EDUCTUM: Journal Research
Vol. 5, No. 2, Maret 2026, pp. 214~218

Derivational suffixes in Leila S. Chudori's Laut Bercerita

Elizabeth Sitio[1], Supraini Siagian[2], Maria Cinta Br Manullang[3], Rachel M Sihombing[4], Esron Ambarita[5]
[1,2,3,4,5]Universitas Methodist Indonesia, Indonesia
Email: gailistelizabeth@gmail.com

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji penggunaan sufiks derivasional -kan, -an, dan -nya dalam novel Laut Bercerita karya Leila S. Chudori dari perspektif morfologi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi struktur morfologi, fungsi gramatikal, makna semantik, dan implikasi emosionalnya dalam narasi. Metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan, dengan data dikumpulkan melalui teknik membaca intensif dan pencatatan. Data terdiri dari kata dasar yang mengalami proses derivasional murni melalui penambahan satu sufiks tanpa prefiks atau konfiks. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa sufiks -kan terutama membentuk kata kerja kausatif dan transitif, yang mencerminkan tindakan intensional, pengendalian emosi, dan ketahanan psikologis. Sufiks -an berfungsi untuk menurunkan kata benda yang mewakili hasil, proses, dan keadaan emosional abstrak seperti ingatan, penderitaan, dan ekspresi artistik. Sementara itu, sufiks -nya berfungsi sebagai penanda posesif, penanda pasti, dan nominalisasi, yang berkontribusi pada kejelasan referensial, keintiman, dan penekanan emosional. Secara keseluruhan, penggunaan sufiks derivasional ini menunjukkan produktivitas morfologis yang tinggi dan memainkan peran penting dalam mengekspresikan kedalaman emosional, ketegangan psikologis, dan pengalaman sosial-politik dalam novel. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa morfologi derivasional bukan hanya mekanisme linguistik tetapi juga perangkat ekspresif penting yang memperkaya makna di luar tingkat leksikal dalam wacana sastra.
Kata Kunci: sufiks derivasional; morfologi; Laut Bercerita

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the use of derivational suffixes -kan, -an, and -nya in the novel Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Chudori from a morphological perspective. The research aims to identify their morphological structures, grammatical functions, semantic meanings, and emotional implications within the narrative. A qualitative descriptive method was employed, with data collected through intensive reading and note-taking techniques. The data consist of base words undergoing pure derivational processes through the attachment of a single suffix without prefixes or confixes. The findings reveal that the suffix -kan primarily forms causative and transitive verbs, reflecting intentional actions, emotional control, and psychological endurance. The suffix -an functions to derive nouns representing results, processes, and abstract emotional states such as memory, suffering, and artistic expression. Meanwhile, the suffix -nya serves as a possessive marker, definite marker, and nominalizer, contributing to referential clarity, intimacy, and emotional emphasis. Overall, the use of these derivational suffixes demonstrates high morphological productivity and plays a crucial role in expressing emotional depth, psychological tension, and socio-political experiences in the novel. This study concludes that derivational morphology is not merely a linguistic mechanism but a significant expressive device that enriches meaning beyond the lexical level in literary discourse.
Keyword: derivational suffixes; morphology; Laut Bercerita

Corresponding Author:
Elizabeth Sitio,
Universitas Methodist Indonesia,
Jl. Hang Tuah No.8, Madras Hulu, Kec. Medan Polonia, Kota Medan,
Sumatera Utara 20151, Indonesia
Email: gailistelizabeth@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a systematic and structured means of communication used by humans to express ideas, emotions, experiences, and social realities. In linguistic studies, language is not only examined at the level of meaning and sentence structure but also at the level of word formation. The branch of linguistics that studies the internal structure of words and the processes through which words are formed is known as morphology. Francis Katamba defines morphology as the study of word structure and the way morphemes combine to form words (Katamba, 1993).

One of the most important processes in morphology is derivation. According to Katamba (1993), derivational morphology is the process of forming new words by adding affixes that may change the meaning and/or the grammatical category of the base form. Similarly, Geert Booij explains that derivation creates new lexemes and plays a central role in expanding a language's vocabulary (Booij, 2007). In Indonesian, derivational processes are commonly realized through affixation, including prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and confixes.

This research focuses on derivational suffixes, particularly *-kan*, *-an*, and *-nya*, because these suffixes are highly productive and frequently used in Indonesian texts. M. Ramlan defines a suffix as a bound morpheme attached to the end of a base word that functions to form new words or add grammatical meaning (Ramlan, 2001). Meanwhile, Abdul Chaer states that suffixes are important markers of derivational processes in Indonesian (Chaer, 2015).

