

Inflectional Morphemes in Maudy Ayunda's Book "Dear Tomorrow"

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Abstract—The article aims to find out the types of inflectional morphemes used by the writer in the book, as well as to identify the functions of inflectional morphemes found in the book. The data source was from the self-improvement book entitled "Dear Tomorrow" by Maudy Ayunda. The data was analyzed using the theory of O'Grady and Archibald (2016). Moreover, the data was collected through observation and documentation methods. Descriptive qualitative method in the form of content analysis was used to analyze the data. The analysis was conducted in several stages. First, the O'Grady and Archibald (2016) hypothesis was utilized to identify the types of inflectional morphemes used in the book. Furthermore, the theory of the functions of inflectional morphemes developed by O'Grady and Archibald (2016) was used to analyze the functions of inflectional morphemes. The results of the analysis showed that there were seven out of eight types of inflectional morphemes found in the book. In terms of the functions of inflectional morphemes, it was discovered that seven functions were detected in the data source.

Keywords: *inflectional morphemes, types of inflectional morphemes, functions of inflectional morphemes*

Abstract—Artikel ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis morfem infleksional yang digunakan penulis di dalam buku, serta mengidentifikasi fungsi morfem infleksional yang terdapat dalam buku tersebut. Sumber data berupa buku pengembangan diri yang berjudul "Dear Tomorrow" karya Maudy Ayunda. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori dari O'Grady dan Archibald (2016). Selain itu, data dikumpulkan melalui metode observasi dan dokumentasi. Metode deskriptif kualitatif dalam bentuk analisis isi digunakan untuk menganalisis data. Analisis dilakukan dalam beberapa tahap. Pertama, hipotesis milik O'Grady dan Archibald (2016) digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis morfem infleksional yang digunakan dalam buku tersebut. Selanjutnya, teori fungsi morfem infleksional yang dikembangkan oleh O'Grady dan Archibald (2016) digunakan untuk menganalisis fungsi morfem infleksional. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa terdapat tujuh dari delapan jenis morfem infleksional yang ditemukan dalam buku. Dari bagian fungsi morfem infleksional, ditemukan tujuh fungsi yang terdapat di dalam sumber data.

Kata Kunci: *morfem infleksional, jenis-jenis morfem infleksional, fungsi morfem infleksional*

1. Introduction

Language is an essential means of communication as it is used to communicate with other people. A language consists of words that carry particular meaning for the receiver to be understood. Therefore, the use of a language with its right formulation is important in maximizing the conveyance of the information. In speaking a certain language like English, it is pivotal to understand how words in English are formed as this language has its own word arrangement. Moreover, by mastering English with its correct word formulation, people can have a bigger opportunity in their study and career, considering many institutions require the ability to speak English well.

When opening an English dictionary online, it can be seen that one word, like a verb for example, is followed by its changes to several forms, like past, past participle, and continuous form. Moreover, a word like apple can be apples to indicate a plural noun. This change in English is commonly seen in a book to display a variety of word use. Therefore, it is crucial to notice how each word changes in order to fully understand the writer's intention.

Reading books written in English is a good approach to learn about word formation. The data source for this research is a book "Dear Tomorrow". This book was written by Maudy Ayunda, a well-known educator and artist in Indonesia, as a self-reminder for readers. Its material is relevant to the issues that the younger generation is facing today.

This research is morphology research in the form of an article. Morphology is the study of word structures in linguistics. Moreover, morphology is the systematic study of variation in word meaning and structure (Haspelmath and Sims, 2010, p. 2). This study focuses on morphemes, which are the smallest significant linguistic components and the morphological building blocks of words (Booij, 2010, p. 8–9).

There are two categories of morphemes: bound morphemes and free morphemes. Morphemes that

function as single words on their own, like door and close, are known as free morphemes. The group of distinct English word forms, including nouns, verbs, and adjectives, are known as free morphemes. Furthermore, there are bound morphemes, which are forms that are typically attached to another form and are unable to exist alone.

