

ANALYSIS OF INFLECTIONAL SUFFIX ON SELECTED POEMS BY ROBERT FROST

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Abstract

As a language learner, definite changes or forms of words are significant. When a word is added by one or a few letters, the meaning and purpose of that word will change. Words changes occur due to the addition of letters at the beginning or the end of the word. The affix at the beginning of the word is called a prefix, while the affix at the end is called a suffix. Eight suffixes in English do not change the part of a word's speech but signify additional information about it; -s, 's, -'s, -er, -ed, -ing, -en, -est. This paper aims to Identify the most used inflectional suffixes in Robert Frost's poems, which are widely used in linguistics and literature study. The result of the research is that Robert Frost's poems use the entire inflectional suffixes. The -s suffix is the inflectional suffix that he uses the most in his poems. It indicates that Robert Frost tends to express or describe something in the plural form.

Keywords: *Inflectional suffix, Robert Frost, Linguistics*

Abstrak

Sebagai orang yang mempelajari bahasa, perubahan atau bentuk kata pasti sangat penting. Ketika sebuah kata ditambah dengan satu atau beberapa huruf, maka arti dan tujuan dari kata tersebut akan berubah. Perubahan kata dapat terjadi karena penambahan huruf di awal atau di akhir kata. Afiks yang berada di awal kata disebut prefiks, sedangkan imbuhan di akhir kata disebut suffix. Ada delapan sufiks dalam bahasa Inggris yang tidak mengubah bagian ucapan kata tetapi menandakan informasi tambahan tentangnya; -s, 's, -'s, -er, -ed, -ing, -en, -est. Tujuan dari makalah ini adalah untuk Mengidentifikasi sufiks infleksional yang paling sering digunakan dalam puisi Robert Frost yang mana banyak digunakan dalam studi linguistik dan sastra. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah puisi-puisi Robert Frost menggunakan seluruh sufiks infleksional. Sufiks -s adalah sufiks infleksional yang paling sering ia gunakan dalam puisinya. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa Robert Frost cenderung mengungkapkan atau mendeskripsikan sesuatu dalam bentuk jamak.

Kata Kunci: *Sufiks Infleksional. Robert Frost, Linguistik*

INTRODUCTION

Robert Frost occupies a distinguished role within the annals of American literature. Many people consider him to be one of the most essential and well-known poets of the twentieth century. Frost's contribution to American literature is immense, encompassing experimentation with poetic form, the revelation of new themes, and the use of unique, expressive techniques and means. Robert Frost's poetic legacy is noteworthy for its depth and diversity of subjects, concepts, and values. His works deftly merge images of rural life and urban growth, natural surroundings and social meaning, personal dramas, and humanity's role in general. World linguists widely analyze his work with the results of various article titles (Poetry Foundation, n.d.).

Linguistics usually refers to the study of a word's form and structure. It is far put together and features numerous building blocks of different sorts and sizes are combined to make up a language. Sounds are added together, and once in a while, when

this occurs, they alternate their shape and do exciting matters. Phrases are organized in a sure order, and sometimes the beginnings and endings of the phrases are modified to alter the which means. Then that means itself may be stricken by the association of phrases and the aid of the speaker's expertise about what the listener will apprehend ("What Is Linguistics?").

Morphology is one of the linguistics branches. "It derived from Greek. Morphology means 'shape' and logos science. Morphology is both the oldest and one of the youngest sub-disciplines of grammar" (Katamba, 1993:3, quoted from Yastanti & Warlina, 2018). It can be said that Morphology is the study of the internal structure of words. The degree to which words can be broken down into word components, or morphemes, varies significantly between languages. There are two forms of morpheme, Free Morpheme and Bound Morpheme.

A morpheme or word feature that can stand alone as a word is known as a free morpheme. It is also known as a free-standing morpheme

or an unbound morpheme. A bound morpheme is a morpheme that cannot be used alone to form a word; it must be combined with other morphemes. Derivational Morpheme and Inflectional Morpheme are the two morphemes that Bound Morpheme divided. (Yastanti & Warlina, 2018)

An inflectional morpheme is an area of morphology dealing with patterns. Therefore, it is concerned with two things. The first is the semantic contrast between the categories. The other uses formal means, including inflection, to separate them (Matthews, 1991). An inflectional morpheme cannot generate or create a new word or affect the speech class. Examples of inflectional morphemes to words are adding -s to the root 'eat' to form 'eats' and adding -ed to learn to create learning. However, the root word added with an inflectional morpheme, both parts of speech of the word do not change.

