

INFLECTIONAL MORPHEMES IN THE LYRICS OF THE CALUM SCOTT'S SONGS IN THE ALBUM, *BRIDGES*

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Abstract

Inflectional morphology is part of morphology which is the smallest significant unit of grammar. Morphology itself means the study of morphemes which are the smallest significant units of grammar. There are two parts in morphology here are: derivational morphology which is related to affixes such as suffixes, infixes, prefixes, ablaut and reduplication, meanwhile inflectional morphology which is related to plural, possessive, past time, progressive, and comparative and superlative. There are two kinds of morpheme; they are free morpheme and bound morpheme. Morpheme that can stand on their own are called free, and ones that cannot are bound. This research focused on inflectional morpheme in the lyrics of the Calum Scott's Songs in the album *Bridges*. The lyrics in the album *Bridges* were used as the data of the research. Qualitative method was used as the method and the results were some inflectional morphemes found in the lyrics of the Calum Scott's Songs in the album *Bridges*.

Keywords: inflectional morphology; morpheme; morphology

1. Introduction

Language plays a crucial role in human life as it allows us to communicate with each other and build important social and cultural relationships that are essential for human survival. Therefore, language is a communication tool that enables us to convey information, ideas, thoughts, emotions, and worldviews. According to Todd, language is a collection of signs that humans use to communicate (Nurjanah, Ramdhaniah, & Efransyah, 2018). It means that language is a set of signals used to convey meaning and messages from one person to another. About meaning, the smallest unit of meaning in language is morphology. In linguistic, morphology is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between meaning and form within words and between words. Thus, morphology is as the scientific study of the form and structure of words in a language. According to Haspelmath & Sims (2013), morphology is the study of the structure of the formation of words.

Morphology as the study of word structure is intimately related to language description and linguistic theory (Audring, Jenny, & Masini, 2019). It means that morphology is strongly connected to language description and linguistic theory as well as word structure. Morphology is the study of word formation, encompassing the processes by which new words are created in different languages and how word forms can vary depending on their usage in sentences. So, it can be concluded that morphology case studies focus on word formation, which includes the formation of new

words and their usage within sentences. Rugaiyah (2018) stated that morphology refers to the investigation of word forms and their combinations to generate words. It means that morphology discusses the formation of a word and the influence of changes in word forms on their category and meaning.

In the study of Morphology, the morpheme is considered to be the smallest unit of language that carries meaning. For example, the term “unbreakable” comprises three morphemes, namely “un-”, “break”, and “-able”. The prefix morpheme “un-” signifies negation or non-, the base morpheme “break” denotes the act of destroying, and the suffix morpheme “-able” indicates the ability or capability to do something. As explained above, there are several experts who provide definitions of morpheme. First of all, based on (Haspelmath, Martin., and Sims, 2013) a morpheme is recognized as the smallest identifiable unit that carries meaning.

Morpheme based on (Kusumawardhani, 2018) explained that morpheme as the smallest unit that has meaning but it cannot be subdivided. It means morpheme is the smallest unit of language form that has meaning. Because it is the smallest form of a grammatical unit, morpheme cannot be further divided into units of language with smaller meanings. (Astuti, Nufus, Ifadloh, & Prasetya, 2021) mentioned that a morpheme can be defined as a meaningful unit used to construct words. This statement implies that a morpheme represents the smallest unit that encapsulates the meaning of a word. In English, there are two categories of morphemes: free morpheme and bound morpheme. Free morpheme can stand alone as a complete word and free morphemes have two types: lexical and function morphemes. Meanwhile, bound morpheme must attach to another word to form meaning. It means a bound morpheme is a type of morpheme that cannot stand alone as an independent word and must be combined with a free morpheme to create a meaningful word. Bound morphemes can be prefix and suffix. In addition, there are two types of bound morphemes, namely derivational morpheme and inflectional morpheme.

Based on the experts' explanations above, it can be concluded that a morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit in a language. It serves as the foundational element of language, shaping words and sentences. Every word in a language is composed of one or more morphemes, which can be either a base word or a combination of an affix and a base word. An inflectional morpheme is a suffix that is added to a word (a noun, verb, adjective, or an adverb) to assign a particular grammatical property to that word, such as its tense, number, possession, or comparison, (Fitria, 2020). (Maria & Manihuruk, 2022) also said that the inflectional morpheme is the formation of a word without changing either its part of speech or its meaning”. It means inflectional morpheme as the formation of words or the addition of suffixes that will not change the meaning of the word.

2. Literature Review

Morphology is a field of study dedicated to examining the internal structure of words and the processes involved in forming words from smaller meaningful units known as morphemes. Rizki (2020) said that morpheme is the meaningful units that are used to form words. It means a morpheme is the smallest unit of language that carries meaning or grammatical function. The smallest unit of a word cannot be divided into smaller units and still carries meaning or grammatical function. Every word consists of one or more morphemes; in many cases, a single word can consist of several. Morphemes can be classified into two types: free morpheme and bound morpheme.

