

## AN ANALYSIS OF INFLECTIONAL AFFIXES IN SHORT STORY “RUMPELSTILTSKIN” BY THE BROTHERS GRIMM

<sup>1</sup>Adea Anggun Novita Sari, <sup>2</sup>Zahratun Nufus

<sup>1,2</sup>English Education Department, STAI Rasyidiyah Khalidiyah Amuntai,  
Kalimantan Selatan, Indonesia

Email: [1adeaanggunnovitasari@gmail.com](mailto:1adeaanggunnovitasari@gmail.com), [2zahratun918@gmail.com](mailto:2zahratun918@gmail.com)

### Abstract

*This study aims to determine the inflectional affixes and the function of the inflectional affixes in the selected short story "Rumpelstiltskin" by The Brothers Grimm. In analyzing the data, this study employed a qualitative method. Based on the data, this study shows 102 inflectional affixes found in this short story. The inflectional affixes that occur in nouns show 28 words (27.4%), inflectional affixes that occur in verbs show 70 words (68.6%) and inflectional affixes that occur in adjective show 4 words (4%). Inflectional morphemes do not change the grammatical categories and do not change meanings of the words attached to them. In detail, inflectional affixes found in this short story consisted of the suffix "-s, -'s/-'s, -est, -s, -ed, -ing, -er, and -en". The suffix {-s} means plural. The suffix {-s or -s'} means possessive. The suffix {-est} means superlative. The suffix {-er} means comparative. The suffix {-ed} means past. The suffix {-ing} means present participle or continuous. The suffix {-en} means the past participle. The most common inflectional affixes found in the short story are the suffix {-ed} with the number of 55 words. It indicates that the most dominant words used in this short story are in simple past form.*

**Keyword:** morphology, morpheme, inflectional affixes, suffix

### A. INTRODUCTION

Language can be studied in linguistics. Linguistics itself is a science of language that also studies the structure of language and all aspects that include it. One of the branches of linguistics is morphology. It studies morphemes which are the smallest part of a language that have meaning or grammatical function.

According to Akmajian, et al. (1984: 55) as cited in Prasanthi (2010) morphology is one of the sub-branches of linguistics which is about the internal structure of a word and the relationship between words. Furthermore, Haspelmath (2002) stated that morphology is the study of the combination of morphemes to produce words. So, morphology studies about the effect of changes in word forms on the group and meaning of words and also studies about the function of changing word forms.

Morpheme is not only about the meaning of the word but also contains elements of the sound of the word. According to Embrick (2015) as cited in Maulidina et al. (2019), morpheme is the idea that grammar contains representations of sound and aspects of language meaning: that is, representation of sound and meaning in terms of features.

Morpheme is the smallest part of a word. Morpheme in morphology examines down to the most detailed pieces in language. There are two types of morpheme, namely free morpheme and bound morpheme. Free morphemes are morphemes that can stand alone

without requiring the addition of other morphemes, in other words, this morpheme can be its own word unit.

In addition, there are also bound morphemes which are morphemes that are the opposite of free morphemes. This morpheme cannot stand alone without the addition of other morphemes. This form of morpheme is known as an affix because this morpheme is not a word, but is only part of a word, for example *-ist*, *-ed*, and *-s*.

According to Yule (2010), all affixes, namely prefixes and suffixes in English, are bound morphemes. Katamba (1993) stated that morpheme affixes are divided into two categorical functions, namely derivational morphemes and inflectional morphemes. Derivational morphemes increase the supply of words in the language by forming new words from old words so that derivational is also often referred to as word formation. Meanwhile, inflectional morphemes do not change words like derivational, these morphemes can only change the form of words, not form a new word.

