

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is a complicated system that helps people talk to each other and also has a set of rules that let humans share thoughts, feelings, and experiences. To learn how this system works, linguistics uses a scientific way to look at language from different angles. Linguistics does not just study words alone, but looks at language as a structured system with many parts and roles that show both the rules inside language and how it connects to the real world. Because of this, studying language is usually split into two main areas which are micro-linguistics and macro-linguistics. Microlinguistics focuses on the internal structure of language, examining the components that form the language system itself. Meanwhile, macrolinguistics studies the relationship between language and external factors such as society, culture, history, and communication contexts. These two perspectives are complementary, providing a holistic understanding of how language is formed and how it functions in real-life usage.

Micro-linguistics examines the language system separately from its surroundings. Micro-linguistics focuses on the language system "in itself" (its elements, structure, grammar, etc.) and "for itself" (for the purpose of comprehending the nature of the human language rather than using it as a means to understand other features like religion, human mind, history, and so on). This has led to the development of what is often referred to as the

levels of linguistics such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, that have contributed to our understanding of what is the human language.¹

The relationship between language and other extra-linguistic elements, however, is the focus of macro-linguistics. Since language is constructed in accordance with the structure of such external features as geography, society, history, technology, politics, etc., language research is, in fact, multidisciplinary because it is not just about grammatical rules but rather connected to any human phenomenon. As a result, numerous subfields of linguistics have emerged to clarify the relationship between language and these elements such as these subfields address the ways in which these extralinguistic elements impact language systems.²

Considering it focuses on morphology, one of the fundamental levels of linguistic structure, the current study is mostly situated within micro-linguistics in respect to these viewpoints. English is a language with its own complexities that has evolved over time. Word formation plays an important role in this diversity, one of which is morphological process. Morphological process is the formation of words using the smallest units of a word, namely morphemes, which have meaning. Morphemes are divided into two types which are free morphemes and bound morphemes. Free

¹ Benedet, M. J., Christiansen, J. A., & Goodglass, H. (1998). *A cross-linguistic study of grammatical morphology in Spanish-and English-speaking agrammatic patients*. *Cortex*, 34(3),p.309-336.

² Booij, G., & Lieber, R. (1993). *On the simultaneity of morphological and prosodic structure*. In *Studies in lexical phonology*, Academic Press, p. 23-44.

morphemes are independent units that can stand alone as complete words with their own meanings (book, run). Bound morphemes, on the other hand, must be paired with other morphemes and cannot stand alone to form a word (un-, -ness, -s). They are generally found at the beginning (prefixes) and at the end (suffixes) of words. Bound morphemes can change the class or meaning of a word, which are called derivational affixes, while others indicate grammatical structure, which are called inflectional affixes.³

Morphological processes also have a type called blending, which are two productive processes that form words and expand English vocabulary, for example motel (blending from two words motor + hotel). Of the various complexities of English words, this is important to know and learn, especially for students of English as a foreign language, because students of this type will often be exposed to English reading material. Why is this important? Because understanding morphological processes will help them understand the content of a reading passage. An example that illustrates why understanding morphological processes is important occurred in a TBI class taught by Dr. Ida Isnawati, M.Pd., at UIN SATU Tulungagung. The case occurred when a reading text was given, and while reading it, several students in the class, including the researcher's classmates, were confused because they encountered the word "redo." However, after opening the dictionary and reading the actual meaning, they found that "redo" is a

³ McCarthy, A. C. (2002). *An Introduction to English Morphology: Words and Their Structure*. P. 16

combination of the prefix “re-” which means again, and ‘do’ which means to do. Ma'am Ida also explained that it was “redo” which means to do it again. The pattern “re-” is also found in various words such as “rewatch,” “replay,” and “rebuild.” The empirical experience from this class shows that understanding morphological structure, especially derivational affixes, is very important for understanding the context of reading more accurately, especially for EFL learners. Considering this case, it is clear that a word can also change its meaning due to a derivational affix.

