CONSTRUCTING DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY: A MORPHO-PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF DERIVATIONS IN PRABOWO'S UN SPEECH

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	This study examines the role of derivational morphology in shaping diplomatic identity in President Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Debate. Despite extensive analysis of political discourse, the pragmatic function of derivational processes in diplomatic communication is still barely investigated. The study addresses this gap by identifying the types and communicative functions of derivational morphemes utilized in speech, elucidating how these forms facilitate Indonesia's diplomatic self-presentation. The research employs a descriptive qualitative methodology to evaluate the official transcript by Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis, concentrating on representation, identity formation, and ideological positioning. The research identified 117 derivational forms, including nominalizations, adjectival derivatives, verbalizations, and prefixations.
	Nominal derivatives like humanity, prosperity, and equality conceptualize political issues as universal ethical ideals, but adjectival forms such as international, multilateral, and democratic situate Indonesia within global institutional standards. Verbal derivatives such as "strengthen" and "deepen" portray Indonesia as an active and progressive diplomatic entity, while negative prefixes like "injustice" and "irreparable" underscore an evaluative perspective and moral imperative. The study illustrates that derivational morphology serves as a strategic linguistic tool for constructing a principled, cooperative, and engaged diplomatic identity. The results enhance the expanding corpus of morpho-pragmatic and political discourse studies and provide a basis for comparative examinations in various international diplomatic settings.

1. INTRODUCTION

Diplomatic communication plays an important role in shaping how nations project identity and legitimacy on the global stage. In international forums such as the United Nations General Assembly, political leaders rely on strategic language choices to construct authority, solidarity, and national positioning. Every lexical, structural, and pragmatic decision contributes to how a country represent itself to the world (Luthfiyati & Hamidah, 2022). Because speech functions socially through negotiation, persuasion, and assertion of stance, leaders with institutional power gain greater control over how meanings are framed and interpreted (Sari, 2020).

While political discourse analysis commonly examines rhetoric, argumentation, or syntatic patterns, morphological choices, especially derivational morphology, have received far less

attention. Derivational processes such as -ism, -ity, or -tion do not merely form new words, they assign ideological weight, shape, stance, and construct political identities. Existing research on derivational and inflectional morphemes have identified the forms and functions of affixation such as (Fitria, 2020), this study remains limited to descriptive morphology and do not investigate how these morphological choices shape discourse. Existing research has not examined how derivation contributes to meaning, identity, or power in political communication. To address this gap, this study combines morphology with Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis to show how derivational morphemes in Prabowo's UN speech are used to construct persuasion, legitimacy, and diplomatic identity. This study therefore expands morphological research into morpho pragmatics by demonstrating how derivation helps build diplomatic identity in international political discourse.

Another previous research on morpho pragmatics, such as (Yap et al., 2022) study on students' awareness of Philippine English and slang, has described word formation and examined pragmatic understanding in educational settings, this line of research does not address how derivational morphology operates within political discourse. Existing studies have not investigated how derivations contribute to meaning, identity, or ideology in diplomatic communication, nor have they applied Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis to connect morphological choices with power and social practice. To address this gap, the present study examines how derivational morphemes in Prabowo's UN speech function pragmatically to construct persuasion, legitimacy, and diplomatic identity. In doing so, this research extends morpho pragmatic inquiry by showing how derivation supports the construction of diplomatic identity in international political discourse.

This gap is relevant in President Prabowo Subianto's address to the 80th UN General Debate, when he highlighted principles, sovereignty, and determination to peace. His language selections underscore Indonesia's effort to reaffirm its diplomatic position and integrity in international relations. Therefore, this study examines how derivational morphology contributes to identity construction in Prabowo's UN speech. The study addresses two sharpened research questions:

1. What types of derivational morphology are used in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th UN General Debate?
2. How do these derivational forms function pragmatically to construct Indonesia's diplomatic identity and political stance?

