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Adjectival Suffixes Used in Taylor Swift's Instagram Caption

Ni Putu Parwati[1], I Komang Sulatra[2]

[1,2]English Literature, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar

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Corresponding Author:
Ni Putu Parwati
Niputuparwati776@gmail.com
Sastra Inggris, Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar

Abstract

This study investigates adjectival derivational suffixes in Taylor Swift's Instagram captions from a morphological perspective. While previous studies have primarily examined derivational suffixes in literary works and conventional written media, the morphological patterns of adjective formation in contemporary social media discourse warrant further investigation. This study aims to identify the types of adjectival derivational suffixes, examine their base categories and category changes, and describe the morphological processes involved in adjective formation. Using a descriptive qualitative approach supported by quantitative frequency analysis, the study examines 141 English-language captions published on Taylor Swift's official Instagram account between January 2023 and March 2026. The data were analyzed using the morphological frameworks proposed by Katamba (1993) and Yule (2010). The findings identify 63 lexical items representing 13 types of adjectival derivational suffixes. The suffix -al, including the forms -ial, -ical, and -ual, is the most frequent, accounting for 26.98% of the data. Furthermore, 58 items (92.06%) are formed from noun bases, while five items (7.94%) are derived from verb bases. The analysis also identifies morphophonemic adjustments in 15 items (23.81%), including e-deletion, y-to-i alternation, consonant doubling, and stem alternation, as well as double derivation in two items. These findings demonstrate how established English adjective-forming patterns are realized in Taylor Swift's Instagram captions and provide empirical evidence of derivational morphology in contemporary social media discourse. The study contributes to morphological research by documenting suffix distribution, base-category patterns, and word-formation processes in a naturally occurring digital corpus.

1. Introduction

Language develops continuously to meet the changing communicative needs of its users, and one of the processes contributing to this development is word formation. Within linguistics, morphology examines the internal structure of words and the processes through which morphemes combine to form new lexical items. One important morphological process is derivation, which involves the addition of affixes to a base and may result in a change in grammatical category or lexical meaning. In English, suffixation is particularly relevant to adjective formation because certain suffixes enable nouns and verbs to function as adjectives with specific semantic properties (Katamba, 1993; Yule, 2010). Therefore, examining adjectival derivational suffixes provides a means of understanding how word structure, grammatical category, and meaning interact in actual language use.

Previous studies have investigated English derivational morphology across several textual contexts. Research on literary texts has examined derivational suffixes in novels, including the study of Harry Potter by Alam (2023) and Sherlock Holmes by Ningsih & Utami (2024). Other studies have focused on adjective formation in literary works, such as Andersen's fairy tales investigated by Karang et al. (2024) and other literary texts examined by Lastari & Winarta (2025). These studies demonstrate the relevance of literary texts for identifying derivational patterns and explaining changes in word class. Research has also extended to conventional media and other written materials. Ulan & Utami (2025), for example, examined derivational suffixes in CNN news, while Putra et al. (2023) investigated adjective-forming derivational suffixes in The Jakarta Post. Studies of educational texts and language-learning materials have further demonstrated that derivational morphology can be examined in different written contexts (Putri et al., 2021; Wiranata & Putra, 2024). Meanwhile, Cahyani et al. (2022) investigated noun-forming derivational suffixes in Instagram captions, indicating that social media has also been used as a source of morphological data.

Although these studies have examined derivational morphology in various contexts, their differences in textual sources, word classes, and analytical objectives leave room for a more focused investigation of adjectival derivation in contemporary social media discourse. In particular, examining Instagram captions through the distribution of adjective-forming suffixes alone would provide only a partial account of the morphological patterns represented in the data. A more comprehensive analysis needs to consider the relationship between suffix types and base categories, changes in grammatical category, and morphological adjustments occurring during word formation.

It is also important to distinguish simple suffixation from more complex formations involving multiple affixes. These aspects provide a more specific basis for investigating how established English derivational patterns are realized in naturally occurring digital communication. Accordingly, the present study does not claim that Instagram captions have been entirely neglected in morphological research; rather, it focuses on the combined analysis of adjectival suffix types, base categories, category changes, and morphological structures within a contemporary Instagram corpus.

