

MORPHOPHONOLOGICAL BEHAVIOR OF *-ize* AND *-ify* SUFFIXATION IN ENGLISH VERBAL DERIVATION: A CORPUS- BASED STUDY

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Abstract

This study examines the morphophonological behavior of the English derivational suffixes *-ize* and *-ify*, focusing on their influence on primary stress placement in derived verbs. Using a descriptive corpus-based approach, the study analyzes English words ending in *-ize* and *-ify* retrieved from Sketch Engine, with phonetic transcription and stress placement verified through Oxford dictionary entries. The data were classified based on suffix type, base form, derived form, and the phonetic transcription of both the base and suffixed forms. The findings show that *-ize* is largely stress-neutral, as most derived verbs preserve the stress pattern of their base forms. By contrast, *-ify* tends to be more stress-sensitive, frequently leading to stress reassignment toward the antepenultimate syllable. Although the two suffixes differ in their degree of stress sensitivity, both display a strong tendency toward antepenultimate stress in derived verbs. The study also identifies several irregular patterns, indicating that stress placement in English derivation is shaped not only by suffixation but also by lexical, prosodic, and historical factors. These findings underline the close interaction between morphology and phonology in English word formation and offer useful implications for pronunciation instruction and morphological awareness in English Language Teaching.

Keywords: Corpus-Based Analysis, Derivational Suffix Morphophonology, Suffix *-ify*, Suffix *-ize*, Stress Placement

INTRODUCTION

English has a complex morphological system that occurs within words. This morphology also plays an important role in building words and enriching vocabulary. The morphological process includes many types, such as: affixation, composition, conversion, derivation, and inflection (Leminen et al., 2018). The Complexity is seen in the innovation of the process of morphemes to reconstruct and strengthen the word based on the usage; kind of time, amount, and even the word class (Stoffelsma et al., 2025). Derivational process capable of creating other meanings and functions from a word base by adding an affix to the stem. This kind of morphological process makes English interesting to discuss and requires a more in-depth understanding to study.

Suffixes *-ize* and *-ify* play an important role in forming verbs from adjectives or nouns in English, because they can reconstruct the word base and word class into a word that asserts an action or process, even an adjective into a noun, and so on (Nielsen et al., 2022). By adding a suffix to a stem, a word can undergo grammatical change without significantly altering the base word. For example, the suffix *-ize* in the base word *modern* creates the verb *modernize*, which means to make something modern. It changes the base

word from a single grammatical unit to a complex grammatical unit by adding the suffix -ize. A complex word has more than one grammatical unit. It has a stem and another grammatical unit, such as plural with the suffix -s, past tense with the suffix -ed, or an adjective with the suffixes -less and -ful. It also has the prefix un-, which reverses the meaning of the base word.

The morphological derivational in English, suffix -ize and -ify are the suffixes that contribute so much to creating verb (Laws, 2018). These suffixes are often used to change nouns and adjectives into verbs that assert the action, process, or conditional change. For example, suffix -ize in word formal creates formalize, which means to make things formal, and suffix -ify in word pure creates purify, which means to make things pure. The productivity of creating verb from noun and adjective shows the flexibility of English. Suffix not only changes function of word class, but also impacts to the phonological structure including stress placement (Yuan & Tang, 2025). In many cases, additional suffix -ize and -ify affect stress shifting in order to suit with the English prosodic, and in other cases these suffixes include to neutral suffix which is doesn't change the word stress. According to Takahiro Ioroi, suffix -ize belongs to suffix class II and -ify to suffix class I (Stress Affecting) (Ioroi, 2004).

Stressing words correctly when speaking English is essential in conveying the correct message to listeners. When a speaker places the stress in a word incorrectly, the message to listeners will not be accurate (Abker, 2020). Therefore, sometimes, the learner will just be confused about what other students mean. As we know, in the classroom there are many cultures, accents, and so on that impact pronunciation. It does not mean that the pronunciation cannot be improved; however, the students just need to learn about pronunciation earlier (Rahman et al., 2023) as it is the basic skill that we have to acquire when we are young, because this kind of skill that we need to develop from a young age, but many people are just not conscious about this issue.