The free morpheme is an independent linguistic unit that has the ability to function as a stand-alone word, conveying meaning without requiring additional morphemes. A free morpheme is also known as a “base word” or “independent word” in linguistics. Two categories of free morphemes exist: lexical morpheme and functional morpheme. Lexical morpheme carries the “content” of the messages being conveyed (noun, verb, adjective, adverb). For example, lady, man, apartment, lion, happy, short, purple, see, come, swim. Functional morpheme carries the grammatical meaning (conjunctions, prepositions, articles, pronouns, interjection, demonstrative). For example: although, or, since, by, of, to, the, an, a, he, him, yours.

In contrast, a bound morpheme is incapable of existing as a separate entity and must be combined with a free morpheme to form a meaningful word, (Kusumawardhani, 2021). Bound morphemes include both prefix and suffix. For example, the bound morpheme “un” can be affixed to the free morpheme “happy” to create the word “unhappy”. Likewise, the bound morpheme “-ed” can be added to the free morpheme “walk” to form the word “walked”. Bound morphemes can be categorized into two types: derivational morpheme and inflectional morpheme.

A derivational morpheme is utilized to create new words by altering the meaning or word category of a root word. It can also be combined with a root word to generate a new word with a distinct meaning and word category. For instance, the term “friendship” comprises the root word “friend”, which is a noun, and the derivational morpheme “-ship” which modifies the word’s meaning to denote the concept of the relationship between friends. Meanwhile, an inflectional morpheme serves the purpose of indicating grammatical functions, without altering the syntactic category of a word. For instance, “-s” is used to indicate the plural form of nouns, such as “book” and “books”, “-ed” to indicate the past tense of verbs, such as “talk” and “talked”, or “-ing” to indicate the present participle form of verbs, such as “run” and “running”. Inflectional morpheme allows us to express grammatical meaning more precisely and in detail and are important to understanding to grasp English grammar.

Inflectional change the form of word but not its lexical category or its central meaning. it means that changing the grammatical arrangement will not change the meaning of the word, (Finegan, 2008). It means inflectional is a word that does not change the meaning of the word even though there is an addition of a word at the end, it called suffix. Example of inflectional morpheme: the word “worked” is a simple past tense form that is created by adding the suffix “ed” to the base word “work” even if there is an addition at the end of the word, it will not change the meaning of the word, while the added word is used to follow rules derived from grammar and the use of that word.

Inflectional morpheme can be found in song. (Pratiwi, 2018) explained that a song is a short piece of music in which the song contains the lyrics. Song lyrics refer to the words or text that makes up a song. These lyrics are typically written by a songwriter or lyricist and are meant to be sung or performed by a vocalist or musicians. Song lyrics can tell a story, convey emotions, express ideas or opinions, or simply serve as a poetic accompaniment to the music.

Based on the explanation above, it can be inferred that derivational morpheme is used to create new words with different meanings from the original word, whereas inflectional morpheme is used to modify the grammatical form of a word without changing its fundamental meaning.

(Ibrahim, Akib, & Hasyim, 2019) stated that a song is a piece of music for

accompanied or unaccompanied voice or the act of singing, a song can be signed by one or more persons. It means that the lyrics of a song are written by a songwriter or lyricist and are meant to be sung or performed by a singer or musician. (Muhammad, Hidayat, & Alek, 2021) said that a song is a work of musical art consisting of melodies and lyrics arranged harmoniously and songs are usually composed by talented singers or songwriters. And also, songs are created because someone expresses feelings, ideas or messages through songs that are addressed to listeners through the lyrics and melodies that are conveyed.

It can be concluded that songs are usually composed by a talented singer or songwriter. Songs are created to express feelings, including happiness, sadness, love, or disappointment in the lyrics and melodies that are delivered and can help convey the message you want to convey more emotionally.

3. Research Method

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method. The goal of descriptive research is to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics (Nassaji, 2015). This research is more concerned with what rather than how or why something has happened. The technique of collecting data from this research is through literature study which is used as a way to collect data related to the inflectional morpheme song lyrics. Furthermore, the data obtained were then analyzed with a qualitative approach. Qualitative approach is done by describing, involving data collection, data analysis, and drawing conclusions based on the collected evidence. The data were collected by following a series of steps to collect data, beginning with the search for the lyrics of each song in Calum Scott's in the album *Bridges*. The album consists of 14 songs, but there were only 7 songs that exhibited inflectional morphemes. After reading and identifying the inflectional morphemes in the lyrics, then analyzing the words associated with these morphemes. Furthermore, there were explained the functions of word formation based on inflectional morphemes in the lyrics of the songs from Calum Scott's album, *Bridges*.

