Abstract

Learning a language usually starts by learning the vocabulary. Since new words are created over time, language learners also need to know how words are created. One of the ways to create new words is by knowing derivational affixes. This present study tries to seek the distribution of English derivational affixes through two corpora and set up the new level of affixes which can be used in enriching student's vocabulary since learning affixes can improve student's vocabulary exponentially. In conducting this study, the writer sorts the affixes found in the top 5000 word list of COCA (general) and the top 3000 word list of COCA academic. From the data, it found 217 prefixed words and 958 suffixed words in general corpus. Whereas in academic corpus, it found 545 prefixed words and 1252 suffixed words. Then, those affixed words are classified into each group of affixes based on Cambridge Grammar of English (Carter & McCarthy, 2006) and Stockwell & Minkova (2001). Thus, qualitative method is applied in this present study. The result shows a new level of affixes which consists of 36 affixes in Level 1, 28 affixes in Level 2, and 31 affixes in Level 3 in general corpus. Whereas in academic corpus it found 41 affixes in Level 1, 32 affixes in Level 2, and 34 affixes in Level 3. The similarities and differences in both corpora can be seen from the distribution of affixes in Level 1, which shares many affixes in general corpus and academic corpus. Therefore, this study can be a new reference to introduce and learn affixes used in general and academic English. Furthermore, the set of level is beneficial for guiding teachers and second language learners in increasing their mastery of vocabulary.

Keywords: high frequency words, English derivational affixes, prefixes and suffixes, level of affixes.