By analyzing the relationship between morphological form and pragmatic effect, this article shows how micro-level linguistic choices serve broader diplomatic ideological purposes.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a branch of discourse analytical research that primarily investigates the presence and function of social power in social or political contexts. It may exist in oral form, such as public speeches, or in written form, including advertisements, newspapers, and various other materials (Hasanah et al., 2019; Wang, 2010) CDA looks at how language, ideology, and power are used in spoken or written texts and how they relate to one another (Hasanah et al., 2019). Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as proposed by Fairclough emphasizes the relationship between language, power, and social structures. It involves

analyzing texts, discursive practices, and social practices to uncover underlying ideologies and power relations (Faiz et al., 2020).

(Megawati, 2021) and Fairclough (1996) perceive discourse as a manifestation of social practice. From this viewpoint, language is regarded as an integral component of society rather than an external entity. Moreover, language is regarded as a social phenomenon. Discourse refers to the overall process of social interaction in which a text exists. This process encompasses both creation and interpretation. These two processes also incorporate social variables, indicating that a text is affected by non-linguistic features. These social circumstances encompass the contexts of production and interpretation.

(Megawati, 2021) and Fairclough (1996) also explain that language is intricately connected to power. The connection between power and language encompasses both power within discourse and power external to discourse. Power within discourse denotes discourse as a domain where power dynamics are overtly articulated. This power may manifest in direct verbal exchanges, in intercultural dialogues involving diverse ethnic groups, and in the subtle influence of the media.

2.2 Morphology

Morphology is a core linguistic discipline that investigates word formation, encompassing the processes by which new words are generated across various languages (Jelimun, 2024). Morphology is also defined as the study of word formation, encompassing the mechanisms by which new and unrelated words are created in a language (Alim, 2020; Lieber, 2015). Morphology includes the analysis of a word's internal structure and the principles governing word development (Alim, 2020; Oz, 2014). In addition, it examines systematic interrelations in the form and meaning of words. The term morphology has been used to characterize languages since the middle of the nineteenth century, although it originated in biology. Therefore, morphology refers to the study of how words are constructed and developed, which significantly shapes how English words are perceived and understood (Alim, 2020; Akbulut, 2017).

Morphology can be classified into two categories: derivational and inflectional. derivational morphemes, which is the process of adding affixes to base forms to make new words. This process not only creates new morphological forms but also broadens meanings and sometimes changes word class (Taufiq et al., 2025). For example, the word "happy," an adjective, if it's added to a suffix "ness," it becomes the word "happiness," which is a noun. It also examines the principles that regulate the formation of new words, regardless of the particular grammatical function a word may assume in a sentence (Kusumawardhani, 2018). Meanwhile, inflectional morphology examines how words change (or "inflect") to convey grammatical differences in phrases, such as present/past tense or singular/plural.

2.3 Pragmatic

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics concerned with the study of meaning as influenced by context, situational factors, and communicative intent (Ayu & Barli, 2023; Barron et al., 2017). Effective communication depends on understanding the literal meaning of words and hidden intentions in a particular context. Yule (2023) defines pragmatics as a study of 'invisible' meaning, which explains how communicators interpret messages that are not explicitly stated. Pragmatics addresses the phenomenon where what is conveyed goes beyond what is expressly said. Furthermore, pragmatics analyzes how language functions in real social interactions to

construct meaning beyond the literal level, encompassing speech acts, implicature, and deixis (Dahlan et al., 2023).

2.4 Morpho-Pragmatic

Morpho-pragmatics is the study of how a language's morphological components convey pragmatic characteristics like shared knowledge or epistemic authority, as well as how these components function in communicative contexts to convey nuanced pragmatic meanings. It examines the relationship between linguistic structure (morphology) and pragmatic significance (pragmatics) in real language application.

Morpho-pragmatics examines the connection between morphology and pragmatics as a cohesive discipline. It emphasizes the practical significance of morphology, wherein word structures like affixes and clitics serve as indications of the speech context or communicative situation. This field of study must be separated from both lexical pragmatics and syntactic pragmatics. Particularly, lexical pragmatics addresses morphologically intricate lexical elements that express pragmatic meaning that is inherent in them (Yap et al., 2022).

