

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Human beings speak of thousands of words to communicate with one another. When there is a communication, there will be a language. Hence, language and communication are closely related. The use of language by human beings involves the production of words. To know how words are produced, it is necessary to study morphology. It is in line with Nida's (1949: 1) opinion saying that morphology is the study of morphemes and their arrangements in forming words.

Further, Bloch and Trager (1942: 72) classify morphological processes into five kinds. They are reduplication, suppletion, zero modification, internal change and affixation. Meanwhile, affixation as one of morphological processes may be inflectional or derivational in nature.

Derivational affix is an affix by means of which one word is formed (derived) from another. The derived word is often of different word class from the original. We can change the class of a word by adding prefixes or suffixes to it. For example: the word "*play*" is a verb, but it can be changed to an adjective by adding *-ful* to make it "*playful*". ([http:// www.sil. Ora/linguistics/GlossaryOf LinguisticsTerms/whatisaderivationalAffix.htm](http://www.sil.org/linguistics/GlossaryOfLinguisticsTerms/whatisaderivationalAffix.htm)). Moreover, suffixes, as Gleason (1961: 59) says, are affixes which follow the roots with which they are

most closely associated. This statement shows that suffixes are affixes that always come after the roots in word constructions.

While, adjective is a modifier that has grammatical properties of comparison (Azar,1989:109). It is often identified by special derivational endings or by special adverbial modifiers that precede it.

The discussion above clarifies that adjectival suffix is an affix attached to the end of a word and the new form, an adjective, is usually identified by special derivational endings or by special adverbial modifiers that have grammatical properties of comparison. An adjectival suffix may not work for every word in a class, however. For example : adding *-ful* to a verb can create an adjective, as in *forgetful, useful, mournful*, etcetera. But, it is not true for all verbs, because certain verbs require some different suffixes to form adjectives. The verb *live*, for instance, is commonly added a suffix *-ly* to form the adjective *lively*, while the verb *attract* needs a suffix *-ive* to construct the adjective *attractive*. On the other hand, suffix *-ful* is attached not only to a verb but also to a noun to form an adjective, such as in *sinful, beautiful, successful*, and so forth. Likewise, suffix *-ly*, besides added to a verb, may also be attached to a noun to create an adjective. The adjective *manly*, for example, is composed of the noun *man* and the suffix *-ly*. This phenomenon seems to be interesting, or even challenging to study scientifically in a research.



## 1.2 The Reason for Choosing the Topic

In line with the use of English as a means of international communication, it is necessary to study English, especially the use of English adjectival suffixes. This topic is chosen to discuss because knowing the adjectival suffixes may help learners to better understand the formation of adjectives which, in turn, leads to vocabulary comprehension in English. In addition, English adjectival suffixation is of high degree of productivity in word formation processes. Consequently, it becomes an important topic to discuss. In other words, it needs researching comprehensively.

## 1.3 The Statement of the Problem

The problems of the use of English adjectival suffixes discussed in this research are stated as follows :

1. What are the kinds of English adjectival suffixes used in Lilian Peake's *Promise at Midnight*?
2. What are the meanings of those English adjectival suffixes?
3. What is the degree of productivity of each of those adjectival suffixes in the novel?

## 1.4 The Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problems, this research accordingly aims to answer those questions, namely :

1. To reveal the kinds of English adjectival suffixes used in Lilian Peake's *Promise at Midnight*.
2. To describe the meanings of those English adjectival suffixes.
3. To determine the degree of productivity of each of those adjectival suffixes in the novel.

### 1.5 The Scope of the Study

In fact, there are two kinds of derivational affixes. They are derivational prefixes and derivational suffixes. Derivational suffixes can be verbal suffixes, nominal suffixes, adjectival suffixes, or adverbial suffixes. In this research, the researcher discusses only adjectival suffixes viewed from the point of derivational suffixation. There are twenty adjectival suffixes discussed in this research. They are *-ful*, *-ly*, *-less*, *-ic/-ical*, *-y*, *-ed*, *-able/-ible*, *--ant/ent*, *-ive*, *-ing*, *-en*, *-ous*, *-ate*, *-ory/-tory/-atory*, *-ary*, *-ar*, *-ish*, *-al/-ial*, *-esque*, and *-like*.

### 1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the result of this research may contribute something valuable for the readers, especially for other researchers using it as reference for further research on the same topic. Besides that this study can be one of the alternatives for the readers to better understand English adjectival suffixes. This study is also expected to improve the English learners' knowledge about adjective formation through suffixation processes. In addition, the researcher hopes that the

result of this study may stimulate those who are interested in linguistics to discuss English adjective formation in a more detailed study.

### **1.7 The Method of the Study**

The researcher applies the descriptive method in conducting the research on the use of adjectival suffixes. It is used to solve the problems of the study through some steps : collecting, classifying, and analyzing the data. As stated by Surachmad (1989: 139) in *Pengantar Penelitian Ilmiah* “descriptive method is a method of the study by collecting, classifying, analysing, and interpreting data”.

While, the source of the data of this research is Lilian Peake’s *Promise at Midnight*. Consequently, this research belongs to library research because the data analyzed are taken from printed material.