This research is focused on one of the fields of morphology: inflectional morphemes. Inflectional morphemes are not used to produce new words in the language, but rather used to indicate if a word is singular or plural, if it is in past tense or not, and if it is a comparative or superlative form (Yule, 2010, p. 69). The modification of a word's form to show grammatical information of various sorts can be done with the help of inflection and it is most often expressed via affixation.

The research used the theory from O'Grady and Archibald (2016) to analyze the types and functions of inflectional morphemes found in the data source. In English there are eight inflectional affixes with all of them being suffixes as English is not a highly inflected language (O'Grady and Archibald, 2016, p. 115). The inflectional suffixes are plural -s, possessive (genitive) -'s, third person singular non-past -s, progressive -ing, past tense -ed, past participle -en/-ed, comparative -er, and superlative -est.

2. Research Methods

2.1 Data Source

The data of this article were collected from a self-improvement book entitled "Dear Tomorrow" by Maudy Ayunda published in 2018 by Bentang Belia Publishing House. This data source was chosen because it has four key messages for our future selves: notes on being yourself, notes on dreams, notes on love, and notes on mindsets. Moreover, this book's contents are pertinent to the issues that many people, particularly the younger generation, are facing today. The data of this research were taken in March 2025.

2.2 Data Collection

The data collection process and methodology are covered in this section. In qualitative research, data collection approach includes in-depth interview, document analysis, observation, and audiovisual materials analysis (Creswell, 2012). Using a number of strategies, the observation and documentation methods were used to gather the information required for the text in the book. The steps can be stated as below:

1. First, reading the book carefully using the scanning technique, noting words that are made up of inflectional morphemes that are present in the sentences.
2. Second, making a list of every sentence in the book that uses inflectional morphemes.
3. Third, selecting a number of sentences using words with inflectional morphemes as sample data.

2.3 Data Analysis

This study employed the descriptive qualitative approach of data analysis. The theory from O'Grady and Archibald (2016) was applied to analyze the types and functions of inflectional morphemes. As a result, the findings of this study were given through the informal technique, which is a qualitative approach to data presentation where the analysis is provided in textual form through word collection without the use of any statistical or visual aids.

3. Results and Discussion

The data showed several examples of the use of inflectional morphemes in the data source. In analyzing the data, the types and the functions of inflectional morphemes found in the data source are also described. The data can be stated as below:

Noun Inflection

Noun inflection is the process by which a noun changes to display a different grammatical form. There are two types of noun inflection, such

as plural -s and possessive (genitive) -'s. However, only the examples of plural -s ending that were found in the data source. The data can be presented as below:

- (1) "The challenge with this question is the fact that the two **things** above often go hand in hand."
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 41)

Data 1 shows that there is one inflectional morpheme: things that this word indicates the plurality with the suffix -s as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (from singular to plural) without changing the word class as it is still a noun.

- (2) "In my case, there are multiple **ways** to achieve that."
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 41)

Data 2 indicates that there is one inflectional morpheme: ways that indicates the plurality with the suffix -s as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (from singular to plural) without changing the word class as it is still a noun.

Verb Inflection

Verb inflection is the process of creating a verb by adding an item to the word's base form in order to express a grammatical function. There are four types of verb inflection, such as third person singular -s, progressive -ing, past tense -ed, and past participle -en/-ed. All these four types were found in the data source. The data can be presented as below:

- (3) "Reading when it **rains**."
(Ayunda, 2018, p. xiv)

Data 3 shows that there is one inflectional morpheme: rains that indicates the 3rd person singular subject in present tense with -s as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to state that the subject of the verb is the third person in simple present tense) without changing the word class as it is still a verb.

- (4) “I think the answer **depends** on what exactly **brings** us happiness.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 41)

Data 4 indicates that there are two inflectional morphemes: depends and brings that indicate the 3rd person singular subject in present tense with -s as the inflectional suffixes ending. The function of these inflectional morphemes is to state that the subject of the verb is the third person in simple present tense; hence, the predicate has to be followed by -s. Moreover, there is no change in the word class as they are still verbs.

- (5) “She **remembered** who she was and the world **started** to listen.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 4)

Data 5 shows that there are two inflectional morphemes: remembered and started with both of them indicating the past tense with -ed as the inflectional suffixes ending. The function of these inflectional morphemes is to modify the meaning of the base word (to state that the sentence is in simple past tense) without changing the word class as they are still verbs.

