

ANALYSIS OF INFLECTIONAL MORPHEME FROM A SHORT STORY ENTITLED THE THREE LITTLE PIGS RETOLD BY FLORA ANNIE STEEL (1922)

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Abstract

This paper analyze inflectional morpheme from a short story The Three Little Pigs. The method the authors uses to analyze the data is quantitative and qualitative descriptive methods. The purpose of this research is to investigate inflectional affixes, particularly the type of inflectional affixes and the function of inflectional morpheme. The results showed 47 affixes that obtained prefixes (0) and suffixes (47). These affixes are “-s” (10), “-ed” (27), “-er” (1), “-est” (1), “-‘s” (1), “-en” (1), “-ing” (5), “-es” (1). The authors analyze affixes based on their functions as noun maker, verb maker, adjective maker, and adverb maker. The results show data for noun maker (25,54%), verb maker (61,70%), adjective maker (10,64%), and adverb maker (2,12%).

Keywords – morphology; inflectional; affixes

Introduction

Language is one of the most essential tools for communication, and it has a structure that everyone must know well. The structure is vital to govern the arrangement and interpretation of language. It includes its sounds, words, sentences, and rules. Talking about language structure and rules must be distinct from linguistics.

Linguistics is one of the most important things to the language because it encompasses the scientific study of language structure, meaning, and usage. According to Edward Sapir (1921), it is stated that "Linguistics is the systematic study of the nature, structure, and variation of language, including the sounds, words, and grammar, as well as the social and cultural factors that influence language." Furthermore, Leonard Bloomfield (1933) defined linguistics as the scientific study of language, focusing on its form (phonology, morphology, syntax), meaning (semantics), and use (pragmatics).

According to Noam Chomsky (1950s-present), a renowned linguist, "Linguistics is the scientific study of language and its structure, including the sounds, words, and grammar used in communication. It encompasses investigating various linguistic phenomena, such as phonetics, morphology, syntax, and semantics, to understand how languages are organized and how meaning is conveyed. This includes the analysis of affixes, which are morphemes added to words to modify their meaning or grammatical function, revealing insights into the morphological processes that shape language." So linguistics not only talks about the structure and the rules of language, but it also identifies the form, meaning, use, also social and cultural function.

Linguistics is a broad field encompassing various elements and subfields; one of the critical elements of linguistics is affixes. Affixes play a significant role in the study of morphology, which is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the structure and formation of



words. Morphology is the study of the internal structure of words and the processes by which words are formed. Affixes are a type of morpheme, which are minor meaningful units of language. According to (Crowley, 1995), affixes are dependent morphemes that must be attached to a root morpheme. So, an affix is a form of morpheme that is not a word but is only part of a word, for example “-est”, “-ed”, and “-s”.

According to Yule (2010), all affixes, namely prefixes and suffixes in English, are bound morphemes. Katamba (1993) stated that morpheme affixes are divided into two categorical functions, namely derivational morphemes and inflectional morphemes. One of them that plays a crucial role in Linguistics is Inflectional Affixes. It is attached to a word's root or stems to indicate grammatical information, such as tense, number, case, and gender. The Inflectional Affixes are also used to indicate whether a word is singular or plural, whether it is past tense or not, and whether it is comparative, possessive, or superlative.

The previous study with the title "An Analysis of Inflectional Morphemes in a Short Story 'The Child's Story'" explored the use of inflectional affixes in the selected literary work. The researchers focused on identifying and analyzing the inflectional morphemes present in the story and examining their grammatical functions and semantic contributions. By employing a descriptive and qualitative approach, they closely examined the inflectional affixes employed by Dickens and analyzed their roles in conveying meaning, expressing tense, number, possession, and other grammatical features. The study contributes to the understanding of inflectional affixes in literary texts and sheds light on the author's use of morphological features to enhance narrative depth and characterization.