Inflectional is one of the divisions of bound morphemes that cannot stand alone and must be bound or attached to other morphemes. According to Crystal (2008), inflectional in morphology is a term used to refer one of two word formation processes (one of which is derivational). Inflectional morphemes are tied to other morphemes to identify their grammar, not to generate new words or form words with different grammar (lexemes) from pre-existing words. The term inflectional and derivational also occur in the two types of affixes that participate in word formation. Inflectional affixes mark grammatical relationships with affixation (prefix, suffix, and infix) such as tense, past, possession, singular and plural by not changing certain words into new words. Inflectional affixes consists of suffixes *-s/-es*, *-er*, *-est*, *-s/-s'*, *-ed*, *-en*, and *-ing*.

According to Nordquist (2018), there are two main types of English suffixes. Derivational suffixes such as adding *-ly* to an adjective to form an adverb, indicate the type of word to which it belongs. Inflectional suffixes such as adding *-s* to a noun to make it plural; indicate something about the grammatical behavior of a word. Schmid (2015) stated that inflectional morphemes deals with the markers of grammatical categories such as case, number, tense, aspect and these inflectional morphemes are attached to lexical stems and create word-forms, do not create new words.

Inflectional morphemes are used to indicate whether a word is singular or plural, whether it is past tense or not, and whether it is comparative, possessive or superlative. In line with this, Ismai (2016) explains that inflections in a language are significant since they can convey information regarding tense, agreement, person, number and other details. There are eight inflectional morphemes in English according to Yule (2010) and all inflections are suffixes. There are two inflections attached to nouns, *{- 's}* which marking possessive and *{-s}* which marking plural. There are four inflections attached to verbs, namely *{-s}* which signifies the third person singular, *{-ed}* indicates the past tense, *{-ing}* which indicates the present participle, and *{-en}* which indicates the past participle. Meanwhile, apart from being attached to nouns and verbs, there are two inflections attached to adjectives, namely *{-er}* which means comparative and *{-est}* which means superlative.

Not only plural nouns and verbs that can use inflectional, but also adjectives can take inflections *{-er}* and *{-est}* to indicate comparatives and superlatives. Comparative is used when comparing two things. Adjective length affects comparative formation in different

ways. If it has one syllable then add {-er} at the end and if the word has three or more syllables then the word 'more' is added before the adjective, for example "*She is more beautiful than you*". Moreover, there is also an adjective that has irregular form, such as the comparative form of the word 'good/well' added with -er to be '*better*'. Next is superlative form. Superlatives are used when comparing more than two things. Adjective length also affects superlative formation in different ways. If it has one syllable then add the letter {-est}. For example "*He is the smallest in the class*" and if the word has three or more syllables then the word 'most' is placed before the adjective. e.g. "*He is the most popular in his class*".

Examples of words + inflections in noun:

- a. Becomes plural:
  - Bag + s
  - House + s
  - Book + s
- b. Becomes possessive:
  - Boy + 's
  - Mother + 's
  - Their + 's

Examples of words + inflections in verbs:

- a. Becomes 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular:
  - Run + s
  - Open + s
  - Walk + s
- b. Becomes simple past:
  - Play + ed
  - Open + ed
  - Finish + ed
- c. Becomes present participle:
  - Play + ing
  - Laugh + ing
  - Walk + ing
- d. Becomes past participle:
  - Fall + en
  - Eat + en
  - Write + en

Examples of words + inflections in adjective:

- a. Become degree of comparison (comparative):
  - Smart + er
  - Clean + er
  - Dark + er
- b. Becomes degree of comparison (superlative):
  - Smart + est
  - Small + est
  - Short + est

According to Nordquist (2019) as cited in Fitria (2020) inflectional morphemes define certain aspects related to the grammatical function of a word. Inflectional morphemes are suffixes that are added to words (verbs, adjectives, nouns or adverbs) to define certain grammatical properties for the word, such as tenses, possessions, numbers, or comparisons. Examples of applying inflectional morphemes to words marking plural nouns are adding the –s suffix to the root ‘cat’ to form ‘cats’. Another example is by adding the –s suffix to the root ‘time’ to form ‘times’.

McGregor (2009) stated that inflectional affixes are bound morphemes that provide grammatical information related to the interpretation of sentences. They do not produce a new vocabulary. Different forms of the same vocabulary, different forms that adapt to the use of vocabulary in sentences.

