Inflectional Affixes In Book #88 Love Life 03

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Abstract. *This research explores the use of inflectional affixes in Book #88 Love Life 03 by Diana Rikasari, using Victoria Fromkin's morphological framework. Inflectional affixes are suffixes added to words to express grammatical features such as tense, number, possession, aspect, and degree, without changing the word's original class or core meaning. The purpose of this research is to identify and analyze the types and functions of these affixes within the selected text. The research used a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Data was collected through documentation and analyzed using note-taking and cross-checking techniques to ensure accuracy. The results show that all eight standard English inflectional affixes were found in the book: -s (plural and third-person-singular), -ed (past-tense), -ing-(progressive), -en (past participle),--'s (possessive), -er (comparative), and -est (superlative). Each affix was used to mark specific grammatical functions and was essential in maintaining proper sentence structure. The analysis highlights that inflectional affixes play a key role in creating clear and grammatically correct sentences. Understanding their use helps readers and language learners grasp how meaning and structure are expressed in written English. This research supports the importance of morphological analysis in understanding how language functions at the word level and contributes to effective communication.*

Keywords: Grammatical Function; Inflectional Affixes; Morphology

Abstrak.Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi penggunaan afiks inflektional dalam Buku #88 Love Life 03 karya Diana Rikasari, menggunakan kerangka morfologi Victoria Fromkin. Afiks inflektional adalah sufiks yang ditambahkan ke kata-kata untuk mengekspresikan fitur tata bahasa seperti kala, jumlah, kepemilikan, aspek, dan derajat, tanpa mengubah kelas asli kata atau makna inti. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis jenis dan fungsi afiks ini dalam teks yang dipilih. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif. Data dikumpulkan melalui dokumentasi dan dianalisis menggunakan teknik pencatatan dan pemeriksaan silang untuk memastikan keakuratan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kedelapan afiks inflektional bahasa Inggris standar ditemukan dalam buku tersebut: -s (jamak dan orang ketiga tunggal), -ed (bentuk lampau), -ing- (progresif), -en (partisipel lampau), --'s (kepemilikan), -er (komparatif), dan -est (superlatif). Setiap afiks digunakan untuk menandai fungsi tata bahasa tertentu dan penting dalam mempertahankan struktur kalimat yang tepat. Analisis ini menyoroti bahwa afiks inflektional memainkan peran penting dalam menciptakan kalimat yang jelas dan benar secara tata bahasa. Memahami penggunaannya membantu pembaca dan pembelajar bahasa memahami bagaimana makna dan struktur diungkapkan dalam bahasa Inggris tertulis. Penelitian ini mendukung pentingnya analisis morfologi dalam memahami bagaimana bahasa berfungsi pada tingkat kata dan berkontribusi pada komunikasi yang efektif.

Kata Kunci: Afiks Infleksional; Fungsi Tata Bahasa; Morfologi

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a fundamental tool that humans use to communicate, interact, and express ideas, thoughts, and emotions. It allows individuals to convey information through both spoken and written forms. The scientific study of language is known as linguistics, which includes several branches such as syntax, phonology, semantics, pragmatics, and morphology. One essential subfield of linguistics is morphology, which focuses on the internal structure of words and how they are formed. The term morphology originates from the Greek words morph, meaning "form," and logy, meaning "study." According to Fromkin et al. (2014), morphology is the study of the internal structure of words and the rules of word formation. It helps us

understand how language conveys meaning through smaller units called morphemes. A morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit in a language that carries meaning.