Only eight inflectional morphemes are used; all are suffixes (Quirk, 1985). Two inflectional morphemes can be attached to nouns, -

S (possessive case), - (e)s (plural). Four infections can be attached to verbs - (e)d (past tense), -ing (present participle), -en (past participle), -s (third-person singular). In linguistics, two inflections can be attached to adjectives -er (comparative) and -est (superlative).

Noun inflectional morpheme

1. *Plural marker – s or – es*

The inflectional suffix –s or –es added to countable nouns is used to express plurality (e.g., pencil – pencils, umbrella – umbrellas) in sentences (e.g., the pencils are there, there are six umbrellas). The -s inflection affixed or added to the end of a count noun is the standard plural. There are a few exceptions to the rule that most count nouns in English take the plural -s inflection. There are also count nouns without plural forms, such as news, sheep, and deer, and words that often end in s but are not plural, such as news.

2. *Possessive marker 's*

The suffix –s can also be used to express possessiveness when it is preceded by an apostrophe ('). For example, the expression 'David's

book'. It clearly shows that the book belongs to David.

Verbs Inflectional Morphemes

1. *The third person presents singular marker –s*

The other use of the inflectional morpheme –s indicates that the subject of present tense sentences is singular. For example, 'She rides the bike carefully,' the verb rides are added by the suffix –s in simple present, clearly indicating that the sentence's subject is singular.

2. *Past tense marker – ed*

To show that activity happened in the past, English uses the suffixed. For example, 'They talked to their uncle last month', the suffix –ed here is added to the verb talk so that readers or listeners understand that the action happened in the past.

3. *Possessive marker – ing*

The – ing suffix added to a root word can show progressively. For example, in the sentence, He is playing in the field, It is clear that the base wordplay is paired with the suffix –ing to show that the action is currently taking place/in progress.

4. Past participle markers – en

The inflectional suffixes –en or –ed are used to signify whether an action has been completed or not. For example, she has not eaten the mango; in this situation, the suffix – en is used in the present perfect.

Adjective inflectional morphemes

1. *Comparative marker – er*

One way to describe that one thing or a person has more quality than being compared is by using the inflectional suffix –er. This suffix needs to be combined with an adjective. For example, 'My yard is larger than yours'. It shows a comparison between the speaker's yard and someone else yard.

2. *Superlative marker – est*

When the inflectional suffix –est is applied to a phrase, such as an adjective, it indicates that one thing or person is superior to others in terms of quality. For example, 'She is the most attractive girl in the neighborhood'. This denotes that the pronoun she is of the highest quality in terms of beauty than other girls in the community (Ismail Al Abbasi, M, 2016).

METHOD

This research uses qualitative research to explore the inflectional suffixes used in Robert Frost's work. Qualitative research is not countable, so the data cannot be counted as it is numerical. This research method is typically unstructured, which suggests it is not ordered or classified logically. The researchers will be able to flip qualitative data into structured quantitative data through analysis strategies like coding. Most of the time, qualitative information will be collected from a smaller sample size than quantitative data generally. This research does not search for detail or a certain number of data.

The researchers get the data from selected poems by Robert Frost. The

E-book is written in English, and it was released on June 27, 2019. The book claimed that it uses for anyone, everywhere. The data includes 2064 inflectional suffixes consisting of 43 poems found in selected poems by Robert Frost. We can know the inflectional suffix that Robert Frost used the most in his poems from those data.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The researchers' research on 43 poems by David Frost found that his work uses all eight kinds of inflectional suffix, namely the suffix – s or – es, 's, –s, – ed, – ing – en, – er, – est. The details can be seen in the table below.

Table 1. The number of using inflectional suffixes in the selected poems by Robert Frost

INFLECTIONAL SUFFIX	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
The plural – s or -es	662	32.07%
Possessive marker 's	110	5.30%
The third person present singular marker –s	249	12.06%
Past tense marker – ed	605	29.30%
Possessive marker – ing	385	18.70%
Past participle markers – en	20	0.98%
Comparative marker – er	29	1.40%
Superlative marker – est	4	0.190%
Total	2.064	100%

From the table above, we can see the most used inflectional suffix

to least used suffix in the selected poem by Robert Frost. The most

used suffix is the suffix – s or –es that indicates plurality. That suffix appears 662 times or equal to 32.07 %. For the least inflectional suffix used is the suffix –est. The suffix is used to indicate comparison in the poems.