From some definitions above, it can be concluded that derivational and inflectional affixes are included in the word formation process, and inflectional has the same basic meaning or does not change the meaning of the basic word and the added word is used to follow the rules of grammar and use of the word itself. English inflectional affixes are affixes that do not change the word from the stem, usually located further from the root than derivational affixes.

Some examples of grammatical categories that are expressed by inflectional affixes are aspect, case, modality, number, person, tense, and voice. Inflectional and derivational affixes can be analyzed from various objects such as books, short stories, songs, novels and so forth. In short stories, inflectional affixes are more numerous than derivational affixes. Hence, this study will discuss further about the study of inflectional affixes in the short story entitled "Rumpelstiltskin" by The Brothers Grimm.

According to Klarer (1998: 14), “A crucial feature commonly identified with the short story is its impression of unity since it can be read-in contrast to the novel-in one sitting without interruption. Moreover, he explains that the plot of the short story has to be highly selective, entailing an idiosyncratic temporal dimension that usually focuses on one central moment of action because it has restriction of length (Klarer, 1998: 14).

Short story is a narrative text type in which a prose-style literary work that is presented briefly and tells a fictional story that revolves around characters and conflicts and their resolutions. As the name implies, short story is presented in a concise and compact format without reducing its elements. In fact, they are no more than 10.000 words long and can be read in a single session. The stories include life stories, social stories, experiences, humor, cultural customs, or humanity.

The language features possessed by narrative texts include using descriptive language which has aim of triggering the imagination of the reader to imagine the story in the text, usually using the past tense and often using direct and indirect speech forms.

Many researchers have conducted a research about an analysis of morpheme in any texts. Astuti, et al. (2021) conducted a research about free and bound morphemes in William Shakespeare’s poetries. The result showed that free morpheme was more dominant than bound morpheme. In addition, researches about short story as the object of the study have been conducted by many researchers. One of them was Wibisono & Widodo (2019) who conducted a research about figurative language in online short story posted on The Jakarta Post. The result of their study indicated that figurative language in short story were used in

many types, such as metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, irony, symbol, hyperbole, paradox, alliteration, allusion, onomatopoeia, and many others. However, this study is totally different from the previous ones since it only focuses on the analysis of inflectional affixes in short story “Rumpelstiltskin” by the Brothers Grimm.

## **B. METHOD**

This research applies qualitative method. It can be used to see and express a situation or an object in its context; find a deep meaning or understanding of a problem at hand, which appears in the form of qualitative data, be it words, pictures, or events as well as in a “natural setting” (Yusuf, 2014).

According to Gibbs (2007), qualitative analysis involves two activities. The first is to develop awareness of the types of data that can be examined and how they can be described and explained. The second is a number of practical activities that help with the types of data and the large amounts that need to be examined.

Technique of collecting data in this research used literature analysis. According to Nazir (2005), literature study is an important step in which a researcher, after determining his research topic, then conducts a study related to theories covering the research topic that has been determined. In searching theories, information was collected as much as possible from the relevant literature. The literature sources can be obtained from books, journals, magazines, research results (thesis) and also other appropriate sources such as from the internet, newspapers and others.

In analyzing the data, three steps of qualitative analysis were used in this study are reducing data, displaying data and making conclusions (Silverman, 2009: 234). Unimportant data or information was reduced as long as they did not important to be shown. Then, the data of the study were displayed in the table to make them clearer and easier to understand. Finally, the result of the study was summarized descriptively to make the conclusion of this study.

## **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The data of this research were taken from short story “Rumpelstiltskin” by The Brothers Grimm. This analysis used a theory proposed by Yule (2010) who states that there are eight inflectional in English and all of them are suffixes. There are suffixes ‘-s/-es, -er, -est, -s/-s’ -ed, -en, and -ing’.

