

MORPHOLOGICAL PATTERNS IN THE NOVEL DISCOURSE: ANALYSING CONTEXTUAL MEANINGS TO ENHANCE COMPREHENSION

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Abstract

Language encapsulates the structure of words, their meanings, and contextual comprehension in various domains like literature, linguistics, and philosophy. The interchangeable use of words in different domains can discomfit the understanding of certain texts and restrict the imaginative extent of a reader. Morphology constructs a wide range of words, structuring them meticulously into their respective categories and clarifying their meanings. This article is based on the morphological analysis of 40 words selected through purposive sampling technique to focus on the implied meanings from sentences to words. The objective of this article is to target the lexical, functional, derivational, and inflectional morphemes from the text of the novel Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. The results of the study reveal that the morphology helps to modulate the contextual use of words by analysing their independent and dependent origins. The researcher recommends that employing morphological investigations can clarify the sense of text and convey the accurate meaning of words to suffice reading in connection with words and their contextual understanding.

Keywords: *Comprehension, morphology, functional, derivational, contextual*

Introduction

The origin of communication and conveyance of simple ideas is rooted in language; build with words that communicate purpose and meaning to understand and analyze texts (Akram & Abdelrady, 2023; Ramzan et al., 2023). As the vocabulary extends and adds a variety of new words with the contribution of bound and free morphemes, comprehending incessantly adds to the mandatory understanding in daily life (Li & Akram, 2023, 2024; Ramzan et al., 2023; Javaid & Mahmood, 2023). The analysis of targeting a specific text and recognizing the bound and free morphemes in it with their further classifications helps us to fathom the text and improve comprehension tactics. The awareness of words is cognizant of morphology and syntax. Therefore, the entire morphological analysis remains the prime purpose of conducting the analysis (Ramzan et al., 2023).

Morphology is the study of words and their formation; words have single or multiple elements of meanings which are called morphemes. They are the minimal units of words that are divided into two major types; free and bound morphemes. Free morphemes are further classified into lexical and functional morphemes and bound morphemes are classified into derivational and inflectional morphemes.

Literature Review:

Linguistics:

Linguistics is the scientific study of language which consists of branches including, Historical Linguistics, Phonetics and Phonology, Morphology, Sociolinguistics, Semantics, Pragmatics, Grammar, Syntax, Applied Linguistics, Stylistics, Neurolinguistics, Evolutionary Linguistics, Comparative Linguistics, Clinical Linguistics, Developmental and Computational Linguistics.

Cook (2003) says language plays a significant role in communicating and conveying meaning. Therefore, language is a key to the door of life (Akram et al., 2020; Abdelrady & Akram, 2022; Ramzan et al., 2021). Following this theory, the research will focus on the topic of morphology. According to Noam Chomsky (1928), humans are species with the ability to classify and comprehend the meaning and formation of words. This theory connects the classification and the presence of understanding the words (Ramzan et al., 2020). The idea concerns the classification of morphemes depending on their individual characteristics, therefore, this article will permit morphology in accordance to the meaning and formation of words.

Morphological Analysis:

According to Bauer (2007), morphology encompasses the structures of words, their organization, formation, order, and composition of the words. For example, the word 'receive' is a combination of elements re- and -ceive; another word, discomfoting, contains two elements contributing to the word, dis-, and -ing. This shows that Bauer's theory explains that the smallest elements create a word and project the structure of words and their representation. According to Leiber (2004), morphology is the study of word formation that discusses the unconventional and the wide range of ways the words are coined. These various ways are used to formulate new sentences; this study of words also functionalizes the meaning and comprehension of sentences with creativity, variation, and modernism. Nagy, Anderson, Schommer, Scott, and Stallman (1989) stated that the best measure of frequency is not the individual word itself but the family or those words closely related in form and meaning. The researcher concludes building a vocabulary strategy program based on morphological analysis that includes parts of words that are stable in form and transparent in meaning will not be of use if these parts assist in recalling or learning only a few words.

Morphological classification of words has a huge relation with the reading comprehension of words. This connection of comprehension with word structure keeps the purpose active. Consequently, the structure of words and classification makes the entire complexity of language easier and more convenient for elaborative textual analysis.

Morphemes:

According to Webster's Third International Dictionary (1993), the root morph in morphology is defined as form. These forms are a part of morphology as they contribute to the structure of words. Morphemes are the minimal unit of words that have meanings and cannot break down further. It also refers to the grammatical function of words, for example, dresses, dressed, and dressing; consisting of elements of -s, -ed, and -ing. These are the minimal sets and have further divisions.