1. *Plural marker – s or – es*

In plural marker of noun, -s is a grammatical structure that shows the noun that it has attached to is multiple count number that is to mention, in its plural shape. As mentioned above, if this plural marker is after a sibilant, it will be found in an allomorph shape as –es.

Table 3. The use of Plural marker – s or – es in the selected poem by Robert Frost

Suffix	Word
-s	Apples
-s	friends
-es	branches
-es	birches

Based on the table above, the researchers found the use of plural marker – s and – es. The plural maker –s located in the word apples and friends. The word apples found the sentence 'The scent of apples: I am

drowsing off. In the sentence, the root word of 'apples' is 'apple', a noun meaning apple fruit. For example, the word 'friends' is found in some sentences, 'And sees old friends he somehow cannot get near.' In that sentence, the word 'friends' has the root noun 'friend', which means people we bond to other than family. The word 'branches' and 'birches' get the plural makes –es. The word 'branches' found in the sentence 'Of trees and crack of branches'. In the sentence, the word 'branches' has a root word 'branch', a noun with meaning part of a tree. The word 'birches' found in the sentence 'One could do worse than be a swinger of birches'. In that sentence, the root word of 'birches' is 'birch', meaning tree or name of a tree.

2. *The third person present singular marker –s/-es*

The suffix –s or –es is a third man or woman singular tense indicative of verb. Note that if this third individual singular tense nerve-racking indicative –s is after a sibilant, which is a manner of articulation of fricative or affricate

consonants which are better in pitch such as s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ, the indicative will found in an allomorph form as –es. Allomorphs are exclusive realizations of a morpheme relying on the phonological content material without changing its meaning(s).

Table 3. The use of a suffix –s or –es suffixes in the selected poem by Robert Frost

Suffix	Word
-s	Ages
-s	becomes
-es	goes
-es	tarnishes

Based on table 3, the use of the third person presents singular markers –s and –es. For example, the word ‘ages found in some sentences, in the sentence ‘That could take me from beside you For the ages of a day?’. In that sentence, the root word of ‘ages’ is ‘age’ used as a verb that means grow old or older. The word ‘becomes’ is found in the sentence ‘Just as you will till it becomes a habit’. In the sentence, the word ‘becomes’ has root word ‘become’, which has meaning begin to be. The words that get the suffix –es are ‘goes’ and ‘tarnishes’. The word ‘goes’ is

found in the sentence, ‘Everything goes the same without me there’. The word ‘goes’ has the root word ‘go’, which means happens or occurs in that sentence. The word ‘tarnishes’ is found in the sentence ‘just as the soil tarnishes with weed’. ‘Tarnishes’ has the root verb ‘tarnish’, which means became less worth.

3. Possessive marker 's

A possessive marker is likewise referred to as the genitive of noun phrase. It suggests the possession or ownership of a noun word. If the noun ends within the letter s, the possessive marker will be presented without –s, however most effective as an apostrophe (') because of the phonological reason. It is found some possessive markers in the selected poem by Robert Frost. For example, in the sentence "She took the market things from Warren's arms." The possessive markers in the noun warren means ownership. Another example of the use of genitive of noun phrase found in the sentence "My father's brother, he went mad quite young." In that sentence, the genitive of noun

phrase means my father's brother or my father's ownership of his brother. The possessive marker is also found in the sentence "Leaped out at the boy's hand." It means the ownership, the hand of the boy.

4. *Past tense marker – ed*

This inflectional morpheme conjugates regular verbs to indicate the beyond time frame. The past form of a verb is produced by which includes -ed to the root word. The use of this suffix is found quite frequently in the selected poems by Robert Frost. For example, in the sentence "I waited till Len said the word". The root word of the verb waited is wait which is also a verb. Another example of the past tense marker in the selected poems by Robert Frost is in the sentence, "And her face changed from terrified to dull". In that sentence, the verb changed has a root word change included in the verb classification. The suffix -ed also found joining the word climb, which becomes climbed. That word is found in the sentence "I have climbed the hills of view". Robert Frost used the past tense marker in his

poems to indicate that the event has occurred.