Taylor Swift's official Instagram account was selected because its captions provide a defined source of publicly accessible English-language text produced in a contemporary social media environment. The captions collected for this study cover the period from January 2023 to March 2026, allowing the investigation to focus on adjective-forming patterns within a clearly specified dataset. By examining the lexical items found in these

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captions, the study seeks to document the occurrence of adjectival derivational suffixes and describe their morphological characteristics in context. The analysis draws on Katamba (1993) framework for examining morphological structure and Yule (2010) account of word formation to support the identification and classification of the relevant forms.

This study addresses the following research questions: (1) What types of adjectival derivational suffixes occur in the selected Instagram captions? (2) What base-category and grammatical category-change patterns characterize the derived adjectives? (3) What morphological processes, including morphophonemic adjustments and multiple-affix formations, occur in the formation of these adjectives? In this study, the analysis of function primarily concerns the contribution of suffixes to word formation, including their role in changing grammatical category and contributing to the meaning of derived adjectives, rather than a comprehensive analysis of syntactic functions.

By addressing these questions, this study aims to provide a systematic account of adjectival derivational suffixes in Taylor Swift's Instagram captions. Its contribution lies in documenting the distribution of suffixes, the predominance of particular base-category patterns, and the morphological processes found in a contemporary social media corpus. Rather than treating the findings as representative of all digital communication, the study provides corpus-specific evidence of how established English adjective-forming patterns occur in naturally produced Instagram captions and offers a basis for comparison with findings from literary texts, news media, and other written contexts.

2. Method

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method supported by quantitative frequency analysis to investigate adjectival derivational suffixes in Taylor Swift's Instagram captions. The qualitative method was used to identify and describe the morphological structures of derived adjectives, including their base categories, grammatical category changes, semantic contributions, and word-formation processes. Quantitative frequency analysis was used to determine the distribution and percentage of the identified suffix types.

The data source was Taylor Swift's official Instagram account. The research corpus consisted of 141 English-language Instagram captions published between January 2023 and March 2026, as documented in the data collection sheet. The captions were examined to identify lexical items that potentially contained adjectival derivational suffixes. The unit of analysis was the lexical item identified as an adjective formed through derivation. Based on the classification reported in the article, the final dataset comprised 63 lexical items categorized into 13 types of adjectival derivational suffixes.

Data were collected through documentation and systematic observation of the selected Instagram captions. The procedure involved recording the captions and their publication dates, identifying potential derived adjectives, and documenting the candidate forms in the data collection table. The selection of lexical items was guided by their relevance to the research questions and their suitability for morphological analysis.

The inclusion criteria were as follows: (1) the lexical item contained an identifiable derivational suffix associated with adjective formation; (2) its base form could be identified and supported by morphological evidence; and (3) the resulting form functioned as an adjective in its linguistic context. Items were excluded if their apparent

suffixes could not be established as adjective-forming derivational morphemes or if the items did not meet the operational criteria for adjectival derivation. This procedure was intended to distinguish genuine cases of adjective formation from words that merely appeared to contain suffixes.

The analysis was guided by the morphological frameworks of Katamba (1993) and Yule (2010). Katamba's framework was used to examine the internal structure of derived words and the relationship between their bases and affixes. Yule's discussion of word formation was used to support the identification and classification of derivational processes. Together, these frameworks provided the analytical basis for examining suffix types, base categories, grammatical category changes, and morphological structures in the selected captions.

The data analysis was conducted in several stages. First, the collected captions were organized according to their publication dates. Second, potential adjective-forming derivational forms were identified within the captions. Third, the base forms and suffixes of the candidate items were examined. Fourth, each candidate was analyzed in context to determine whether it functioned as an adjective and met the inclusion criteria. Fifth, the morphological structures were examined to identify the base category, the resulting grammatical category, and the processes involved in word formation. Particular attention was given to morphophonemic adjustments, including *e*-deletion, *y*-to-*i* alternation, consonant doubling, and stem alternation, as well as formations involving multiple affixes. Sixth, the identified items were classified according to their suffix types and morphological characteristics. Finally, the results were tabulated, calculated, and interpreted in relation to the research questions and theoretical frameworks.

The quantitative analysis involved calculating the frequency and percentage of each suffix type. The percentage was calculated using the following formula:

where (P) represents the percentage of a particular suffix type, (f) represents the frequency of that type, and (N) represents the total number of analyzed lexical items. In accordance with the frequency distribution reported in the article, the total number of analyzed items was 63. The quantitative results were complemented by qualitative descriptions of representative examples to explain the morphological characteristics of the identified derived adjectives.

