

**Suffix or not suffix?  
(Derivational and inflectional features of the diminutive endings)**

The morphological process of creating diminutive forms seems to be quite a strange process which is regarding derivation by both the traditional and the new descriptive and historical grammars (Tomba 1961, Benkő 1991, 1992, É. Kiss – Kiefer – Siptár 1998, Kiefer 2000, Keszler 2000, Tolcsvai Nagy 2017). The classification of suffixes appearing in diminutives is ambiguous, and even the term „suffix” is not entirely appropriate in connection with them. These endings stay between the word formation and the derivation, as both derivational and inflectional features can characterize them. The morphological process seems strange because it does not follow the regular derivational rules usually used in morphology. The investigation focuses on the diminutive endings in order to clarify the meaning of suffixation on the one hand and to answer the question of whether these endings suit the criteria of suffixes or not on the other.

*Keywords: evaluative morphology, diminutive ending, derivational and inflectional features, morphological process*

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