

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Research

Language is a necessary means of communication. Language, is a system of symbols that people use to communicate.<sup>1</sup> People use language as a means of expressing their needs, wants, and requirements as unique individuals or as a society. This is why language is so important. Thus, it basically comes down to learning language and all of its components, including vocabulary. Vocabulary is one of the most evident aspects of language and the area that applied linguistics focused on initially.<sup>2</sup> The words in a vocabulary are collections of symbols, signs, or letters that have developed over time to represent concepts and objects.

Language comprehension and production will be hampered because of a lack of vocabulary.<sup>3</sup> Although morphemes are distinct from words, vocabulary entries as written in dictionaries are still referred to as words. Most people are generally more

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<sup>1</sup> Trevor A Harley, *The Psychology of Language: From Data to Theory* (Psychology press, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> Thornbury Scott, "How to Teach Vocabulary," 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Scott Thornbury, "Training in Instructional Conversation," *Language in Language Teacher Education* 4 (2002): 95–106.

familiar with the word "word" than "morpheme." Words are the most easily understood unit in any language, and they are present in all languages.<sup>4</sup> In contrast, morphemes especially those related to morphology are just as significant in language study as words. The area of linguistics known as morphology focuses on the morphological aspects of word structures. Since morpheme is the focus of the investigation, claims that morphology is studying "basic forms in language." Studying morphology entails learning about a word's morpheme, allomorph, base, inflection process, and every aspect of its derivation, blending, and compounding.<sup>5</sup>

A morpheme is a language's smallest unit of meaning.<sup>6</sup> There are two types of morphemes: bound and free. Free morphemes are morphemes that have the ability to form words on their own. Bound morphemes include -er, -ly, and -s, among other morphemes that are unable to function as standalone words. In general, affixes are another name for bound morphemes.

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<sup>4</sup> Andrew Radford, *Linguistics: An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

<sup>5</sup> Yule George, *The Study of Language: An Introduction* (Cambridge university press, 1993).

<sup>6</sup> Geert Booij, "The Grammar of Words (Oxford Textbooks in Linguistics)" (Oxford University Press Oxford, 2005).

Affixes are morphemes that are not free and always need to be joined to a base morpheme.<sup>7</sup> Prefix and suffix are the two parts of an affix.<sup>8</sup> The prefix comes before morphemes like un-, dis-, and in-, while the suffix comes after morphemes like -ness, -ly, and -ion. When a prefix or suffix is added to a base, a new word formation and meaning can result. Affix is further divided into inflection and derivation categories, prefixes and suffixes in English can both be derivational, but only suffixes can be inflectional.<sup>9</sup> Inflectional affixes do not create a new meaning or word class, but derivative affixes do. The ability to recognize derivational affixes will enable readers to greatly expand their vocabulary.

There are many ways to enrich your vocabulary, and one of them is by reading articles on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News. The study analyzes the latest news articles on BBC News. BBC News was chosen as a source of data because its news articles cover a wide range of topics relevant to current

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<sup>7</sup> Terry Crowley, *Field Linguistics: A Beginner's Guide* (OUP Oxford, 2007).

<sup>8</sup> Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams, "An Introduction to Language," *An Introduction to Language*, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Rochelle Lieber, *Introducing Morphology* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

global, political, economic, cultural, and social issues around the world. By reading news from leading sources like the BBC, readers can expand their knowledge of a wide range of topics and enrich their vocabulary by learning the use of keywords in a variety of news contexts, as well as finding certain inflectional used in English. This learning is beneficial to readers because, in addition to enriching their vocabulary and can also expand their understanding of ongoing global issues and gain insight into how news is delivered in the English language. By identifying inflectional in news articles, the reader can enhance his understanding of word formation and find how the words built.

## **B. Focus of The Research**

The researcher focusses on analyzing inflectional morpheme in three article February 2024 editions in British Broadcasting Corporation News. February 13, 2024 "Joko Widodo: From promising democrat to Indonesia's kingmaker." February 22, 2024 "Slimbridge sees earliest ever nesting kingfishers after mild winter." February 29, 2024 " Israel Gaza: Checking Israel's claim to have killed 10,000 Hamas fighters". This selection of articles from a single month allows for an in-

depth analysis of inflectional morphemes within a manageable dataset, providing consistency in time frame and context. By limiting the scope to three articles, the researcher can conduct a detailed examination without being overwhelmed by data, ensuring thorough analysis and higher accuracy in identifying patterns. Moreover, this approach highlights inflectional usage across different topics, giving insight into how inflectional morphemes function in diverse contexts within current news reporting.

### **C. Research Questions**

This research seeks to determine two questions that will guide the researcher and serve as the research's major focus. The questions can be stated as follow:

1. What are the types of inflectional morpheme used in British Broadcasting Corporation News?
2. How are the frequency and function of these inflectional affixes vary across different British Broadcasting Corporation News?

