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THE SYNTACTIC BEHAVIOR OF –LYADVERBS AND –LY ADJECTIVES

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Abstract:

This paper is an attempt to demonstrate the syntactic behavior of -ly adverbs and -ly adjectives. It mainly deals with -ly as an inflectional suffix that forms adverbs and adjectives It is hypothesized that there are differences between adjective-forming —ly and adverb-forming —ly. The researcher first made general and specific observations about the morphological processes of -ly adverbs and -ly adjectives. Since the study focuses on a linguistic phenomenon, its data is a set of -ly adverbs and -ly adjectives used as examples to support the hypothesis. The importance of studying the syntactic behavior of -ly stems from the fact that thousands of English adjectives and adverbs are created by adding the suffix "-ly" to their roots. Despite the fact that both adjective-forming —ly and adverb-forming —ly bring about new words and they occur at the end of the word's root, there are still striking differences related to the occurrence and morphological derivation.

In conclusion, adjectives and adverbs that are made by adding adjective- and adverb-forming —ly to bases called "nouns or adjectives" are plentiful in English. Words known as de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs, and de-adjectival adjectives are the products of this morphological process.

Keywords: Syntax, -ly adverbs, -ly adjectives, grammatical structures, morphology, de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs, de-adjectival adjectives.





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Introduction:

The English suffix -ly is an integral part of an uncountable number of adjectives as well as adverbs. In the formation of new adverbs, and adjectives, the -ly suffix is added to nouns to form adjectives; a morphological process known as a de-nominal adjective formation. Moreover, it is added to adjectives to form adverbs in a process called de-adjectival adverb formation. In some cases, we have what are known as de-adjectival adjectives. They are adjectives that are formed out of other adjectives simply by adding the -ly suffix. Therefore, the -ly suffix is added to words mainly to form either de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs, or de-adjectival adjectives. Interestingly, the words formed by adding the -ly suffix seem to be similar, and closely related, they significantly vary concerning parts of speech as well as the morphological processes involving the -ly suffix (Pounder 2001). Figure (1) illustrates this point.

Figure (1): Morphological function of -ly

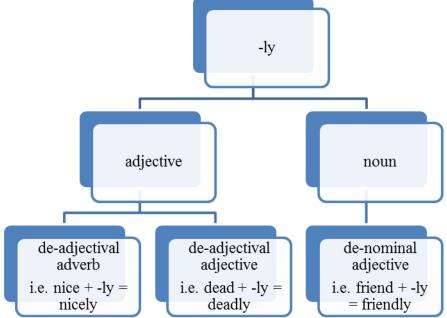


Figure (1) highlights the function of the —ly suffix, and its category-changing, and non-category-changing behaviors. That is, when the —ly suffix is added to a noun or an adjective, its result is a de-nominal adjective or a de-adjectival adverb respectively. At times, it can be added to adjectives like *dead* to form another adjective *deadly*. It must be mentioned here that the —ly suffix cannot be added to all English nouns ,and adjectives. Many English



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nouns like *school*, *teacher*, *uncle*, etc. ,and many adjectives like *big*, *fast*, *small*, etc. are not subject to the –ly morphological processes.

(Stagberg 1980: 99-100) rightly distinguishes between two —ly grammatical structures, namely, an adverb of manner such as richly, kindly, formally ,and happily. Such adverbs ultimately originate from adding the —ly suffix to adjectives. In this context, however, a small group of adjectives do not take the suffix —ly. Good examples to this point are the adjectives 'big, small, little, tall, long, and fast'.

Generally, the -ly suffix is added to monosyllable nouns to form adjectives on which we can apply the rule of -er ,and -est in case of comparison. Such adjectives can be exemplified by love, lovely (lovelier, loveliest); friend, friendly (friendlier, friendliest); man, manly (manlier, manliest). Moreover, the -ly suffix is ultimately added to nouns in order to create adjectives that are not inflected with -er ,and -est. This point can be exemplified by the following words: king, kingly (kinglier, kingliest); beast, beastly (beastlier, beastliest). Besides, the -ly suffix is added to a few adjectives producing adjectival forms that are also inflected with -er, -est. Good examples are dead, deadly (deadlier, deadliest), live, lively (livelier, liveliest), kind, kindly (kindlier, kindliest), sick, sickly (sicklier, sickliest). In this respect, the adjectives *kindly* ,and *lively* are homophones with the adverbs *kindly* ,and *lively*. We can say *He spoke kindly to the children*.

