

Classification Of Affixation Analysis in HSK 4 Vocabulary

Rahel Meihira Nerissa Barends¹, Wandayani Goeyardi²

{rahel.barends12@gmail.com¹, wanda_goey@ub.ac.id²}

Faculty of Cultural Studies, Brawijaya University¹²

Abstract. This paper aim to describes and categorize words that consist as a form of affixation in HSK 4 vocabularies. The purpose of this research is to acknowledge the existence of affixation in HSK 4 in order to help chinese learner easier understand the vocabulary. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method and data collection method using taking-note and literature-studies method. The data was collected by reading HSK 4 vocabularies from *DigMandarin* which is a website that provide chinese educational learning material to people who are interested in learn chinese language. Based on the research, it was found that in the vocabulary of HSK 4 there are 6 types of prefixes and 12 types of suffixes. The most common prefix in HSK 4 vocabulary is {可 kě} and the most common suffix in HSK 4 vocabulary is {子 zi}.

Keywords: affixation, HSK 4, suffix, prefix

1 Introduction

Mandarin has become the second most spoken language in the world with over 1100 million speakers following English in first place[1]. Many people learn Mandarin as part of the mandatory skills for a better future job and career, especially for people who want to enter the business world. Year by year, the number of foreigners learning Mandarin is growing more and more. According to statistic report from Ministry of Education The People's Republic of China in 2018, there were 492.185 international students from 196 countries continue their study in 1.004 higher education in China's province/autonomous regions/provincial-level municipalities. Most of the student come from Asia countries with a total of 295.043 students, following with Africa, Europe, America and Oceania[1]. They choose China as their option with various reasons, such as high standard of education quality, an adequate international learning environment, discovering rich culture in chinese culture and mainly to learning Mandarin more^[1]. Through the fact of China has become preffered destination for international students

^[1] 'Why Study Abroad in China', *China Education Center*
<<https://www.chinaeducenter.com/en/studyinchina.php>>.

globally, Chinese as a second language step by step growing in popularity[2]. Language is often understood as a tool for communicating between humans and other humans using systems, signs, or instructions, such as movements or words[2]. Through language, a person will express something he wants to convey so that the interlocutor will understand the meaning of the phrase put forward by the interlocutor[2]. Learning is everyone's need because everyone will experience it. Almost all skills, knowledge, intelligence, habits, and human attitudes formed are modified and developed by learning[2]. In language learning, learning strategies are needed to show someone's success in mastering the language. The Mandarin language has four competencies that a learner must master: listening, speaking, reading, and writing[2]. Mastering these four competencies requires sufficient mastery of vocabulary and grammar. In the process of learning and mastering these four competencies, the novice learners will be introduced to a list of vocabulary compiled in the HSK (Chinese Proficiency Test) or Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi. The Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) is an international standardized test that focuses on the ability of candidates who are not speak Mandarin as their first language in purpose of using Mandarin to communicate in life, study and work. Exam levels include HSK (Level 1), HSK (Level 2), HSK (Level 3), HSK (Level 4), HSK (Level 5) and HSK (Level 6)[2]. In 2010 alone, 750,000 people from around the world took the Official Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK)[2]. During HSK learning, of course learners will find some vocabulary that is unconsciously a form of affixation or basic words that undergo changes in meaning due to merging with affixes.