Many studies have focused on the morphological aspect without considering the phonological aspect, the analysis has been done by Anggun Purnomo Arbi (Arbi, 2022), Ni Putu Dian Narasuari (Putu et al., 2020), Rugaiyah (Rugaiyah, 2018), Tira Nur Fitria (Fitria, 2020), and Kathryn E. Bangs (Bangs, 2017). Their research analyzed the free and bound morphemes, classifying and identifying the affixes, especially the suffixes. The studies typically considered the availability of suffixes in some cases or in textbooks. Others have explained the phonological aspect, the analysis has been done by Inbal Bechler Sivan (Bechler-sivan et al., 2025), Yasuaki Shinohara (Shinohara & Shafer, 2026), and Armando Quetzalc' oatl Angulo Chavira (Mitzi & Quetzalc, 2026). But the scope of the studies does not discuss the correlation between the morphological and phonological aspects; meanwhile, it discusses the phonological and semantic phenomenon, which is to examine some theory or to measure some cases.

However, studies about specific suffixes are still rare to find. According to Junya Morita, this study also presents a corpus-based approach to analyzing the general derivational suffixes in forming verbs, and it also identifies empirical and theoretical consequences of verb-forming suffixes, such as the two productive suffixes -ize and -ify, are relatively seldom to find (Morita, 2022). Even more, these analyses include morphophonological analysis of the stress patterns that occur when the suffixes are added; this study also uses corpus-based data for the analysis. Whereas these suffixes have

different morphological characteristics and inconsistent impact on stress placement. So that way, this comparative analysis in between potentially gives a more comprehensive understanding of derivation and stress placement.

This research is important because it can give in-depth understanding and a systematic about stress placement patterns on word endings with suffix -ize and -ify as productive suffixes in modern English. By identifying the tendency, inconsistency, and linguistic factors that impact to stress placement, this study hopefully can provide an obvious and applicable pattern. The finding not only contributes to morphological theory in Affixes especially in forming words from derived word but also has practical implications in the pedagogical realm, especially in pronunciation teaching, word shaping, and lexical analysis for English students.

METHOD

Research Design

This study used a descriptive qualitative research design with a corpus-based linguistic approach. The design was chosen because the study aimed to describe and analyze the linguistic phenomena, focusing on the morphological and phonological behavior of English words ending in the derivational suffixes -ize and -ify. Rather than focusing primarily on numerical frequency, this approach allows researchers to examine data in-depth based on its linguistic characteristics, such as base forms, derived word classes, phonetic transcription, stress placement, and emerging patterns of stress shift.

Data Source and Research Instrument

The data were retrieved from the English Web Corpus, also known as English Web 2021/enTenTen21, available in Sketch Engine. The use of Sketch Engine as a data source supports a corpus-based linguistics approach that emphasizes empirical evidence-based analysis and allows the researchers to conduct more objective and measurable analyses (Kilgarriff et al., 2025). Sketch Engine was used as the main tool for retrieving corpus data, particularly through its Word List feature, by searching the English words ending in -ize and -ify. This application provides access to various large and representative corpora, such as general and academic English corpora, enabling researchers to observe language use in authentic contexts through features (Hu & Yang, 2015). In addition, the Oxford Dictionary was used as a reference instrument to verify the spelling, word class, phonetic transcription, primary stress placement, and base form of each lexical item.

Technique of Data Collection

The data collection process was carried out in several stages. First, the researcher searched for English word forms ending in the suffixes -ize and -ify using the Word List feature in Sketch Engine. Second, the retrieved items were screened to remove duplicates, proper nouns, abbreviations, non-verbal forms, and lexical items that were not listed in the Oxford Dictionary. Third, each remaining item was checked through Oxford Dictionary entries to confirm its phonetic transcription, primary stress placement, word class, and base form. After the screening and verification process, the final dataset consisted of 499 words ending in -ize and 85 words ending in -ify.

Technique of Data Analysis

The data were analyzed through three steps: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion as well as verification. In the data reduction stage, the researcher classified the corpus data by grouping the words based on suffix types -ize and -ify. The data were then grouped according to their base forms, word classes, phonetic transcription, and stress placement. In the data display stage, the classified data were presented in tables to show the distribution of stress patterns and the occurrence of stress shift or non-shift forms. In the conclusion and verification stage, the researcher analyzed the patterns found in the data to determine whether the suffixes -ize and -ify affect stress placement, to identify the dominant types of stress in suffixed words, and to examine possible linguistic factors influencing stress shift.