Moreover, the –ly suffix can be added to a short list of 'time' nouns to form de-nominal adjectives. In this list, the following words are nice examples: day + -ly = daily, hour + -ly = hourly, and month + -ly = monthly. Such words are not inflected with –er, -est. That is, we cannot say (*dailier,*hourlier or *monthlier). In case some of them undergo functional shift, they ultimately become nouns. For example, 'He subscribes to two dailies ,and three quarterlies'. In this respect, (Quirk et al. 1985: 438) comment on derivational adverbs, or in a sense, de-adjectival adverbs, created from adjectives as exemplified by odd –oddly, interesting – interestingly.

It is noticed that the word 'oddly' is inflected with —er ,and —est as follows: oddlier, oddliest, whereas the word 'interestingly' is not inflected with —er, and —est. That is, we cannot say: interestinglier or interestingliest. It should be noted that some adjectives are non-inflected with —er, -est. The following list of underlined adjectives can effectively exemplify the point:



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<u>Maidenly</u> demeanour, <u>weekly</u> allowance, <u>heavenly</u> disposition, <u>timely</u> suggestion, and <u>mannerly</u> child.

Objectives:

This paper aims to achieve the following objectives:

- 1. To examine the syntactic behavior of –ly adverbs ,and –ly adjectives.
- 2. To highlight points of difference between adjective-forming –ly ,and adverb-forming –ly.
- 3- To highlight the morphological processes of formation of de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs, and de-adjectival adjectives.

Ouestions:

- 1. What is the syntactic behavior of –ly adverbs and –ly adjectives?
- 2. What are the points of difference between –ly adjective ,and –ly adverb?
- 3. What are the morphological processes of forming de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs, and de-adjectival adjectives?

Hypotheses:

It is hypothesized that:

- 1. The -ly adverbs, and -ly adjectives have different syntactic behaviors.
- 2. There are points of difference between –ly adjectives, and –ly adverbs.
- 3. There are different morphological processes of forming de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs ,and de-adjectival adjectives.

Methodology:

The inductive method is used. The researcher starts by making general ,and specific observations on the morphological processes of —ly adverbs ,and —ly adjectives. Since the research deals with a linguistic phenomenon, its data are a set of —ly adverbs, and —ly adjectives which are used as examples to support the hypotheses.

Scope of the study:

This study is delimited to examine the syntactic behavior of -ly adverbs, and -ly adjectives. It is also an attempt to highlight points of difference between adjective-forming -ly, and adverb-forming -ly. Moreover, it sheds light on the different morphological processes of forming de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs, and de-adjectival adjectives.

Significance of the study:

Thousands of English adverbs, and adjectives are ultimately created by simply adding the suffix '-ly' to certain nouns, and adjectives. Moreover, the similarity between - ly adverbs, and -ly adjectives regarding form confuses, in the sense that novice learner would find it difficult to distinguish between





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the - ly adverbs, and -ly adjectives. By highlighting points of difference between the - ly adverbs, and -ly adjectives, this study generates an understanding of morphological processes that bring about de-nominal -ly adjectives, de-adjectival -ly adverbs, and de-adjectival -ly adjectives.

Background and problem statement:

The research field of morphological formation of adverbs and adjectives in English has focused on the morphological processes that result in new words known as -ly adverbs, and -ly adjectives. It has been widely discussed by scholars like (Lyons, 1966), (Emonds, 1976), (Bybee 1985:12), (Radford, 1988) and (Baker, 2003). Truly, there are obviously many other suffixes discussed the English derivational morphology. Suffixes like -ism and -ity ultimately behave in such an exceptional way (Giegerich, 2012: 350). This point has also been examined by (Fabb, 1988) and (Hay & Plag, 2004). Moreover, the differences between the two suffixes have received equal importance. The importance of studying the syntactic behavior of -ly stems from the fact that thousands of English adjectives, and adverbs are simply created by adding the suffix '-ly' suffix to the base word. One important criterion for distinguishing between the adverbial –ly, and adjectival –ly is to determine whether it is derivational or inflectional. Another criterion is represented in the fact that the categories of nouns, verbs, and adjectives freely interact, and derive from each other (Giegerich, 2012). Some morphological processes can ultimately be applied to create verbs from nouns as well as from adjectives. Besides, similar processes are adopted to create adjectives from nouns as well as from verbs. Examples are provided in Table (1).