#### **D. Objectives of The Research**

The researcher determines the research objective based on the research questions as follows:

1. To know the type of inflectional morpheme used in British Broadcasting Corporation News.
2. To know the frequency and grammatical function of each type of inflectional affix used in different British Broadcasting Corporation News

#### **E. Significance of Study**

The researcher hopes that the present study will be useful in society broadly, especially for the need of teaching and learning in English education. The researcher divides the significance of the study both of theoretically and practically.

##### **a. Theoretically**

Theoretically, the present the study contributes to the field of linguistics by examining the application of morphological analysis in article British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News. This extends existing knowledge of how morphological analysis can improve our understanding of inflectional morpheme in article BBC

News.

b. Practically

Practically, the result of this research is expected to give precious benefit contributions to lecturers, college students, and upcoming researchers. For the lecturers, this research might become a meaningful contribution in teaching vocabulary. This research should enable university students to examine both inflectional, both from news sources and their handbooks. It is anticipated that the findings of this research will serve as a prior study for those pursuing related fields of study in the future.

**F. The Previous Study**

Several previous studies on conceptual metaphors have been carried out by previous researchers.

The first research related to inflectional was conducted by Ismail. Published in 2023. Entitled “*A Morphological Analysis of Inflectional Morphemes in Queen Victoria Speech.*” This research aims to investigate types of inflectional morphemes and the most dominant morphemes appearing in Queen Victoria Speech. This study is a qualitative research that adopted the data

analysis designed by Miles & Huberman which covers data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The results of data analysis, the researchers found fifty- eight (58) inflectional affixes or morphemes in the speech of Queen Victoria. In particular there were six (6) different types of inflectional morphemes, such as; plural marker –s (28 morphemes), past tense marker –ed (12 morphemes), past participle marker –en or –ed (9 morphemes), progressive marker –ing (6 morphemes), Superlative marker –est (2 morphemes), and Comparative marker –er (1 morpheme). As a result, plural marker –s becomes the most dominant inflectional morpheme and comparative marker –er becomes the least inflectional morpheme used in Queen Victoria speech.<sup>10</sup>

The second research related to inflectional was conducted by Nur Ifadloh. Published in 2022. Entitled “*An Analysis of Inflectional Morphemes in a Short Story “The Child’s Story” by Charles Dickens.*” The data of the research was taken from a Short Story "The Child's Story" By Charles Dickens. She used qualitative analysis as a Technique of data analysis and She

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<sup>10</sup> İsmail Hakkı ERTEN and Müge Karakaş, “Understanding the Divergent Influences of Reading Activities on the Comprehension of Short Stories,” *Reading 7*, no. 3 (2007).



found that the most dominant inflection is plural affixes. There are 35 words or 32,5% of the total 108 words. The differences between this study and her study is placed on the object of the research.<sup>11</sup>

The third research related to inflectional was conducted by Dinda Dewi. Published in 2020. Entitled “*Critical Analysis of Inflectional Morpheme in the Legend of Putri Hijau Comic.*” This study was about Critical Analysis of Inflectional Morpheme in The Legend of Putri Hijau Comic. It focused on Inflectional affixes. The data was collected from The Legend of Putri Hijau Comic that was published in 2018. This comic was created by researcher and her beloved friends in Go-mic Team. This study has two aims, they are; to search and inform the kinds of inflectional morpheme which is used in The Legend of Putri Hijau Comic and to find the processes of each inflectional affixes in The Legend of Putri Hijau Comic. The method of this study is descriptive qualitative research. The findings of this study are the first is there are 7 from 8 kinds of inflectional morpheme that is used in The Legend of Putri Hijau Comic, such as suffix -ed,

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<sup>11</sup> Nur Ifadloh et al., “An Analysis of Inflectional Morphemes in a Short Story ‘The Child’s Story’ by Charles Dickens,” *SALEE: Study of Applied Linguistics and English Education* 3, no. 2 (2022): 110–23.

suffix -ing, suffix -s (third person singular), suffix -en, suffix -s (plural marker), suffix -'s, and suffix -er. And from the data analysis, there are 73 inflectional affixes was found in The Legend of Putri Hijau Comic. The second is the processes of each inflectional affixes do not change the whole meaning, but some of them change the grammatical function.<sup>12</sup>

The similarities among these studies employ qualitative analysis techniques to investigate inflectional morphemes within specific texts. Ismail's research focuses on Queen Victoria's speech, identifying the types and dominance of inflectional morphemes in oratory discourse. Similarly, Nur Ifadloh examines inflectional morphemes in Charles Dickens' short story, while Dinda Dewi analyzes them in a comic book context. Despite the variations in textual forms, these studies collectively emphasize the importance of qualitative analysis in uncovering linguistic patterns and nuances. The current researcher wants to delve deeper into the use of inflectional in British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News articles, shifting the focus to

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<sup>12</sup> Dewi, Dinda. Critical Analysis of Inflectional Morpheme in the Legend of Putri Hijau, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatra Utara, Thesis. (2020)

contemporary news reporting. This specific context brings unique insights into how morphological processes contribute to the structure and style of modern journalism. Studying inflectional in BBC News articles can illuminate the ways linguistic elements shape news narratives, influence reader engagement, and convey specific nuances and meanings within a news setting.