### **1. Result**

Based on the findings of this study, it was found that quite a lot of inflectional morphemes were found in Rumpelstiltskin's selected story. The descriptions are as follows:

#### NOUNS-FORMING SUFFIX

Suffix	Functions	Word found	Word form	Times
-s	Plural noun	<i>Tales</i>	Tale + s	1
		<i>Piles</i>	Pile + s	3
		<i>Fingers</i>	Finger + s	2
		<i>Servants</i>	Servant + s	2
		<i>Rooms</i>	Room + s	2
		<i>Things</i>	Thing + s	2
		<i>Sorts</i>	Sort + s	1
		<i>Days</i>	Day + s	2
		<i>Names</i>	Name + s	2
		<i>Places</i>	Place + s	1
		<i>Woods</i>	Wood + s	1
		<i>Plans</i>	Plan + s	1
		<i>Woes</i>	Woe + s	1
		<i>Times</i>	Time + s	1
-‘s	Possessive noun	<i>Miller’s daughter</i>	Miller + ‘s	3
		<i>King’s palace</i>	King + ‘s	1
		<i>Yours</i>	Your + s	1
		<i>Baby’s bedroom</i>	Baby + ‘s	1
Total				28

Based on the table above, it shows that there are:

1. Suffix {-s} means plural noun. This suffix occurs at the end of a word and is mostly attached to a noun. It has a meaning to indicate that the noun is plural. For example, in the words *tales*, *piles*, *fingers*, *servants*, *rooms*, *things*, *sorts*, *days*, *names*, *places*, *woods*, *plans*, and *times* found in the short story analyzed. Singular words that change to plural words still same the position of a noun.
2. Suffix {- 's} means possessive that identifies that words as a noun. This suffix has meaning and use to indicate it is a form of ownership. The affixes are found only a few times in the whole analyzed story. As in the story there is the {- 's} affix in the word "*miller's daughter*", which the {- 's} here indicates that the daughter is the possession or child of the miller. Likewise in "*king's palace*", {- 's} here indicates that the palace in question belongs to the king. Another example is the word *yours* which {-s} indicates something is possessive means something that is yours. Besides that it is also contained in the "*baby's bedroom*" which {- 's} here means it refers that the bedroom belongs to the baby.

VERBS-FORMING SUFFIX

Suffix	Functions	Word found	Word form	Times
-ed/-d	Past tense	<i>Wished</i>	Wish + ed	2
		<i>Pointed</i>	Point + ed	1
		<i>Locked</i>	Lock + ed	2
		<i>Lifted</i>	Lift + ed	1
		<i>Looked</i>	Look + ed	3
		<i>Loved</i>	Love + d	2
		<i>Bowed</i>	Bow + ed	1
		<i>Slammed</i>	Slam + ed	1
		<i>Called</i>	Call + ed	2
		<i>Shocked</i>	Shock + ed	1
		<i>Turned</i>	Turn + ed	2
		<i>Snapped</i>	Snap + ed	1
		<i>Stepped</i>	Step + ed	3
		<i>Filled</i>	Fill + ed	2
		<i>Worked</i>	Work + ed	1
		<i>Waved</i>	Wave + d	1
		<i>Begged</i>	Beg + ed	1
		<i>Sighed</i>	Sigh + ed	1
		<i>Smiled</i>	Smile + d	1
		<i>Seemed</i>	Seem + d	1
		<i>Wanted</i>	Want + ed	1
		<i>Stayed</i>	Stay + ed	1
		<i>Talked</i>	Talk + ed	1
		<i>Married</i>	Marry + ed	1
		<i>Died</i>	Die + d	1
		<i>Asked</i>	Ask + ed	1
		<i>Promised</i>	Promise + d	2
		<i>Agreed</i>	Agre + ed	1
		<i>Appeared</i>	Appear + ed	4
		<i>Laughed</i>	Laugh + ed	2
		<i>Bored</i>	Bore + d	1
		<i>Walked</i>	Walk + ed	2
		<i>Followed</i>	Follow + ed	1
		<i>Danced</i>	Dance + d	1
		<i>Listened</i>	Listen + ed	1
		<i>Yelled</i>	Yell + ed	1
		<i>Stamped</i>	Stamp + ed	2
		<i>Opened</i>	Open + ed	1
-ing	Present continuous / present participle / Progressive	<i>Talking</i>	Talk + ing	1
		<i>Saying</i>	Say + ing	1
		<i>Running</i>	Run + ing	2