Data Verification

To ensure the reliability of the analysis, each lexical item was verified using Oxford Dictionary entries. This verification included checking the word form, base form, word class, phonetic transcription, and primary stress placement. Items that could not be verified or did not meet the selection criteria were excluded from the dataset. This procedure helped ensure that the analysis was based on valid and consistent linguistic data.

Through this approach, the study is expected to provide a systematic overview of the morphological and phonological behavior of the suffixes -ize and -ify as well as identify stress placement patterns that can serve as a reference in linguistic studies and English pronunciation teaching.

FINDINGS

How the Suffixes -ize and -ify Affect Stress Placement in English Words

This section presents the findings on stress placement in English words ending in the suffixes -ize and -ify. The analysis focuses on three main aspects: the occurrence of stress shift, the dominant stress patterns in suffixed words, and the linguistic features associated with stress shift. The findings are presented through frequency tables and representative examples to show how the two suffixes differ in their morphological and phonological behavior.

Table 1. Stress Shifting Percentage of Suffix -ize and -ify

| Suffix | Stress Placement | Freq. | Percentage | Word Totals |
|--------|------------------|-------|------------|-------------|
| -ize | Shift | 33 | 7% | 499 |
| | No Shift | 466 | 93% | |
| -ify | Shift | 12 | 14% | 85 |
| | No Shift | 73 | 86% | |

The data show that stress shift occurs less frequently in words ending in -ize than in words ending in -ify. Of the 499 -ize forms analyzed, only 33 items, or 7%, show stress shift, while 466 items, or 93%, retain the stress position of their base forms. This indicates that -ize tends to behave as a stress-neutral suffix.

In contrast, 12 out of 85 -ify forms, or 14%, show stress shift, while 73 items, or 86%, do not show stress shift. Although most -ify forms still preserve the stress position of their base forms, the percentage of shifted forms is higher than that of -ize. This suggests that -ify is relatively more stress-sensitive than -ize.

Stress Shifting in Words Ending in -ize

In the -ize group, 33 items show stress shift after suffixation. These items indicate that although -ize generally behaves as a stress-neutral suffix, stress shift may occur in certain derived forms. Here are some examples of suffix -ize that impact to the stress shifting.

Example 1. Stress Shifting in Suffix -ize:

| Word Base | IPA | Stress Placement | Suffixed | IPA | Stress Placement | Shifting |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Immune | /ɪ'mju:n/ | Ultimate stress | Immunize | /'ɪmjə,naɪz/ | Antepenultimate stress | Shift |

In immune /ɪ'mju:n/, primary stress falls on the final syllable. After the addition of -ize, the derived form immunize /'ɪmjənaɪz/ shows primary stress on the first syllable, which corresponds to antepenultimate stress in the derived word. This indicates a stress shift from the base form to the derived verb.

In contrast, in the most data of words with suffix -ize, it revealed that this suffix does not impact the stress shifting. These words can be analyzed through the same technique in tabular form to find the stress type of base words and suffixed words as follows:

Example 2. No Stress Shifting in Suffix -ize:

| Word Base | IPA | Stress Placement | Suffixed | IPA | Stress Placement | Shifting |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Real | /rɪəl/ | First syllable stress | Realize | /'ri(ə),laɪz/ | Antepenultimate stress | No Shift |

In real /rɪəl/, the base consists of one stressed syllable. After the addition of -ize, the derived form realize /'ri:əlaɪz/ retains stress on the original base syllable, known as antepenultimate stress. Therefore, this item is categorized as a non-shift form, although the stressed syllable becomes antepenultimate in the derived word.

Stress Shifting in Words Ending in -ify

Meanwhile, compared with -ize, the suffix -ify shows a relatively higher proportion of stress shift. However, most -ify forms still retain the stress position of their base forms. Several data were selected to illustrate common morphological behavior and stress placement of suffix -ify.