- (6) “I eventually **decided** to stop looking to please others, and **started** to do what felt right to me.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 21)

Data 6 indicates that there are two inflectional morphemes: decided and started with both of them indicating the past tense with -ed as the inflectional suffixes ending. The function of these inflectional

morphemes is to modify the meaning of the base word without changing the word class as they are still verbs.

- (7) “A couple of years ago, I so badly **wanted** to know who I was.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 7)

Data 7 shows that there is one inflectional morpheme: wanted that indicates the past tense with -ed as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to state that the sentence is in simple past tense) without changing the word class as it is still a verb.

- (8) “But other times, the road is **winding**, full of twists and turns and dead-ends.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 13)

Data 8 shows that there is one inflectional morpheme: winding that indicates the progressive tense with -ing as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to show ongoing action or progress) without changing the word class as it is still a verb.

- (9) “Success is **achieving** a peaceful state of mind.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 43)

Data 9 indicates that there is one inflectional morpheme: achieving that indicates the progressive tense with -ing as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to show ongoing action or progress) without changing the word class as it is still a verb.

- (10) “Success is **beating** the desire to give up during that 1 minute plank.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 43)

Data 10 indicates that there is one inflectional morpheme: beating that indicates the progressive tense with -ing as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to show ongoing action or progress) without changing the word class as it is still a verb.

- (11) “Instead, I seek to find motivation from the conviction that “at least **I’ve tried**”, regardless of whether or not the dream will be achieved.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 51)

Data 11 indicates that there is one inflectional morpheme: tried that indicates the past participle in present perfect tense with -ed as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to state a past action with the present consequence) without changing the word class as it is still a verb.

- (12) “So I am most likely a combination of the many different people that **have surrounded** me or inspired me.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 7)

Data 12 indicates that there is one inflectional morpheme: surrounded that indicates the past participle in present perfect tense with -ed as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to state a past action with the present consequence) without changing the word class as it is still a verb.

Adjective Inflection

Adjective inflection is the process of creating an adjective by adding an item to the base word to add a grammatical meaning. There are two types of adjective inflection, such as comparative –er and superlative -est. These two types were found in the data source. The data can be presented as below:

- (13) “Frankly, I think lack of growth is so much **scarier**.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 35)

Data 13 shows that there is one inflectional morpheme: scarier that indicates the comparative adjective with -er as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to compare between two things or objects) without changing the word class as it is still an adjective.

- (14) “One of the **hardest** things that I had to go through in college was having to adapt to new standards-much **higher** ones than I have ever encountered before.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 49)

Data 14 indicates that there are two inflectional morphemes: hardest and higher. First, the word hardest indicates the superlative adjective with -est as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to state the top degree or quality of something) without changing the word class as it is still an adjective. Second, the word higher indicates the comparative adjective with -er as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to compare between two things or objects) without changing the word class as it is still an adjective.

- (15) “Regret is my **greatest** disincentive.”
(Ayunda, 2018, p. 51)

Data 15 shows that there is one inflectional morpheme: greatest that indicates the superlative adjective with -est as the inflectional suffix ending. The function of this inflectional morpheme is to modify the meaning of the base word (to state the top degree or quality of something) without changing the word class as it is still an adjective.

4. Conclusion

From the data analysis, it was concluded that there were seven out of eight types of inflectional morphemes used in Maudy Ayunda's book "Dear Tomorrow" based on the theory of O'Grady and Archibald (2016). There was one type of inflectional morpheme, possessive (genitive) -'s, that was not found in the data source. Moreover, in expressing the storyline, the writer often added inflectional morphemes, like writing most of the nouns in plural form and using a lot of third person point of view so the predicate is also followed by the suffix -s.

In the analysis of functions of inflectional morphemes in Maudy Ayunda's book "Dear Tomorrow" based on the theory of O'Grady and Archibald (2016), it was found that there were seven functions of inflectional morphemes. However, the function of inflectional morphemes to indicate the possessive pronoun was not found in the data source.

5. References

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