3. METHODOLOGY

To analyze the construction of diplomatic identity in this study, a descriptive qualitative method was employed. This approach aims to understand social phenomena or issues from the perspective of the participants involved, emphasizing a deeper understanding of the context rather than quantitative measurement (Kartika et al., 2025). This design is appropriate because the study focuses on linguistic elements, specifically derivational morphemes, that appear naturally in the speech without data manipulation (Samsuri et al., 2022).

3.1. Data and Source

The data for this research were taken from the official transcript of H.E. Prabowo Subianto's speech delivered at the 80th United Nations General Debate on September 23, 2025. The transcript was retrieved from United Nation's YouTube official. The unit of analysis is the specific clauses and sentences containing derivational affixes that contribute to the pragmatic force of the speech.

3.2 Research Instrument and Procedure

In this qualitative inquiry, the researcher acts as the key instrument responsible for gathering and interpreting the data. The data collection procedure involved: (1) downloading the speech video and text; (2) verifying the transcript against the video for accuracy; and (3) coding the data by highlighting words formed through derivational processes.

3.3 Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using Content Analysis integrated with Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) model. The analysis followed three steps: (1) Morphological Analysis: Identifying the root words and affixes to understand the structural formation. (2) Pragmatic Analysis: Interpreting the implied meaning and function of these words within the diplomatic context. (3) Discourse Construction: Explaining how these specific morphological choices contribute to constructing a "diplomatic identity" based on Fairclough's dimensions of text, interaction, and social context.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Results

The examination of President Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Debate revealed 117 derivational forms throughout the entire speech. The forms encompass nominal, adjectival, verbal, and adverbial derivations, together with negative and relational prefixations. The dominant category is nominal derivation, commonly employed to formulate abstract political and moral conceptions. Notable portions from the speech consist of:

1. "*...leaders and representatives who represent almost all of **humanity***" (0:59)
2. "*Millions are facing **irreparable** damage to their bodies…*" (14:28)
3. "*We remain committed to **internationalism**, to **multilateralism**, and to every effort that **strengthens** this great institution.*" (05:41)
4. "*We aim to **reforest** more than 12 million hectares of degraded forest…*" (12:34)

Table 1. Distribution of Derivational Morphemes in President Prabowo's UN Speech

No	Morphological Process	Affix Type	Transformation	Examples from Speech
1.	**Nominalization** (Creating Nouns)	-ion / -tion / -sion	Verb → Noun	*Declaration, Revolution, Oppression, Mission, Aviation, Solution, Suspicion*
		-ity / -ty	Adj/Noun → Noun	*Humanity, Prosperity, Security, Equality, Legitimacy, Capacity, Reality*
		-ment	Verb → Noun	*Government, Management, Movement, Development, Agreement*
		-ence / -ency	Verb/Adj → Noun	*Excellency, Independence, Violence, Decency, Consequence*
		-ness	Adj → Noun	*Happiness*
		-er / -or / -ist	Verb/Noun → Noun (Agent)	*Leader, Contributor, Speaker, Buddhist*
		-ship	Noun → Noun (State)	*Leadership, Statesmanship*
		-dom	Adj → Noun	*Freedom, Wisdom*
		-ism	Adj/Noun → Noun (Ideology)	*Internationalism, Multilateralism, Optimism*
		-th / -tude	Adj/Root → Noun	*Length, Truth, Rectitude*
2.	**Adjectivization** (Creating Adjectives)	-al	Noun → Adj	*General, Global, Environmental, International, Multilateral, Financial*
		-ic / -ical	Noun → Adj	*Democratic, Scientific, Technological, Economic, Islamic, Catastrophic*
		-able	Verb → Adj	*Unalienable, Sustainable, Renewable, Irreparable*
		-ous	Noun → Adj	*Dangerous*

