

The Morphological Analysis of Inflectional Plural Noun Suffixes Found in Catharsis Novel by Anastasia Aemilia

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Abstract

Novel is a long narrative story that describes the specific human experiences in their life as depicted by the portrait of the characters. A novel that is written by Anastasia Aemilia entitled Catharsis talks about the story of a troubled young woman with special gifts and heavy burdens. Observing inflectional suffix aims to enrich the language learners' vocabulary especially noun in plural forms. This qualitative research focuses on the analysis of inflectional plural noun suffixes that are found in the novel entitled Catharsis. This study is also analyzed based on the theory that proposed by Katamba (1993) regarding to the research problem which about the types of inflectional plural noun suffix. The results that are found 681 data that contain inflectional suffixes. Those data are divided into 3 categories namely 646 data (95%) of plural noun suffix (-s), 28 data (4%) of plural noun suffix (-es), and 7 data (1%) of plural suffix (-ies).

Keywords: Catharsis, inflectional suffix, morphology, novel, plural noun

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a necessary platform that can be a bridge of communication for human being. It is an essential mandatory for language learners to be able to understand its main elements such as vocabulary, structure, etc. Language can be used to convey ideas, information, thoughts, or opinions through verbal or written forms. Morphology is a study of words and word changes regarding to its forms, classes, and meanings. According to Yule (2010:67), morphology is the study focusing more on forms in language rather than depending on identifying words. Bloomfield (1926), word refers to the smallest meaningful linguistic unit that can be used on its own. A word can be formed by several components into one combination that are called morpheme.

According to Lim Kiat Boey (1975), morpheme refers to the basic and smallest unit of a language. Moreover, Haspelmath and Sims (2010:2) defined that morpheme is the smallest meaningful constituents of words that can be identified. Katamba (1993) classified morpheme into two categories namely free and bound morphemes. Free morpheme can be described as a morpheme that can stand meaningfully and independently as a word. On the other hand, a morpheme that cannot stand alone is called bound morpheme. According to Katamba (1993:41), there are some internal elements that can build the word structures namely root, stem, base, and affix. Regarding to its definition, bound morphemes that are connected with free morphemes are known as affixes.

Affixes can be divided into three parts, they are prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. Affix can be also categories into derivational and inflectional, both prefixes and suffixes can have derivational forms whereas suffixes are the only one that can be inflectional forms. Derivational affix is the process of adding bound morpheme into a word by changing its meaning and class. However, inflectional affix is attached into a word without giving meaning or class changes. Inflectional suffixes mark properties such as singular and plural numbers of nouns, verb tenses, and adjective degrees. Learning affixes can help the language learners to improve their vocabulary by analyzing the word changes when it is added with other morphemes. There are several strategies to expand the vocabulary, for instance, watching a movie, listening to music, and reading a novel.

Inflection of nouns in the plural form is quite easy because it only puts “-s” to the end of the word; for example, the term “table” becomes “tables”. Nouns ending in “s, ss, sh, ch, o, x, and z” can be inflected by adding “-es” at the end of the word; for example, the term “gas” becomes “gases”, and the word “class” becomes “classes”, the word “church” becomes “churches”, the word “brush” becomes “brushes”, the term “fox” becomes “foxes”, etc. Meanwhile, nouns ending with a consonant followed by the letter “y” can be inflected by adding “-ies” to the word; for example, the term “city” becomes “cities” and “story” becomes “stories”. In addition, nouns that end with a vowel and are followed by the letter “y” can be inflated by adding an “-s” at the end of the word; for example, the term “boy” becomes “boys” and “day” becomes “days”.