		<i>Spinning</i>	Spin + ing	1
		<i>Turning</i>	Turn + ing	1
		<i>Coming</i>	Come + ing	1
		<i>Slamming</i>	Slam + ing	1
		<i>Pointing</i>	Point + ing	1
		<i>Wasting</i>	Waste + ing	1
-en	Past participle	<i>Fallen</i>	Fall + en	1
		<i>Seen</i>	See + en	1
		<i>Hidden</i>	Hide + en	1
-s	3 <sup>rd</sup> singular person (present tense)	<i>Takes</i>	Take + s	1
		<i>Knows</i>	Know + s	1
Total				70

Based on the table above, it shows that there are:

1. Suffix {-**ed**}. This suffix means verb 2 or simple past. This suffix is to indicate it is the past tense form of a word, and this suffix is found more often than other suffixes in the analyzed story. Such as *wished*, *pointed*, *locked*, *lifted*, *looked*, *loved*, *bowed*, *slammed*, *opened*, *called*, *shocked*, and *snapped*. For example the inflections on verb include in the word “look” which changes to “looks”, “looked” or “looking”. Affixes to the process of this forming the word which verb into several words do not change the word class, they are still a verb.
2. Suffix {-**ing**}. This suffix is in the form of a present participle which indicates that the word attached is in the form of a present participle or a continuous verb or something that is happening and taking place. Affixes to the process if this forming the words is found quite a lot after analyzing the story, such as *saying*, *running*, *turning*, *spinning*, *coming*, *slamming*, *coming*, *boring*, and *wasting*. For example the inflections on verbs include the word “say” which changes to “says”, “said” and “saying”. Affixes to the process of this forming the word which verb into several words do not change the word class, they are still a verb.
3. Suffix {-**en**}. This suffix indicates the past participle. Used for present perfect and passive voice. Past participle has irregular changes when the basic verb is an irregular verb. In the story, there are words {*fallen*, *seen*, and *hidden*}. For example, the word {*fallen*} this word has the base form {*fall*} and the verb 3 is {*fallen*}.
4. Suffix {-**s**}. This suffix means 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular (present tense) it is only used in the present tense for the subject ‘he, she, it’. Affixes in this word formation process are only slightly found in the short story “Rumpelstiltskin”. For example the words {*takes* and *knows*}.



#### ADJECTIVE-FORMING SUFFIX

Suffix	Functions	Word found	Word form	Times
-er	Comparative	<i>Larger</i> <i>Better</i> <i>Longer</i>	Large + er Good → Better Long + er	1 1 1
-est	Superlative	<i>Biggest</i>	Big + est	1
Total				4

Based on the table above, it shows that there are:

1. Suffix {-*er*} means comparative. This suffix is attached to adjectives, for example in the word {*longer*}. The adjective {*longer*} which has the base form {*long*} which is then added by the suffix {-*er*} to be {*longer*}.
2. Suffix {-*est*} means superlative. Superlative used when comparing one object that is the most among a collection of other similar object. For example, in the word {*biggest*}, the adjective {*biggest*} has the base form {*big*} then added by the suffix {-*est*} to be {*biggest*}.

## 2. Discussion

Based on the result above, there are some inflectional affixes which are found in the selected short story “Rumpelstiltskin”. The result of the analysis shows that there are many inflectional affixes found. This is in line with the opinion of Schmid (2015) which states that inflectional morphemes are more productive than derivational morphemes and can be attached to verbs, nouns, or adjectives compared to derivational morphemes.

From the tables of the analysis above, it can be seen that there are a lot of inflectional affixes found in the analyzed stories. In the three tables it can be seen that there are more affixes in the process of forming verbs than affixes in the process of forming words in nouns and adjectives.