4. Discussion

There were 7 songs analyzed to find inflectional morphemes in the lyrics of Calum Scott's songs in the album *Bridges*, such as: *Flaws*, *You Are The Reason*, *Boys in the Street*, *If You Ever Change Your Mind*, *Goodbye, Again*, *Biblical* and *Rise*. The results could be seen below:

1. The song titled *Flaws*

No	Lyric Lines	Suffix	Types of Inflectional	Base word	Inflectional morpheme
1.	1	-s	Plural	Reason	Reasons
2.	7	-s	Plural	Flaw	Flaws
3.	8	-ing	Present participle	Look	Looking
4.	10		Past tense	Get	Got
5.	14	-s	Plural	Sometime	sometimes
6.	15	-s	Plural	Eye	Eyes
7.	27	-ing	Present participle	Hide	Hiding
8.	27	-s	Plural	Thing	Things

Table 1. Inflectional Morphemes in *Flaws*

2. The song titled *You Are the Reason*

No	Lyric lines	Suffix	Types of inflectional	Base word	Inflectional morpheme
1.	1	-es	Third-person singular	Go	Goes
2.	3	-ing	Progressive	Lose	Losing
3.	7	-ing	Progressive	Breath	Breathing
4.	12	-en	Past perfect	Broke	Broken
5.	15	-s	Plural	Hand	Hands
6.	17	-s	Third-person singular	Keep	Keeps
7.	33	-er	Comparative	Close	Closer

Table 2. The Identification of Inflectional Morphemes in *You Are the Reason*

3. The song titled *If You Ever Change Your Mind*

No	Lyric lines	Suffix	Types of inflectional	Base word	Inflectional morpheme
1.	1	-s	Plural	Room	Rooms
2.	2	-s	Plural	Word	Words
3.	2		Past tense	Lay	Laid
4.	3	-ed	Past tense	Wish	Wished
5.	3	-ed	Past perfect	Stay	Stayed
6.	5	-ing	Progressive	Need	Needing
7.	7	-ed	Past tense	Pull	Pulled
8.	7	's	Possessive	Pain	Pain's
9.	8	-ing	Progressive	Say	Saying
10.	11	-s	Plural	Fingertip	Fingertips
11.	12	-ing	Progressive	Move	Moving
12.	15	-ing	Progressive	Think	Thinking
13.	22		Past tense	Make	Made
14.	23	-ing	Gerund or noun	Keep	Keeping
15.	26	-s	Third-person singular	Hit	Hits
16.	26	-s	Plural	Light	Lights
17.	28		Past tense	Hold	Held

Table 3. The Identification of Inflectional Morphemes in *If You Ever Change Your Mind*

4. The song titled *Rise*

No	Lyric lines	Suffix	Types of inflectional	Base word	Inflectional morpheme
1.	1	-ing	Progressive	Stare	Staring
2.	2	-ing	Gerund or noun	Think	Thinking
3.	2		past perfect	Make	Made
4.	4	-ing	Gerund or noun	Stand	Standing
5.	5	-ing	Progressive	Hide	Hiding

6.	5	-s	Plural	Shadow	Shadows
7.	6	-ing	Gerund or noun	Wonder	Wondering
8.	8	-s	Third-person singular	Begin	Begins
9.	10		Past perfect	Get	Got
10.	11	-s	Plural	Sleeve	Sleeves
11.	11	-ed	Past tense	Roll	Rolled
12.	12	's	Possessive	Heart	Heart's
13.	12	-ing	Gerund or noun	Thump	Thumping
14.	18	-ing	Progressive	Push	Pushing
15.	19	-ing	Progressive	Look	Looking
16.	21	-s	Plural	Eye	Eyes

Table 4. The Identification of Inflectional Morphemes in *Rise*

5. The song entitled *Boys in the Street*

No	Lyric lines	Suffix	Types of inflectional	Base word	Inflectional morpheme
1.	1	-er	Comparative	Young	Younger
2.	1		past perfect	Tell	Told
3.	4	-ed	Past tense	Want	Wanted
4.	6	-s	Plural	Friend	Friends
5.	7	-ing	Progressive	Kiss	Kissing
6.	7	-s	Plural	Boy	Boys
7.	9	-ed	Past tense	Try	Tried
8.	10	-ing	Progressive	Embarrass	Embarrassing
9.	12	-ing	Gerund or noun	Be	being
10.	13	-ed	past perfect	Work	Worked
11.	17	-er	Comparative	Old	Older
12.	18	's	Possessive	Daddy	Daddy's
13.	18	's	Possessive	Heart	Heart's
14.	18	-er	Comparative	Warm	Warmer
15.	21		past tense	Make	Made
16.	26	-d	past tense	Realize	Realized
17.	26	-ing	Progressive	Lie	Lying
18.	27	-ing	Progressive	Smile	Smiling
19.	28	-ing	Progressive	Fight	Fighting
20.	29		past tense	Teach	Taught
21.	30		Plural	Woman	Women
22.	33		Past perfect	Go	Gone