According to the paper that explains about affixation in Mandarin, author tries to show the use of the affixation findings in that paper through author's research by finding and classifying the types of affixations contained in the HSK 4 vocabulary[2]. The affixation process itself occurs when a bound morpheme is affixed or attached to a free morpheme in a straight order (Parera, 1994: 18). Meanwhile, affixation is a morphological process in the form of adding affixes to pre-basic forms, basic words, or basic forms[2]. Mandarin has just a few affixes. Mandarin have three types of affixes (prefixes, suffixes, and infixes), prefixes and infixes are rare in Mandarin, while suffixes are more numerous. Chinese prefixes consist of {老 lao}, {小 xiao}, {第 di}, {处 chu}, {可 ke}, {好 hao}, {难 nan}, infixes consist of {-得-} and {- }, suffixes consist of {儿 er}, {们 men}, {学 xue}, {家 jia}, {化 hua}, {子 zi}, and {头 tou}[2]. Meanwhile, in the book *A Grammar Spoken Chinese* (1968) by Zhao Yuanren, he divides prefixes into two types, namely prefixes in the form of foreign translations and prefixes that are not foreign translations, such as {单 dan} which means mono-, uni-. According to Zhao Yuanren, prefixes that are not foreign translations are {老 lao}, {阿 a}, {第 di} and {处 chu}. Zhao Yuanren also suggested various suffixes based on their meanings. Suffixes denoting person/door/expert consist of {者 -zhě}, {师 -shī}, {家 -jiā}, {员 -yuán}, {士 -shì}, {人 -rén}, {亲 qin}, {夫 fu}; suffix denoting properties; thought; or feelings, namely {性 -xìng}, {心 -xīn}, and others; a suffix denoting a way; knowledge; method; theory; or teachings, namely {观 -guān}, {论 -lùn}, {化 -huā}, and others; suffixes that show conjunctions, namely {然 -rán}, and others; suffixes that indicate objects or places, namely {儿 -er}, {子 -zi}, {头 -tóu}, and others; suffix that expresses plural, namely {们 -men}; and the last is the auxiliary/modal suffix, namely {么 -me}[3]. Through this research, researchers want to find out and detect how many forms of affixation types of suffixes and prefixes are contained in the vocabulary of HSK 4, where it is hoped that the results

² Charles N. Li and Sandra A. Thompson, *Mandarin Chinese: A Functional Reference Grammar*, 1st edn (California: University of California Press, 1989).

of this study can provide additional knowledge for people who study Mandarin, especially those who study HSK 4 regarding forms of affixation. contained in HSK 4.

2 Research Method

This study is a descriptive qualitative method research. According to Sugiyono, qualitative research is descriptive and means that collected data was in the form of words rather than number[3]. The research was conducted by collecting data by using note-taking techniques and literature studies. The note-taking technique is carried out by collecting data by recording data that are considered relevant for research from data sources[3]. Literature study is done by reviewing books, journals, various information that supports data collection. The researcher used HSK 4 Vocabularies as data for research, the data resources was from *DigMandarin* which is a website that provides Mandarin learning materials for people who want to learn Mandarin. In this research, there are several steps researcher take. First step is the researcher collected the data which is list of HSK 4 vocabulary. The total vocabulary of HSK 4 is 1200 words. In this case, the data was taken from the *DigMandarin* website. After collected the data, the researcher try to identified the HSK 4 vocabulary list. In this identification process, the researcher detected the HSK 4 vocabulary to determine which vocabulary was a form of affixation, in process to do this step, researcher use some journals and books to help researcher indentify which words include as affixation. Next step is the researcher classified vocabulary which is a form of affixation into tables of affix types. After classifying the types of affixes, the researcher described the meaning of the word and then the meaning of the word added by the type of affix. Then, the researcher made conclusion from the results that the researcher has written. Data analysis was carried out by testing the data obtained and then comparing and testing the data according to the theory and information obtained from the journals and books that had been reviewed.

3 Result and Discussion

HSK as a tool to test the ability and as a standard of competence in Mandarin. HSK 4 has the same level as the B2 of the B2 Level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEF). In HSK 4, there are 1200 vocabularies that must be learned so that later when they pass the HSK 4 exam, they are considered to be able to speak fluently with native speakers. During studying HSK 4, there are many vocabulary that turns out to be a form of affixation. As stated in the introduction, there are three types of affixation in Mandarin, namely prefixes, infixes and suffixes. In the results that the author will describe, the author only presents the grouping of HSK 4 vocabulary which is a form of affixation of suffixes and prefixes.

Table 1. Classification of Affixation in HSK 4

HSK 4 vocabularies	Meaning of the Word	Type of Affix	Meaning of Affix
Prefix			

老师 lǎoshī	Teacher	老	has no meaning or indicates respect or seniority among a group of people. It could form nicknames from a person's name
老鼠 lǎohǔ	Tiger		
小姐 xiǎojiě	Miss	小	Indicates no specific meaning or showing affection
第一 dìyī	First	第	Usually added to form order
阿姨 āyí	Aunt	阿	Usually used to show affection and greeting someone with familiarity

可爱 kě'ài	Cute	可	Indicates '-able' meaning. It change verb to adjective-form.
可怜 kělián	Poor		
可能 kěnéng	Probably		
可惜 kěxí	Unfortunately		
好吃 hǎochī	Yummy	好	This prefix can be added to verbs to form adjective. 好 itself means 'good'.
Suffix			
哪儿 nǎ (nǎr)	Which (were)	儿	Indicate a particle that mainly function added with a nominal suffix. It's
那儿 nà (nàr)	That (there)		