Table (1): Derivation of adjectives, nouns and verbs

Root	Suffix	De-verbal noun
Teach	-er	Teacher
Manage	-ment	Management
Approve	-al	Approval
Root	Suffix	De-adjectival noun
Kind	-ness	Kindness
Fatal	-ism	Fatalism
Stupid	-ity	Stupidity
Root	Suffix	De-nominal verb
Theory	-ize	Theorize



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Sign	-ify	Signify
Hyphen	-ate	Hyphenate
Root	Suffix	De-adjectival verb
Dark	-en	Darken
Sharp	-en	Sharpen
Legal	-ize	Legalize
Root	Suffix	De-verbal adjective
Eat	-able	Eatable
Speculate	-ive	Speculative
Rebel	-ious	Rebellious
Root	Suffix	De-nominal adjective
Beauty	-ful	Beautiful
Penny	-less	Penniless
Fool	-ish	Foolish

Striking syntactic behavioral differences between adjective-forming —ly and adverb-forming —ly

In morphological processes of forming —ly adverbs and -ly adjectives, there exists obvious differences in syntactic behavior. Despite the fact that both adjective-forming —ly and adverb-forming —ly bring about new words and they occur at the end of the word's root, there are still differences related to the occurrence and morphological derivation. The point is that any —ly suffix that forms adjectives can ultimately precede other derivational suffixes. Examples are given in Table (2).

Table (2): Examples of adjective-forming —ly occurring before derivational suffixes

Root	-ly suffix	Derivational suffix	New word
Live	-ly (li)	-hood	Livelihood
Friend	-ly (li)	-ness	Friendliness
Sick	-ly (li)	-ness	Sickliness
Man	-ly (li)	-ness	Manliness

On the other hand, the –ly suffix that forms adverbs can never precede other derivational suffixes. This point marks a great difference between adjective-forming –ly and adverb-forming –ly in the sense that we cannot add another derivational suffix to the adverbs ending in –ly as is the case with adjectives ending in –ly. For example, the derivational suffix –ness cannot be





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used, to form new words, after the —ly suffix in de-adjectival adverbs like stupidly, nicely, consistently, interestingly, etc. This is further illustrated in Table (3).

Table (3): Examples of adverb-forming –ly(not) occurring before derivational suffixes

Root	-ly suffix	Derivational suffix	New word
Stupid	-ly (li)	-ness	Stupidliness (incorrect)
Nice	-ly (li)	-ness	Niceliness (incorrect)
Consistent	-ly (li)	-ness	Consistentliness (incorrect)
Interesting	-ly (li)	-ness	Interestingliness (incorrect)

As it is obviously noticed in Table (3), the derivational suffix –ness cannot be added to the de-adjectival adverbs to form nouns. That is, it is ultimately incorrect to say 'stupidliness, niceliness, consistentliness or interestingliness'. This point reflects a great difference between adjective-forming –ly and adverb-forming –ly, which is related to the morphological derivation. Interestingly, adverbs that are not formed by the –ly suffix can ultimately undergo morphological derivation. The words seldomness and soonish are nice examples.

One important difference between the two suffixes is related to what they can follow. In this respect, adjective-forming -ly cannot be added to a form ending in /i/ or /l/. That is, we can say friend-ly but not enemi-liy. However, adverb-forming -ly may be added to a form ending in /i/ or /l/ as is the case in angri-ly and careful-ly (Dixon, 2014). To distinguish between the -ly adjective and the -ly adverb just take away the -ly and examine the base word. If the base word is a noun, you have an -ly adjective. If the base word is an adjective, you have an -ly adverb (Britt, 2014). This technique is also suggested by (Taggart, 2000), (Márquez & Sánchez, 2008), (Woods, Coppieters, & Leech, 2014), (Müller, Ohnheiser, Olsen & Rainer, 2015) and (DeCapua, 2017).

