

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Word is one of the major units in linguistic study. To know how words are formed, it is necessary to study morphology. It is in line with Nida's opinion saying that morphology is the study of morphemes and their arrangements in forming words (1962:1). Thus, new words can be created from the existing ones by the use of morphological processes. In other words, it can be said that morphological process is the process of the formation of words out of other units which are their bases. This process may involve morphemes (free or bound morphemes) and other word classes such as noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. Morphological processes include affixation, compounding, reduplication, subtraction, internal change, suppletion, and zero modification.

Inflection is the change in the form of a word to show its case, gender, number, person, tense, mood, voice, aspect or comparison. Inflectional systems involving nouns, pronouns, or adjectives are called declensions, and those involving verbs are called conjugations. While, derivation is closely related to the process of change of the grammatical class, as it is stated in brief explanation of derivational morpheme by Fromkin and Rodman "When some morphemes are attached to another morpheme or word, a new word is derived (1988:48). In fact, some inflectional morphemes are of the same form as derivational morphemes, such as morpheme {-er} in the word *warmer*. It can be inflectional or derivational

morpheme. If *warmer* here means a higher degree of *warmth*, suffix *-er* is an inflectional morpheme, meaning comparative. It is because the addition of suffix *-er* does not change the adjective into other word classes. On the other hand, if *warmer* here means something which makes something else *warm*, suffix *-er* is a derivational morpheme, because suffix *-er* changes adjective into noun. Even, it may happen that one inflectional morpheme belongs to different types; hence has different meanings. Morpheme *{-s}*, for instance, may be plural morpheme, third person singular morpheme, or possessive morpheme. The morpheme *{-s}* meaning plural and third person singular has the same form but they are separate morphemes because each has its own meaning. Morpheme *{-s}* is a plural morpheme if it is added to a singular noun, such as in *two pens*. Morpheme *{-s}* in the word *pens* means plural because morpheme *{-s}* here shows that it is more than one thing and applies to noun. Likewise, morpheme *{-s}* is a third person singular morpheme, as in *he plays*. Morpheme *{-s}* in the word *plays* indicates that it is third person singular because morpheme *{-s}* here signifies that the subject of the verb is a third person singular and applies to verb. Morpheme *{-s}* may also mean possessive morpheme, as in *Budi's bike*. Morpheme *{-s}* in the word *Budi's* shows that morpheme *{-s}* here makes a noun a possessive by the addition of *-s* and applies to noun. This reality becomes a phenomenon that identifying a morpheme, whether it is inflectional or derivational, bears a great problem for the learners of English.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

Inflectional morpheme bears a lot of problems challenging to discuss. The problems are usually found by students in learning English. This topic is chosen to discuss because knowing inflectional morphemes may help learners to better understand the crucial problems of the use of inflectional morpheme. That is why, the researcher is quite eager to do a research on the topic intended. Besides that, the use of inflectional morpheme has a high occurrence in linguistic study. In addition, the researcher wants to analyze inflectional morpheme more deeply in order to get some alternative solutions on the problems.

1.3 The Statement of the Problems

The problems of the use of inflectional morphemes discussed in this research are stated as follows:

1. What inflectional morphemes are used in *Oliver Twist*?
2. What are the characteristics of those inflectional morphemes?
3. What morphological processes take place in the words where the inflectional morphemes exist?

1.4 The Objective of the Study

In line with the problems as stated above, this research tries to answer the three questions, namely:

1. To find the types of inflectional morphemes used in *Oliver Twist*.
2. To explain the characteristics of those inflectional morphemes.

3. To describe the morphological processes undergone by the words where the inflectional morphemes exist.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

It is important to limit the problems which are discussed in this study in order to get detailed information about the topic of discussion. Actually, the topic of discussion in this research is related to morphemes. There are two kinds of morphemes. They are inflectional morpheme and derivational morpheme. But this research focuses on inflectional morphemes only. In order to get better understanding about inflectional morphemes, this study just picks out three aspects to discuss namely, the kinds of inflectional morphemes, the characteristics of inflectional morphemes, and the morphological processes undergone by the words where the inflectional morphemes exist.

In fact, there are nine kinds of inflectional morpheme in English namely, third person singular morpheme, past tense morpheme, past participle morpheme, progressive morpheme, possessive morpheme, plural morpheme, comparative morpheme, superlative morpheme, and morpheme of gender. The nine kinds of inflectional morphemes are used for four word classes. Inflectional morpheme used for verbs includes third person singular, past tense, past participle, and progressive; for nouns includes plural, possessive and gender; for adjectives or adverbs includes comparative and superlative. The understanding about the kinds and the characteristics of inflectional morphemes will help the researcher to determine the morphological processes. The morphological processes that will be

discussed in this research are only suffixation, internal change, suppletion, and zero modification.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

Generally, the researcher hopes that this research will reveal some information about the use of inflectional morphemes valuable to the readers, especially the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala University. Theoretically, this research can help the readers to develop or increase their ability on linguistics, that is, morphemes and specifically on the use of inflectional morphemes. Practically, the result of the research can stimulate other researchers to do further researches on the same topic.

1.7 The Meaning of the Key Terms

1. Morphology. It is the study of morphemes and their arrangement in forming words.
2. Morphological process. It is the process of the formation of words out of other units which are their bases.
3. Morpheme. It is the minimal meaningful unit which may constitute word or part of word; it is a unit in language that carries the meaning.
4. Inflectional morpheme. It is a morpheme that never changes the part of speech of base to which it is attached.
5. Allomorph. It is the variant of morpheme; it is a phonemically different form of the morpheme with the same meaning.

6. Analysis. It is the study of something by examining its parts.
7. Oliver Twist. It is one of the most popular novels written by Charles Dickens.