THE AFFIX CHANGES FROM MIDDLE ENGLISH TO MODERN ENGLISH FOUND IN THE MILLER'S TALE STORY WRITTEN BY GEOFFREY CHAUCER AND ITS MODERN ENGLISH VERSION

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Abstract

The history of English language has three periods of time; Old English, Middle English, and Modern English. The linguistic forms in English development are different each period. This research aims to find out one of the changes, that is, the affix changes from Middle English to Modern English form that found in both of *The Miller's Tale Story* Middle English and Modern English versions. This research also aims to find out the spelling changes in affixes. This research used descriptive qualitative method. The data, which are the collection of words that have affixes found in *The Miller's Tale,* were identified based on the base of the words and its affixes and its were classified based on the type of its functions. Based on data analysis, there are seven affixes in Middle English which have been changed in Modern English form. These changes occur in the deletion of vowel, change of vowel, substitution of the affix, and elimination of the affix. The spelling change also influenced the change in suffixes. Some of the vocabularies change into the new words and some of the words change only in its vowel.

Key words: English language, Middle English, Modern English, Affix changes, *The Miller's Tale*.

A. INTRODUCTION

The English language is one of languages used in this world. It has existed since a long time ago. Algeo (2010) states that the English language developed in Britain, but it did not begin in Britain. It was an immigrant language that brought by the invading Anglo-Saxons in the fifth century. In the history of English language, Gelderen (2006) in the *A History of English Language* book states that there are three periods of time of English; Old English, Middle English, and

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Modern English. Old English begins in 449. After Old English, the form of English is Middle English that starts around 1150. The change between Old English to Middle English happens in the synthetic character of Old English. Then, in 17th century, Middle English changes to Modern English. It is the form of English that is still used until the present.

According to Gelderen (2006), linguistic forms in English development are different in each period. The form of English language has changed gradually in morphology, syntax, phonology, and semantics. The changes in phonological aspect occur in the system that incorporate the sound, for example, the consonant deletion, vowel shifting, stress patterns, and other. The changes in syntax aspect occur in how words can be organized into sentences, and the changes in semantics occur in the relationship between words. The changes in morphological aspect occur in the structure of words, for example, the changes in pronoun, adjectives, verbs, affixes, and auxiliaries. In morphology, a unit of language that carrying meaning is considered to be a morpheme. Jufrizal (1999) defines morpheme as the smallest meaningful unit of language which has two types; free morpheme and bound morpheme. Free morpheme is the morpheme which can exist as independent words. Bound morpheme occurs only when attached to another morpheme. This type includes prefixes and suffixes in all kinds.

In this study, the researcher did a research of the affix changes from Middle English to Modern English form that found in *The Miller's Tale Story*, which was taken from The Complete Works of Geoffrey Chaucer edited by Walter. W. Skeat and the modern version of The Miller's Tale was taken from A Complete Modernisation of The Canterbury Tales by A. S. Kline. The affix has changed over the periods of English language, and the changes need to be analyzed in order to know how the development of English morphology through its periods. Analyzing affix is also the way to know the construction of a word. As stated by Mutia, Zaim, and Fitrawati (2017) that affixation is known as one of the most used processed in making words in any language, so it is the way to know how new words are created which can be analyzed through affixes that are attached to the base words.

Based on the previous study about medieval period through Chaucer's works, there are some topics that have been discussed. These study were analyzed through different perspectives. Jimura (1991) discussed about the linguistics phenomenon in word-formation of Chaucer's English. The others discussed through literally perspectives. Bachir (2017) conducted a study about Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* in context. Vaněčková (2007) conducted a study about the woman as a narrator, woman in the narrative in The Canterbury's Tales. Marcotte (2007) wrote a study about rhetoric and gender in marriage in The Canterbury's Tale. Therefore, the researcher analyzed the affix change in *The Miller's Tale Story* from Middle English to Modern English form.