To maintain consistency in the analysis, the classification of each lexical item was evaluated against the inclusion criteria and the theoretical frameworks adopted in the study. The identification of base forms, suffixes, and grammatical category changes was considered in relation to the morphological structure and contextual use of each item. The resulting classifications were then organized into frequency tables to facilitate comparison across suffix types. The reported frequencies and percentages were checked against the total number of analyzed items.

Regarding research ethics, the study examined linguistic material published on a publicly accessible Instagram account. The analysis focused on linguistic structures rather than private information about individuals. Caption excerpts were used only when relevant to the research objectives, and their source was identified as Taylor Swift's official Instagram account. The presentation of the data was intended to comply with applicable academic and publication guidelines.

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3. Result

This section presents the findings of the morphological analysis of 141 English-language captions collected from Taylor Swift's official Instagram account between January 2023 and March 2026. The analysis focused on adjective-forming suffixes, base categories, word-class changes, and morphological processes. The final dataset reported in the original analysis comprised 63 lexical items representing 13 adjectival suffix categories.

3.1 Types and Frequency of Adjectival Derivational Suffixes

Table 1 presents the frequency and percentage of the adjectival suffix categories identified in the dataset. The categories are presented according to the classification used in the original analysis.

Table 1. The Types of Adjectival Suffix

No	Adjectival Suffix	Frequency (tokens)	Percentage
1.	-al / -ial / -ical / -ual	17	26.98%
2.	-y	8	12.70%
3.	-ic / -tic	7	11.11%
4.	-ful	6	9.52%
5.	-ous	5	7.94%
6.	-less	4	6.35%
7.	-able	4	6.35%
8.	-ive	4	6.35%
9.	-ent / -ant	2	3.17%
10.	-ly (denominal, Adj-forming)	2	3.17%
11.	-ish (demonym)	2	3.17%
12.	-ory	1	1.59%
13.	-some	1	1.59%
	TOTAL	**63**	**100%**

As shown in Table 1, the *-al/-ial/-ical/-ual* category had the highest frequency, with 17 tokens (26.98%). The *-y* category ranked second, with eight tokens (12.70%), followed by *-ic/-tic*, with seven tokens (11.11%). The *-ful* category occurred six times (9.52%), while *-ous* occurred five times (7.94%). The categories *-less*, *-able*, and *-ive* each occurred four times (6.35%). The categories *-ent/-ant*, adjective-forming *-ly*, and demonym-forming *-ish* each occurred twice (3.17%). The least frequent categories were *-ory* and *-some*, each represented by one token (1.59%).

The grouped forms in Table 1 follow the original classification. However, grouping forms as allomorphs requires evidence that they represent variants of the same morpheme under identifiable morphological or phonological conditions. The frequency results alone do not establish that relationship. Therefore, the categories should be treated as the study's operational classification until the grouping has been verified against the theoretical framework and relevant linguistic references.

3.2 Base Categories and Derivational Patterns

The lexical items were classified according to the grammatical category of their bases and the resulting adjective forms. Table 2 summarizes the distribution of the two reported base categories.

Table 2. Base Categories and Derivational Patterns

No.	Base Category	Derivational Pattern	Frequency	Percentage	Examples
1	Noun	Noun → Adjective (N→A)	58	92.06%	*dream* → *dreamy*; *glory* → *glorious*; *awe* → *awesome*
2	Verb	Verb → Adjective (V→A)	5	7.94%	*express* → *expressive*; *excite* → *excitable*
	Total		**63**	**100%**	

Table 2 shows that noun-based adjective formation accounted for 58 items (92.06%), whereas verb-based adjective formation accounted for five items (7.94%). The N→A pattern was therefore the predominant derivational pattern in the analyzed dataset.

The original analysis also identified three forms containing prefixes in addition to suffixal material: *unforgettable*, *independent*, and *international*. These examples were considered in the analysis of morphological structure because they contain multiple affixes. Their classification, however, should distinguish the suffix responsible for adjective formation from additional affixes that modify the derived form.

3.3 Morphological Processes

In addition to suffix categories and base patterns, the original analysis reported morphological adjustments and multiple-affix structures. Table 3 summarizes the processes and examples documented in the manuscript.