The suffix *-kan* generally functions to form causative or transitive verbs. According to Ramlan (2001), the suffix *-kan* adds the meaning of "to cause," "to make," or "to direct an action toward an object." For example, *diam → diamkan*, where the adjective *diam* becomes a verb meaning "to make something silent." Previous research by Fatin (2015) shows that the suffix *-kan* is often used to express emotional control, such as suppressing fear, anger, or pain. In literary narratives, verbs with *-kan* frequently indicate psychological pressure and restraint. In the novel *Laut Bercerita*, this suffix reflects emotions of fear, resistance, and emotional suppression experienced by characters living under political oppression.

The suffix *-an* is commonly used to form nouns, especially abstract nouns that indicate processes, results, or emotional states. Chaer (2015) explains that the suffix *-an* transforms verbs or adjectives into nouns representing experiences or outcomes. Ramlan (2001) adds that nouns formed with *-an* often refer to psychological or social conditions. For example, *kenang → kenangan*, where the suffix *-an* forms an abstract noun meaning "memory." Darlina (2018) found that words ending in *-an* frequently represent emotional experiences, such as nostalgia, trauma, and loss. In *Laut Bercerita*, nouns with the suffix *-an* often convey emotions of grief, longing, and collective suffering, particularly in relation to memories of disappearance and separation.

The suffix *-nya* has a distinctive function in Indonesian morphology. According to Hasan Alwi et al. (2014), the suffix *-nya* functions as a possessive marker, a definite marker, and a nominalizer. Unlike *-kan* and *-an*, it does not change the word class but adds emphasis and definiteness. For example, *ibu → ibunya*, where the suffix indicates possession and emotional closeness. Panjaitan et al., (2020) explains that *-nya* often expresses subjectivity and emotional emphasis. In *Laut Bercerita*, the suffix *-nya* frequently appears in inner monologues and narrative descriptions, conveying emotions such as intimacy, grief, uncertainty, and empathy.

Literary works, especially novels, provide authentic and natural data for linguistic research because they reflect real language usage within specific social, cultural, and historical contexts. The novel *Laut Bercerita* by Leila S. Chudori, published in 2017 by Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia, narrates the experiences of political activists during the New Order era. The novel is rich not only in historical and thematic depth but also in linguistic variation, particularly in the use of derivational suffixes that encode emotional and psychological states.

Although many studies have examined derivational morphology in Indonesian, research focusing on pure derivational suffixes without prefixes in contemporary Indonesian novels remains limited. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the derivational suffixes *-kan*, *-an*, and *-nya* in *Laut Bercerita*, focusing on their morphological functions, meanings, emotional implications, and frequency of occurrence.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method. The primary data source is the novel *Laut Bercerita* by Leila S. Chudori, first published by Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia in 2017. The data consist of words that contain a single derivational suffix (*-kan*, *-an*, or *-nya*) without the presence of prefixes or confixes.

Data were collected through intensive reading and note-taking techniques. The researcher systematically identified words containing the targeted suffixes and documented their occurrences in the text. Subsequently, the data were classified and analyzed using a morphological approach to examine their structures and functions. In addition, frequency analysis was conducted to determine the distribution of each suffix within the novel.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Analysis of Suffix -kan

The suffix *-kan* is categorized as a verbal derivational suffix in Indonesian morphology. It functions to form causative or transitive verbs by attaching directly to a root word. This suffix often conveys the meaning of causing, making, or directing an action toward an object and, in many cases, changes the grammatical category of the base word.

Data 1 *lupa → lupakan*

Sentence: "yang kami sering lupakan adalah kau sangat dewasa..." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *lupa* (Adj/V) + *-kan* (suffix) = *lupakan* (V)

The word *lupa* functions as an adjective or intransitive verb meaning "to forget." When the suffix *-kan* is added, it becomes the verb *lupakan*, which functions as a transitive verb meaning "to intentionally forget something." This process represents class-changing derivation, as the base word shifts into a verb that requires an object. Semantically, *lupakan* reflects an emotional act of suppression or intentional neglect, which in the context of *Laut Bercerita* represents emotional restraint and psychological survival.

Data 2 *sampai → sampaikan*

Sentence: "sampaikan pada ibu, bapak, dan Anjani: jangan hidup di masa lalu..." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *sampai* (V) + *-kan* (suffix) = *sampaikan* (V)

The root word *sampai* is a verb meaning "to arrive" or "to reach." After the addition of the suffix *-kan*, the derived form *sampaikan* becomes a causative transitive verb meaning "to deliver" or "to convey." The suffix *-kan* directs the action toward a recipient, requiring both an object and, in some cases, an indirect object. Emotionally, this form conveys care, responsibility, and interpersonal connection.