This research will be focused on analyzing the inflectional affixes in a short story. In conducting this research, the researchers used a short story as the object of the study. The reason why the researcher used a short story as an object is because a short story is one of the media that is commonly used by English Language Learners, especially among students. This is proven by research that conducted by an English language education expert, Dr. Manjet Kaur Mehar Singh. This research involved ESL students divided into two groups, a control group, and an experimental group. In comparison, the study's results revealed that the experimental group, which had engaged in regular short story reading, showed significantly higher language proficiency scores than the control group. The short story reading positively impacted their vocabulary acquisition, reading comprehension, and overall language skills. The short story that is used in this research is entitled “The Three Little Pigs” written by Flora Annie Steel (1922). The reason why the researchers were interested in taking the short story as their object of research is that the short story is a popular children's story that is often read and enjoyed by young learners. Analyzing the inflectional morphemes used in this story can shed light on how students acquire and internalize grammatical structures and inflectional patterns. By studying the inflectional morphemes in this context, researchers can gain a better understanding of how children acquire and apply these linguistic features. Analyzing the inflectional morphemes in “The Three Little Pigs” also can have practical implications for language teaching and curriculum development. Educators can design language activities and materials that effectively teach and reinforce these morphological features by understanding how inflectional morphemes are used in students' literature. This research can inform language instruction strategies and contribute to the development of linguistically rich and



engaging educational resources. Thus, the researchers conducted an "Inflectional Morpheme Analysis of The Three Little Pigs Short Story by Flora Annie Steel (1992)."

Methodology

The method applied in this research is the qualitative method. According to (Holloway, 1997), qualitative research is a type of social Study that focuses on how individuals understand and make meaning of their own experiences and the society in which they live. This Study employed qualitative descriptive as its research design because this Study aims to present a detailed description of the analyzing result of inflectional affixes in The Three Little Pigs Short Story by Flora Annie Steel (1992).

The objects of this research were a short story entitled "The Three Little Pig" written by Flora Anna Steel in 1992. The text in which the process of inflectional affixation appears was analyzed. During collecting the data, the researchers conducted many steps appears. Firstly, the researchers read the story through online documents in PDF or using an online platform such as Google by clicking the link. The researcher finds the main idea and the moral value the first they read the short story. After that, the researcher must read again the short story to analyze the inflectional affixes in the short story. These processes were done repeatedly, not only once, but a minimum of five times. Then, the researchers took notes whenever they saw the words in which the affixation process appeared.

Through the process of collecting data, the researchers found many difficulties, such as the words that seem almost similar. This kind of thing sometimes needs to be clarified for the researchers, and they must recheck the work, which consumes time. In comparison, the analysis found that 47 affixes appear in the short story, with 29 verbs the dominant, followed by 12 nouns, 5 adjectives, and only 1 adverb. This research uses many types to analyze the data. According to Silverman (2009: 234), states that "In analyzing the data, three steps of qualitative analysis were used in this study are reducing data, displaying data and making conclusions." Also (Oroh, 2021) mentions that "The purpose of data analysis is to come up with findings or the answers for the research questions." At last, the researcher will present the result and give a conclusion and suggestions about inflectional affixes, particularly in verbs and adjectives.

Finding(s) and Discussion

After the authors completed data collection from the words in the short story, the authors presented a table that displays the frequency of inflectional affixes.

Table 1. Frequency of Inflectional Affixes

No.	Inflectional Affixes		Total Amount
	Prefix	Suffix	
1.	-	-s	10
2.	-	-ed	27
3.	-	-er	1
4.	-	-est	1
5.	-	-‘s	1
6.	-	-en	1
7.	-	-ing	5
8.	-	-es	1



Total Amount

47

From table 1, we can infer the difference in occurrence between prefixes and suffixes in the short story " The Three Little Pigs ". From a total of 47 words that are inflectional morphemes, all of them are suffixes and none of them are prefixes. Furthermore, we can describe that the suffix with the highest frequency of occurrence is "-ed" (27) then "-s" (10), "-ing" (5), and suffixes "-er", "-est", "-s", "-en", and "-es" (1) have the same frequency of occurrence as well as being the suffix with the least frequency of occurrence.

