

ANALYZE THE USE OF INFLECTIONAL MORPHEME IN “THE FAULT IN OUR STARS” NOVEL BY JOHN GREEN

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Abstract

Novels are timeless. From teenagers to adults, they still choose a novel to spend time with, entertain themselves before bedtime, or even make a hobby. One of the most important yet unseen is the inflectional morpheme. The inflectional morpheme is a morpheme that does not alter the sense of the word. It is used to identify the type of words used in the text. This makes inflectional morpheme an essential ingredient in writing. Inflectional morpheme consists of suffixes added at the end of words that do not change either part of speech or meaning. It gives extra grammatical information about the already existing meaning of the word (Bauer, 1988:12). The use of inflectional morpheme in a novel is important. One of the novels with an inflectional morpheme is John Green titled "The Fault in Our Stars." The most remarkable novel by John Green describes the romantic relationship between two teenagers that have cancer. The tragic romantic journey between Hazel Grace and Augustus Waters. This research aimed to analyze the inflectional morpheme in the novel. This research is used descriptive qualitative. It is hoped that this article may help students to learn more about the types of inflectional morpheme and the function of each inflectional morpheme.

Keywords: Morpheme, Inflectional, Corpus Linguistics

Introduction

Language is one of the most extraordinary things in the world. Language is a means of communication used by humans to communicate with others (Mulcair, Pietrantoni, & Williams, 2018). People can see the world's languages in great variety and vast. Each region has its unique language. a novel. One of the most prominent and most widely spoken languages in the world is English. English has become an international language that makes it easier for many people from different cultural backgrounds. Language cannot only be spoken but also be written. Sometimes even a language in written may reach its readers, one of which is a novel.

In a written especially novel, it had to be composed of many words strung together into one that would eventually have a sense of meaning. The word is the smallest unit of a language. The complex words can be classified into smaller units as morphemes. A morpheme is defined as the smallest meaningful unit of a language (Lim Kiat Boey, 1975:37). The study about how words can be classified into morphemes is called morphology. The morpheme itself can take two forms: it can lead to its own morpheme or can stand alone, which we can call "bound morpheme," and one that cannot stand alone; we can call it "free morpheme" like -s/-es. Lexical morphology theories distinguish three different morphological processes: inflection, derivation, and compounding (Carlisle, 2004).

In a morphology, one small unit called inflectional morpheme. An Inflectional morpheme is a morpheme that changes neither part of speech nor meaning and gives extra grammatical information about the already existing meaning of a word (Bauer, 1988:12). It might also be said

that the inflectional morpheme is a suffix attached to a word to stamp on the grammatical property of the word, as to whether the word is of a comparison, past tense, etc. In English, this inflectional morpheme usually serves as a suffix or the end of a word (Nordquist, 2019a). (Fitria, 2020) said, some existing types of inflectional are -s (to show the present tense), -ed (to show the past tense), -ing (to show the continuous tense), -en (to show the past participle), -s (to show the plural), -'s (to show the possessive), -er (to show the comparative), and -est (to show the superlative).

As important as this inflectional morpheme is, the writer is interested in analyzing it. The writer chooses *The Fault in Our Stars* novel by John Green because it is one of John Green's best-selling novels and has skyrocketed further as it is adapted to be the same-titled movie that is also widely known. The romantic love story presented by John Green can attract many readers to the story. Besides, novels are also highly prized by many of the youths in which they are students. With this analysis, it is expected that youths enjoy *The Fault in Our Stars* novel and learn about the inflectional morpheme types. Learning by something that students like this novel will affect students' knowledge more.

This research is intended to identify the use of an inflectional morpheme in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel. As we can see, novels are also good tools for learning because they are exciting and do not make the learners boring, and the use of inflectional morpheme is an essential element used to describe time, tell numbers, and so on. In addition, the study is also intended to impart more knowledge to the readers regarding the inflectional morpheme. It may also provide teachers with teaching students to point out how the inflectional morpheme might be used in a novel.

Methodology

The methodology used in this study is descriptive qualitative. This research data at *The Fault in Our Stars* novel by John Green consists of 25 chapters. This novel was published in 2012 and is a highly successful sixth novel by John Green in almost all parts of the world. By bringing up the romance between two teenagers, John Green's tragic touch in this novel make it unique. The stories between a young girl named Hazel Grace, who has thyroid cancer, and Augustus Waters, who also has osteosarcoma cancer, make him lose a leg.

The authors chose the novel because of the multitude of inflectional morphemes that can be used for learning materials by many students. Qualitative descriptive methods are selected because the authors want to find and retrieve data on many inflectional morpheme statements in the novel and analyze the different types.

The inflectional morpheme type (-ed) that serves to illustrate the time of the past tense will form the content of the study, as well as the inflectional morpheme type (-ing) that show the continuous tense also the usage of ('s) that show possessive, will also be the crucial part of the study.

The study uses qualitative descriptive methods that will do in several stages, namely 1) reading the novel, 2) finding the inflectional morpheme, 3) classifies the morpheme inflectional, 4) analyzing the inflectional morpheme, and 5) concluding the result. The author identified the novel by locating the inflectional morpheme that can be found. The result will be presented in qualitative tables or data and followed by a descriptive description to explain the inflectional morpheme that the author's found. The authors will present the data concurrently based on various types of inflectional morpheme. As well as an explanation for many inflectional morpheme forms. The data

found will serve as informative material for students, primarily in the inflectional morpheme theme and its use in the novel.