The suffix -'ly' itself certainly reflects a sense of idiosyncrasy, restrictions as well as semantic opacity. In this regard, it is difficult to use the suffix -ly to colour adjectives (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 527). Moreover,



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even though the -ly form is certainly an adverb when it comes in sentences like I got up early today, it is ultimately an adjective in a sentence like she's in her early thirties (Bache, 2013).

It should be noted that inflectional suffixes like –er and –est can rightly be added to all –ly de-nominal adjectives. Furthermore, it is true to say deadlier, deadliest, friendlier, and friendliest. However, the same rule cannot be applied to –ly de-adjectival adverbs. That is, it is incorrect to say slowlier, slowliest, nicelier, niceliest. Now, it is true to say that the –ly adjective as well as the –ly adverb are different suffixes. The adjective-forming –ly is certainly a derivational suffix. The adverb-forming –ly is an inflectional suffix. Concerning the word deadly, for example, the –ly suffix is derivational even though it does not change the category of the word dead. On the other hand, the word slowly is inflected from the adjective slow. Here, the –ly suffix is a category-changing inflectional suffix as it changes the category of the adjective slow and makes it an adverb slowly. This is further represented in Table (4).

Table (4): The addition of –er and –est to de-nominal adjectives and de-adjectival adverbs

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De- nominal adjective	-er	-est	De- adjectiv al adverb	-er	-est	Deer adjectiv al adjectiv e		-est
Friendly	Friendlier	friendliest	Slowly	Slowlier (incorrect)	Slowliest (incorrect)	deadly	deadlier	Deadliest
Manly	Manlier	Manliest	Nicely	Nicelier (incorrect)	Niceliest (incorrect)	sickly	sicklier	Sickliest
Lovely	Lovelier	Loveliest	Greatly	Greatlier (incorrect)	Greatliest (incorrect)	lively	livelier	Liveliest

Table (4) highlights the addition of —er and —est, which are inflectional suffixes, to de-nominal adjectives as well as de-adjectival adverbs. It is obvious that —er and —est can be added to the de-nominal adjectives and the de-adjectival adjectives as is the case in *friendly, friendlier, friendliest, deadly, deadlier, deadliest.* But this rule is not applicable to the de-adjectival adverbs like *slowly, nicely* and *greatly*. In this case, it is incorrect to say *slowlier, slowliest, nicelier, niceliest, greatlier, greatliest.* It should be noted that adverb-forming —ly can occasionally be viewed as an inflectional suffix based on the fact that it is obligatory with certain adjective bases in many syntactic environments (Adams, 2016).





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The adverbial -ly has certain phonological aspects related to degemination and haplology avoidance. The term degemination can ultimately be defined as some sort of reduction (Hedia, 2019). Contrary to the suffixes -less or -like, for example, or in a sense any other derivational suffix which has initial consonant sound, adverb-forming -ly undergoes the process of degemination in case it is added to certain bases ending in /l/. Examples are given in Table (5).

Table (5): Degemination of some –ly bases ending in /l/

	→	<u> </u>
Bases	-ly	-ly adverbs
Ideal	-ly	ideal-ly
Real	-ly	real-ly
Full	-ly	full-y
Ably	-ly	ab-ly

In case the /l/ stands as an integral suffix part, the result is a permanent merger of the suffix sequence. This point is further represented in Table (6).

Table (6): Degemination of some -ly bases in which the /l/ is integral part of a suffix

		
Bases	-ly	-ly adverbs
Formal	-ly	formal-ly
Natural	-ly	natural-ly
Terrible	-ly	terrib-ly
Remarkable	-ly	ramarkab-ly

Moreover, there are in English a large number of retained geminates like *solely*, *foully* and *malely*. Examples are represented in **Table** (7).