Table 3. Morphological Processes Identified in the Dataset

No.	Morphological Process	Frequency Reported	Examples
1	E-deletion	Not separately reported	*nerve* → *nervous*
2	Y-to-i alternation	Not separately reported	*glory* → *glorious*
3	Consonant doubling	Not separately reported	*fun* → *funny*
4	Stem alternation or modification	Not separately reported	*phenomenon* → *phenomenal*; *giant* → *gigantic*
5	Prefixation combined with suffixation	Three examples reported	*unforgettable*, *independent*, *international*
6	Double derivation	2	*fatalistic*, *diaristic*
7	Items with reported morphological adjustments	15 (23.81%)	Includes the adjustment patterns listed above

The original analysis reported morphological adjustments in 15 of the 63 items (23.81%). The reported patterns included e-deletion, y-to-i alternation, consonant doubling, and stem modification. Separate frequencies for each adjustment pattern were not provided in the original results; consequently, individual counts cannot be reported without returning to the item-level data.

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Three examples *unforgettable*, *independent*, and *international* were reported as containing prefixation combined with suffixation. The analysis also identified two cases of double derivation: *fatalistic*, analyzed as *fatal* + *-ist* + *-ic*, and *diaristic*, analyzed as *diary* + *-ist* + *-ic*.

These results document variation in the morphological structures of the analyzed adjectives. Some forms were analyzed as involving direct suffixation, whereas others were reported to contain additional affixes or changes in the form of the base. The classification of individual items, particularly those with potentially complex historical development, requires explicit criteria distinguishing synchronic derivation from etymological relationships.

4. Discussion

This study examined adjectival derivational suffixes in 141 English-language captions from Taylor Swift's official Instagram account published between January 2023 and March 2026. The analysis reported 63 lexical items representing 13 suffix categories. The discussion interprets the distribution of these categories, the predominance of noun-based adjective formation, and the morphological processes reported in the dataset. It also compares the findings with previous research and considers the implications and limitations of analyzing derivational morphology in social-media captions.

4.1 Analysis of Representative Adjectival Suffixes

The original analysis presents one representative example for each of the 13 suffix categories. These examples and their word-formation tree diagrams should be retained because they illustrate the morphological structures examined in the study. The discussion below summarizes the principal morphological features of each example without repeating extensive syntactic analyses.

The *-al/-ial/-ical/-ual* category. In the caption "LOTS more international dates to come soon, promise!", the word *international* was analyzed as containing the adjective-forming suffix *-al*. The original analysis describes the sequence *nation* + *-al* → *national*, followed by the addition of *inter-* to form *international*. This example illustrates a word containing both suffixal and prefixal material.

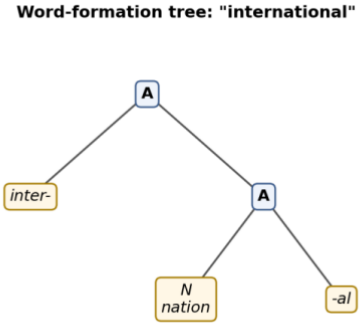


Figure 1. Word-formation tree of "international", based on Katamba (1993).

The *-y* category. In "So many dreamy memories from Liverpool!!!" (June 2024), *dreamy* was analyzed as the noun *dream* combined with *-y*. The resulting adjective describes the memories mentioned in the caption and illustrates a relatively straightforward Noun-to-Adjective pattern.

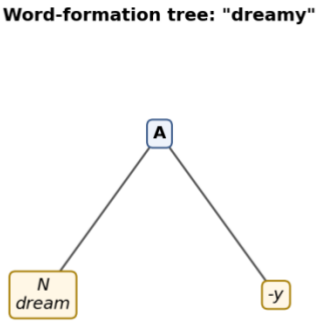


Figure 2. Word-formation tree of "dreamy", based on Katamba (1993).

The *-ic/-tic* category. In "…making these reveals so much chaotic fun (which is the best kind of fun, after all)" (21 September 2023), *chaotic* was classified under this category and associated with the base *chaos*. The form illustrates the need to distinguish suffix attachment from changes in the written form of the base.

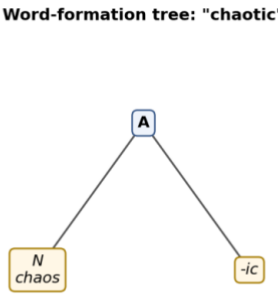


Figure 3. Word-formation tree of "chaotic", based on Katamba (1993).