		-ful / -less	Noun → Adj	*Hopeful, Beautiful, Selfless*
		-ed	Verb → Adj (Participle)	*United, Distinguished, Prepared, Grounded, Convinced*
		-ent / -ant	Verb → Adj	*Confident, Significant, Independent*
		-en	Adj/Noun → Verb	*Threaten, Deepen, Strengthen, Heartened*
3.	**Verbalization** (Creating Verbs)	-ify	Noun → Verb	*Testify*
		re- / de-	Noun → Verb (Prefix)	*Reforest, Degrade*
4.	**Adverbialization** (Creating Adverbs)	-ly	Adj → Adv	*Financially, Decisively, Greatly, Individually*
5.	**Negation & Prefixation** (Changing Meaning)	un- / in- / im- / ir-	Negation	*Unalienable, Injustice, Independence, Immediate, Irreparable, Unfolding*
		inter- / multi-	Relational	*International, Multilateral*

The findings show that nominalization dominates the speech, particularly suffixation with -ity, -tion, -ment, and -ency, used to construct abstract moral and political concepts such as *humanity, prosperity, equality, solidarity, independence, legitimacy*, and *violence*. Adjectival derivations largely involve -al, -ic, -able, and -ous, while verbal derivations rely primarily on -en (strengthen, deepen), and prefixation (re-, de-) for policy framing.

4.2 Discussion

4.2.1 Nominalization and CDA: Representing Universal Ethical Values (Representation)

Nominalization allows Prabowo to shift concrete events into universal, morally elevated constructs, aligning with Fairclough's CDA dimension of representation of social events. For example, his line:

"*leaders and representatives who represent almost all of **humanity***"

Prabowo's use of the phrase "almost all of humanity" serves to establish a collective moral alignment with his audience. The derived noun humanity, formed from human plus the suffix -ity, refers not only to people in general but also to the entire global population and the universal values it represents. Through this lexical choice, Prabowo situates the issue within a broader ethical and international framework, indicating that it concerns all people rather than Indonesians alone.

The phrase "almost all of humanity" further strengthens this framing by implying widespread global concern or agreement. In doing so, Prabowo positions himself as a leader who advocates for shared human priorities, encouraging his audience to view themselves as part of a unified moral community. From a morpho-pragmatic perspective, the derivational form humanity functions as a semiotic device that evokes solidarity, empathy, and moral legitimacy. This choice softens political boundaries and places his argument within a humanitarian discourse, thereby enhancing its persuasive impact in the UNGA setting. Ultimately, Prabowo's linguistic

strategy constructs a collective moral identity that invites the audience to imagine themselves as members of a global community grounded in common values, responsibilities, and aspirations.

This aligns with (Nugraha & Sapdiani, 2020) claim that nominalization elevates events to abstract moral principles, positioning Indonesia as a principled moral actor rather than a partisan state. Such forms reduce agency ("injustice," "oppression," "inequality") while amplifying moral evaluation, consistent with Fairclough's observation that abstraction can naturalize ideological positions.

4.2.2 Negative Prefixation as Ideological Evaluation (Evaluation/Moral Stance)

Negative prefixes (in-, un-, im-, ir-) provide ideological stance-taking, marking moral evaluation, condemnation, or urgency. As in:

> *"Millions are facing **irreparable** damage to their bodies…"*

These forms encode judgment within the morphology itsself, what CDA labels as evaluation. The prefix *ir-* signals irreversible harm, strengthening Prabowo's warning tone. This corresponds with (Dilivia et al., 2023), who assert that derivational prefixes provide lexical diversity while simultaneously expressing cognitive and ideological subtleties. This method aligns with findings in protest speech analysis, where derived evaluative forms articulate ideological critique (Mudiawati et al., 2023).

Prabowo's assertion, "We must have an independent Palestine," utilizes derivation to associate Indonesia's foreign policy with its anti-colonial history, illustrating Fairclough's sociocultural component by relating language selections to extensive political narratives. Prefixations like *injustice*, *irreparable*, and *unalienable* consequently indicate Indonesia's critique of global disparities and reinforce a moral position in international relations. This dynamic further illustrates Fairclough's theory that linguistic forms convey textual meaning to broader ideological and sociopolitical frameworks, a trend similarly noted in analyses of pandemic terminology where derived forms indicated evolving relations of authority and governance (Samsuri et al., 2022).