Table 5. The Identification of Inflectional Morphemes of *Boys in the Street*

6. The song titled *Goodbye, Again*

No	Lyric lines	Suffix	Types of inflectional	Base word	Inflectional morpheme
1.	1	-n	Past perfect tense	See	Seen
2.	2	-ed	Past tense	Cry	Cried

3.	2	-s	Plural	Tear	Tears
4.	3	-ed	Past perfect	Turn	Turned
5.	3	-s	Plural	Lover	Lovers
6.	3	-ies	Plural	Enemy	Enemies
7.	3	-s	Plural	Year	Years
8.	4		Past perfect	Spend	Spent
9.	4	-ing	Gerund or noun	Dodge	Dodging
10.	4	-s	Plural	Bar	Bars
11.	5	-s	Plural	Night	Night
12.	5	-ing	Gerund or noun	Try	Trying
13.	5	-s	Plural	Scar	Scars
14.	6	-s	Third-person singular	Hit	Hits
15.	7	-ing	Progressive	Hold	Holding
16.	8	-ing	Progressive	Ask	Asking
17.	12	-er	Comparative	Safe	Safer
18.	15	-s	Third-person singular	Eat	Eats
19.	16	-s	Third-person singular	Keep	Keeps
20.	20	-s	Plural	Month	Months
21.	20	-ing	Gerund or noun	Get	Getting
22.	24	-ing	Gerund or noun	Kill	Killing
23.	24	-s	Third-person singular	Kill	Kills

Table 6. The Identification of Inflectional Morphemes of *Goodbye, Again*

7. The song titled *Biblical*

No	Lyric lines	Suffix	Types of inflectional	Base word	Inflectional morpheme
1.	2		Past tense	Leave	Left
2.	5	-s	Plural	Demon	Demons
3.	8		Past tense	Find	Found
4.	14	-s	Plural	Eye	Eyes
5.	20	-s	Plural	Piece	Pieces
6.	21	-s	Plural	Cloud	Clouds

Table 7. The Identification of Inflectional Morphemes of *Biblical*

After listening to the song lyrics collecting, grouping, and analyzing them, it can be concluded that inflectional morphemes change the form of the words but do not change the meaning of the words. Inflectional morphemes change to another types of inflectional such as, *simple present tense, simple past tense, plural, progressive, gerund* to emphasize the meaning of the words.

5. Conclusion

Following the gathering, depiction, and examination of data, it is evident that inflectional morphemes are augmentations to words that uphold the core meaning of the base word, while conforming to grammatical and usage norms. This investigation discerned multiple morphemes embedded within the lyrics of songs by Calum Scott on the album *Bridges*.

Based on the data and analysis presented as follow: (1). There were 99 inflections found in the lyrics of the Calum Scott's songs in the album *Bridges* that do not change the core meaning or part of speech of a word but instead modify it to indicate grammatical information such as tense, plural, possessive, comparative degree, as follow: reasons, flaws, looking, got, sometimes, eyes, hiding, things, goes, losing, breathing, broken, hands, keeps, closer, rooms, words, laid, wished, stayed, needing, pulled, pain's, saying, fingertips, moving, thinking, made, keeping, hits, lights, held, staring, thinking, made, standing, hiding, shadows, wondering, begins, got, sleeves, rolled, heart's, thumping, pushing, looking, eyes, younger, told, wanted, friends, kissing, boys, tried, embarrassing, being, worked, older, daddy's heart's, warmer, made, realized, lying, swimming, fighting, taught, women, gone, seen, cried, tears, turned, lovers, enemies, years, spent, dodging, bars, nights, trying, scars, hits, holding, asking, safer, eats, keeps, months, getting, killing, kills, left, demons, found, eyes, pieces, clouds; (2). There were 8 types inflectional morphemes found in the lyrics of Calum Scott's songs in album *Bridges*, as follows: plural, past tense, past perfect, comparative, possessive, third-person singular, gerund and progressive; and (3). There were 99 inflections that found in the lyrics of Calum Scott's songs in the album *Bridges*. The inflectional does not change the meaning of its base word, while the added word is used to follow the rules derived from grammar and the usage of that word as follows: 28 of plural, 10 of past perfect, 15 of past tense, 5 of comparative, 4 of possessive, 8 of third-person singular, 10 of gerund or noun and 19 of progressive.

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