The *-ful* category. In "The Eras Tour has been the most meaningful, electric experience of my life so far" (31 August 2023), *meaningful* was analyzed as a layered formation involving *meaning* and *-ful*. This example illustrates a structure in which the adjective contains more than one morphological step.

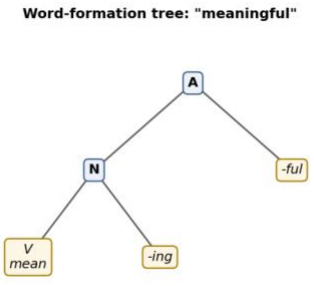


Figure 4. Word-formation tree of "meaningful", based on Katamba (1993).

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The *-ous* category. In "Thank you to everyone in that glorious Glendale night 2 crowd" (20 March 2023), *glorious* was associated with the noun *glory* and a y-to-i spelling alternation. The example illustrates a reported relationship between suffixation and a change in the written form of the base.

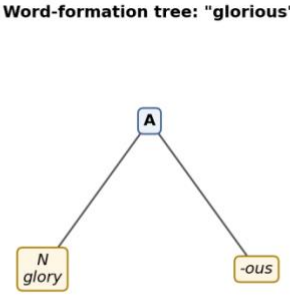


Figure 5. Word-formation tree of "glorious", based on Katamba (1993).

The *-less* category. In "Thanks to those crowds this weekend for your endless energy and extremely loud screaming-singing" (June 2023), *endless* was analyzed as a formation involving *end* and *-less*. The example illustrates adjective formation through suffixation.

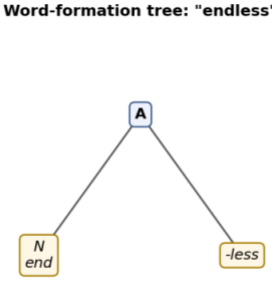


Figure 6. Word-formation tree of "endless", based on Katamba (1993).

The *-able* category. In "…just got to play 4 the most unforgettable shows for the most beautiful and generous fans" (5 July 2023), *unforgettable* was analyzed as containing *forget* + *-able*, followed by the prefix *un-*. The example illustrates a combination of suffixation and prefixation.

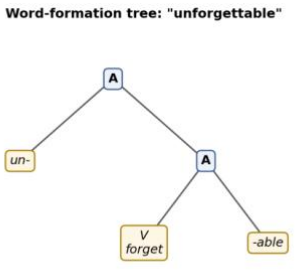


Figure 7. Word-formation tree of "unforgettable", based on Katamba (1993).

The *-ive* category. In "All 3 Liverpool crowds were so expressive and generous and endlessly FUN" (16 June 2024), *expressive* was associated with the verb *express* and the suffix *-ive*. This example represents the Verb-to-Adjective pattern, which occurred less frequently than Noun-to-Adjective derivation in the dataset.



Figure 8. Word-formation tree of "expressive", based on Katamba (1993).

The *-ent/-ant* category. In "Happy belated Independence Day from your local neighborhood independent girlies" (7 July 2023), *independent* was classified under this category and analyzed as containing prefixal and suffixal material. Its precise morphological structure requires verification before the proposed derivation can be treated as a confirmed synchronic analysis.

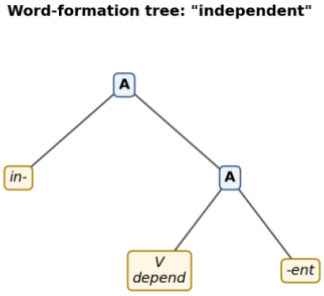


Figure 9. Word-formation tree of "independent", based on Katamba (1993).

The adjective-forming *-ly* category. In "And here's a friendly but extremely important reminder that tomorrow is the US Election" (5 November 2024), *friendly* was analyzed as an adjective derived from the noun *friend*. This category must be distinguished from adverb-forming *-ly*, since the two uses have different grammatical functions.

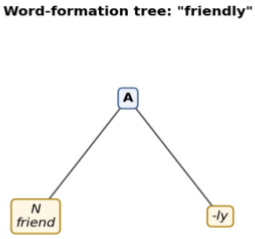


Figure 10. Word-formation tree of "friendly", based on Katamba (1993).

