

## A Morphological Analysis of Affixes in Taylor Swift Song Lyrics “Blank Space”

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### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi berbagai kosakata dan kalimat yang terbentuk dari struktur afiks morfologis yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu blank space karya Taylor Swift. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif. Penulis mencari kalimat dan kata dari lirik lagu Taylor Swift yang berjudul blank space yang terbentuk dan berasal dari struktur afiks morfologis. Hasilnya adalah dalam lirik lagu Blank Space karya Taylor, sufiks lebih banyak digunakan daripada prefiks dan infiks tidak digunakan dan tidak ditemukan dalam lagu ini. Dari beberapa kata yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu tersebut hanya beberapa kata yang digunakan sebagai prefiks. Dan tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah penulis ingin mengetahui dan memahami bagaimana struktur afiks morfologis digunakan dalam lagu Taylor Swift yang berjudul blank space. Makalah ini juga menjelaskan kata dan kalimat yang mengandung prefiks, sufiks, dan infiks. Berapa banyak sufiks, prefiks, dan infiks dalam lagu ini. Dan seberapa penting afiks morfologis dapat dikaitkan dengan makna. Awalan, akhiran, dan sisipan dalam lagu ini. Sisipan dalam lagu ini tidak ada apa-apanya.

**Kata kunci:** *Morfologi, Awalan, Akhiran, Taylor Swift*

### Abstract

This research aims to explore various vocabulary and sentences formed from morphological affixes structure. What is found in the lyrics of the song blank space by Taylor Swift. The method used in this study is a qualitative method. The author search for sentences and words from the lyrics of Taylor Swift's song entitled blank space. Which is formed and comes from the morphological affixes structure. The result is that in the lyrics of the song Blank Space by Taylor, suffixes are used more than prefixes and infixes are not used and no found in this song. From the few words that What is found in the lyrics of the song are only a few words that are used as prefixes. And the aim of this research is that the author wants to know and understand how the morphological affixes structure is used in Taylor Swift's song entitled blank space. The paper also explains the words and sentences contain prefixes, suffixes, and infixes. How many suffix, prefix, and infix in this song. And how important the morphological affixes can related for the meaning. The prefix, suffix, and infix in this song. Infix in this song is nothing.

**Keywords:** *Morphological, Prefixes, Affixes, Taylor Swift*

### INTRODUCTION

Language plays a significant role in the expression of thoughts, emotions, concepts, in particular original arrangement such as music. Coeval pop music, lyrics in many cases set up as a dynamic way for communicating complicated notion and history. For the example Taylor Swift's song “Blank Space“ a global famous song from her 2014 album "1989", that is acclaimed song not only for its catchy melody but also for genius and powerful use of language. The song presents a narrative that explores themes of love, obsession, and self awareness, all of which are articulated through carefully chosen words and phrases. In linguistic studies, the structure of words and their internal construction, know as morphology provides insight into how meaning is encoded with language. Morphology research the form and formation of words, including aspect such as root

words, affixes (prefixes and suffixes), and grammatical inflections. Understanding the morphological structure of a text can reveal patterns in word formation and usage, highlighting how artists use language to construct meaning and convey emotion. This article aims to analyse the morphological elements found in the lyrics blank space, focusing on how swift's choice of words enhances the thematic depth of the song.

By examining the morphemes (the smallest unit of meaning) show in the lyrics, the study seeks of roots, prefixes, and suffixes put up to the overall semantic richness of the song. More ever, this analysis will rove the part word formation in expressing the dichotomy between exposure and control, furthermore is central to the song's narrative. The analysis of song lyrics from a morphological perspective not only enriches our understanding of the linguistic aspects of modern pop music but also highlights how language, as a creative tool, is manipulated to evoke specific emotional responses in listeners. By focusing on the word structure in "Blank Space". This study augment to comprehensive discussions on the intersection of linguistics and music, notably in the power of popular culture.

When people listen to the songs, they both enjoy the melody and also lyrics of the songs. To young generation, for example, songs occupy a very important space in their lives (Campo, 2020) such as from altering moods, shaping aspects related to personal identity to strengthening interpersonal relationships. Bull (2011) mentions that lyrics are parts of discourse that consists of words and sentences with different grammatical functions.

This article focuses on the works of Taylor Alison Swift. As a well - known influential American singer with numerous achievements, Taylor Swift is a figure worthy of study. She is one of the best- selling artists of all time, having sold more than 40 million albums including 27.1 million in the US and 130 million single downloads (Gordon, 2017).