Example 3. Stress Shifting in Suffix -ify:

| Word Base | IPA | Stress Placement | Suffixed | IPA | Stress Placement | Shifting |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Solid | /ˈsɒləd/ | First syllable stress | solidify | /səˈlɪdəˌfaɪ/ | Antepenultimate stress | Shift |

The word ‘solid’ /ˈsɒləd/, the primary stress is placed on the first syllable. After added with the suffix -ify, becoming ‘solidify’ /səˈlɪdəˌfaɪ/, the primary stress shifts from the first syllable stress to the antepenultimate stress. Several words that no stress shifting also appear in the suffix -ify as follows:

Example 4. No Stress Shifting in Suffix -ify:

| Word Base | IPA | Stress Placement | Suffixed | IPA | Stress Placement | Shifting |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Just | /dʒəst/ | First syllable stress | justify | /ˈdʒəstəˌfaɪ/ | Antepenultimate stress | No Shift |

As a contrast, based on the above tabular form, the word ‘just’ /dʒəst/ is monosyllabic with the primary stress placed only on the syllable left. When this word is added by suffix -ify becoming ‘justify’ /ˈdʒəstəˌfaɪ/, the primary stress remains on the first syllable and becoming antepenultimate stress. It is caused by the additional syllable.

Based on the analyzed data, words ending in the suffixes -ize and -ify generally have an average of three or four syllables, depending on the complexity of the base form and the derivation process that occurs. The addition of these two suffixes consistently increases the number of syllables compared to the base form. In terms of the word class of derivation, both the suffixes -ize and -ify generally form verbs from nouns and adjectives. In addition, based on the researcher's analysis, the suffixes -ize and -ify tend to have antepenultimate stress, although the stress placement is restricted to the same syllable or no shift. Despite these patterns being dominant, the data also show variations and exceptions, indicating that stress placement is not always entirely consistent and requires further analysis.

The Factors Impacting Stress Shifting of The Derivational Suffixes -ize and -ify

To find the factors that affect stress shifting, the researcher divides the words that show the shifting process and analyzes the factors based on the theories as shown in the

below tables. Each shifted form was coded based on the presence or absence of selected linguistic features. Schwa was coded when vowel reduction appeared in an unstressed syllable after suffixation. Word class was coded when suffixation changed the base form into a verb. Number of syllables was coded when suffixation increased the syllable count and coincided with stress relocation. Syllable weight was coded based on the presence of a heavy syllable, such as a closed syllable or a syllable containing a diphthong. The alternating stress rule was coded when the derived word showed alternating primary and secondary stress patterns.

Table 2. Linguistic Features Associated with Stress Shift in -ize Forms

| Suffix -ize | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| No | Factors | Occurrence in Shifted Forms | Appearing | Shift Totals |
| 1 | Schwa | 97% | 32 | 33 Words |
| 2 | Word Class | 52% | 17 | |
| 3 | Number of Syllables | 55% | 18 | |
| 4 | Syllable Weight | 100% | 33 | |
| 5 | Alternating Stress Rule | 45% | 15 | |

The shifted -ize forms show several recurring linguistic features. Syllable weight appears in all 33 shifted items, or 100%, making it the most frequent associated feature. Schwa appears in 32 items, or 97%, followed by number of syllables in 18 items, or 55%, word class in 17 items, or 52%, and the alternating stress rule in 15 items, or 45%. These results suggest that stress shift in -ize forms is associated with multiple interacting features rather than a single determining factor. Among the shifted -ize forms, syllable weight is the most frequently occurring feature, followed by schwa, number of syllables, word class, and the alternating stress rule.

Table 3. Linguistic Features Associated with Stress Shift in -ify Forms

| Suffix -ify | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| No | Factors | Occurrence in Shifted Forms | Appearing | Shift Totals |
| 1 | Schwa | 100% | 12 | 12 Words |
| 2 | Word Class | 100% | 12 | |
| 3 | Number of Syllables | 100% | 12 | |
| 4 | Syllable Weight | 100% | 12 | |
| 5 | Alternating Stress Rule | 0% | 0 | |

In the shifted -ify forms, schwa, word class, number of syllables, and syllable weight appear in all 12 shifted items, or 100%. Meanwhile, the alternating stress rule does not appear in any of the shifted -ify forms. This indicates that stress shift in -ify forms is more consistently associated with schwa, word-class change, syllable increase, and syllable weight.

Schwa /ə/

The schwa /ə/ is the weaker vowel that is found in an unstressed syllable. When the vowel doesn't get primary stress, it is formed into schwa. In the data of factors that affect stress placement in suffix -ize, the schwa factor shows 97% impact on stress shifting, while in suffix -ify the percentage shows 100%. It means that schwa is associated with stress relocation in shifting stress and contributing to the process of recreating the stress placement, which is called prosodic reorganization.