Morphemes can be classified into two types: free morphemes, which can stand alone as words, and bound morphemes, which cannot stand alone and must be attached to other morphemes. Bound morphemes are commonly realized through affixation, a morphological process in which affixes are added to base words. Affixes can be placed at the beginning (prefixes) or end (suffixes) of words and are further divided into two categories: derivational and inflectional. Derivational affixes either change the meaning of a base word or convert it into a different grammatical category. On the other hand, inflectional affixes do not create new words or change the word class; instead, they modify a word to express grammatical relationships such as tense, number, aspect, possession, and comparison. For example, adding -s to student forms the plural students, and adding -ed to walk forms the past tense walked. Modern English contains eight common inflectional affixes, all of which function as suffixes: -s (third-person singular present), -ed (past tense), -ing (progressive aspect), -en (past participle), -s (plural), -'s (possessive), -er (comparative), and -est (superlative) (Fromkin et al., 2014, p. 47). These inflectional morphemes are crucial in maintaining grammatical coherence within sentences by indicating agreement and structural roles. This study is conducted to analyzing the types and functions of inflectional affixes found in *Book #88 Love Life 03*, using Victoria Fromkin's morphological framework. The goal is to explore how these affixes contribute to sentence construction and grammatical relationships within the written text.

2. THEORY

Inflectional affixes are also part of bound morphemes and inflectional morphemes that don't function to produce new words in the language but are only used to indicate the grammatical function of words and make grammatical changes to words. The inflectional morphemes, which indicate grammatical properties like tense, number, and person, are often in the form of bound morphemes. It means Inflectional morpheme is a morpheme that describing the tenses, the numbers, the person, etc on the sentence (Fromkin et al., 2014, p. 46). Inflectional affixes are morphemes added to words as suffixes to indicate grammatical information without changing the core meaning or grammatical category of the word.

Modern English has only 8 bound inflectional affixes, according to Fromkin et al. (2014):

No.	Suffix	Function	Example
1.	**-s**	Third-person singular present	She wait**s** at home.
2.	**-ed**	Past tense	She wait**ed** at home.
3.	**-ing**	Progressive	She is eat**ing** the donut.

4.	**-en**	Past participle	Mary has eat**en** the donuts.
5.	**-s**	Plural	She ate the donut**s**.
6.	**-'s**	Possessive	Disa**'s** hair is short.
7.	**-er**	Comparative	Disa has short**er** hair than Karin.
8.	**-est**	Superlative	Disa has the short**est** hair.

Based on the example above inflectional affixes modify the form of words to fit various grammatical contexts while preserving their original meaning and category. The eight inflectional affixes in English plural, possessive, third-person singular, past tense, present participle, past participle, comparative, and superlative, play a crucial role in establishing relationships between words within a sentence. In essence, these suffixes provide specific grammatical features to nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs, such as indicating tense, number, possession, or degree of comparison.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research utilized a documentation method combined with a note-taking technique. The research applied a qualitative method with descriptive analysis to interpret the data based on Fromkin's (2014) morphological framework, applying triangulation to ensure data validity and reliability through checked, re-checked, and cross-checked. The results were presented informally, using descriptive techniques in paragraph form. As suggested by Sudaryanto (1993), this method conveys the analysis through clear and accessible explanations in narrative form, making the findings understandable for the reader.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Third Person Singular Present (-s)

Data 1:

"Because kindness **leads** you to many good things in life." (Rikasari et al., 2017, 03)

According to the data above, the bold word **leads** is generated by an inflectional process, specifically the use of a suffix:

- Class Maintaining: Verb → Verb

- Base Word: Lead

- Suffix: (-s) → Leads

The word **leads** is formed through the affixation of the base word **leads** which means "to guide or direct toward a particular direction or result." The addition of the inflectional suffix "-s" indicates that the verb is in the third-person singular present tense, agreeing with the subject "kindness." In the sentence, **leads** conveys the action of guiding or directing someone

toward positive experiences. The subject "kindness" is a singular noun, requiring the verb to take the third-person singular "-s" ending to maintain subject-verb agreement. The inflectional suffix "-s" only modifies the verb's grammatical form while keeping its core meaning of leading or guiding.

Past Tense (-ed)

The suffix -ed indicates past tense.