This study is also supported by some previous empirical studies from different scholars that are related to inflectional suffixes. First, Sari and Nufus (2022) conducted research of types and functions of inflectional affixes through a short story entitled *Rumpelstiltskin*. This previous study focused on the analysis of inflectional affixes in noun, verb, and adjective word classes. The researchers concluded that the most dominant words that used in the story are verbs in simple past forms. On the other hand, Rezeki and Sagala

(2019) conducted research of derivational and inflectional affixes through song lyrics written by Christina Perry. This previous study analyzed three-word classes that are added affixes such as noun, verb, and adjective. The results of this previous study found that inflectional affixes are more dominant than derivational affixes. While, Purwanti (2020) also conducted research of derivational and inflectional affixes through song lyrics on Maher Zain's album. This previous study concerned on the analysis of several word classes such as noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. The result of this study presented that derivational affixes are least dominant than inflectional affixes. Furthermore, Tariq, et.al (2020) also conducted the analysis of derivational and inflectional morphemes of Pakistani students at the intermediate level. This previous study focused on the Pakistani students' contents related to derivational and inflectional morphemes. Lastly, Ifadloh, et.al (2022) conducted research related to inflectional morphemes in a short story entitled *The Child's Story*. This previous study focused on several word classes that are added inflectional affixes such as noun, verb, and adjective.

There are some similarities and differences that are found between this research and the previous studies. This research is similar in conducting the analysis of inflectional morphemes as each previous study that are presented as above. In conducting the analysis, this research is also similar in applying descriptive qualitative method. On the other hand, the data source of this study was taken from a novel whereas the other studies used song lyrics, short stories, and students' contents. Furthermore, this study only focuses on the inflectional plural noun suffixes as different with other studies that concerned through noun, verb, adjective, and adverb.

Based on the explanation above, this study analyzes the inflectional suffixes through plural nouns that are found in a novel entitled *Catharsis* (2019). This novel is chosen as the data source because it contains a lot of inflectional morphemes as the research problem in this study. Moreover, this research contributes to the field of morphological analysis because it shows the analysis of morphological affixes especially inflectional suffix towards plural nouns in the novel which is rarely analyzed by other researchers. This contribution helps the students, language learners, and lecturers as a reference in understanding the study of morphological analysis especially inflectional suffixes.

METHOD

This study uses descriptive qualitative method in conducting the research based on the proposed theory. Moleong (1983:3) stated that qualitative research implicates collecting and analyzing non-numerical data such as; text, video, or audio in order to comprehend concepts, opinions, or experiences. In collecting

the research data, this research also applies several following steps namely; reading Catharsis novel comprehensively, identifying and highlighting the plural noun suffixes in the novel, and classifying the suffixes into (-s), (-es), and (-ies) from novel. The novel that is referred to in this study is Catharsis. This novel is written by Anastasia Aemilia and published in 2019, with a thickness of 272 pages. Catharsis novel tells about the story of a troubled young woman with special gifts and heavy burdens. In this novel, the author also emphasizes the clear and readable word choices so that the audience can understand the story.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After collecting the research data, this study found that all types of inflectional plural noun suffixes that are observed in Catharsis novel. According to Katamba (1993:205), inflectional morphology deals with the process of affixation that are related to syntactic structure. Moreover, inflectional morpheme occurs at different points in a sentence which means the syntax imposes the affixes as the obligatory choices (Greenberg as cited in Katamba, 1993:206).

The complete findings are listed in the appendix section. The findings reveal that inflectional suffixes in this study consist of 3 categories, namely “-s, -es, and -ies”. Plural noun can be formed by adding suffixes “-s, -es, and -ies” together with a noun. For example, suffix “-s” is added into some nouns such as arms, cops, parents, stairs, things, times, and wounds. On the other hand, for those nouns that are ended with “s, ss, sh, ch, o, x, and z” can be inflected by adding suffix “-es” at the end of the word such as clothes, toolboxes, leaves, and tornadoes. Meanwhile, those nouns that are ended by consonant and followed by letter “y” can be inflected by adding suffix “-ies” at the end of the word such as arteries, cries, ladies, and thieveries.

Regarding the results above, there are several inflectional suffixes related to the process of forming the grammatical structure without changing the meaning and word class. The most dominant inflectional suffix that found in Catharsis novel is the plural suffix “-s” with 646 data out of 681 data. To find out clearly about the results of this study, it can be seen as the table as follows.

