

## PREFIX RE IN SEVERAL WORDS BEGINNING WITH RE

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*This paper aims at presenting a simple point of view regarding the prefix re in several words beginning with re. The data presented here are random examples taken from class discussion. The data are analyzed from their categories in the sentence. Based on the data analyzed, it can be concluded that re may serve as prefix when the word formation and meaning are generated directly based on the prefix and the meaning of the base word. In addition to that, re is said to be 'closely related prefix' when the word formation and meaning are generated indirectly based on the prefix and the meaning properties of the base word. This category tends to be "real prefix". Apart from that, re is not prefix in particular words when they are the words that build by themselves standing as base words. Eventually, this paper offers a further discussion regarding the use*

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### 1. Background

This consisting of 34 words' analysis paper was, at the beginning, merely a class discussion regarding the word 'repair'. Is it a word with one morpheme, or is it a word with two morphemes? This discussion now leads to the analysis of finding out the answer proposed. In general, this analysis involves the study of morphology; the study of internal structures of words and the rules by which words are formed (Fromkin). In addition to that, in Language Files morphology is defined as the study of how words are structured and how they are put together from smaller parts (p. 117). Carstairs adds that morphology is the area of grammar concerned with the structure of words and with relationship between words involving the morphemes that compose them (p. 16). To my understanding, this definition leads to a thought that morphology is the study of how we can break down the words into the root, they can not be broken down again into smaller parts. Nevertheless, I tried to seek out the words based on their existence in the dictionary and pour the properties to find

out whether they are prefix or not.

### 2. Morpheme

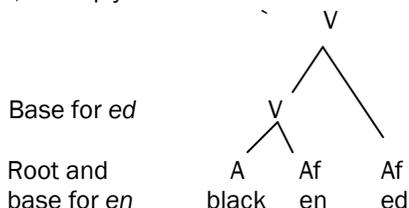
By definition, morpheme is minimal linguistic unit which has a meaning or grammatical functions ... or those that can be broken down again into smaller parts (LF, p. 119). Carstairs defines morpheme as smaller parts of words (p. 16). Whereas O'Grady (p.133) defines morpheme as the smallest unit of language that carries information or function. Departing from these definitions, morpheme can be defined as smallest linguistic unit that gives 'additional' meaning and may bring new function to particular words. In English for example, the word *ripens* consists of three morphemes: *ripe*, *en*, and *s*. The word *ripe*, previously categorized as adjective, changes into verb by the addition of *en*. This verb experiences the additional of *s* morpheme, signaling that the subject for this verb is singular.

O'Grady adds that in order to represent the internal structure of words, it is necessary not only to identify each of the component morphemes but also to classify these

elements in terms of their contribution to the meaning and function of the larger word. Complex words typically consist of a **root** and one or more affixes. The root morpheme carries the major component of the word's meaning and belongs to lexical category (N, V, Adj, P).

In addition to that, O'Grady also adds that a base is the form to which an affix is added. In many cases, the base is also the root. In *books* for example, the element to which the affix *s* is added corresponds to the word's root. In other cases, however, an affix can be added to a unit larger than a root. This happens in words such as *blackened*, in which the past tense affix *ed* is added to the verbal base *blacken-* a unit consisting of the root morpheme *black* and the suffix *en*.

In the figure below, *black* is not the only root for the entire word but also the base for *en*. The unit *blacken*, on the other hand, is simply the base for *ed*.



Apart from that, O'Grady says that:

*Even harder to break into recognizable morphemes are words such as receive, deceive, conceive, and perceive or remit, permit, submit, and commit. These items were borrowed as whole words into English (many of them from Latin through French). Even at the time of borrowing, the re of receive did not have the sense of 'again' that it does in 'redo' (do again) and the de of deceive did not express the meaning 'reverse the process' associated with the de in demystify or decertify. Because the components of words like receive and deceive carry no identifiable meaning for the average speaker of English (who has no knowledge of Latin), we will not treat them as separate morphemes then. Thus, we take the word re-*

*ceive so consist of single morpheme. (p.138).*

This quotation simply implies that some English words are historically characterized by Latin or French. However, I would like to present a new point of view that English word may or may not be characterized in such way; that, for example, morpheme *re* possesses the properties of *again*.