After the authors finish analyzing the frequency of inflectional affixes, the authors provide a table to describe the words that included to inflectional affixes. The table displays inflectional affixes, words, and part of speech.

Table 2. Analysis of Inflectional Affixes

No.	Inflectional Affixes		Words	Note
	Prefix	Suffix		
1.	-	-s	Pigs (L1), fortunes (L2), sticks (L5), bricks (L7), winds (L9), paws (L13), hairs (L13), jaws (L16), ears (L19), hooves (L23), eyes (L30)	Noun Maker
2.	-	-ed	Worked (L5), danced (L6), played (L6), looked (L9), happened (L10), lived (L10), smelled (L10), knocked (L12), answered (L13), showed (L14), huffed (L15), puffed (L15), opened (L16), escaped (L16), continued (L17), passed (L17), tried (L22), clamped (L23), scrambled (L23), chased (L24), slammed (L25), wanted (L26), stopped (L36), pulled (L40), boiled (L41)	Verb Maker
3.	-	-ed	Closed (L25), frightened (L26)	Adj. Maker
4.	-	-er	Harder (L5)	Adv. Maker
5.	-	-est	Strongest (L9)	Adj. Maker
6.	-	-s	Wolf's (L13)	Noun Maker
7.	-	-en	Eaten (L28)	Verb Maker
8.	-	-ing	Chasing (L28), climbing (L39), coming (L40)	Verb Maker
9.	-	-ing	Blazing (L39), scalding (L40)	Adj. Maker

Table 2 describes words that are considered inflectional affixes. Then the authors write the basic words from the results of the formation of inflectional affixes which then get a suffix that makes the word an inflectional morpheme. And the following is a description of the inflectional morpheme; pig ⇒ pigs; fortune ⇒ fortunes; work ⇒ worked; hard ⇒ harder; stick ⇒ sticks; dance ⇒ danced; play ⇒ played; brick ⇒ bricks; look ⇒ looked; strong ⇒ strongest; wind ⇒ winds; happen ⇒ happened; live ⇒ lived; smell ⇒ smelled; knock ⇒ knocked; wolf ⇒ wolf's; paw ⇒ paws; answer ⇒ answered; hair ⇒ hairs; show ⇒ showed; huff ⇒ huffed; puff ⇒ puffed; open ⇒ opened; jaw ⇒ jaws; escape ⇒ escaped; continue ⇒ continued; pass ⇒ passed; ear ⇒ ears; try ⇒ tried; clamp ⇒ clamped; scramble ⇒ scrambled; hoof ⇒ hooves; chase ⇒ chased; slam ⇒ slammed; close ⇒ closed; frighten ⇒ frightened; want ⇒ wanted; eat ⇒ eaten; chase ⇒ chased; eye ⇒ eyes; stop ⇒ stopped; clim ⇒ climbing; blase ⇒ blazing; come ⇒ coming; pull ⇒ pulled; scald ⇒ scalding; boil ⇒ boiled.



After the authors presents the analysis of inflectional affixes in table 2, the authors present the frequency of inflectional affixes that have been identified. The table below displays the percentage of noun maker, verb maker, adjective maker, and adverb maker

Table 3. Percentage of Word Class Makers

No.	The Function of Inflectional Affixes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Noun Maker	12	25,54
2.	Verb Maker	29	61,70
3.	Adjective Maker	5	10,64
4.	Adverb Maker	1	2,12
Total		47	100

Table 3 illustrates the percentages of word class makers found in the research. The findings indicate that the presence of noun makers accounts for 25.54%, verb makers for 61.70%, adjective makers for 10,64%, and adverb makers for 2.12%. These results reveal that the verb maker is the most frequently occurring affix in short story "The Three Little Pigs", while the presence of adverb makers is relatively less frequent.