Bases	-ly	-ly adverbs
Sole	-ly	sole-ly
Vile	-ly	vile-ly
Stale	-ly	stale-ly
Male	-ly	male-ly

Haplology avoidance, however, is a linguistic phenomenon related to sequences of identical forms when two very similar or identical sounds or syllables occur next to each other. In this case it is not unusual for one to be deleted (Culpeper, Kerswill, Wodak, MacEnery & Katamba, 2018). In this context, the adverbial -ly cannot be added to certain word bases that end in -ly. Truly, this case is common after -ly adjective. It is also common in other



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cases where it is obvious that the base-final -ly is ultimately not suffixal. Examples of the first case are shown in Table (8).

Table (8): Haplology avoidance in adjective forming -ly

	\ / I O	<i>9</i>
Bases	-ly	Haplology avoidance
Dead	-ly = deadly	Deadli-ly (incorrect)
Night	-ly =nightly	Nightli-ly (incorrect)
Man	-ly = manly	Manli-ly (incorrect)
Day	-ly = daily	Daili-ly (incorrect)

Concerning the second case of haplology avoidance when the base-final -ly is not suffixal, it is obvious that when the -ly is not part of a suffix the addition of the adverbial -ly brings about an ill-formed word as is the case in *wigglily* and *oilily*. More examples of haplology avoidance are shown in Table (9).

Table (9): Haplology avoidance when the base-final -ly is not suffixal

Bases	-ly	Haplology avoidance
Chilly	-ly	Chillily (ill-formed)
Silly	-1y	Sillily (ill-formed)
wiggly	-ly	Wigglily (ill-formed)
Oily	-ly	Oilily (ill-formed)

As it is represented in the above table, the addition of the adverbial *-ly* to bases like *chilly*, *silly*, *wiggly* and *oily* makes them appear ill-formed. This is because such words originally have *-ly* as integral part of their main letters; known as non-suffixial *-ly*. In this case, the addition of another *-ly* makes them dubious and incorrect.

It may ultimately be argued that the adverb-forming -ly can rightly be removed and the result is the base word, either it is an adjective or a noun. On the other hand, the suffixes -er and -ness cannot be removed. This is because of the fact that -ly is semantically empty. In this respect, the uninflected word daily can ultimately serve as an adjective as well as an adverb at the same time.



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Formation of de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs and deadjectival adjectives:

In English, many adjectives as well as adverbs are created as a direct result of morphological processes, the most important of which are the morphological processes of adding the suffix '-ly' to nouns and adjectives. Many adverbs, although not all, are created by simply adding the suffix 'ly' onto an adjective (Finch, 2002). In Standard English, suffixation generates adverbs from adjectives as in *automatic* + *ly* = *automatically* (Cummings, 2018). A large proportion of our adverbs of manner are formed from adjectives, by adding the termination -ly (Mulligan, 1868). The words created by -ly morphological processes can, for the sake of argument, be called denominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs and de-adjectival adjectives. The point is that the -ly suffix is added to certain nouns and adjectives to form adjectives which are called de-nominal adjectives and de-adjectival adjectives respectively. It is also added to certain adjectives to form adverbs known as de-adjectival adverbs. Figure (2) illustrates this point.

Figure (2): Processes of forming de-nominal adjectives, deadjectival adverbs and de-adjectival adjectives



Figure (2) reflects that the morphological process involving the adding of —ly suffix to some nouns ultimately creates an adjective that is morphologically called a de-nominal adjective. Moreover, by adding the —ly suffix to some adjectives an adverb is created. The adverb created during this morphological process is called a de-adjectival adverb. In many cases, the —ly suffix is ultimately added to some adjectives to form new adjectives which are morphologically known as de-adjectival adjectives. Examples are given in table (10).



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Table (10): Formation of de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs or de-adjectival adjectives

De-nominal adjectives	De-adjectival adverbs	De-adjectival adjectives
Shape $+ -ly = shapely$	Perfect + -ly = perfectly	Dead + -ly = deadly
Man + -ly = manly	Rough $+$ -ly = roughly	Live + -ly = lively
Body + -ly = bodily	Gentle $+$ -ly = gently	Poor + -ly = poorly
Day + -ly = daily	Accurate + -ly =	Sick + -ly = sickly
Friend $+$ -ly = friendly	accurately	·
	Abrupt $+$ -ly $=$ abruptly	
	Happy + -ly = happily	
	Eager $+$ -ly $=$ eagerly	
	Ideal + -ly = ideally	
	Angry + -ly = angrily	
	Proud $+$ -ly = proudly	

