "thấm mệt," "sự nghiệt ngã ấy," etc. With the words "ấy" and "thấm" or some reduplications like "háo hức," the readers can effectively understand the context and the mood of the whole story, which is close to Vietnamese style and culture.

Overall, this suffix is the best selected kind of affixes to help the translator achieve and digest the English vocabulary effectively in the translation process. Hence, it can be said that translators should take advantage of prefixation to improve translation quality. It is understandable because suffix is more accessible than the other options.

3.2.4. Improvement in translation's quality

From the number of prefixes utilized within the book, the study showed that the translators are not aware of the usefulness of prefixes in the translation process because they focus on other strategies given by the professionals. If there is an environment to develop translating ability in this area, more and more words will be achieved when considering affixation. Besides, the study shows that by using affixation, translators are not only able to learn a word itself but also discover other aspects. Parts of speech is the first one for learning affixation. Each prefix has its role as an adjective or a verb, and so on when attached to another stem. The second thing is the meaning. Every affix brings its meaning with a particular rule. Therefore, we can learn as many words as we can. In terms of affection, we can realize the word's stress because it is usual that the affixes are attached before the primary stress of a word, which is one of the principal findings.

3.2.5. More advantages of getting meanings from words

Although this aspect is quite tricky since translators do not generally have time to take each piece of words to divide them into each category, and there are other things that they need to consider, it is still necessary to make a connection between word formation and translation.

In other words, there must be an adaptation of the translating process and learning affixation. For the former, it plays a vital role. Affixes can motivate translators to learn English vocabulary efficiently as well as empower them to have a proper awareness, not

learning for receptive but for productive purposes. For the latter, it is classified into two goals: short-term goals and long-term goals. Hence, they foster the learning ability and empower them to be high academic achievers in language and the long-term goal - as professional users in the future, this way should be maintained and inspired to future translators who get them interested in absorbing the hard-won vocabulary.

4.   Conclusion

This study has undoubtedly met the demand to increase the active English vocabulary since a number of translators and translator learners are frequently unable to be aware of the benefits of affixation. This area is very crucial and functional for doing a proper translation. However, this study was conducted with only one book, the findings cannot be generalized for the entire language.

❖ *Conflict of Interest: Author have no conflict of interest to declare.*

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HỖ TRỢ QUÁ TRÌNH DỊCH THUẬT BẰNG VIỆC PHÂN TÍCH PHỤ TỐ – MỘT NGHIÊN CỨU Ở TÁC PHẨM "ÔNG GIÀ VÀ BIỂN CẢ"

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TÓM TẮT

Phụ tố đã được nhiều người quan tâm, ngày càng thu hút nhiều dịch giả. Trong khi tiếng Anh là một ngôn ngữ biến hình, thì tiếng Việt là một ngôn ngữ cách thể. Sự khác biệt về hình thái này dẫn đến tăng thời gian của quá trình dịch và giảm chất lượng của văn bản đích. Bài viết xem xét sự đóng góp về mặt ngữ nghĩa của các hậu tố và tiền tố tiếng Anh trong quá trình dịch bằng cách phân loại và phân tích các phụ tố tiếng Anh khác nhau trong các văn bản nguồn và đề xuất tương đương tiếng Việt ở văn bản đích. Kết quả cho thấy việc thực hiện phân tích phụ tố trong quá trình dịch (i) nâng cao chất lượng bản dịch, (ii) đẩy nhanh quá trình dịch, và (iii) truyền tải các mẫu ý nghĩa liên quan đến trọng âm và ngữ điệu của phụ tố. Những phát hiện này mang lại sự đóng góp cho các hoạt động dịch thuật thực tế, do đó đảm bảo tính tương đương và nhất quán trong bản dịch Anh – Việt.

Từ khóa: dịch phụ tố; phụ tố tiếng Anh; tiền tố; hậu tố; *Ông già và biển cả*