In addition to affixes that change meaning, affixes can also change the part of speech of “happy” from an adjective to a noun, “happiness,” with the addition of the suffix “-ness.” Derivational affix patterns determine whether a word changes its meaning or part of speech. By learning the various patterns of derivational affixes, EFL learners will find it easier to understand the content of a reading passage. On the other hand, morphological processes, namely blending, is often mistaken for a single word, whereas blending itself consists of two words that are combined into one and have meaning. An example is “motel,” which is a combination of the words “motor” and “hotel” and refers to a quick roadside accommodation. Rather than referring to lodging as a “hotel,” the use of the word “motel” is more appropriate to describe the situation of travelers who need quick lodging. Therefore, the choice of the blending word “motel” is considered so that readers can visualize the context or situation in a text.⁴

⁴ *Ibid.* P.65

This classroom phenomenon aligns with the research by Utami & Mujadidah (2021), which confirms that morpheme identification awareness is a crucial foundation for students in understanding complex word structures. According to the researchers, when students are able to break down the meaning of a word, they find it easier to construct a comprehensive understanding of sentences. Understanding morphology involves more than simply breaking down words to understand their meaning, it also indirectly enhances students' language skills. Through the process of reading, students' ability to break words down into their smallest components (morphemes) in order to understand their meaning can foster a more comprehensive lexical understanding, thereby reducing their reliance on dictionaries.⁵

Research on morphological process has received considerable attention in the field of linguistics. A recent study conducted by Pratama and Utami analyzed derivative suffixes in the Earth Edition of BBC News, revealing that 57% of noun derived from verbs, 32% were adverbs derived from adjectives, 11% adjective derived from noun, and 0% verb derived from noun.⁶ However, this study was limited to the Earth Edition, leaving open the question of whether similar patterns exist in other news topics. Similar research was also conducted by Kasnadevi and Utami, who

⁵ Henny Septia Utami dan Mutiara Mujadidah, "An Analysis of English Education Students' Morphological Awareness: Identification and Structure Awareness," *Journal of English Education and Teaching (JEET)* 5, no. 3 (2021): 385,

⁶ Pratama, I. G. A., & Utami, N. P. C. P. (2025). Morphological Functions of Derivational Suffixes in BBC News: Earth Edition. *ELYSIAN JOURNAL English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies*, 5(1).

examined derivational affixes in various articles on BBC News. This study found that suffix derivation contributed more, at 88%, while prefixes contributed only 12%. This study only focused on derivational affixes, but the blending process has not been studied in this research.⁷ Research on word formation in BBC News was also conducted by Humairah and Erlindawaty, but the topic discussed only focused on the Russian-Ukrainian invasion. This study revealed that derivational affixes accounted for 68.8%, compounding for 25.2%, conversation with 3.2%, clipping with 0.8%, borrowing 0.8% and blending with 0%.⁸ From this study there is no blending process found. However, those studies only focused on one topic, which did not represent the various topics covered by BBC News such as business, innovation, culture, arts, travel, earth.

Beyond BBC News, other studies have also been concerned with morphological context, despite using different research sources, such as Deutsche Welle News Articles, by Warahmah and Halim with the research title “Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Found in Deutsche Welle News Articles”⁹, YouTube Political Podcast in Indonesia, by Ummu Kulsum with the research title “Morphological Analysis of Word Formation

⁷ Kasnadevi, P. R., & Utami, N. P. C. P. (2024). Types of Derivational Affixes Found in BBC News Articles. *KULTURISTIK JURNAL BAHASA & BUDAYA*, 8(1), 66–71.

⁸ Humairah, A., & Erlindawaty. (2023). The Word Formation Process in BBC News on the Invasion of Russia-Ukraine. *Jurnal Nasional Holistic Science*, 3(3), 140–145.

⁹ Warahma, P., & Halim, A. Q. (2025). Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Found in Deutsche Welle News Articles. *Proceedings of The Third National Seminar on English Language Teaching (NELT)*, 3.