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The demonym-forming *-ish* category. In "…my team and I worked hand in hand with stadium staff and British authorities" (22 August 2024), *British* was classified under the *-ish* category. The proposed analysis of *British* as *Britain* plus *-ish* should be verified with an authoritative morphological or etymological source before being presented as a transparent synchronic derivation.

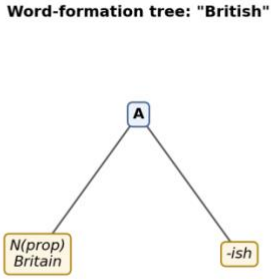


Figure 11. Word-formation tree of "British", based on Katamba (1993).

The *-ory* category. In "Like a school group project but for adults and it isn't mandatory" (6 February 2026), *mandatory* was classified under the *-ory* category. The proposed derivation from *mandate* to *mandatory* requires verification; a resemblance between the ending of a word and a suffix is not sufficient evidence of synchronic suffixation.

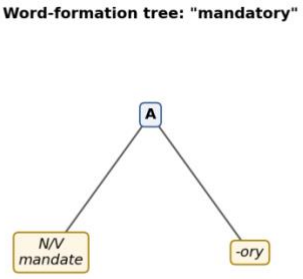


Figure 12. Word-formation tree of "mandatory", based on Katamba (1993).

The *-some* category. In "…shout out to @taylautner for being so awesome to hang with on set" (11 July 2023), *awesome* was analyzed as involving *awe* and *-some*. This example represents one of the least frequently occurring categories in the dataset.



Figure 13. Word-formation tree of "awesome", based on Katamba (1993).

Taken together, these examples illustrate the range of forms included in the original classification. They also show why it is necessary to distinguish relatively transparent suffixation from structures involving multiple affixes, spelling changes, or potentially complex historical relationships. The tree diagrams should be retained where their structures are supported by the final morphological analysis.

4.2 Distribution of Suffix Categories and Noun-Based Adjective Formation

The most prominent quantitative finding is the predominance of the Noun-to-Adjective pattern, which accounted for 58 of the 63 analyzed items (92.06%). Verb-to-Adjective formation accounted for the remaining five items (7.94%). This distribution indicates that noun bases were substantially more common than verb bases among the adjective-forming patterns identified in the selected captions.

One possible explanation is that noun-based adjectives can describe or characterize people, experiences, events, places, and abstract concepts mentioned in captions. Examples such as *dreamy*, *glorious*, and *awesome* illustrate how adjective forms associated with noun bases appear in descriptive statements. However, the present study did not directly measure communicative intention or compare noun-based adjectives with all other word classes in the captions. The results therefore establish the predominance of N→A formations in this dataset, rather than proving that the communicative characteristics of Instagram necessarily cause this pattern.

The suffix distribution also shows that the categories were unevenly represented. The *-al/-ial/-ical/-ual* category accounted for 17 items (26.98%), followed by *-y* with eight items (12.70%) and *-ic/-tic* with seven items (11.11%). These three categories together represented 32 of the 63 items. This concentration suggests that a relatively small number of the classified categories accounted for approximately half of the analyzed items.

Nevertheless, the results concern frequency in a defined corpus. They do not independently establish morphological productivity, which concerns the capacity of a morphological process to form new words. Consequently, the *-al/-ial/-ical/-ual* category should be described as the most frequently represented category in this dataset rather than the most productive suffix in English.

4.3 Morphological Adjustments and Complex Derivation

The analysis reported morphological adjustments in 15 items (23.81%), including e-deletion, y-to-i alternation, consonant doubling, and stem modification. The examples *glory* → *glorious* and *fun* → *funny* illustrate two of the patterns reported in the original analysis. The dataset also includes forms analyzed as involving more than one affix, such as *unforgettable* and *international*, as well as the reported double derivations *fatalistic* and *diaristic*.

These findings show that the analyzed forms do not all share the same internal structure. Some were treated as direct base-plus-suffix formations, while others involved additional affixation or changes in the base form. This variation is important for morphological description because a word's final spelling does not always reveal its full derivational history.