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period is important to be analyzed linguistically, because it is the way to learn the internal development of English language from the beginning until present time. The aim of this research is to know the affix changes from Middle to Modern English form and how the structures of affixes occur in Middle English period based on *The Miller's Tale*. This research provided the theories of morphological changes in Middle and Modern English forms that have been studied for many years in one of the works that written in Middle English.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used descriptive qualitative method in this research. Nassaji (2015) states that descriptive research aims to decribe a phenomenon and its characteristics. Descriptive research is more concerned with what has happened rather than how or why something has happened. Therefore, this research is said as descriptive research because the researcher described the affix changes from Middle English to Modern English form that found in *The Miller's Tale Story*.

Brikci and Judith (2007) state that qualitative research is characterized by its aims, which relate to understanding some aspect of social life, and its methods which generate words, rather than numbers, as data for analysis. This research is also said as qualitative research, because it analyzed affixes structures of Middle English in *The Miller's Tale Story* and saw the differences of morphological structures in Modern English form. Therefore, the data for analysis focus on words, and that is why this research is said as qualitative research.

The data were the collection of words that have affixes found in *The Miller's Tale*. The data were in two forms, affixes in Middle English and affixes in Modern English. The data were taken from *The Miller's Tale* text. The researcher identified the data based on the base of the words and its affixes, then the researcher classified the affixes based on the type of its function. The researcher analyzed the different forms of affixes from Middle English to Modern English form.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
1. Research Finding

The Forms of Affixes in Middle English and Modern English

After analyzing all the data, the researcher found that there are 19 affixes found in The Miller's Tale Middle English versions. Those are 5 prefixes and 14 suffixes, as in:

Middle English Affixes found in The Miller's Tale		
Prefix	Suffix	
y–	*–esse*	*–inge/ynge*
un–	*–ship*	*–ed*
mis–	*–ly/ily*	*–e*
for–	*–es/s*	*–ment*
bi–	*–ness/nesse*	*–th*

	–er	*–ous*
	–aunt/aunce	

In *The Miller's Tale* Modern English version, it is found that there are 23 affixes that are attached to the words. Those are 4 prefixes and 19 suffixes, as in:

Modern English Affixes found in The Miller's Tale	
Prefix	Suffix
un–	*–ed* *–ition*
re–	*–es/s* *–ion*
mis–	*–ly* *–ment*
im–	*–en* *–ive*
	–ness *–ful*
	–ation *–ish*
	–ing *–ance*
	–er *–ous*
	–ity *–ship*
	–est

Based on the analysis, there are seven affixes in Middle English that have been changed in Modern English period, as in:

	Middle English Affixes	Word	Modern English version
1.	The prefix *y–*	(1) *ytold*	*Told*
		(12) *yboght*	*Boght*
2.	The suffix *–esse*	(3) *gentillesse*	*Gracefulness*
		(84) *richesse*	*Riches*
3.	the suffix *–es/–s*	(8) *knyghtes*	*knight's*
		(18) *thinges*	*Thing*
4.	the suffix *–aunce*	(100) *vengeaunce*	*Vengeance*
		(119) *purveyaunce*	*Providence*
5.	the suffix *–inge/–ynge*	(24) *awaytinge*	*Awaiting*
		(54) *folwinge*	*following*
6.	the suffix *–e*	(110) *hosbounde*	*Husband*
		(112) *owene*	*Own*
7.	the suffix *–th*	(67) *taketh*	*Takes*
		(135) *comth*	*Comes*

The Morphological Change that Found in The Miller's Tale

There are three kinds of morphological changes from Middle English to Modern English affixes that were found in The Miller's Tale.

1. The loss of inflectional ending –*e*, as in:
   datum (58) brighte   - very bright
   datum (110) housbonde   - husband
   datum (112) owene   - own

   In the datum (58), the suffix –e in *brighte* means very bright in Modern English. This ending –*e* shows the adverb marker of the word. This ending is derivational suffix, because it derives adverb from adjective form. Based on Galderen (2006), the ending –*e* is originated from Old English for adverb marker. In Modern English, –*e* is lost and it changes to –*ly* for the adverb markers. In the data (110) and (112), these are the use of ending –*e* on nouns to indicate dative nominal endings in Middle English, as stated by Gelderen (2006) that there are some dative nominal ending –e, especially after preposition, in Middle English. Meanwile, this ending has lost and there is no inflectional ending –*e* in Modern English.