Table 1. *Inflectional Plural Noun Suffixes found in Catharsis novel*

No.	Types of Inflectional Suffix	Suffix	Occurrence	Percentage
1.	Plural Noun	-s	646	95%
2.		-es	28	4%
3.		-ies	7	1%
Total Data			681	100%

From table 1, it can be seen that the amount of inflectional suffix that are found in the data source regarding to plural noun are 681 data. The most dominant of inflectional suffix is suffix “-s” with 646 out of 681 occurrences or 95%. On the other hand, the least dominant of inflectional suffix is suffix “-ies” with 7 out of 681 occurrence or 1%.

1. Inflectional Suffix -s

According to Katamba (1993:51), suffix “-s” is added together with noun regarding to the process of forming the grammatical structure. This process aims to change noun from singular form into plural form. Those plural nouns that are added inflectional suffix “-s” still have the equal position as singular noun, it merely carries information about the number of those entities. There are 7 words that are most often appear in the data source that are added suffix “-s” namely arms, cops, parents, stairs, things, times, and wounds. The word “arms” occurs thirty-one times, the word “cops” occurs nineteen times, the word “stairs” occurs seventeen times, the word “things” occurs twenty-five, the words “parents”, “times”, and “wounds” occurs thirteen times.

Data 1

“My arms were bound together by...” (Aemilia, 2013:9)

The suffix of the word “arms” is -s and the base word is arm. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “arm” is added suffix -s at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “arms” refers to either of the two long parts that stick out from the top of the body and connect the shoulders to the hands. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes part of human body that connects the shoulders to the hands which the character’s arms.

Data 2

...to understand the things that were said to them.” (Aemilia, 2013:16)

The suffix of the word “things” is -s and the base word is thing. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “thing” is added suffix -s at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “things” refers to objects, clothing or tools that belong

to somebody or are used for a particular purpose. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes particular things that have a lot of numbers which is related to some information.

Data 3

“...they finally contacted the cops.” (Aemilia, 2013:61)

The suffix of the word “cops” is -s and the base word is cop. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “thing” is added suffix -s at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “cops” is similar to police officer, which refers to someone whose job is to make people obey the law and to prevent and solve crime. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes some police officers who work together to solve the criminal case in the story.

Data 4

“...down the flight of stairs towards the kitchen.” (Aemilia, 2013:35)

The suffix of the word “stairs” is -s and the base word is stair. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “thing” is added suffix -s at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “stairs” refers to a set of steps built between two floors inside a building. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes the set of steps that are built towards the kitchen.

Data 5

“You should answer when your parents call you, Tara!” (Aemilia, 2013:29)

The suffix of the word “parents” is -s and the base word is parent. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “thing” is added suffix -s at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “parents” refers to a person’s father or mother. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes the character’s father and mother at the same time by using a plural noun.

Data 6

“...under more than a million times magnification.” (Aemilia, 2013:56)

The suffix of the word “times” is -s and the base word is time. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “thing” is added suffix -s at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “times” refers to what is measured in minutes, hours, days, etc. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes the something that is related to minutes, hours, days, and others which may not be counted in a single number.

Data 7

“Arif Johandi (53), was found barely alive with countless stab wounds...” (Aemilia, 2013:13)

The suffix of the word “wounds” is -s and the base word is wound. The suffix of the word “times” is -s and the base word is time. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “thing” is added suffix -s at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “wounds” refers to an injury to part of the body, especially one in which a hole is made in the skin using a weapon. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes someone’s injury and it cannot be counted in number because it makes some numbers of hole in the skin.

2. Inflectional Suffix -es

According to Katamba (1993:51), suffix “-es” is added together with noun regarding to the process of forming the grammatical structure. This process aims to change noun from singular form into plural form. Those plural nouns that are added inflectional suffix “-es” still have the equal position as singular noun which is ended by the letters s, ss, sh, ch, o, x, and z. There are 3 words that are most often appear in the data source that are added suffix “-es” namely clothes, toolboxes, and tornadoes. The word “clothes” occurs seven times, the word “toolboxes” occurs six times, the word “tornadoes” occurs once.