4.2.3 Adjectivization and Alignment with Global Norms (Representation + Intertextuality)

Adjectival derivations accord with institutional discourses of global governance. When Prabowo declares, *"We remain committed to **internationalism**, to **multilateralism**, and every effort that strengthens this great institution."* he reinforces expected United Nations rhetoric through morphological patterns. Similar intertextual constructions were found in the CDA of Joko Widodo's victory speech, where lexical patterns reinforced ideological themes of unity (Merrita, 2021). Derivations such as *global, international, and multilateral* indicate Indonesia's commitment to established diplomatic standards and reinforce its identity as a collaborative global leader.

4.2.4 Verbalization and Agency Construction (Action + Power Relations)

The analysis of verbalization processes, specifically the suffix *-en* (*strengthen, deepen, threaten*), offers insight into how the speaker constructs agency. Morphologically, *-en* is a causative suffix, which is an intransitive verb that can take a subject functioning as an agent (Barus, 2025). As in:

> *"...every effort that **strengthens** this great institution."* and *"We aim to **reforest** more than 12 million hectares…"*

The suffix *-en* creates causative verbs (to make stronger/deeper), enabling Prabowo to adopt what CDA terms agentive power, the capacity to act, intervene, and shape outcomes. This

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directly contrasts with his descriptions of victims (e.g., "...are facing irreparable damage."), whose derived nominal adjectival forms reduce their agency. Thus, the morphology contributes to the macro-discursive separation between "actors" (Indonesia/UN) and "affected subjects" (victims of conflict).

4.2.5 Synthesis: How Morphology Constructs Diplomatic Identity

The derivational system collectively constructs a diplomatic persona across Fairclough's three dimensions:

Derivational Strategy	Function	CDA Dimension
Nominalization (humanity, prosperity)	Universal moral framing	Representation
Adjectivization (international, multilateral)	Alignment with global norms	Intertextuality & Representation
Negative Prefixation (injustice, irreparable)	Moral stance, condemnation	Evaluation
Verbalization (strengthen, reforest)	Expressing agency and commitment	Power/Action

5. CONCLUSION

This study shows that derivational morphology plays a crucial role in shaping the diplomatic identity potrayed in President Prabowo Subianto's speech during the 80th United Nations General Debate. The analysis of patterns, functions, and pragmatic implications of derivational forms in speech demonstrates that morphological choices serve as strategic instruments for conveying ideological stance, political alignment, and national positioning globally, rather than being mere linguistic embellishments. The findings indicate that nominalization, adjectivization, verbalization, and prefixation all play unique but complimentary roles in sustaining Indonesia's image as a principled, proactive, and globally responsible leader.

President Prabowo presents Indonesia as a nation grounded in moral commitments and human rights principles by framing political issues as universal ethical ideas through nominalized forms such as humanity, prosperity, and equality. Adjectival derivatives like multilateral, international, and democratic further situate Indonesia within an established gloal framework, suggesting rational conduct, institutional alignment, and an openness to constructive engagement with international norms. At the same time, verbal derivations including strengthen, deepen, and reforest hinghlight initiative and forward-looking action, underscoring Indonesia's dedication to contributing actively to peacebuilding, development, and environmental renewal. The use of negative prefixations such as injustice, irreparable, and unalienable serves as evaluative markers that express moral assessments and emphasize the urgency of confronting global challenges.

Taken together, these morphological selections show how a layered diplomatic identity is shaped, one that reflects moral positioning, cooperative reasoning, and active involvments in global affairs. Prabowo's speech demonstares that subtle morphological decisions can carry meaningful diplomatic significance, allowing linguistic form to work in line with communicative

goals in presenting Indonesia as a responsible global participant: principled yet pragmatic, critical yet cooperative, and firmly committed to international peace and shared advancement. Future studies may extend this line of investigation by comparing derivational usage in speeches delivered by other global leaders or by examining how morphological features function within multilingual diplomatic environments.

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