Process on Political Words YouTube Podcast in Indonesia“¹⁰ posters on Instagram @infolomba, by Kalukar et.al with the research title “A Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Processes in English Posters on Instagram”¹¹ and NBC News, by Abubakar et.al with the rsearch title “Analyzing Morphological Process in Two News Articles Found in NBC News”¹². These studies have revealed morphological phenomena, with the discovery of acronyms, clippings, blending, derivational, initialisms, and conversions. However, the data sources in these studies did not focus on BBC News, so they cannot be generalized to the data sources in this study.

As a whole, previous studies have given more attention to morphological processes, but they have also focused only on their scope (focusing only on derivational affixes), topics (limited to only one BBC topic or only a few articles), and context (using data sources other than the BBC). Considering these various limitations, this present study was conducted to fill the research gap by analyzing the morphological processes (derivational affixes and blending) in BBC News, covering various topics in BBC News such as business, innovation, culture, arts, travel, earth. So as to provide more comprehensive morphological structure results using authentic english news text. By selecting various editions available on BBC

¹⁰ Kulsum, U. (2022). Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Process on Political Words YouTube Podcast In Indonesia. *Alvikrah Jurnal Studi Ilmu Pendidikan dan Keislaman*, 5(2).

¹¹ Kalukar, V. J., Erliza, N., & Yahya, M. (2023). A Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Processes in English Posters on Instagram. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, 14(6), 1551–1558.

¹² Abubakar, M., Mutmainna, N., Jafar, S. F., & Astri, Z. (2023/2024). *Analyzing Morphological Process in Two News Articles Found in NBC News*. Proceedings of The 2nd National Seminar on English Language Teaching (NELT).

News, it is possible to obtain a richer set of vocabulary data results and reveal richer patterns of morphological processes across topics. In addition, the implication for EFL students at UIN SATU is that authentic material in the form of English news texts can be used as reading material to understand English texts. Unlike simplified or graded texts, BBC News offers texts that are more natural and relevant to the real world. The words used in BBC News are clearly more challenging and complex, making them relevant for students to improve their reading skills. With the results of this study in the form of an analysis of derivational affixes and blending, educators can also use this as a pedagogical basis for authentic teaching materials. By utilizing the complex words contained in BBC News articles, this can be used as an exercise to increase vocabulary using English text media.

Reading is crucial for acquiring knowledge. According to Rumelhart's theory, namely the schema theory in reading, understanding the content of a reading passage can occur by connecting new information from the text being read with existing background knowledge.¹³ With BBC News acting as authentic material, EFL students can use it as reading material by applying the schema technique and improving their understanding of the reading text. In addition, the interactive reading model proposed by Stanovich uses bottom-up and top-down techniques, which are interrelated.

A reader will use the bottom-up technique to break down a word into smaller

¹³ Rumelhart, D. E. (1980). Schemata: The building blocks of cognition. Dalam R. J. Spiro, B. C. Bruce, & W. F. Brewer (Eds.), *Theoretical Issues in Reading Comprehension: Perspectives from Cognitive Psychology, Linguistics, Artificial Intelligence, and Education* Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. P. 33–58.

elements to form a meaning.¹⁴ Therefore, it is crucial to analyze morphology. By analyzing the morphological processes of words, such as derivational affixes and blending, EFL learners will easily be able to decode word formation. For example, the word “redo” has the root “do” and the prefix “re”, or the word “motel” is a combination of two words, “motor” and “hotel”. After performing this decoding, readers will be able to use a bottom-up approach to understand the meaning of a word. By understanding the smallest elements of a word, it becomes easier for readers to understand the content of a text.