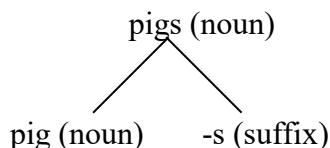
After the authors analyzing the data, it has become evident that when affixes are attached to the root word, they modify both its meaning and part of speech. These affixes serve the purpose of changing the word in various ways. They can transform a verb into a noun or otherwise, create adjectives or adverbs, and thus play a role in changing the overall function of word. These types of affixes observed include those that create nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.

Noun Maker

The inflectional affixes that appear as the noun maker in short story "The Three Little Pigs" are all in the form of suffixes. The suffixes "-s", "-es", and "-'s" are appear in short story "The Three Little Pigs".

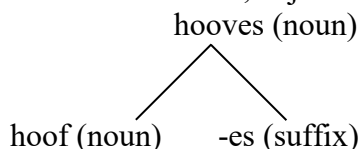
- -s

The suffix "-s" can be identified in various words such as "pigs," "fortunes," "sticks," "bricks," "winds," "paws," "hairs," "jaws," and "eyes" in the short story. It is worth noting that all of the root words in the mentioned examples are nouns. Based on this observation, it can be concluded that the suffix "-s" does not change a word from a noun to a verb, adjective, or adverb.



- -es

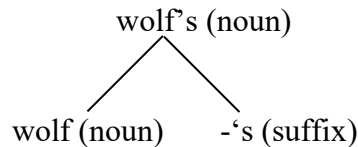
The suffix "-es" is only present in one word, "hooves," within the short story. The root word of "hooves" is a noun. Therefore, it can be inferred that the suffix "-es" does not transform a word from a noun to a verb, adjective, or adverb.



- -'s



The suffix "-s" is found in only one word, "wolf's," in the short story. The root word of "wolf's" is a noun. Then, it can be concluded that the suffix "-s" does not alter a word from a noun to a verb, adjective, or adverb.



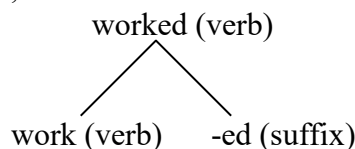
Based on the aforementioned discussions, it can be concluded that there is no alteration in the part of speech for each word. Inflectional morphemes attached to nouns cannot transform them into verbs, adjectives, or adverbs.

Verb Maker

The inflectional affixes that appear as the verb maker in short story "The Three Little Pigs" are all in the form of suffixes. The suffixes "-ed", "-en", and "-ing" appear in short story "The Three Little Pigs".

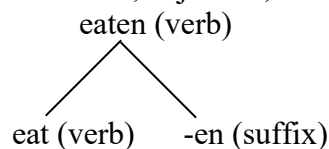
- **-ed**

The suffix "-ed" is present in various words such as "worked," "danced," "played," "looked," "happened," "lived," "smelled," "knocked," "answered," "showed," "huffed," "puffed," "opened," "escaped," "continued," "passed," "tried," "clamped," "scrambled," "chased," "slammed," "wanted," "stopped," "pulled," and "boiled" within the short story. It is noteworthy that all of the root words in the aforementioned examples are verbs. Therefore, it can be concluded that the suffix "-ed" does not change a word from a verb to a noun, adjective, or adverb.



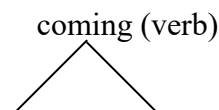
- **-en**

The suffix "-en" is only found in one word, "eaten," in the short story. The root word of "eaten" is a verb. Therefore, it can be concluded that the suffix "-en" does not transform a word from a verb to a noun, adjective, or adverb.