Data 2:

"Today I am **reminded** once again on how extremely good it feels to be honest to yourself." (Rikasari et al., 2017, 37)

According to the data above, the bold word **reminded** is generated by an inflectional process, specifically the use of a suffix:

- Class Maintaining: Verb → Verb
- Base Word: Remind
- Suffix: (-ed) → Reminded

The word **reminded** is formed through the affixation of the base word "remind," which means "to make someone remember something." The addition of the inflectional suffix "-ed" indicates that the verb is in the past tense, showing that the action has already occurred. In the sentence, **reminded** expresses the idea that the speaker has experienced a recollection or realization in the past. The subject "I" is the one who experiences the action, and the verb "reminded" is in the past tense to indicate that this realization happened before the moment of speaking. The inflectional suffix "-ed" only modifies the verb's grammatical tense while maintaining its original meaning of causing someone to remember.

Progressive (-ing)

The suffix (-ing) is required when verbs are used with forms of be.

Data 3:

"I am **celebrating** our 5th anniversary." (Rikasari et al., 2017, 70)

According to the data above, the bold word **celebrating** is generated by an inflectional process, specifically the use of a suffix:

- Class Maintaining: Verb → Verb
- Base Word: Celebrate
- Suffix: (-ing) → Celebrating

The word **celebrating** is formed through the affixation of the base word "celebrate," which means "to observe or mark an event with festivities or ceremonies." The addition of the inflectional suffix "-ing" does not change the grammatical category of the word; it remains a verb but now appears in its present participle form. In the sentence, **celebrating** appears in the phrase "I am **celebrating** our 5th anniversary," where it functions as part of the present progressive tense (am + verb-ing). The "-ing" suffix here serves as a marker of the progressive aspect, indicating an action that is currently ongoing or happening at the moment of speaking. Thus, the inflectional suffix "-ing" retains the word's function as a verb while modifying its tense and aspect to show an action in progress in the present.

Past Participle (-en)

The suffix -en that is added to an irregular verb to create the past participle form.

Data 4:

"I always say, "It's **been** a tough year." (Rikasari et al., 2017, 87)

According to the data above, the bold word **been** is generated by inflectional process, specifically the use of a suffix:

- Class Maintaining: Verb → verb
- Base Word: Be
- Suffix: (-en) → Been

The word **been** is formed through the affixation of the base word "be," which is a verb meaning "to exist, occur, or happen." The addition of the inflectional suffix "-en" doesn't change the grammatical category of the word; it remains a verb but is now in its past participle form. In the sentence, **been** appears in the phrase "It's been a tough year," where it functions as part of the present perfect tense ("has been") to indicate that the action or state has occurred over a period leading up to the present. The "-en" suffix here serves as a marker of the past participle, which is necessary for forming perfect tenses. The inflectional suffix "-en" retains the word's function as a verb while modifying its tense.

Plural (-s)

The suffix (-s) as the plural suffix.

Data 5:

"It is okay to sometimes make **mistakes** and let people down." (Rikasari et al., 2017, 82)

According to the data above, the bold word **mistakes** is generated by an inflectional process,

specifically the use of a suffix:

- Class Maintaining: Noun → Noun

- Base Word: Mistake

- Suffix: (-s) → Mistakes

The word **mistakes** is formed by adding the inflectional suffix "-s" to the base noun "mistake." This suffix is used to indicate that the noun is in its plural form, meaning more than one mistake. In the sentence, **mistakes** functions as a plural noun, referring to multiple instances of errors or wrong actions. The "-s" suffix does not change the grammatical category of the word; it remains a noun while modifying its number from singular to plural. Thus, the inflectional suffix "-s" retains the word's function as a noun while marking it as plural, indicating multiple mistakes rather than just one.

Possessive ('s)

The suffix (-'s) and to its system of pronouns. that is appended to a noun to indicate possession of something.