Data 8

“...my books and gym clothes inside my schoolbag...” (Aemilia, 2013:42)

The suffix of the word “clothes” is -es and the base word is cloth. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “cloth” is added suffix -es at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This noun is added suffix -es because it is ended by “th” at the end of the word.

This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “clothes” refers to the things that you wear, such as trousers, dresses and jackets. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes someone’s things that usually wear when they are going to gym or sport center.

Data 9

“...rainstorms, thunderclouds, tornadoes, things that make you....” (Aemilia, 2013:49)

The suffix of the word “tornadoes” is -es and the base word is tornado. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “cloth” is added suffix -es at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This noun is added suffix -es because it is ended by “o” at the end of the word. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “tornadoes” refers to a violent storm with very strong winds that move in a circle. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes the natural disasters that occur in the story including tornadoes.

Data 10

“I know what you were doing back then with those toolboxes.” (Aemilia, 2013:101)

The suffix of the word “toolboxes” is -es and the base word is toolboxes. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “toolbox” is added suffix -es at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This noun is added suffix -es because it is ended by “x” at the end of the word. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “toolboxes” refers to a box with a cover for keeping tools in. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes the tools and equipments that are brought by the character in this story are a lot, so it needs some boxes to keep it.

3. Inflectional Suffix -ies

According to Katamba (1993:51), suffix “-ies” is added together with noun regarding to the process of forming the grammatical structure. This process aims to change noun from singular form into plural form. Those plural nouns that are added inflectional suffix “-ies” still have the equal position as singular noun which is ended by the consonant letter and followed by letter “y”. There are 2 words that are most often appear in

the data source that are added suffix “-ies” namely cries and arteries. The word “cries” occurs two times and the word “arteries” occurs once.

Data 11

“In the absence of his cries...” (Aemilia, 2013:31)

The suffix of the word “cries” is -ies and the base word is cry. The suffix of the word “cries” is -ies and the base word is cry. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “cry” is added suffix -ies at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This noun is added suffix -ies because it is ended by consonant letter “r” and also followed by letter “y” at the end of the word. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “cries” refers to a loud sound without words that expresses a strong feeling. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes the sounds that are loudly made by the character in this story.

Data 12

“...the blood that flowed from his veins and arteries...” (Aemilia, 2013:79)

The suffix of the word “arteries” is -ies and the base word is artery. The process of suffixation can be seen from the data above, singular noun “artery” is added suffix -ies at the end of the root without changing the meaning or the word class. This noun is added suffix -ies because it is ended by consonant letter “r” and also followed by letter “y” at the end of the word. This process merely involves the grammatical structure of noun from singular to plural form. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “arteries” refers to any of the tubes that carry blood from the heart to other parts of the body. Based on its definition, it can be analyzed that the author describes part of human body that carry blood in the form of tubes.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there are two types of morphemes which are free morphemes and bound morphemes. Free morpheme can be described as a morpheme that can stand meaningfully and independently as a word, while a morpheme that cannot stand alone is called bound morpheme. There are two categories of bound morpheme that can be divided into inflectional and derivational morpheme. This study focuses on analyzing inflectional noun suffixes in Catharsis novel that written by Anastasia Aemilia. Based on the result of this study, inflectional plural noun suffixes are excessively used in the novel. There are 681 data that related to

inflectional suffixes are found in this study. The plural noun that used the suffix -s is the most dominant data in the novel.

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Appendix

Sample of Inflectional Plural Noun Suffixes found in Catharsis novel.

Suffix	Mean	Words	Frequency
		Abominations	1
		Accidents	2
		Anesthetics	2
		Ankles	2
		Antiques	1
		Antiseptics	1
		Arms	31
		Bars	4
		Bats	1
		Bikers	1
		Billows	1
		Blades	1
		Bloodstains	1
		Bones	3
		Books	6
		Boots	2
		Bricks	1
		Bridges	1
		Bullets	1
		Buttons	1
		Calories	1
		Cars	4
		Cartilages	1
		Cases	2
		Chances	1
-s	Plural Noun	Claws	6
		Clouds	1
		Coincidences	2
		Constraints	1
		Contents	1
		Contractors	2
		Cops	19
		Corners	4
		Cramps	1
		Criminologists	1
		Crooks	1
		Cups	4
		Descendants	1
		Discolorations	1
		Doctors	2
		Doors	4
		Drapes	3
		Dreams	1
		Drums	1
		Edges	1
		Elbows	3
		Elixirs	1
		Eyebrows	4
		Faces	2
		Fangs	1
		Feathers	1