Data 3 *serah → serahkan*

Sentence: "Serahkan pada Sunu dan aku." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *serah* (V) + *-kan* (suffix) = *serahkan* (V)

The word *serah* is a verb meaning "to surrender" or "to give." With the addition of *-kan*, it becomes *serahkan*, a transitive causative verb meaning "to hand over" or "to entrust." Morphologically, this suffix transforms the verb into an action that requires an object or recipient. In *Laut Bercerita*, *serahkan* signifies trust and the transfer of responsibility, reflecting solidarity among the characters.

Data 4 *cerita → ceritakan*

Sentence: "Mas, ceritakan ketika dulu aku melapar Mbak Arian." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *cerita* (N) + *-kan* (suffix) = *ceritakan* (V)

The word *cerita* is a noun meaning "story." With the addition of *-kan*, it becomes *ceritakan*, a transitive verb meaning "to tell" or "to narrate." This derivation changes the word class from noun to verb and requires an object. In *Laut Bercerita*, *ceritakan* functions as an imperative, emphasizing storytelling as a means of recalling experiences and preserving emotional memory.

B. Analysis of Suffix -an

The suffix *-an* is a nominal derivational suffix commonly used to form nouns from verbs. Words formed with *-an* typically denote results, processes, or abstract emotional states. This suffix clearly demonstrates class-changing derivation from verbs to nouns.

Data 1 *tulis → tulisan*

Sentence: "…yang lebih suka berekspresi melalui tulisan..." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *tulis* (V) + *-an* (suffix) = *tulisan* (N)

The root word *tulis* is a verb meaning "to write." By adding the suffix *-an*, it becomes *tulisan*, a noun referring to "a piece of writing." This derivation changes the grammatical category from verb to noun, indicating the result of an action. In the novel, *tulisan* represents emotional expression and resistance.

Data 2 *siksa → siksaan*

Sentence: "…atau terkasih sudah melalui siksaan berat dan keji yang tak terbayangkan..." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *siksa* (V) + *-an* (suffix) = *siksaan* (N)

The verb *siksa* means "to torture" or "to inflict suffering." When the suffix *-an* is added, it forms *siksaan*, a noun referring to the result or experience of torture. This derivation emphasizes the state or outcome rather than the action itself. Semantically, *siksaan* conveys trauma, pain, and human rights violations, which are central themes in the novel.

Data 3 *lukis → lukisan*

Sentence: "...panel lukisan pada tembok belakang rumah di Seyegan." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *lukis* (V) + *-an* (suffix) = *lukisan* (N)

The root word *lukis* is a verb meaning "to paint" or "to draw." With the addition of *-an*, it becomes *lukisan*, a noun referring to the result of the painting process. This derivation marks the outcome of an action. In *Laut Bercerita*, *lukisan* not only denotes artwork but also symbolizes memory and identity.

Data 4 *kenang → kenangan*

Sentence: "...sebuah kenangan yang sukar hilang?" (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *kenang* (V) + *-an* (suffix) = *kenangan* (N)

The root word *kenang* is a verb meaning "to remember." With the addition of *-an*, it becomes *kenangan*, a noun referring to the result of remembering. This derivation nominalizes an abstract mental process. In the novel, *kenangan* represents emotionally significant memories that shape the characters' psychological experiences.

C. Analysis of Suffix -nya

The suffix *-nya* is a derivational–grammatical suffix that functions as a possessive marker, definite marker, or nominalizer. Unlike *-kan* and *-an*, it generally does not change the word class but contributes referential clarity, emphasis, and emotional nuance.

Data 1 *karya → karyanya*

Sentence: "…sehingga aku cenderung lebih menyukai karyanya..." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *karya* (N) + *-nya* (suffix) = *karyanya* (N)

The noun *karya* means "work" or "creation." The addition of *-nya* indicates possession and definiteness, referring to a specific person's work. Although the word class remains unchanged, the suffix adds emotional nuance, expressing appreciation, attachment, and personal evaluation toward the work being discussed.

Data 2 *akhir → akhirnya*

Sentence: "hingga akhirnya ketika Bram membacakan manifesto..." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *akhir* (N) + *-nya* (suffix) = *akhirnya* (Adv/N)

The root word *akhir* means "end." When combined with *-nya*, *akhirnya* functions as a definite marker that emphasizes the culmination of events. This form often operates adverbially to signal closure and narrative progression. In *Laut Bercerita*, *akhirnya* marks moments of realization, tension release, and irreversible change.