Example 1. Suffix -ize:

| | Before | After |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Schwa /ə/ | /ɪ'mjun/ (without schwa) | /'ɪmjə,naɪz/ (with schwa) |

Syllable with schwa /ə/ does not get stress, as in the word 'immunize' /'ɪmjə,naɪz/. In immunize /'ɪmjənaɪz/, the second syllable contains schwa /ə/ and remains unstressed. The presence of schwa in the unstressed syllable is associated with stress relocation to the first syllable, resulting in antepenultimate stress. For further explanation, the word 'immune' /ɪ'mjun/ to 'immunize' /'ɪmjə,naɪz/ has the primary stress shifts from the second syllable (ultimate stress) to the first syllable (antepenultimate stress). From the phonetic transcription above, the word /ɪ'mjun/ does not carry schwa /ə/ when the stress is placed. Meanwhile in the word 'immunize' /'ɪmjə,naɪz/, the second syllable carry schwa /ə/ and shifts the stress to the first syllable or antepenultimate stress. This factor probability is also supported by other factors found in the theory.

Word Class

Word class refers to the grammatical category of a word, such as noun, adjective, or verb. In this study, word class is relevant because the suffixes -ize and -ify generally form verbs from nouns or adjectives. In this phenomenon, this factor impacts the stress shifting in the words with suffix -ize as much as 52%, while in suffix -ify it shows 100%. It reveals that the word class factor is more affected in suffix -ify rather than the suffix -ize. The process of word class affecting stress can be explained as follows:

Example 2. Suffix -ize:

| | Before | After |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Word Class | 'democrat' /'dɛmə,kræt/ as a noun | 'democratize' /dɪ'makrə,taɪz/ as a verb |

In *democrat* /'dɛmɒkræt/, stress falls on the first syllable. After the addition of -ize, the derived verb *democratize* /dɪ'mɑ:kɹətɑɪz/ shows stress on the second syllable or antepenultimate stress. This indicates that word-class change from noun to verb coincides with stress relocation in this item.

For more understanding, the word 'democrat' can have several meanings depending on its stress placement. It can be a verb if the primary stress is placed in the second syllable (ultimate stress), or it can also be a noun if the stress is placed on the first syllable. It can be concluded that the verb form has a tendency to be shifted to the second syllable. Additionally, when the form is a noun, it will shift the stress placement to the first syllable.

Number of Syllables

The number of syllables depends on how many syllables the word has in one word. In this case, the percentage of factors that affect stress placement in suffix -ize, the number of syllables shows 55% impact on stress shifting, while in suffix -ify the percentage shows 100%. In the word 'solid' /'sɒlɪd/, it can be seen that this word has only two syllables. After being suffixed by -ify becoming 'solidify' /sə'lɪdɪfaɪ/, it has four syllables in a word. This factor actually supports the word class factor as the increase in syllable number may create a new prosodic environment for stress placement.

Example 3. Suffix -ify:

| | Before | After |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Number of Syllables | 'object' /'ɒbdʒək(t)/ has two syllables | 'objectify' /əb'dʒɛktəfaɪ/ has four syllables |

For more understanding, in the word 'object' /'ɒbdʒək(t)/ has two syllables. After the addition of -ify, the word becomes *objectify* /əb'dʒɛktəfaɪ/, which consists of four syllables. The increase in syllable number creates a new prosodic environment in which stress may be relocated.

Syllable Weight

The syllable weight is the syllable that includes of onset, nucleus, and coda to create a strong syllable. In this percentage of factors that affect stress placement in suffix -ize, the syllable weight shows 100% impact on stress shifting, while in suffix -ify the percentage shows 100%. In a word 'solid' /'sɒlɪd/ the first syllable includes onset consonant, nucleus vowel, and coda consonant. This structure creates form CVC which means a strong syllable, this structure can also affect by diphthong to create strong syllable. Heavy syllables tend to attract stress, although this tendency interacts with other prosodic factors, reverse from the schwa factor as a weaker vowel.

Example 4. Suffix -ify:

| | Before | After |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Syllable Weight | /'sɒbdʒək(t)/ including CVC in the first syllable | /səb'dʒɛktəfaɪ/ including CVC in the second syllable |

Word ‘subject’ /'səbdʒək(t)/ in this case has only two syllables which are carried schwa. Due to this phenomenon, the stress placement follows the rule of word class which states generally that a noun gets first syllable stress. The structure of syllable weight shows a consonant as an onset (C), a vowel schwa as a nucleus (V), and closes with a consonant as a coda (C), In the first syllable which means it was a close syllable with schwa or strong syllable. The second syllable in ‘objectify’ contains a heavier syllabic structure, which tends to attract stress. However, this tendency interacts with other phonological and morphological factors. Because a syllable consists of a schwa which is the weakest vowel and cannot get stress, so the stress placement shifts to the second syllable or antepenultimate stress.