5. *Possessive marker – ing*

This morpheme indicates the existing non-prevent time frame of a verb. For example, in the sentence "He's watching from the woods as like as not,." The root word of the verb watching is a watch which is likewise classified as a verb. The use of the possessive marker – ing in the sentence tells that the event is happening along with the utterance of the sentence. Another example is the verb nodding that is found in the sentence "We talked like barking above the din". The verb barking has the root word bark that is also a verb. It is written in verb –ing since the event happening at the moment of speaking. But be aware that if a verb ends in the letter e, the current form requires the verb to drop the e in the manner to connect the inflectional morpheme because of phonological reason. For instance, in the sentence "He's celebrating something strange." The root word of celebrating ends with the letter e, which is celebrate.

The phonological reason makes us have to drop the letter e, so the verb –ing for the word celebrate is celebrating. The other case is in the sentence "Oh, I'm not blaming you". Blaming has a root word that is a verb that ends with the e letter, blame. Following the applicable rules, to add the possessive marker –ing the letter e must be initiated. Although the letter e is omitted, it does not change the function and past of speech.

6. Past participle markers –en

Inflectional suffixes –en may be used to indicate an activity that has already been performed or has by no means been completed. Usually, this inflectional suffix is applied with have or passive be in the present perfect tense, perfect tenses and past perfect tenses.

Although Robert Frost doesn't use this type of inflectional suffix too much, I can still find it in a few sentences. For example, in the sentence "The river at the time was fallen away". The past participle marker –en added in the verb fall became verb fallen, which means it's

already happened. In that sentence, the suffix is combined with the present perfect tense. This inflectional suffix is likewise found in the sentence "Some thought a dog had bitten him". The verb bitten has a root word that is also a verb, bite. In this case, the inflectional morpheme used in past perfect continuous form. The use of the suffix –en is also used with past perfect simple. For instance, in the sentence "I'd seen about enough of his bulling tricks." The verb seen is added with the suffix –en became seen, which means it has already happened in the past.

7. Comparative marker –er

A comparative is a form that indicates the extra or lesser degree or describes that one thing or a person has more quality than another. A short adverb or adjective, in this situation, is commonly taken into consideration as an adjective or adverb that consists of or fewer syllables. This is to say, the comparative form of a maximum of the short adjectives or adverbs could be root+er. For instance, as I found in the sentence "No longer than that?".

The root word of the word longer is an adjective long. In that sentence, the word longer compares a thing to another thing. If a one-syllable adjective or adverb ends in the letter e, the comparative form just needs to be added with the -r. For example, in the sentence "She was opening the door wider". The word "wider" is comparative, meaning she was opening the door wider or wider than before. Wider has a root word which also an adjective, wide. Moreover, if it ends within the letter y, the comparative allomorph will present as -ier. For example, in the sentence "You'll rest easier when I'm gone, perhaps". The 'easier' root word is the adjective easy that ends with the letter y, so it presents as -ier.

8. *Superlative marker – est*

Superlative suggests the highest stage. As stated above, if an adjective or adverb includes two or much fewer syllables, in most cases, the superlative shape could be root+est. The word that if a one-syllable adjective or adverb ends in the letter e, the superlative form handiest wishes

to feature the -st. Moreover, if it ends inside the letter y, the superlative allomorph will be written as -iest. The only superlative form that I found in selected poems by Robert Frost is the word 'best' in the sentence "It's not that Len don't want the best for me". Best in the superlative form of the adjective 'good'. The superlative is very different because the word good has an irregular adjective.

CONCLUSION

It is known that the inflectional suffix that is used the most in the selected poem by Robert Frost is the plural suffix -s or -es. That suffix found a total of 662 scattered throughout the poems analyzed. On the contrary, the superlative marker -est the least used inflectional suffix in Robert Frost's poems. Out of 100% of the data have collected, the suffix -est only has a percentage of 0.190%. Although basically, the inflectional morpheme only needs to be added to the root word, there are some cases where this rule does not happen. There are specific phonological reasons that make us have to remove or add certain

letters so that the word can be added to the inflectional suffix. It happened in my findings, especially in the comparative marker – er. So from those finding, it can also be said that an Inflectional suffix is an affix that is added at the end of the root word with the aim to change the form of the word without changing the grammatical category.

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