To analyze these morphological processes, sources that reflect natural and up-to-date language usage are needed. In addition, because BBC News is originally written in British English, EFL learners will interact with English in a real-world context. It is also easily accessible anywhere and anytime because the platform supports online access. In this phenomenon, online News such as BBC News are authentic and complex sources because they use various morphological processes in word formation, such as derivational affixes and blending, so that these News provide an effective reading experience. In BBC News, the words used appear naturally and are not graded, making them suitable as research sources. The words that appear are also varied and appear according to the needs of the news. The topics covered in the BBC News are also diverse, such as sports, arts, travel,

¹⁴ Stanovich, K. E. (1980). Toward an interactive-compensatory model of individual differences in the development of reading fluency. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 16(1), P. 32–71.

business, and culture. This provides comprehensive research results that are not limited to specific topics, with the aim of enriching the findings on morphological processes in BBC News.

In this study, BBC News articles covering various topics revealed the complexity of the vocabulary used. By analyzing research on various topics (business, innovation, culture, arts, travel, earth), it was found that there were more morphological processes, which broadened our comprehensive understanding. Morphological processes also play an important role in determining the dominant patterns contained in these articles. This research is important because it uses a popular international media platform, which is the BBC News, whose articles use various forms of words to convey messages. Finally, this research highlights the pedagogical implications that morphological processes are important for learning English as a foreign language. By using the BBC News as the main data source, this research not only contributes to linguistic analysis but also supports EFL learners to improve their reading comprehension through awareness of morphological process.

B. Scope and limitation of the problem

In terms of morphology scope, this study is strictly limited to the analysis and identify words that contain morphological process which is focuses only on derivational affixes and blending process. This study highlights the patterns of prefix, suffix, and blending usage in word formation. Data was collected from articles published on the BBC News

website in various categories, including business, innovation, culture, arts, travel, and earth, to provide a more comprehensive picture of morphological processes across various categories.

C. Statement of the problem

Based on the background of the study, the following research questions are formulated to guide the investigation into morphological processes within BBC News Articles:

1. What kinds of morphological processes are found in selected BBC News articles?
2. Which morphological processes are most frequently used in selected BBC News articles?

D. Objectives of the study

Based on the statement of the problem, the primary objectives of the study are defined as follows:

1. To analyze and classify the kind of morphological process of words found in selected BBC News articles across different categories.
2. To identify the most frequently used morphological process found in selected BBC News articles across different categories.

E. Significance of study

The significance of this research is twofold, contributing to both theory and practice. In terms of theory, this research contributes new findings in the field of linguistics by focusing on morphological processes, which are derivational affixes and blending that play an important role in

forming words used in English news texts on BBC News. In addition, this research also fills the gap in previous research, which only focused on one topic and only covered derivation. This research presents a broader scope by using various topics (business, innovation, culture, arts, travel, earth) found in BBC News and a comprehensive analysis of its morphological processes patterns. In addition, this recent research uses a new approach a mixed-methods approach by combining qualitative text analysis with quantitative data presentation.

Furthermore, the practical significance of this study is highly relevant to EFL learners by highlighting that morphological processes patterns can enrich vocabulary and reading comprehension, proving that BBC News can be used as authentic material for EFL reading. For teachers, BBC News can also be used as alternative reading material for teaching using a morphological pattern approach. For future research, the researcher hopes to conduct further research on morphological processes in various platforms, genres, and different corpora, which will be useful for supporting morphological learning and awareness.

F. Key of Terms

1. Morphological process

Morphological process is the process of word formation using the smallest units that have meaning, which is morpheme.¹⁵

¹⁵ Yule, G. (2010). *The Study of Language* (4th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. P.67.

2. Derivational affixes

Derivational affixes are prefixes and suffixes that are added to the base form to create new words, often changing the meaning of the word or its grammatical category (part of speech).¹⁶

3. Blending

Blending is a word formation process in which parts of two different words are combined to produce a new word. These blended words usually share elements of meaning from both source words, such as motel (from motor + hotel) or brunch (from breakfast + lunch).¹⁷

¹⁶ McCarthy, A. C. (2002). *An Introduction to English Morphology: Words and Their Structure*. P. 44

¹⁷ *Ibid* P. 65