Data 3 *janji → janjinya*

Sentence: "Dan dia menunaikan janjinya." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *janji* (N) + *-nya* (suffix) = *janjinya* (N)

The root word *janji* is a noun meaning "promise." With the addition of *-nya*, it becomes *janjinya*, a definite noun indicating possession or reference to a specific promise. Morphologically, the suffix does not alter the word class but adds definiteness and contextual reference. In this context, *janjinya* emphasizes responsibility and commitment within the narrative.

Data 4 *hangat → hangatnya*

Sentence: "Karena Sunu sering betul mengatakan betapa hangatnya rumahku." (Chudori, 2017)
Morphological structure: *hangat* (Adj) + *-nya* (suffix) = *hangatnya* (N)

The base word *hangat* is an adjective describing a state or quality. When combined with *-nya*, it becomes *hangatnya*, which functions as a nominalized form referring to the degree or condition of warmth. Morphologically, the suffix *-nya* nominalizes the adjective and adds specificity. In this context, *hangatnya* conveys not only physical warmth but also emotional comfort, reflecting intimacy and a sense of security associated with the home.

4. CONCLUSION

This study examines the use of derivational suffixes *-kan*, *-an*, and *-nya* in the novel *Laut Bercerita* by Leila S. Chudori through a morphological approach. The findings indicate that these suffixes play a significant role in shaping word formation, grammatical functions, and semantic meanings within the narrative.

The suffix *-kan* primarily functions to form causative and transitive verbs, reflecting directed actions, intentional behavior, and emotional control. Its frequent use illustrates the psychological pressure, vigilance, and moral responsibility experienced by the characters, particularly within the context of political repression.

The suffix *-an* serves as a nominal derivational marker that transforms verbs into nouns denoting results, processes, or abstract emotional states. Words formed with this suffix frequently represent trauma, memory, suffering, and artistic resistance, which are central themes in *Laut Bercerita*. This suffix demonstrates how personal and collective experiences are linguistically objectified and preserved in the narrative.

Meanwhile, the suffix *-nya* functions as a possessive marker, definite marker, and nominalizer. Although it does not consistently change the word class, it contributes to emotional emphasis, intimacy, and referential specificity. Its usage strengthens the subjective and emotive tone of the narrative, particularly in inner monologues and reflective passages.

In conclusion, derivational suffixes in *Laut Bercerita* function not merely as grammatical elements but as meaningful linguistic devices that enhance emotional depth and thematic complexity. This study highlights that morphological analysis provides valuable insights into how language encodes psychological, emotional, and socio-political experiences in literary texts. Future research may extend this study by comparing derivational processes across different Indonesian literary works or by examining the relationship between morphology and discourse in greater depth.

REFERENCES

Alwi, H., Dardjowidjojo, S., Lapoliwa, H., & Moeliono, A. M. (2014). *Tata bahasa baku bahasa Indonesia* (Edisi ke-3). Balai Pustaka. https://repositori.kemendikdasmen.go.id/16351/

Booij, G. (2007). *The grammar of words: An introduction to linguistic morphology* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Chaer, A. (2015). *Morfologi bahasa Indonesia: Pendekatan proses*. Rineka Cipta.

Chudori, L. S. (2017). *Laut bercerita*. Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia. https://www.gramedia.com/products/laut-bercerita

Darlina, L. (2018). Derivational affixes in Japanese and Indonesian. *Journal of Applied Studies in Language, 2*(1), 35–43. https://doi.org/10.31940/jasl.v2i1.813

Fatin, F. (2015). The use of suffix -i and -kan in Indonesian online newspapers: A corpus-based study. *Passage, 3*(3), 38–48. https://doi.org/10.17509/psg.v3i3.21185

Katamba, F. (1993). *Morphology*. Macmillan Press.

Panjaitan, H. I., Togatorop, N. R., & Damanik, D. A. (2020). The analysis of finding suffix and prefix in narrative text. *Jurnal Bahasa Indonesia Prima (BIP), 2*(1), 85–89. https://doi.org/10.34012/bip.v2i1.897

Putri, A. R. (2020). The use of suffix -an in Indonesian novels. *Journal of Indonesian Linguistics, 12*(2), 101–115. https://journal.ui.ac.id/index.php/jil/article/view/13785

Ramlan, M. (2001). *Morfologi: Suatu tinjauan deskriptif*. CV Karyono.