At the same time, the reported adjustments need to be distinguished from historical or lexicalized word formation. The analysis of *British* and *mandatory*, in particular, should not be considered confirmed solely on the basis of their apparent endings. Their proposed derivations require authoritative morphological or etymological support. Similarly, the

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grouped categories *-al/-ial/-ical/-ual* and *-ic/-tic* should be justified according to explicit criteria before all the forms are treated as allomorphs of the same suffix.

4.4 Comparison with Previous Studies

Previous studies cited in the Introduction have examined derivational morphology in different types of texts. (Alam, 2023) investigated derivational suffixes in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Karang et al. (2024) examined adjective-forming derivational suffixes in Andersen's fairy tales, while Ningsih & Utami (2024) studied derivational suffixes in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. Other research has considered literary works (Lastari & Winarta, 2025), CNN news articles (Ulan & Utami, 2025), and Indonesian adjective derivation (Sari et al., 2026).

The present study extends this research by examining adjective-forming suffixes in a contemporary social-media corpus. It documents 13 suffix categories and identifies a strong predominance of Noun-to-Adjective formations in the selected Instagram captions. The findings complement research based on novels, fairy tales, and news media by providing a description of adjective formation in a different digital context.

Cahyani et al. (2022) examined derivational suffixes forming nouns in Instagram captions. Their focus differs from the present study, which concentrates on adjective-forming suffixes. The two studies nevertheless demonstrate the relevance of Instagram captions as a source of data for examining derivational morphology.

The available information in the manuscript does not provide sufficiently comparable frequency tables for all these earlier studies. Therefore, it would be premature to claim that the dominance of *-al* or the N→A pattern directly confirms or contradicts their results. The defensible contribution of the present study is the documentation of these patterns in its own dataset and the extension of morphological description to a contemporary social-media context.

4.5 Overall Morphological Patterns in Instagram Discourse

The findings identify four principal characteristics of the selected captions. First, the 63 analyzed items were classified into 13 adjectival suffix categories. Second, the *-al/-ial/-ical/-ual* category occurred most frequently. Third, Noun-to-Adjective formation accounted for 92.06% of the analyzed items. Fourth, the analysis reported morphological adjustments in 15 items and two cases of double derivation.

Together, these findings demonstrate how established English word-formation patterns appear in the selected Instagram captions. They provide a corpus-specific account of suffix categories, base patterns, and morphological structures. The results also show that the analysis of digital discourse requires attention to the distinction between transparent synchronic derivation and forms whose apparent structure may reflect historical or lexical development.

The study has several limitations. First, the dataset is restricted to one Instagram account and cannot automatically represent the language of other users or platforms. Second, the data cover the period from January 2023 to March 2026. Third, the analysis focuses on 63 lexical items from 141 captions and uses descriptive frequency counts rather than an independent measure of morphological productivity. Finally, some proposed morphological classifications and groupings require verification against authoritative references.

Future research could examine larger datasets from multiple social-media accounts, compare different platforms, and establish explicit criteria for distinguishing productive derivation from lexicalized or historically complex forms. Such research could provide a broader basis for comparing morphological patterns across digital communication contexts.

The contribution of this study is therefore not simply the general claim that derivational suffixes expand English vocabulary. Rather, it documents how particular adjective-forming categories and base patterns occur in a selected corpus of contemporary Instagram captions. This provides a focused empirical description of derivational morphology in naturally occurring digital texts.

5. Conclusion

This study investigated the use of adjectival derivational suffixes in Taylor Swift's Instagram captions using the morphological frameworks proposed by Katamba (1993) and Yule (2010). The findings identified 63 lexical items representing 13 types of adjectival derivational suffixes, with *-al* (including *-ial, -ical,* and *-ual*) being the most frequently occurring suffix group in the dataset. Most derived adjectives were formed from noun bases, indicating that denominal adjective formation was the dominant pattern. The analysis also identified several morphophonemic adjustments associated with adjective formation, including e-deletion, consonant doubling, y-to-i alternation, and stem modification. In addition, some examples involved more complex derivational patterns combining multiple affixes.

These findings demonstrate how derivational suffixes contribute to English adjective formation and the expression of descriptive meaning in social media discourse. By examining authentic Instagram captions, this study extends previous research on derivational morphology beyond literary texts and conventional written materials. It provides empirical evidence of adjectival word-formation patterns in a contemporary digital communication context. The findings may serve as a reference for further research on English derivational morphology, particularly studies examining adjective formation across different digital platforms and larger linguistic datasets.

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