Alternating Stress Rule

The alternating stress rule is a rule that we can find in theory according to Chomsky and Halle “The Sound Pattern of English”, in this percentage of the factors that affect stress placement in suffix -ize, the alternating stress rule shows 45% impact on stress shifting, while in suffix -ify the percentage shows 0%. This phenomenon can occur because the alternating stress rule generally shifts the stress to the forward, while the suffix -ify generally shifts the stress placement to backward.

Example 5. Suffix -ize:

| Alternating Stress Rule | Before | After |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| | From the second syllable /ɪ'mjun/ (Ultimate stress) | To the first syllable /'ɪmjə,naɪz/ (Antepenultimate stress) |

Word ‘immunize’ /'ɪmjə,naɪz/ consists of two stresses: primary (ˈ) and secondary stress (,). However, to avoid a stress crash, the primary stress shifts from the second syllable /ɪ'mjun/ to the first syllable /'ɪmjə,naɪz/ or antepenultimate stress.

These findings also show a phenomenon that a domination in the type of stress placement occurs after adding these two productive suffixes which is antepenultimate stress.

Table 4. Type of Stress from Suffixed Words in -ize and -ify

| Suffix -ize | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------|-------------|------------|
| No | Stress Type | Totals | Word Totals | Percentage |
| 1 | Antepenultimate Stress | 382 | 499 | 77% |
| 2 | Pre-antepenultimate Stress | 109 | | 22% |
| 3 | First Syllable Stress | 3 | | 1% |
| 4 | Penultimate Stress | 5 | | 1% |
| Suffix -ify | | | | |
| No | Stress Type | Totals | Word Totals | Percentage |
| 1 | Antepenultimate Stress | 85 | 85 | 100% |

From the table, we find that the most types of stress that appear in each suffix are antepenultimate stress. This table presents the percentage of appearing types of stress in these suffixes which shows the percentage of antepenultimate in the suffix -ize 77%, pre-antepenultimate 22%, first syllable stress 1%, and penultimate stress 1%. While the suffix -ify shows only one type of stress that appears in the suffixed word which is antepenultimate stress with a percentage 100%.

DISCUSSIONS

Based on the findings that present the results of stress shifting in the suffixes -ize and -ify, the researcher found that the suffix -ize generally retains the stress placement, whereas the suffix -ify shifts the stress to the antepenultimate position. The findings show that the suffixes -ize and -ify differ in their relationship to English stress placement. The suffix -ize tends to behave as a stress-neutral suffix because only a small proportion of the data shows stress shift. In contrast, -ify shows a relatively higher tendency toward stress shift, although most -ify forms still retain the stress position of their base forms. This suggests that -ify is more stress-sensitive than -ize, but it should not be interpreted as a suffix that always causes stress shift.

This study differs from previous studies that mainly focused on identifying affixes, classifying morphemes, or examining morphological awareness in language learning. The present study connects derivational morphology with phonological stress placement through corpus-based analysis. Therefore, it contributes to morphophonological research by showing how suffixation interacts with stress patterns in English derived verbs. In some instances, some of the previous studies also discussed the morphological awareness that aims to improve spelling, vocabulary, and reading comprehension for adult learners based on textbooks, which is a novel approach to a literacy intervention that focuses on morphemes (Bangs, 2017). Another one discussed the effects of morphological awareness and phonological awareness on reading skills from grade 3 to grade 5, which included reading measures, word reading accuracy, word reading speed, and passage comprehension in both grade in case (Kirby et al., 2025).

Through corpus-based analysis, this study shows that stress placement in derived words is shaped by the interaction between morphological structure and phonological patterns. The findings suggest that suffixation alone cannot fully explain stress shift, since several linguistic features may interact in determining stress placement.