Suffix	Mean	Words	Frequency
		Fibers	1
		Files	4
		Finals	1
		Fingernails	2
		Footsteps	2
		Forefingers	1
		Friends	4
		Games	4
		Germs	1
		Gestures	1
		Giggles	1
		Girls	4
		Glances	2
		Gloves	1
		Grains	1
		Guests	1
		Gusts	1
		Heels	2
		Hinges	1
		Homes	1
		Hopes	3
		Hospitals	1
		Hours	12
		Inhabitants	1
		Jackets	1
		Jaws	2
		Keys	1
		Kids	2
		Kilometers	1
		Knockings	1
		Knocks	3
		Laps	1
		Lectures	1
		Legs	18
		Letters	1
		Lights	3
		Limbs	1
		Lines	3
		Lives	5
		Manufacturers	1
		Meals	1
		Meds	1
		Meters	3
		Microphones	1
		Minutes	8
		Mistakes	1
		Moments	2
		Monsters	3
		Mornings	1
		Motorcycles	2
		Mouths	1
		Murders	4
		Muscles	2
		Nails	5
		Names	4
		Needles	1

Suffix	Mean	Words	Frequency
		Neighbors	4
		Nerves	5
		Nights	2
		Noises	1
		Numbers	4
		Objects	1
		Ogres	1
		Others	4
		Pails	1
		Pants	3
		Papers	6
		Parents	13
		Parts	7
		Patients	4
		Pedestrians	1
		Photos	5
		Photographs	1
		Pictures	5
		Pieces	11
		Pills	9
		Pirates	1
		Places	1
		Plans	2
		Problems	4
		Racks	1
		Rains	2
		Rainstorms	1
		Reasons	1
		Reporters	7
		Reports	2
		Residents	4
		Restaurants	1
		Roots	1
		Ropes	1
		Rounds	1
		Rumors	2
		Sandals	1
		Saucers	1
		Scars	5
		Scissors	3
		Screams	4
		Seconds	6
		Secrets	4
		Sedges	1
		Senses	2
		Sessions	3
		Shades	1
		Shards	2
		Sheets	2
		Shins	1
		Shoes	2
		Shorts	1
		Shoulders	6
		Shovels	1
		Siblings	1
		Sides	2

Suffix	Mean	Words	Frequency
		Signs	5
		Singers	1
		Skills	4
		Skirts	1
		Sleeves	7
		Slippers	1
		Sons	1
		Sounds	5
		Soybeans	1
		Spectacles	1
		Speculations	2
		Spells	1
		Splinters	1
		Sprouts	1
		Stacks	1
		Stairs	17
		Steps	12
		Stethoscopes	1
		Strands	2
		Strides	2
		Stripes	1
		Students	2
		Suspensions	1
		Tears	12
		Textbooks	3
		Thermos	2
		Thermometers	1
		Things	25
		Thoughts	3
		Throbs	2
		Thumbs	1
		Tiles	2
		Times	13
		Tons	1
		Tools	1
		Tracks	3
		Traits	1
		Treats	2
		Trees	4
		Trips	1
		Variants	1
		Veins	1
		Vessels	2
		Victims	7
		Views	1
		Villagers	2
		Voices	6
		Wheels	1
		Whereabouts	1
		Whispers	1
		Windows	1
		Wounds	13
		Wrists	1
		Years	11
-es	Plural Noun	Ashes	1
		Bitches	1

Suffix	Mean	Words	Frequency
		Blitzes	1
		Buses	1
		Clothes	7
		Leaves	9
		Rashes	1
		Toolboxes	6
		Tornadoes	1
		Arteries	1
		Cries	2
		Difficulties	1
		Greeneries	1
		Ladies	1
		Thieveries	1
Total			681