Findings

This study has explored the syntactic behavior of adverb-forming -ly and adjective-forming -ly. It has highlighted the fact that when the -ly suffix is added to a noun or an adjective, the result is a de-nominal adjective or a deadjectival adverb respectively. At times, when the adjective-forming -ly is added to certain adjectives like dead, the result is a de-adjectival adjective. It was found that some derivational suffixes like -ness cannot be added to deadjectival adverbs, like stupidly, nicely and interestingly, to form nouns like stupidliness, niceliness, and interestingliness. In case of adjectives, any -ly suffix that forms adjectives can ultimately precede other derivational suffixes like -ness, as is the case in liveliness, friendliness and manliness. Hence, the first hypothesis that the -ly adverbs and -ly adjectives have different syntactic behaviors is proved.

It was also noticed that there are points of difference between adjective-forming -ly and adverb-forming -ly related to their occurring before derivational suffixes and the addition of -er and -est to de-nominal adjectives as well as de-adjectival adverbs. Therefore, the second hypothesis that there are points of difference between adjective-forming -ly and adverb-forming -ly is proved. This paper, moreover, has highlighted that there are different morphological processes of forming de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs and de-adjectival adjectives. Hence, the third hypothesis is ultimately proved.





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Conclusion

English is rich in adjectives and adverbs that are formed by adding adjective-forming —ly and adverb-forming —ly to bases 'nouns or adjectives'. The result of this morphological process are words known as de-nominal adjectives, de-adjectival adverbs and de-adjectival adjectives. Such words are morphologically called as —ly adjectives and —ly adverbs. They ultimately have different syntactic behaviors related to certain cases like their occurrence before other derivational suffixes like —ness and their addition to words ending in /i/ or /l/. Some differences are related to the addition of —er and —est to de-nominal adjectives and de-adjectival adverbs. It is true that —er and —est can be added to the de-nominal adjectives and the de-adjectival adjectives as is the case in friendly, friendlier, friendliest, deadly, deadlier, deadliest. But this rule is not applicable to the de-adjectival adverbs like slowly, nicely and greatly. In this case, it is incorrect to say slowlier, slowliest, nicelier, niceliest, greatlier, greatliest.

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السلوك النحوي للظروف والصفات المنتهية ب المرابع المرا

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مستخلص البحث:

هذا البحث هو محاولة لاظهار السلوك النحوي للظروف والصفات المنتهية ب 1y-. هو يتعامل بصورة رئيسية مع 1y- بوصفها نهاية تصريفية تكوّن ظروفا وصفات. ان فرضية هذا البحث تكمن في ان هناك اختلافات بين مايكوًن الصفة المنتهية ب 1y- وما يكوّن الظرف المنتهي ب 1y- لقد قام الباحث باطلاق ملاحظات عامة ومحددة فيما يخص العمليات الصرفية للظروف والصفات المنتهية ب 1y-. ولان هذه الدراسة تركز على الظاهرة اللغوية ، فأن معطياتها مجموعة من الظروف والصفات المنتهية ب 1y- والتي تستخدم بوصفها امثلة تعزّز الفرضية .ان اهمية دراسة السلوك النحوي للظروف والصفات المذكورة نابع من حقيقة ان الافاً من الصفات والظروف الانكليزية تكوّن بأضافة النهاية 1y- الى الجذور. وعلى الرغم من حقيقة ان الصفات والظروف المكوّنة بأضافة 1y- تظهر كلمات جديدة ، لكن هناك اختلافات تلفت النظر تَعزى لحدوثها ولاشتقاقها المنتهية ب 1y- إلى جذور تسمى "الأسماء أو الصفات" متوفرة بكثرة في اللغة الإنجليزية الكلمات المعروفة باسم الصفات المشتقة من الاسم والظروف المشتقة من الصفة والصفات المشتقة من الصفة من العملية الصرفية.

الكُلُمات المفتاحية: النحو ، ظروف - ly ، صفات - ly ، التراكيب النحوية ، علم الصرف ، الصفات المشتقة من الاسم ، الظروف المشتقة من الصفة ، الصفات المشتقة من الصفة