Findings and Discussion

After researching *The Fault in Our Stars*, the writer found several inflectional morpheme forms used in the novel; the following are the findings of the inflectional morpheme.

Table 1. The Kinds of Inflectional Morpheme

No	Inflectional Morpheme	Count	Percent
1	-ed	3337	5.39
2	-ing	2360	3.81
3	-est	202	0.32%
3	-er	57	0.09%
Total		5956	9.63%

Table 1 shows the number of the inflectional morpheme found in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel by John Green. Four types of an inflectional morpheme are found - ed, -ing, -est, and - er. The data indicate that the inflectional morpheme - ed has the most significant number of 3337, followed by -ing 2360, -est by 202, and -er by 57. The percentage of the data found by dividing the total number of words found in the novel is 61827 words with the number of inflectional morphemes words and multiply by 100, at that point, a total 9.63% inflectional morpheme type-ed, -ing, -est, and - er on *The Fault in Our Stars* novel was found.

Tabel 2. The Meaning and Evidence

Inflectional Morpheme	Meaning	Evidence
-ed	past tense	-asked (page 77) -cleared (page 141) -decided (page 95) -depressed (page 9) -deserved (page 77) -kissed (page 78) -laughed (page 87) -smiled (page 90) -tried (page 68) -turned (page 70)
-ing	continuous	-blocking (page 152) -bragging (page 13) -calling (page 164) -editing (page 69) -feeling (page 106) -leaving (page 122) -praying (page 56) -pushing (page 137) -shopping (page 29) -turned (page 70)
-est	superlative	-darkest (page 20) -dearest (page 111) -healthiest (page 122) -longest (page 21) -nicest (page 9)

		-rosiest (page 19)
		-slightest (page 36)
		-smallest (page 50)
		-strongest (page 46)
		-stupidest (page 21)
-er	comparative	-shittier (page 11)
		-shorter (page 88)
		-smaller (page 63)
		-cheaper (page 46)
		-bigger (page 102)
		-deeper (page 45)
		-longer (page 64)
		-stronger (page 74)
		-smarter (page 170)
		-faster (page 40)

Here is the use of inflectional morpheme in the novel:

1. Late in the winter of my seventeenth year, my mother decided I was depressed, presumably because I rarely left the house, spent quite a lot of time in bed, read the same book over and over, ate infrequently, and devoted quite a bit of my abundant free time to thinking about death. **(the use of -ed in Chapter 1)**

My shoulder hurt. I worried the cancer had spread from my lungs. I imagined the tumor metastasizing into my own bones, boring holes into my skeleton, a slithering eel of insidious intent. "*Funky Bones*," Augustus said. "Created by Joep Van Lieshout." **(the use of -ed in Chapter 5)**

2. "Yeah, hurdlers. I don't know why. I started thinking about them running their hurdle races, and jumping over these totally arbitrary objects that had been set in their path. And I wondered if hurdlers ever thought, you know, *This would go faster if we just got rid of the hurdles.*" **(the use of -ing in Chapter 2)**

"Why do you have that?" the first one asked, pointing at my oxygen cart.

"It helps me breathe," I said.

"Is Gus awake?"

"No, he's sleeping."

"He's dying," said another. **(the use of -ing in Chapter 19)**

3. I went to my room but didn't change. I brushed my hair and teeth and put on some lip gloss and the smallest possible dab of perfume. **(the use of -est in Chapter 5)**

I went downstairs to the tiny windowless gift shop and asked the decrepit volunteer sitting on a stool behind a cash register what kind of flowers smell the strongest. **(the use of -est in Chapter 5)**

4. "Hazel is such an inspiration to me; she really is. She just keeps fighting the battle, waking up every morning and going to war without complaint. She's so strong. She's so much stronger than I am. I just wish I had her strength." **(the use of -er in Chapter 9)**

“Of course, you just run past the tortoise without contemplating the mechanics involved, but the question of how you are able to do this turns out to be incredibly complicated, and no one really solved it until Cantor showed us that some infinities are *bigger* than other infinities.” (the use of –er than in Chapter 12)

The data in Table 2 contains a description of the function of each inflectional morpheme found in the novel. Inflectional morpheme -ed is a mean and serves as the past tense, namely explaining something that happens in the past, -ing shows the continuous to explain an action that is being done or occurring, and then -est serves to show superlative, which explains that it comes first after comparing it with another, the latter -er to show comparative, serves to show that it is more than another thing. It also appears in Table 2 that the word found corresponds to the type of inflectional morpheme. Word evidence amounts to ten of each with a page statement on which the word resides.

Conclusions

The inflectional morpheme is a common occurrence found in a text that few people realize much about because it doesn't change the meaning of a word. The inflectional morpheme needs to be identified to help students understand the type of word used in a sentence. One of the many works is John Green's novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. There are many kinds of inflectional morpheme, but in recent research, the researchers have focused on the four types of inflectional morpheme in that novel; they are -ed, -ing, -est, and -er. What researchers came up with were 5956 words. In conclusion, the authors hope this writing can help students understand more deeply about inflectional morpheme, both its kind and its function.

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