How The Suffixes -ize and -ify Affect Stress Placement in English Words

From the data analysis, the researcher has obtained that the two suffixes -ize and -ify have differences in affecting stress placement. The findings also indicate that antepenultimate stress is the dominant pattern in both suffix groups. In -ize forms, antepenultimate stress accounts for the majority of the data, while all -ify forms in the dataset show antepenultimate stress. This pattern suggests that although the two suffixes differ in productivity and stress-shifting tendency, they share a common prosodic tendency in derived forms. These findings support the distinction between stress-neutral and stress-affecting suffixation: -ize tends to behave as a stress-neutral suffix, whereas -ify shows a stronger tendency to affect stress placement (Naotsugu, 2000).

The Factors Impacting Stress Shifting of The Derivational Suffixes -ize and -ify

Several linguistic features, including schwa, word class change, number of syllables, syllable weight, and alternating stress, are associated with stress shift. However, these features should be understood as interacting tendencies rather than absolute causes. Stress placement in English derived words is shaped by the interaction of morphological structure and phonological constraints. Therefore, the occurrence of stress shift cannot be explained by suffixation alone.

The most affecting factor in stress placement of suffix -ize is syllable weight. This finding aligns to the previous theory according to Chomsky and Halle, who stated that the factors of syllable weight affect the stress placement, whether it is penultimate stress or antepenultimate stress (Noam Chomsky and Morris Halle, 1968).

Meanwhile, the findings also provide the outcomes of factors that affect the stress placement of suffix -ify. According to Siegel in Takahiro Ioroi, the stress placement of suffix -ify in terms of prosodic effects are stress shifting and stress neutral (Ioroi, 2004). Even though the types of stress effects are divided into several types, these effects have the same findings which is antepenultimate stress.

Furthermore, the suffix -ize is more productive in creating new words in modern English rather than the suffix -ify. Meanwhile suffix -ify tends to create minimal words especially in verb compared to suffix -ize. It supports Morita's statement that the most productive suffix in forming verb is -ize, while suffix -ify more lacks in forming verbs and tends to be used in specific fields (Morita, 2022).

However, although these two suffixes have different productivity, but they have the same dominant pattern in stress placement which is antepenultimate stress type. These results align with the theory of Chomsky and Halle, in which the type of stress in suffix -ize can be a penultimate and an antepenultimate (Noam Chomsky and Morris Halle, 1968). Besides, suffix -ify only shows one type of stress, antepenultimate stress, in all data. It aligns with the theory that states suffix -ify tends to create antepenultimate stress (Ioroi, 2004).

The finding of this study implicitly reveal that suffixes are not only impact to the change of word formation. Instead, it can also impact to the phonological structure, including stress placement (Yuan & Tang, 2025). In addition, this study has important implications for English language teaching (ELT), particularly regarding pronunciation and phonological awareness. Understanding the stress patterns in words ending with suffixes -ize and -ify can help English learners develop more accurate and natural pronunciation in speaking realm. When a speaker places the stress in a word incorrectly, the message to listeners will not be accurate (Abker, 2020).

This is correlated to the pedagogical implications that include the development of teaching materials and strategies. A teacher can integrate suffix-based pronunciation exercises into vocabulary learning by grouping words ending in -ize and -ify and emphasizing the stress patterns that arise. This approach can help learners avoid common pronunciation mistakes and improve their fluency. Thus, this study makes a practical contribution to the field of ELT by offering a systematic understanding of stress patterns that can be used to improve the effectiveness of English pronunciation learning.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the suffixes -ize and -ify show different tendencies in relation to English stress placement. The suffix -ize is largely stress-neutral, as only 33 out of 499 forms, or 7%, show stress shift. The suffix -ify shows a relatively higher tendency toward stress shift, with 12 out of 85 forms, or 14%, undergoing stress relocation. Nevertheless, most words in both suffix groups retain the stress position of their base forms.

The findings also show that antepenultimate stress is the dominant stress pattern in derived words ending in -ize and -ify. In -ize forms, antepenultimate stress appears in 77% of the data, while all -ify forms in the dataset show antepenultimate stress. This indicates that the two suffixes share a common prosodic tendency, although they differ in productivity and stress-shifting behavior.

The study further indicates that stress shift is associated with several linguistic features, including schwa, word class change, number of syllables, syllable weight, and alternating stress. These features should be understood as recurring tendencies rather than absolute determining factors. This study contributes to morphophonological research by showing how derivational suffixation interacts with stress placement. It also offers practical implications for English pronunciation teaching, particularly in helping learners recognize stress patterns in derived verbs.

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