#### INFLECTIONAL AFFIXES IN SHORT STORY “RUMPELSTILTSKIN”

Aspect	Suffix							
	Noun		Verb				Adjective	
	{-s}	{-'s}	{-ed}	{-ing}	{-en}	{-s}	{-er}	{-est}
Number	22	6	55	10	3	2	3	1
Total	28		70				4	
Percentage	27,4%		68,6%				4%	

Based on the result above, there are 28 affixes in the word formation process for nouns with a percentage of 27.4%. The least number of affixes in the word formation process for adjectives because they are only found 4 times with a percentage of 4%. While affixes in the process of word formation in verbs were found to be the most found as many as 55 with a percentage of 68.6%.

In the table of inflectional affixes that occur in nouns totaling 28, it can be seen that the suffix {-s} which signifies plural nouns is found to be more in number, which is 22 words than the suffix {-s} which indicates possessive which is found to be 6 words. There are some words that experience repetition or words that are found more than once throughout the story, the data are:

- On the {-s} suffix:  
The word *piles* appear 3 times at most, while the words *fingers*, *servants*, *rooms*, *things*, *days*, and *names* appear 2 times.
- On the {-s} suffix: Results show that this occurs in the word *miller's* which appears 3 times.

In the table above, the inflectional affixes that occur in verbs appear in 70 times. It can be seen that the suffix {-s} which indicates 3rd person singular is the least common, which is only 2 times. The suffix {-en} which signifies the past participle is only found 3 times. The suffix {-ing} which indicates that the word attached is the present participle, being the second most common, which is 10 times. The suffix {-ed} became the most common of all the findings of inflectional affixes that occurred in verbs, which was 55 times. Just like process inflectional affixes on nouns, there are some words that are found more than once throughout the story. The data are:

- On the {-ed} suffix:  
The word *appeared* appears 4 times and is the one that appears the most among the other words. the words *looked* and *stepped* appeared 3 times, and the words *wished*, *locked*, *loved*, *called*, *turned*, *filled*, *promised*, *laughed*, *walked*, and *stamped* appeared 2 times.
- On the {-ing} suffix:  
The word *running* appears 2 times.

The suffix {-ed} or past tense is the most common suffix found in the story than other suffixes. This is because the analyzed story is in the form of narrative text, where the language feature of narrative text is usually in the past tense.

In the table of inflectional affixes that occur in adjectives (degrees of comparison) are the least found with a total of 4 times. The suffix {-er} which means comparative is found 3 times while the suffix {-est} which means superlative is only found once in the whole story.

In the suffix {-er} there is the word *better*. *Better* comes from the word *good* in the form of an adjective, this adjective then becomes comparative with the word "*better*" and then becomes the word "*best*" (superlative). This is because good, better and best are included in irregular adjectives.

#### D. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis, it was found that there were 102 inflectional affixes that occurred. There were 28 affixes in the word formation process for nouns with a percentage of 27.4%. The least number of affixes in the word formation process was adjectives because they were only found 4 times with a percentage of 4%. Meanwhile, affixes in the process of word formation in verbs had the highest number where they were found 55 times with a percentage of 68.6%. From the results of the study, it can be seen that inflectional morphemes mostly occurred in verbs rather than in nouns or adjectives. The inflectional morpheme does not change grammatical categories of words. They are attached to another morpheme just to identify grammar, not to generate new words or forms words with different grammars (lexemes) from the previous word. These morphemes consist of suffixes *-s/-es*, *-er*, *-est*, *-s/-s'* *-ed*, *-en*, and *-ing*. Inflectional morpheme functions include superlative and comparative degrees {*-er*, *-est*}, forming past tense and past participle {*-ed*, *-en*}, make things plural {*-s*, *-es*}, for verbs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular {*-s*, *-es*}, for possessive {*-s*} and present participle {*-ing*}. This morpheme is not change the meaning of the free morpheme it attaches, nor does it change the word class, for examples from verb to verb, from noun to noun, and from adjective to adjective.

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