# Morphology in English

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**Abstract**—This study aims to understand and explain the meaning of morphology in English in general. In addition, this research is also intended to understand and explain the meaning of morpheme and various morphemes in English. Morphology is the study of word structure. Morphology is a branch of linguistics that identifies the basic units of language as grammatical units. As in English, morphology is known as the science that studies word formation. The intricacies of morphemes and words in this section will be discussed in detail.

*Keywords*—adverb phrases, grammatical units, morphemes, morphological process, morphology, prepositional phrases, standard language, syntactic structure, word formation.

## Introduction

There is a form in a language that resembles a word, which can be cut into smaller pieces until it finds a form that no longer has meaning. A morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit that has meaning, and a morpheme is not a unit in syntax. While the word is a language unit that has one meaning or a word in a row of letters flanked by two spaces and has one meaning or the smallest unit in syntax (Morris & Holcomb, 2005; Rastle, 2019; Tyler & Nagy, 1989).

Traditional grammar does not recognize the concept or term morpheme, because morpheme is not a unit in syntax, and not all morphemes have a philosophical meaning. The concept of morpheme was introduced by structuralists in the early twentieth century. To determine whether a formed unit is a morpheme or not, we must compare the form in its presence with other forms. If the form is found to be present repeatedly with other forms, then that form is a morpheme (Kau et al., 2010;

Clahsen & Almazan, 1998; Benedet et al., 1998; Seidenberg & Gonnerman, 2000). So, the similarity of meaning and similarity of form are the characteristics or identities of a morpheme.

It has been mentioned that a morpheme is the same form, which occurs repeatedly in other units of form. Different realized forms of the same morpheme are called allomorphs. In other words, an allomorph is a concrete manifestation (in speech) of a morpheme. So, every morpheme must have allomorphs, either one, either two, or six. In addition, it can also be said that morphs and allomorphs are two names for the same form. Morph is the name for all forms whose status is unknown; while allomorph is the name for the form if the morpheme status is known. The words can be interpreted as follows (Plunkett & Marchman, 1993; De Gispert & Mariño, 2008; Tessier et al., 2012). "However, since most linguists now employ the term 'word' to refer to such phonological or orthographical or orthographic units such as sang on the hand, or to the grammatical units they represent, on the other hand, (and indeed do not always distinguish even between these two senses), we shall introduce another term, lexeme, to denote the more 'abstract' unit which occurs in different inflexional 'forms' according to the syntactic rules involved in the generation of sentences".

Therefore, the word is distinguished from the concept of a lexeme. Lexem is an abstract unit (Gor et al., 2010; Papafragou et al., 2007; Bates et al., 1987). In other words, a lexeme is (1) the smallest unit in the lexicon; (2) units that act as inputs in the morphological process; (3) standard language in the morphological process; (4) elements that are known as predicates, whether or not accompanied by objects, complements, and descriptions, while limits that a clause is a group of words that only contains one predicate. A clause is a grammatical unit in the form of a combination of words that at least consists of a subject and a predicate (Le Corre et al., 2016; Patterson et al., 2001; Salaberry, 2000). The clause or combination of words has the potential to become a sentence. The termination clause is used to refer to a series of words that have at least a subject and a predicate, but do not yet have a certain intonation or punctuation. Sentence terms also contain elements of at least having a subject and a predicate, but have been affixed with a certain intonation or punctuation mark (Newman et al., 2007; Eddington, 2000; Albright & Hayes, 2003). Thus, a clause is a group of words that has a subject and a verb.

In English, clauses are divided into two types, namely independent clauses, and dependent clauses. An independent clause is a clause that has a subject and a predicate and can stand alone as a sentence. For example, I love you. While the bound clause is a clause that has a subject and a predicate but cannot stand alone as a sentence. Usually, abound clause starts with subordinating conjunctions such as because, what, if, etc. For example: Because we are a family. In English, there are also noun clauses, adjective clauses (relative clauses), and adverb clauses. These three clauses are classified as bound clauses because these clauses cannot stand alone as sentences.

### Method

A sentence is an orderly arrangement of words that contains a complete opinion. The basis of the sentence is the basic constituents and the final intonation. The final intonation that characterizes a sentence is (1) declarative intonation, represented by a period, (2) interrogative intonation, symbolized by a question mark, and (3) exclamation point, symbolized by an exclamation mark. Example sentences in English, I walk. This sentence has a subject and the main verb and the sentence already meets the sentence standards because it has expressed a complete opinion. In English, sentences consist of simple sentences, compound sentences, and compound sentences.