- **-ing**

The suffix "-ing" is present in words such as "coming," "climbing," and "chasing" in the short story. It is worth noting that all of the root words in the given examples are verbs. Thus, it can be concluded that the suffix "-ing" does not convert a word from a verb to a noun, adjective, or adverb.



come (verb) -ing (suffix)

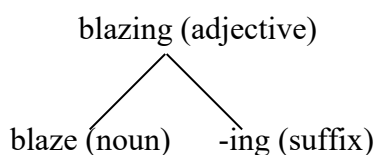
Based on the discussions provided, it can be concluded that there is no alteration in the part of speech for each word. Inflectional morphemes attached to verbs cannot transform them into nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

Adjective Maker

The inflectional affixes that appear as the adjective maker in short story “The Three Little Pigs” are all in the form of suffixes. The suffixes “-ing”, “-ed”, and “-est” are appear in short story “The Three Little Pigs”.

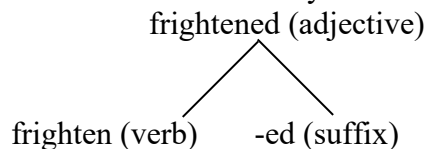
- **-ing**

The suffix "-ing" is found in two words, "blazing" and "scalding," within the short story. The root word of "blazing" is a noun, while the root word of "scalding" is a verb. Then, it can be concluded that the suffix "-ing" can change a word from a noun or verb to an adjective.



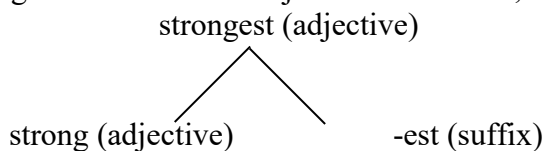
- **-ed**

The suffix "-ed" appeared in just two words: "frightened" and "closed." The root word of "frightened" is a verb, and the root word of "closed" is an adjective. Then, we can conclude that the suffix "-ed" has the ability to transform a verb into an adjective.



- **-est**

The suffix "-est" appeared in only one word: "strongest." The root word of "strongest" is an adjective. Therefore, it can be inferred that the suffix "-est" does not have the ability to change a word from an adjective into a verb, noun, or adverb.



These types of affixes are used to create adjectives. They have the ability to change a word's part of speech, transforming verbs into adjectives and nouns into adjectives. Furthermore, these changes not only affect the part of speech but also alter the meaning of the word.

Adverb Maker

There is only one affix that appears as adverb maker in short story “The Three Little Pigs”, it is “-er”.

- **-er**

The suffix "-er" appeared in only one word: "harder." The root word of "harder" is an adverb. Therefore, it can be concluded that the suffix "-er" does not have the ability to change a word from an adverb into a verb, noun, or adjective.

harder (adverb)



hard (adverb) -er (suffix)

Based on the previous discussions, it is clear that there is no change in the part of speech for each word. When it comes to inflectional morphemes, an adverb cannot be transformed into a verb, noun, or adjective.

Conclusion(s)

After analyzing a short story entitled The Three Little Pigs Retold by Flora Annie Steel (1922), a total of 47 inflectional affixes were found which were divided into prefixes (0) and suffixes (47). These affixes are -s (10), -ed (27), -er (1), -est (1), -'s (1), -en (1), -ing (5), -es (1). These affixes have different functions which are identified as noun maker, verb maker, and adjective maker. The emergence of inflectional morphemes occurred mostly in verb marker makers (61,70%), followed by noun makers (25,54%), adjective makers (10,64%), and adverb makers (2,12%). Inflectional affixes only change the class of the word and do not change the meaning of the word.

Furthermore, for further research in the future, there are some suggestions and input given. The next researcher can expand the research by expanding the corpus of stories to include stories that are similar or with the same theme, as well as comparing the use of inflectional morphemes between these stories. Research can be focused on the influence of social or cultural context on the use of morphemes, as well as looking at changes in the use of morphemes from time to time in the same story. In addition, the researcher can use different analytical methods, such as statistical analysis, to explore the pattern and frequency of the use of inflectional morphemes in stories.

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