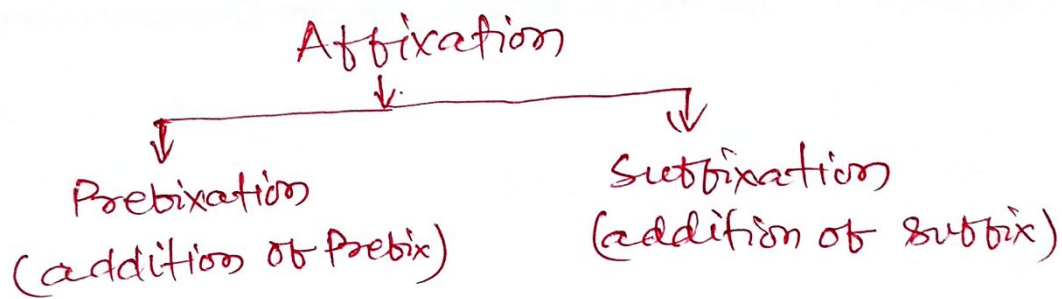A lexeme is that fundamental form of a word in which it appears in a dictionary and works as the source of other forms of this word. For example, the word 'play' is a lexeme from which its inflected forms like plays, played, playing are obtained. The inflectional range of the word 'play' in verbal forms includes play, plays, played, playing and so on. the word play is lexeme that is realized in these many inflected forms in different contexts. Likewise, the words player, players, player's, players' represent the inflectional paradigm of the lexeme 'Player'. The word 'Player' can not be accommodated in the inflectional paradigm of the lexeme 'play' because of its reference to a different meaning along with difference in grammatical category and place in dictionary. Apart from this, the lexeme 'Player' has its own inflectional paradigm. A lexeme, thus, may be treated as an abstract entity which is orthographically or phonologically manifested through the different word forms of its inflectional paradigm as shown above in the examples. On the basis of this explanation of lexeme, it can be said that all lexemes are words but not all words are lexemes.

Affixation:

It is a process of addition of mor-phemes (affixes) to a word according to the grammatical (inflectional) or semantic (deriva-tional) requirement in a particular context. For example, in a sentence, 'Ali goes' the word 'go' is affixed (morpheme [es] is added) to get subject-verb agreement in the sentence. This affixation is grammatical requirement. Likewise, we have words 'faithful' 'childhood' 'illogical', etc in which affixation takes place according to the need of meaning. It can be seen like this.

Affixation
↓   ↓
Prefixation   Suffixation
(addition of Prefix)   (addition of suffix)

This affixation takes place in English lan-guage through prefixation or suffixation.
Prefixation is that process in which a morpheme is added in the beginning or initial position of a word. Such morphemes are called prefixes.
Suffixation is that in which a morpheme is added in the final position of a word. Such morphemes are called suffixes.

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