In 2015, Swift became the youngest woman ever to be included on the Forbes "100 Most Powerful Women" list, ranking at number 64 (Gordon, 2017). This study is aimed to investigate the types of deixis in the song lyrics by Taylor Swift's Folklore album and to shed on the meanings of the use of deixis in those songs

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

This study adopts a qualitative approach, employing linguistic analysis to examine the use of affixes in Taylor Swift's song, "Blank Space." Using descriptive qualitative. The research uses input the document from the song "Blank space " lyrics to investigate derivational and inflectional affixes . qualitative descriptive using

### **Data Collecting Method**

This research make uses of document for collected the data. The document was input from the paper and website. The data collection input also using skimming some data. Almost replay and repeat the song lyrics almost every time. That has been can we founded in this song. The step and analysis this method according by by Miles, et.al., (2014) are as follows: (1) Data Condensation. So here several ways the author for make sure the how many suffix, infix, and prefix. And this paper also consider from Taylor Swift song the title Blank Space.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The lyrics of "Blank Space" were obtained from a reliable lyrics database.

**Affix Identification:** Each word in the song was analyzed to identify any prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and circumfixes.

**Preliminary Reading:** The entire lyrics were first read thoroughly to familiarize with the text.

### **Word by Word**

**Analysis:** Each word in the song was examined individually to identify affixes. This involved breaking down words into their base forms and noting any prefixes (e.g., "un-", "re-"), suffixes (e.g., "-ing", "-ed"), infixes.

**Use of Reference Materials:** A dictionary and other linguistic reference materials were used to verify and accurately classify each identified affix.

**Categorization:** Identified affixes were categorized according to their type (e.g., prefix, suffix) and function (e.g., derivational, inflectional).

**Classification by Type:**

Identified affixes were grouped based on their type:

Prefixes (e.g., "un-", "dis-")

Suffixes (e.g., "-ing", "-ed")

Infixes and Circumfixes (less common in English but noted if present)

**Function Analysis:**

Each affix was further analyzed to determine its function:

**Derivational Affixes:** Those that change the meaning or part of speech of the base word (e.g., "happy" to "unhappy").

**Inflectional Affixes:** Those that modify a word's tense, number, aspect, mood, or case without changing its core meaning (e.g., "walk" to "walked").

The frequency and distribution of each type of affix were analyzed to determine patterns and stylistic choices.

**Frequency Count:** The number of occurrences of each type of affix was counted and tabulated.

**Pattern Detection:** Patterns in the use of affixes were identified, such as recurring prefixes or suffixes and their role in the lyrics.

**Interpretation:** The results were interpreted to understand Taylor Swift's stylistic choices in affix usage within "Blank Space." This included examining how affixes contribute to the song's themes and emotional impact.

**Selection of Source:**

The lyrics of Taylor Swift's song "Blank Space" were sourced from [Genius.com](https://www.genius.com), a widely recognized and reliable database for song lyrics. Genius is known for its community-verified lyrics, which ensures high accuracy.

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**Prefixes:**

<b>Word</b>	<b>Prefixes</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<i>Insane</i>	"in-"	in a state of mind which prevents normal perception, behavior, or social interaction; seriously <a href="#">mentally</a> ill
<i>Mistake</i>	"mis-"	an action or judgment that is <a href="#">misguided</a> or wrong
<i>Ex-lovers</i>	"ex "	a former partner in a romantic relationship
<i>Incredible</i>	"in-"	impossible to believe
<i>Forever</i>	"fore-"	lasting or permanent
<i>Disappeared</i>	"dis-"	be lost or go missing; become impossible to find
<i>Return</i>	"re-"	an act of coming or going back to a place or activity

**Suffixes**

<b>Word</b>	<b>Suffixes</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<i>Skies</i>	"-es"	the region of the atmosphere and outer space seen from the earth
<i>Dressed</i>	"-ed"	(of a person) wearing clothes; not naked or in underwear, sleepwear
<i>Madness</i>	"-ness"	the state of being <a href="#">mentally</a> ill, especially <a href="#">severely</a>
<i>Breathless</i>	"-less"	short of breath or appearing this way because of excitement or other strong feelings
<i>Reckless</i>	"-less"	lack of proper caution
<i>Crying</i>	"-ing"	the <a href="#">shedding</a> of tears; <a href="#">weeping</a>

<i>Screaming</i>	"-ing"	long, loud piercing <a href="#">cries</a> expressing extreme emotion or pain
<i>Ends</i>	"-s"	a final part of something, especially a period of time, an activity, or a story

From this table we can found that in Taylor swift song there are

### Step 1: Classification by Type

1. Prefixes: Identify and list all prefixes found in the lyrics.
2. Suffixes: Identify and list all suffixes.
3. Infixes: Note any infixes, though they're rare in English.