Data 6:

"A lot of times, problems are shared as you feel stronger and less vulnerable, becauseyou know you have **someone's** back." (Rikasari et al., 2017, 70)

According to the data above, the bold word **someone's** is generated by an inflectional process, specifically the use of a suffix:

- **Class Maintaining: Pronoun → Pronoun**

- **Base Word: Someone**

- **Suffix: (-'s) → Someone's**

The word **someone's** is formed by adding the inflectional suffix "-'s" to the base word "someone," which is an indefinite pronoun referring to an unspecified person. The "-'s" suffix is a possessive marker, indicating that something (in this case, "back") belongs to or is associated with that person. In the sentence "A lot of times, problems are shared as you feel stronger and less vulnerable, because you know you have someone's back," the possessive form **someone's** shows that the "back" belongs to an unspecified person who provides support. The inflectional suffix "-'s" maintains the word as a pronoun while indicating possession.

Comparative (-er)

The suffix (-er) adding the meaning 'more' to the adjectives to which it is attached.

Data 7:

"We become **happier** people." (Rikasari et al., 2017, 57)

According to the data above, the bold word **happier** is generated by inflectional process, specifically the use of a suffix:

- Class Maintaining: Adjective → Adjective
- Base Word: Happy
- Suffix: (-er) → Happier

Happier means "more happy" than before or compared to others.

The word **happier** is formed by adding the inflectional suffix "-er" to the base adjective "happy," which means "feeling or showing pleasure and contentment." The "-er" suffix is a comparative marker, indicating that the degree of happiness has increased in comparison to a previous state. In the sentence "We become **happier** people," the word **happier** is used in a comparative sense, implying that the people have become more joyful than before. The inflectional suffix "-er" retains the word as an adjective while modifying its degree of comparison.

Superlative (-est)

The suffix (-est) adding the meaning 'more' to the adjectives to which it is attached.

Data 8:

"When you are still able to laugh in your **toughest** times, you are awesome."

(Rikasari et al., 2017, 69)

According to the data above, the bold word **toughest** is generated by inflectional process, specifically the use of a suffix:

- Class Maintaining: Adjective → Adjective
- Base Word: Tough
- Suffix: (-est) → Toughest

Toughest means "the most tough" or "the most difficult" compared to all others.

The word **toughest** is formed by adding the inflectional suffix "-est" to the base adjective "tough," which means "difficult, strong, or resilient." The "-est" suffix is a superlative marker, indicating the highest degree of difficulty or resilience. In the sentence "When you are still able to laugh in your **toughest** times, you are awesome," the word **toughest** is used as a

superlative adjective to describe the hardest or most challenging times in life. The inflectional suffix "-est" retains the word as an adjective while increasing its degree to the highest level of comparison.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, this research has explored the essential role of inflectional affixes within the framework of morphological analysis, specifically through the lens of Victoria Fromkin's theory. By examining Book *#88 Love Life 03* by Diana Rikasari, the research identified and analyzed the eight inflectional suffixes that are fundamental to Eight modern English: -s (third-person singular present and plural), -ed (past tense), -ing (progressive aspect), -en (past participle), -'s (possessive), -er (comparative), and -est (superlative). These suffixes were shown to function not by creating new words or changing grammatical categories, but by modifying base words to express grammatical relationships such as tense, number, possession, or degree. Each data example presented
in the analysis clearly demonstrated how these inflectional affixes operate as bound morphemes. Furthermore, the research emphasizes that even though inflectional affixes don't change the word class, their presence is crucial for constructing grammatically correct sentences and conveying precise meanings in context.

Without these inflectional morphemes, English sentences would lack clarity, temporal cues, subject-verb agreement, and other necessary grammatical elements. This affirms the notion that morphology, particularly the study of inflectional processes, plays a vital role in language comprehension and expression. Through the application of qualitative methods and descriptive analysis, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of how inflectional affixes function in real-world language use, particularly in literary texts. The examples from Love Life 03 reflect how everyday written English utilizes these affixes to communicate complex ideas, emotions, and experiences while adhering to grammatical conventions. In sum, the findings of this research reinforce the importance of inflectional morphology in English and demonstrate how a careful morphological analysis can uncover the subtle yet powerful ways in which language structure supports communication.

Future research may expand on this by examining other literary works or spoken data to explore whether patterns of inflectional usage differ across genres, authors, or contexts.

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