2. The loss of inflectional prefix *y*– on verbs.
   The prefix *y*- in Middle English that is used to show the past form of the verbs has lost in Modern English period, as in:
   datum (1) y-told   - told
   datum (12) y-boght   - bought
   datum (41) y-covered   - covered

   The past form for the verbs in Middle English are shown by using the ending –*ed* on the regular verbs and second form for irregular verbs.

3. The change of the third person singular verbal ending from –*th* to –*s*.
   The use of the ending –*th* on verbs in Middle English to indicate the third person singular has been changed to –*s* in Modern English, as in:
   datum (67) taketh   - takes
   datum (69) maketh   - makes
   datum (105) stalketh   - steps

   Based on Galderen (2006), the third person singular verbal ending changes from –*th* to –*s* in Modern English period. This change is caused by the form of –*th* has similar sound with form in –*s*. Gelderen (2006) states that Shakespeare no longer uses third person –*th* endings on verbs, except for hath and doth, and even those disappear after 1600.

Spelling Changes from Middle to Modern English Form

There are some spelling changes from Middle English to Modern English form that found in *The Miller's Tale*. Beside the change in the forms of affixes that can be seen from the data description, the researcher also drew the discussion of spelling changes found in *The Miller's Tale* Middle English version and its Modern English version.

1. The spelling of suffix –*th* in Middle English which indicates the third person singular changes to –*s* in Modern English, as in:
   datum (67) taketh   - takes
   datum (69) maketh   - makes
   datum (105) stalketh   - steps

2. The substitution of *y* as the vowel in Middle English to *i* in Modern English is also found in *The Miller's Tale* Middle English version and its Modern English version, as in:

    Datum (8) knyghtes   - knight
    Datum (19) wyves   - wives
    Datum (24) awaytinge   - awaiting

2. Discussion

The changes of affixes from Middle English to Modern English form that are found in *The Miller's Tale* occurred in the spelling change. There are also affixes which no longer exist in Modern English period. The prefix *y–* which indicates the past form of the verbs in Middle English, has disappeared in Modern English. This prefix has changed to the suffix *–ed* which indicate the past form on Modern English verbs. It has been substitued by the suffix *–ed* to indicate past participle in Modern English, and for irregular verbs, the past participle is shown by V2, as in: *bought, told, covered, sworn*, etc. This also occurs in the suffix *–e* which is no longer found in Modern English period. as in: *faste* and *housbonde*. Basen on Galderen (2006), dative nominal endings in Early Middle English are marked by the suffix *–e*. This suffix that marks dative nominal endings in Early Middle English has been lost in Modern English. The suffix *–e* is no longer used in Modern English. The Middle English is suffix *–th*, as in: *maketh, goth*, has changed its spelling to *–s* in Modern English. Based on Galderen (2006), the distinctive third person singular verbal ending in Middle English changes from *–th* to *–s* in Modern English period. According to Alfalah (2018), the suffix *–th* in Middle English is used to mark third person singular present tense. Middle English suffix *–th* which marks third person singular present tense has disappeared in Modern English. Galderen (2006) states that the form of the third person verbal ending *–th* rhymes with forms in *–s*. Hence, it is substituted by the suffix *–s* to mark third person singular.