### 3. The prefix 're'

The prefix 're' itself is, at many cases stands as prefix meaning to do something over again, in re-write for example, meaning to write again. According to the Merriam Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary, *re* is a prefix with two meaning properties: again and back. The etymology is from Latin *red* meaning *back*, *again*, and *against*. Highlighting the properties, I can say that the prefix *re* itself can be attached to a base word to emphasize that something is performed again or referring back to the past, such as in *retro*. However, this definition does not ultimately emphasize that *re* is prefix in any words to which it attaches. Several words with *re* stands as a base word, *reject* for example. This word is not formed from *re* + *ject*, but it is a base word. Additionally, I can say that in several cases the prefix *re* does generate a new meaning of words being paired with it. In the word *repair* for example, most of us know already that the equivalences of this word in Bahasa Indonesia are *reparasi*, *memperbaiki*, *membetulkan*, or *perbaikan*. This formulation is, in my opinion, generated from the prefix *re* meaning *kembali* or *lagi* and the base word 'pair' meaning *pasangan*. So the meaning *reparasi*, *memperbaiki*, *membetulkan*, or *perbaikan* are actually derived from *memasangkan kembali*. To repair something then may mean to put the pairs back together so that something can work normally as it is. However, others believe that *repair* is a base word for it does not mean to put something back together, but

merely mean to fix something. Additionally, I can say that in this analysis, there are words which the meaning is derived 'far' from the properties of the base word.

#### 4. Discussion

##### a. Repair

This word consists of two morphemes re + pair and can be categorized as verb and noun. These morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to fix'. The category examples:

They repair the roof together.  
V

I took my bike in for repair.  
N

##### b. Reaction

This word consists of three morphemes, re + act + ion. These morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to act towards another action'. Since the suffix is ion, noun forming suffix, the category of this word is noun.

I tried shaking him but there was no reaction.  
N

##### c. Repeat

This word consists of two morphemes re + peat. Peat means turf; a soft black or brown substance formed from decaying plants. Seeing the properties, these morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to say again'. The categories of this word are verb, noun, and adjective. Examples:

The programs will be repeated next year.  
V

A repeat of the 1906 earthquake  
N

could kill up to 11.000 people.

She is my repeat customer.  
Adj

##### d. Review

This word consists of two morphemes re + view. View may mean extent or range of vision, the act of seeing or examining, and a mode or manner of looking at or regarding something. These morphemes generate new meaning 'to see again'. Depending upon the context, this word may serve as noun and verb. Example:

His parole application is up for review next week.  
N

The play was reviewed in the national newspapers  
V

##### e. Refuse

This word consists of two morphemes re + fuse. Fuse may mean to reduce, to blend, to stitch, or an electrical safety device consisting of or including a wire or strip of fusible metal that melts and interrupts the circuit when the current exceeds a particular amperage. However the morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to deny'. This word has three categories: noun, verb, and adjective. Example:

He flatly refused to discuss the matter.  
V

Every cities must have household refuse.  
N

She works as a refuse collector.  
Adj

##### f. Reverse

This word consists of two morphemes re + verse. Verse may mean a line of metrical writing or to turn into verse. However the morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to change to opposite'. This word has three categories: noun, verb, and adjective. Example:

You should reverse the order of the pages.  
V

Put the car into reverse.  
N

The winners were announced in re-

verse order.

Adj

#### g. Rewind

This word consists of two morphemes re + wind. Wind may mean to expose to the air or wind or a direction from which the wind may blow. However the morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to make a tape in a cassette player, etc go backwards. This word serve as verb and noun.

Would you mind rewinding the cassette.

V

All I need now is a rewind for my cassette.

N

#### h. Rehearse

This word consists of two morphemes re + hearse. Hearse mean a long vehicle used for carrying the coffin. However, the morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to repeat ideas or opinions expressed often'. This word serve as verb as in:

The actors were poorly rehearsed.

V

#### i. Revise

This word consists of two morphemes re + vise. Vise means to hold, force, or squeeze with or as if with a vise or any of various tools with two jaws for holding work that close usually by a screw, lever, or cam. However the morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to change your opinions or ideas'. This word serve as verb as in:

I will revise my thesis this month.

V

#### j. Reject

This word consist of only one morpheme. Reject means to refuse to accept. This word serves as noun and verb as in:

The prime minister rejected any idea

V

of reforming the system.