### Step 2: Function Analysis

1. Derivational Affixes: These change the meaning or part of speech of the base word (e.g., "un-" in "unhappy" changes "happy" to "not happy").
2. Inflectional Affixes: These modify a word's tense, number, aspect, mood, or case without changing its core meaning (e.g., "-ed" in "walked" indicates past tense).

### Step 3: Frequency Count

1. Count the occurrences of each type of affix in the lyrics. This helps in understanding the prominence and stylistic choices in the song.

### Step 4: Pattern Detection

1. Analyze the patterns in the use of affixes. For example, frequent use of certain prefixes or suffixes might indicate a specific stylistic or thematic choice by the artist.

### Let's categorize the prefix "in-" in "incredible":

1. Type: Prefix
2. Function: Derivational (changes the meaning to "not credible")
3. Frequency: Occurs once in the lyrics
4. Pattern: Used to emphasize the extraordinariness in the song's narrative.

### Example: Prefix "mis-" in "mistake"

1. Type: Prefix
2. Function: Derivational (changes the meaning to "wrongly taken")
3. Frequency: Occurs once
4. Pattern: Emphasizes the concept of error or wrong judgment in the narrative.

### Example: Suffix "-less" in "breathless"

1. Type: Suffix
2. Function: Derivational (turns "breath" into "without breath")
3. Frequency: Appears once
4. Pattern: Used to express extreme emotional or physical state.

### Example: Suffix "-ful" in "playful"

1. Type: Suffix
2. Function: Derivational (turns "play" into "full of play")
3. Frequency: Occurs once
4. Pattern: Describes a characteristic, adding to the vivid description in the lyrics.

In this section, we delve into the identified affixes from Taylor Swift's "Blank Space" and interpret their significance and impact on the song's narrative.

#### Prefixes:

1. "in-" in "incredible": This derivational prefix emphasizes the extraordinariness of the described things, enhancing the song's imagery.
2. "mis-" in "mistake": This derivational prefix indicates a wrong action, contributing to the theme of flawed relationships and errors in judgment.
3. "ex-" in "ex-lovers": This derivational prefix indicates past relationships, central to the song's narrative about past love affairs.

#### Suffixes:

1. "-s" in "lovers" and "ends": These inflectional suffixes denote plurality, highlighting the multiplicity of relationships and story endings.

2. "-less" in "breathless": This derivational suffix transforms "breath" into "without breath," vividly describing the overwhelming impact of emotions.
3. "-ing" in "dying": This inflectional suffix indicates a continuous action, adding a sense of urgency and immediacy to the anticipation of the story's outcome.

The frequent use of these affixes underscores Taylor Swift's mastery in crafting lyrics that resonate deeply with listeners. By strategically employing both derivational and inflectional affixes, Swift enriches her storytelling, making her music both linguistically and emotionally compelling. This analysis highlights how Swift's use of affixes not only enhances the narrative but also creates a more immersive and relatable experience for the audience. From this research related from the table, the author found 7 prefix, 8 suffixes, and 0 infix.

## CONCLUSION

To summarize, this study has conducted a morphological analysis of the affixes in the lyrics of 'Blank Space' by Taylor Swift, placing an emphasis on the composed nature and role of certain affix types. From the analysis of the lyrics of the songs by the Bantu singers and songwriters, it was apparent that there was a great number of derivational morphemes as a great number of new words were created and contributed a lot to the theme of the song and its artistry. The attachment of the morphemes not only determined the grammatical structure of the song lyrics but also developed the meaning, opening the way of looking at the song in a different perspective, which is about love, fame, and heartbreak. In this regard, the study also seeks to understand how morphemic forms are constructed and structured combined with the social issues in the lyrical content. Other researchers may examine morphological differences in other different typologies of songs or may even study different artists worshipping the same meaning language in their lyrics.

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