The other changes occured in the deletion of vowel in the affixes, as in *–esse, –inge,* and *–aunce*. The suffix *–esse* in Middle English has changed to *–ess* in Modern English. Modern English sufffix *–ess* functions as the marker for female gender in noun, as in *waitress, actress, hostess, duchess, princess*, etc. According to Mayhew and Skeat (1888), *gentillesse* in Middle English means *gracefulness* in Modern English. This suffix has changed to *–ness* in this case. The suffix *–inge/–ynge*, as in: *awaytinge, suffisinge* in Middle English has changed and simplified to *–ing* in Modern English form. According to Dalton and Puffer (1996), The Middle English Dictionary lists two functions of *–ing*; one is defined as a suffix "forming nouns or gerund" (derivational), and the other one as the progressive ending (inflectional). Middle English suffix *–inge/–ynge* has been simplified in Modern English form, but the function of this suffix it still used to form nouns or gerund and as the progressive ending. There is a vowel deletion *'e'* and vowel change *'y'* between Middle English *–ynge* and Modern English *–ing*, as in: *awaiting, sufficing*, etc. The last Middle English suffix that has changed is the suffix *–aunce*, as in *vengeaunce, purveyaunce*, etc. According to Lloyd (2011),

the Middle English suffix –*aunce* comes via Old French and Anglo-Norman French –*ance*/–*ence*, deriving from the Latin endings –*antia* and –*entia*. It forms nouns from the present participles of the verbs. In Modern English, the spelling of this suffix has been simplified to –*ance*. There is a vowel deletion between –*aunce* and –*ance* form. However, the function of this suffix is still same with the Middle English form, that is, to derive noun words from verb words, as in: *providence*, *vengeance*, etc.

Middle English suffix –es/–s also has different function in Modern English form, and it has changed a bit in Modern English. The ending –*es*, as in *knyghtes*, *armes*, *thynges*, have many functions in Middle English. Based on Galderen (2006), noun forms in Middle English have genitive singular ending –*es*. According to Shamsan (2015), the suffix –*s*/–*es* that is attached to the base of the word indicates third person singular number present tense. It also indicates the plural form in English noun, such as *books*, *buses*, etc. This suffix does not change the class of word, and categorized as an inflectional affix. The suffix –*es* in Middle English which indicates possesive on nouns (genitive case), as in *knyghtes tale*, has been simplified to *'s,* as in *knight's tale* in Modern English form. The plural forms in Middle English are shown by the suffix –*es*, and Modern English is still used this form to show the plural forms, such as *book – books* and *dog – dogs*.

Affix change is one of the changes in morphological change. In this research, there are 19 affixes that are found in *The Miller's Tale* original version and 23 affixes in *The Miller's Tale* Modern English version. Based on these affixes between Middle English and Modern English form, there are seven affixes in Middle English which have been changed in Modern English form. These changes occur in the deletion of vowel, change of vowel, substitution of the affix, and elimination of the affix. The changes of affixes from Middle English to Modern English often occur in suffixes. Some of the affixes in Middle English are also still produced in Modern English period with the same spelling and the function.

The changes of affixes also occur because of the changes in spelling that can be seen from *The Miller's Tale* Middle English version to the Modern English version. The spelling change from Middle English to Modern English also influenced the change in suffixes. Some of the vocabularies change into the new words, such as *unnethe* "scarcely", *dressed* "direct", *bityde* "to happen", etc. Some of the words change only in its vowel, such as *y* in Middle English changes to *i* in Modern English, as in *awaytinge* becomes *awaiting*, *wyves* becomes *wives*, *suffysinge* becomes *sufficing*, etc.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

There are some conclusions that can be drawn related to the changes in affixes from Middle English to Modern English form found in *The Miller's Tale*. Affix change is one of the changes in morphological change. In this research, there are 19 affixes that are found in *The Miller's Tale* original version and 23 affixes in *The Miller's Tale* Modern English version. Based on these affixes between Middle English and Modern English form, there are seven affixes in Middle English which have been changed in Modern English form. These changes occur in the deletion of vowel, change of vowel, substitution of the affix, and elimination of the affix. The changes of affixes from Middle English to Modern English often occur in suffixes. Some of the affixes in Middle English are also still produced in Modern English period with the same spelling and the function.

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For the next writers, this study may be used as the reference for language change and especially for affixes in English language. It is suggested that the next researchers can research the study about affixes change in English development through different perspectives. Second, it is suggested that this study may be a reference for the readers in order to know the development of affixes in English language from Old English, Middle English, and Modern English period.

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