She is the one of many society's rejects.

N

#### k. Refund

This word consists of two morphemes re + fund. Fund means to provide a sum of money or a sum of money. However, the morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to return, to give, or to put back'. This word has two categories as noun and verb, as in:

If the delay stands for 12 hours or more, you will receive a full refund of the trip cost.

N

We will refund your money if you are

V

not entirely satisfied.

#### l. Reimburse

This word consists of only one morpheme. Reimburse means to pay back to someone. This word serves as noun and verb as in:

You will be reimbursed for any loss or

V

damaged caused by our company.

#### m. Rematch

This words consists of two morphemes re + match. Match may mean to fit together or make suitable for fitting together, one able to cope with another, a chemically prepared wick or cord formerly used in firing firearms or powder, and a contest between two or more parties. Seeing the last properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'a second match between the same contestants or teams'. This word serves as noun, as in:

Tyson and Holyfield will have the rematch next week.

N

**n. Reduce**

This word consists of two morphemes re + duce. Duce means leader, used especially for the leader of the Italian Fascist party. Looking at the properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to diminish in size, amount, extent, or number'. The category of this word is verb. Example:

She was reduced to tears by their criticism. V

**o. Remind**

This word consists of two morphemes re + mind. Mind may mean to become aware of: NOTICE, or the element or complex of elements in an individual that feels, perceives, thinks, wills, and especially reasons. Looking at the properties, these morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to put in mind of something: cause to remember'. This word has verb as its category. Example:

Can someone remind me what I should do next? V

**p. Remain**

This word consists of two morphemes re + main. Main may mean principal or force. Looking at the properties, these morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to be a part not destroyed, taken, or used up, and to continue unchanged'. It means that the principal is being emphasized again. The categories of this word are noun and verb, as in:

In spite of their quarrel, they remain the best of friends. V

The remains are no longer here. N

**q. Recital**

This word consists of three morphemes, re + cite + al. Cite may mean to bring forward or call to another's attention especially as an example, proof, or precedent. Recite means to say aloud a poem,

piece of literature, etc that you have learned. These word is constructed first from the morphemes recite + al. Though suffix 'al' is often called adjective forming suffix, the category of this word is noun. The three morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'a public performance of music or poetry'.

I am going to have a piano recital tonight. N

**r. Resign**

This word consists of two morphemes re + sign. Sign may mean a motion or gesture by which a thought is expressed or a command or wish made known, or to represent or indicate by a sign. These morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to give (oneself) over without resistance'. It means that someone is giving another sign of giving in/up towards something. The category of this word is verb, as in:

I am going to resign from this illegal private institution soon. V

**s. Recognize**

This word consists of two morphemes re + cognize. Cognize means know or understand. These morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to perceive to be something or someone previously known'. It means that someone knows something/other person through the addition of more information about it. The category of this word is verb, as in:

Do you recognize this tune? V

**t. Resemble**

This word consist of only one morpheme. Resemble means to represent as like. This word is categorized as verb, example:

He resembles his father in many ways V

of behaving.

#### u. Report

This word consists of two morphemes re + port. Port may mean a harbor town or city where ships may take on or discharge cargo, or to turn or put (a helm) to the left. Looking at the properties, these morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to give a formal or official account or statement'. This word has two categories: verb and noun, as given in the examples:

The treasurer reported the monthly bal  
V  
ance of the company to the manager.

Every division in this department is obliged to make annual report.

N

#### p. Remark

This word consists of two morphemes re + mark. Mark may mean something (as a line, notch, or fixed object) designed to record position or to make or leave a mark on. Looking at the properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to notice something and comment thereon'. It means that someone gives more attention towards something. Remark can be categorized as noun and verb, as in:

The exhibition contains nothing that is worthy of remark.

N

Critics remarked that the play was not original.

V

#### w. Reward

This word consists of two morphemes re + ward. Ward may mean a person or thing under guard, protection, or surveillance, or to keep watch over. Looking at the properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'recompense'. The categories for this word are noun and verb. Example:

The government rewarded Medal of Honor for the soldier.

V

The gold medal is a proper reward for his achievement.

