

1.0 Background

Word formation is not an easy process to be achieved by the language learner , but it needs an intensive and extensive work . Without mastering the use of suffixes and prefixes no correct language can be assumed .

The main purpose is mastering English Affixes in order to be used properly as word formation process to give the intended meaning .English language teaching textbooks normally present the learner with a quantity of English derivational Affixes . These texts mainly do two things ; they introduce the new words either with Affixes or without them .

As it is apparent , most of formation processes applied to the words in SPINE (4 and 5) are in most cases repeated in SPINE 6 that is why the study will be restricted to SPINE (4 and 5) and in both cases the students need to know how to form new words out of the given ones or to show the roots of the formed ones .

Good spelling knowledge is extremely important for effective word recognition which can greatly enhance or hinder reading , as for writing poor spelling can make writing a labored activity with regular interruption to the thought processed by excessive attention to spelling . Louisa (2000).

Poor spelling also limits the writer's choice of words which negatively influence creativity and leads to short, and sometimes incoherent pieces of writing . In addition ; poor spellers often have low motivation to write .Sitton (1995).

However ; this study mainly focuses on Affixes and investigates the problems that encounter third secondary school students in using Affixes and the students deal with change of word-class when using Affixes . The researcher prepares a test for the students to evaluate their answers and analyze them in order to find out the result .

English Affixes include ; suffixes , prefixes , infixes and circumfixes but the study will be limited to suffixes and prefixes this is due to the absence of the other two forms in spine series

1.1 Statement of the problem

It has been observed that most of the mistakes which are committed by secondary school students likely to be as a result of misunderstanding the rules behind affixes addition , as well as the similarities within the affixes in general which can be in term of meaning , spelling or even pronunciation .

1.2 Questions of the study

The study will provide answers for the following questions :

- 1- To what extent do the students use English Affixes correctly in SPINE (4 and 5) ?
- 2- To what extent do the students ignore the rules of English Affixes addition in general ?

1.3 Hypotheses of the study

The study has the following as its hypotheses :

H₀: The majority of the Students are not able to use English Affixes found in SPINE (4 and 5) correctly

H₀: The majority of the Students do not know the rules behind English Affixes addition in general

1.4 Methodology

The study is descriptive in nature . The researcher adopts a test as an instrument for data collection in order to provide answers for the research questions and verify hypotheses .

The data is analyzed statistically of the gathered data in order to find out the result . The sample is a random sample chosen from different schools in Khartoum State .

1.5 Significance of the study

All human being Languages depend basically upon words , it is well known that English language is one good example of these languages ; that is why the researcher wants to trace this area for its importance for the students .

The study will provide Teachers as well as learners with some spelling rules concerning some Affixes usages to minimize the risk of committing mistakes .

1.6 Objectives of the study

The study tries to realize the following objectives :

- 1- Enabling the students to master Affixes so as to increase their vocabularies .
- 2- Figuring out some problematic areas that affect students ability to master the use of Affixes .
- 3- Finding out how SPINE (4 and 5) are rich enough in Affixes .

1.7 Limits of the study

As the scope of the study in term of time , the researcher took sample of students doing their holiday classes so as to answer the test questions . The study is restricted to Khartoum State .

The study is limited to English Affixes in SPINE (4 and 5) .

1.8 Definitions of terms

The researcher is much concerned with defining some terms for illustration such as :

- Affixes : (linguistic morphology) they are bound morpheme added to a word stem which represent suffixes , prefixes and infixes
- Suffixes : one or more letters added at the end of a word to modify the words meaning .
- Prefixes : one or more letters added at the beginning of a word to modify the words meaning .
- Infixes : one or more letters added at the middle of a word to modify the words meaning.
- SPINE : refers to Sudanese English curriculum for basic and secondary schools and it is an acronym for (Sudan Practical Integrated National English)