女儿 nǚ'ér	Daughter		the only nonsyllabic suffix in Mandarin and has a correlation with Chinese dialect as well.
咱们 zánmen	We	们	It would change the word meaning into a plural meaning.
我们 wǒmen	We		
留学 liúxué	Overseas Studies	学	indicate ‘-ology’ meaning. It could be interpreted as a certain studies.
数学 shùxué	Mathematics		
变化 biànhuà	Changes	化	indicate ‘-ize’ meaning and change
叶子 yèzi	Leaf		

椅子 yèzi	Chair	子	A grammatical particle with neutral tone that change a partial noun into noun
桌子 zhuōzi	Table		
杯子 bēizi	Glass		
鼻子 bízi	Nose		
肚子 dùzi	Belly		
儿子 érzi	Son		
个子 gèzi	Height		
孩子 háizi	Children	子	A grammatical particle with neutral tone that change a partial noun into noun
盒子 hézi	Box		
猴子 hóuzi	Monkey		

饺子 jiǎozi	Dumplings	子	A grammatical particle with neutral tone that change a partial noun into noun
镜子 jìngzi	Mirror		
句子 jùzi	Sentence		
裤子 kùzi	Trousers		
筷子 kuàizi	Chopstick		
帽子 màozi	Hat		
盘子 pánzi	Plate		
瓶子 píngzi	Bottle		
妻子 qīzi	Wife		
裙子 qūnzi	Skirt		

狮子 shīzi	Lion		
孙子 sūnzi	Grandson		
袜子 wàzi	Socks		
样子 yàngzi	A look		
果然 guǒrán	Sure enough	然	This suffix mainly used to form adverb and adjective and could be used as conjunction as well
忽然 hūrán	Suddenly		
既然 jìrán	Although		
竟然 jìngrán	Unexpectedly		
仍然 réngrán	Still		
虽然 suīrán	Although		

突然 tūrán	Suddenly		
作者 zuòzhě	Author	者	Indicate or refers to thing or person who considered as expert
记者 jìzhě	Reporter		
右边 yòubian	Right side	边	As a suffix, it indicate location
左边 zuǒbian	Left Side		
旁边 pángbiān	Side		
演员 yǎnyuán	Actor	员	As a suffix it can be used to people who engaged in certain activity or are part of the group
售货员 shòuhuòyuán	Sales-person		
服务员 fúwùyuán	Waiter		
多么 duōme	What, how	么	

什么 shénme	What		Indicate auxiliary/ modal suffix
为什么 wèishénme	Why		
怎么 zěnmē	How		
怎么样 zěnmeyàng	How about		
但是 dànshì	But, however	是	Indicate a conjunction suffix
还是 hái shì	Still		
可是 kěshì	However		
于是 yúshì	Therefore		
粗心 cūxīn	Careless	心	Indicate meaning that relate to feeling when already
担心 dānxīn	Worry		

放心 fàngxīn	Don't worry		added with '心'
关心 guānxīn	Care for		
耐心 nàixīn	Patience		
伤心 shāngxīn	Sad		

Based on the table above, out of 1200 vocabularies in HSK 4, 72 vocabularies have been found which belong to the form of affixation and change the meaning of the basic words. In the analysis conducted by the researcher, the researcher found six kinds of prefixes in the vocabulary of HSK 4, namely {老 lǎo} with two words, {小 xiǎo} with one word, {第 dì} with one word, {阿 ā} with one word, {可 kě} is four words and {好 hǎo} is one word. The researcher found twelve kinds of suffixes in the HSK 4 vocabulary, consisting of three words {儿 ér}, two words {们 men}, two words {学 xué}, one word {化 huà}, and one word {子 zi} twenty-four words and {然 rán} of seven words, {者 zhě} of two words, {边 biān} of three words, {员 yuán} of three words, {么 me} of five words, {是 shì} of four words and {心 xīn} as many as six words.

CONCLUSION

During studying HSK 4, without realizing there are many types of affixation that have been learned. Based on the results of the study, it was found that in the vocabulary of HSK 4 there are 6 types of prefixes and 12 types of suffixes. The most common prefix in HSK 4 vocabulary is {可 kě} and the most common suffix in HSK 4 vocabulary is {子 zi}.

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