N

#### x Remember

This word consists of two morphemes re + member. Member means one of the individuals composing a group. The morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to bring to mind or think of again'. The category is verb, example:

Do you remember switching the lights of before going out.

V

#### y. Regret

This word consists of only one morpheme. Regret may mean to be very sorry for or an expression of distressing emotion. This word is categorized as noun and verb, as in:

I deeply regret what I said.

V

She expressed her regret at the decision.

N

#### z Redress

This word consists of two morphemes re + dress. Dress may mean to make, arrange, or set something, or clothes, or suitable. Looking at the properties, these morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to make up for'. It means that someone reset something. This word is included in the noun and verb categories, example:

I will redress this messy business.

V

I have to make this job without redress.

N

#### aa. Recycle

This word consists of two morphemes re + cycle. Cycle may mean to pass through a cycle, or an interval of time during which a sequence of a recurring succession of events or phenomena is completed. Looking at the properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to pass again through a series of changes or treatments'. The category of this word is verb. Example:

Denmark recycles almost 85% of its paper. V

#### bb. Reserve

This word consists of two morphemes re + serve. Serve may mean to be of use, or the act or action of putting the ball or shuttlecock in play in various games. Looking at the properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to retain or hold over to a future time or place'. The categories of this word are noun and verb. Examples:

The management reserves the right to refuse admission. V

She trusted him without reserve. N

#### cc. Retain

This word consists of only one morpheme. Retain means to keep in possession or use. This word is categorized as verb. Example:

The house retains much of its original charm. V

#### dd. Return

This word consists of two morphemes re + turn. Turn may mean to cause to move around so as to effect a desired end. Looking at the properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to go back or come back again'. To return may mean to move back to particular side. The categories of this word are noun and verb. Examples:

I had to return to the bookstore to look for my wallet. V

She made a good return in her first game. N

#### ee. Remedy

This word consists of only one morpheme. Remedy may mean medicine or relieve. This word is categorized as noun and verb. Examples:

There are numbers of possible remedies to this problem. N

This situation is easily remedied. V

#### ff. Retail

This word consists of two morphemes re + tail. Tail may mean the rear end of the body of an animal, or to connect end to end. Looking at the properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning 'to sell in small quantities directly to the ultimate consumer'. This word can be categorized as noun, verb, and adverb. Examples:

The recommended retail price is Rp. 23000. N

We sell this items in retail. Adv

The book retails at Rp. 20000. V

#### gg. Remorse

This word consists of only one morpheme. Remorse means a gnawing distress arising from a sense of guilt for past wrongs. The category of this word is noun, as in:

I felt guilty and full of remorse. N

#### hh. Rebook

This word consists of two morphemes re + book. Book may mean a set of written sheets of skin or paper or tablets of wood or ivory, or to register (as a name) for some future activity or condition. Looking at the last properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is closely related to the new meaning 'to assure the registration over a place'. The category of this word is verb, as in:

I will rebook the hotel for tomorrow business. V

#### ii. Reside

This word consists of two morphemes re + side. Side may mean clear away or a bounding line of a geometric figure. Looking at the properties, the morphemes generate new meaning that is far related to the new meaning to dwell permanently or continuously: occupy a place as one's legal domicile. The category of this word is verb, as in:

Do you still reside in Elm Road? V

## 5. Conclusions

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that there are four categories of words based on their prefixes. "Real Prefix" is the word that the formation and meaning are generated directly based on the prefix and the meaning of the base word. "Closely Related Prefix" is the words that the formation and meaning are generated indirectly based on the prefix and the meaning properties of the base word. This category tends to be "Real Prefix". "Far Related Prefix" is the words that the formation and meaning are generated different from the meaning properties of the base word. "The Not Prefix" is the words that build by themselves standing as base words. Below is the table illustrating the conclusion:

No	Real Prefix	Closely Related Prefix	Prefix far related	Not Prefix	No	Real Prefix	Closely Related Prefix	Prefix far related	Not Prefix
1	review	reaction	repeat	reject	8		recognize	report	
2		repair	refuse	reimburse	9		remark	reward	
3		rewind	reverse	resemble	10		redress	remember	
4		refund	rehearse	regret	11		recycle	reside	
5		rematch	revise	retain	12		return	reserve	
6		remind	reduce	remedy	13		rebook	retail	
7		remain	recital	remorse					

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