INFLECTIONAL AND DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

(PART TWO): DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: ETHAR N. JAMEEL

UNIVERSITY OF BASRA

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR H. SC.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

THE DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

- All prefixes in English are derivational. While the suffixes are either inflectional or derivational. The derivational suffixes include all the suffixes which are not inflectional.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

- 1- Attaching a derivational suffix to English words is an arbitrary matter. It means that each base accepts certain derivational suffixes with no specific reason.

- Happy + ness = happiness

- Supreme+ acy= supremacy

- Important + ance= importance

- Responsible+ ity = responsibility

- 2- **<u>Sometimes</u>** derivational affixes change the part of speech to which they are added.
- act(n/ v)------- active(adj)--------- activate(v)
- create(v)-------- creative (adj)   creativity(n)
-
- But, sometimes they do not change the part of speech, they simply change the meaning of the word after adding the affix:
- enter (verb)… reenter (verb)
- ironic(adj)………….ironical(adj)
- happy (adj)………..unhappy (adj)

- **3- The derivational suffixes usually do not close off a word, one can add another derivational suffix or suffixes. The only suffix that closes the word is the inflectional suffix.**

- fertile ….. fertilize………fertilizer……..fertilizers

- act… active……activate… activated

THE DERIVATIONAL PARADIGM

- **The Derivational Paradigm**: is a set of related words composed of the same base morpheme and all the possible **derivational affixes** that can go with this base.

- Sin- sinful- sinfulness- sinless- sinner

- harm – harmful- unharmful- harmless- harmfulness- harmlessness- harmfully- harmlessly

- <u>**Q/ Exclude the word or words which are not related to the derivational paradigm of the word (norm)?**</u>

- norm- normal- normality- normalize- normalizer- ~~normaliz~~ed-normalization- normally- abnormal- ~~normalizer~~s