#### Result and Discussion

Talking about syntactic structure, then we definitely talk about syntactic functions, syntactic categories, and syntactic roles. Before talking about all that, it is necessary to first discuss general rules regarding sentence construction, namely matters relating to units that are smaller than the sentence itself. These units are often termed clauses, phrases, words, or morphemes. The relationship between units with other units is often called part of the constituent. In general, the syntactic structure in English consists of the arrangement of the subject (S), verb (V), object (O), and complement (C), and adverb (A). These syntactic functions are "empty boxes" which mean nothing because of their emptiness. For the empty box to have meaning, it must be filled by something that has a certain category and role.

#### **Phrases**

A phrase is a grammatical unit in the form of a combination of words that are non-predictive or a combination of words that fills one of the syntactic functions in a sentence. Phrases in English can be interpreted as a group of related words. For example, the small house, the man, the evenings, very cold, just recently. Based on this example, in English, it is known that there are several types of phrases, including noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, adverb phrases, and prepositional phrases. For example in the sentence: Some students will be studying late in their rooms. If analyzed, the sentence consists of noun phrases (some students), working phrases (will be studying), adverb phrases (late), and prepositional phrases (in their rooms).

#### Clause

A clause is a predicative syntactic unit. That is, in the unit or construction there is a predicate, if in that unit there is no predicate, then the unit is not a clause. A clause is a grammatical unit consisting of a subject and the existence of a form which after being segmented from a complex form is a basic form that is separated from the

morphological process (Hare & Elman, 1995; Hay & Baayen, 2005; Goad & White, 2008); (5) forms that are not classified as prolexemes or particles.

## Classification of morphemes

Morphemes in each language can be classified based on several criteria, including based on their freedom, integrity, meaning, and so on. The classification of morphemes is free morphemes are morphemes without the presence of other morphemes that can appear in speech (Sahin et al., 2006; Stoffelsma et al., 2020; Grodzinsky, 1984). For example, in Indonesian, the morphemes go home, eat, home, and good are free morphemes. Examples in English are the morphemes eat, drink, house, book, and bag. Bound morphemes are morphemes that without being combined with other morphemes cannot appear in speech (Burchert et al., 2003; Bird et al., 2003). All affixes in Indonesian are bound morphemes. Regarding this bound morpheme in Indonesian, there are several things that need to be said.

- Forms such as fighting, stopping, slang, and diffuse are also bound morphemes, because these forms, although not affixes, cannot appear in speech without first undergoing morphological processes, such as affixation, reduplication, and composition. Forms are commonly called *prakate-gorial* forms (Teichtahl et al., 2007);
- Forms such as reading, writing, and kicking are also precategorial forms, so they
  can only appear in speech after undergoing a morphological process;
- Forms such as old, *kerontang*, fit are also bound morphemes. Then, because they can only appear in certain pairs, these forms are also called unique morphemes;
- Forms that include prepositions and conjunctions, such as to, from, and, if, and
  or morphologically include free morphemes, but syntactically they are bound
  forms;
- The so-called *clitika* is a morpheme whose status is rather difficult to determine.

Clitics are short forms, usually only one syllable, phonologically unstressed, their appearance in speech is always attached to other forms but can be separated. For example *klitika*, *lah*, *ku*. According to its position clitics, clitics are usually divided into proclitics and enclitics. Proclitics is a clitic that is positioned in front of a word that is followed: Me and you, I carry and take. Enklitika *klitika* which is positioned behind the attached word, such as –lah, her, and –*ku*, she sits, and my fate (Slioussar et al., 2014; Hawkins & Casillas, 2008).

#### Conclusion

All the basic free morphemes discussed include intact morphemes, such as {table}, {chair}, {small], {sea}, and {pencil}. A divided morpheme is a morpheme that is divided into two separate parts. For example, there is one unity. That morpheme is

one morpheme that is divided, namely (to-/-an). In Arabic, as well as in Hebrew, all root morphemes for verbs are divided morphemes, which consist of three consonants separated by three vowels, which are also divided into bound morphemes. In connection with this divided morpheme, for Indonesian, some notes need to be considered, namely: First, all affixes called confixes such as (ke-/-an),(ber-/-an), (per-/-an), and (per-/-an) is a divided morpheme. Second, in Indonesian, there are affixes called infixes, namely affixes that are inserted in the middle of the base morpheme. For example (-er-) in the word gear, infix (-er-) in the word trigger. Thus the infix has changed the intact morpheme (tooth) into divided morpheme (g-/-igi-) intact morpheme (patuk) into divided morpheme (p-/-atuk), in Indonesian this infix is not productive, it can be applied to words anything.

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