According to Venezky (1967), "Orthography is not merely a letter-to-sound system riddled with imperfections, but, instead, a more complex and more regular relationship wherein phoneme and morpheme share leading roles" (Venezky, 1967, p. 77). This connection of phoneme and morpheme share roles where the reading comprehension concerns phonetic ability. These morphemes are as connected to the textual analysis as the morphological.

Free Morphemes:

Free morphemes are a type of morphemes commonly referred to as 'open class words'. These morphemes can stand independently. These words can stand by themselves and be used independently. For example, words like selfie, grandfie, and other new or common words are recognized as free morphemes. These contain nouns, adjectives, and verbs and are the identification of free morphemes.

Lexical and Functional Morphemes:

Lexical and functional morphemes are the further division of free morphemes. Lexical morphemes refer to words like girl, man, tree, house, etc., whereas functional morphemes refer

to words like it, them, they, because, near, etc (Ahmad et al., 2022). Lexical morphemes contain nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs; functional morphemes contain prepositions, conjunctions, articles, and pronouns (Amjad et al., 2021). These are the forms of basic identification and simplification of free morphemes.

Bound Morphemes:

Bound morphemes are words that are dependent on the other word. These conventionally cannot stand independently and are reliable on other words. It contains of prefixes and suffixes like un-, dis-, re-, and -able, -ment, -ly. For example, carelessness, undressed, teacher where -less and -ness are dependent on care, undressed where un- and -ed depend on dress, and teacher where -er is dependent on teach. It converts the grammatical composition of the word and stays dependent on the other word.

Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes:

Derivational and Inflectional morphemes are types of bound morphemes. Derivational morphemes contain prefixes and suffixes, which convert the grammatical context of words (as mentioned before). Inflectional morphemes showcase the singularity or plurality of words, past tense or not, and the comparative or possession forms of words. For example, -'s, -ed, -s, -ing, -er, and -est. They contain nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

Research Methodology:

The research focuses on the classification of words based on texts and comprehension using Cook's theory (2003) which focuses on language and the importance of word meanings and their context. and Leiber's theory (2004) of unconventional words, newly coined words, their composition, and meanings. Bauer's theory (20027) explains that the smallest elements form a word, their structure, and representation. He highlights the importance and impact of elements in a word and their deliverance of meaning.

This research article emphasizes reading strategies and criteria in which the text is simplified. In this research qualitative method is used to simplify the words, their meanings, and textual comprehension using Louisa May Alcott's Little Women.

The Program:

Text and Classification

The research includes fixed data that varies from free to bound morphemes. The objective is to analyse words that would help the reader comprehend the text and formulate the meaning with a critical approach. It contains of 40 words which are classified on the basis of free and bounds morphemes with further classification.

The following text is distinctive through its morphemic and grammatical categories. The focus lies on the first fourteen sentences by eliminating the repeated words to form a clear table. The text is extracted from Little Women by Louisa May Alcott, written in the Post-Colonial times, which speaks on a feministic approach and acknowledges domestic as well as working women. Every form of discourse vocalizes influence toward the audience, thus, selecting Little Women was a conscious choice to highlight the feministic theory and help readers embark on a modern, equal, and radical approach. The text is from chapter number 13, called 'Castles in the Air', a fantasizing glimpse of the novel that draws light on the mellow wishes and longingness for material which are eventually shattered for love.

Castles

The word *castles* contains of two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme which contains of the functional word noun and is further categorized in the inflectional morpheme due to its feature of plurality -s.

In

The word *in* contains of one morpheme which is a functional morpheme. As it signifies the functional preposition.

The

The word *the* is a functional morpheme and considered an indefinite article as used to modify non-specific or specific nouns.

Air

The word *air* consists of one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme as per its ability of standing alone as a noun and being comprehensible.

Laurie

The word *Laurie* contains of one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme because it is a name and names are highlighted under the category of noun.

Luxuriously

The word *luxuriously* contains of two morphemes. It is an independent word which means it is a lexical morpheme and an adjective. It highlights the suffix at the end of the word with *-ly* which shows its derivational feature to the structure of the word.

Swinging

It contains of two morphemes which is a lexical morpheme being independent in its meaning and is a noun considering *swing*. The word contains the inflectional aspect due to the *-ing* and if considered fully, it is a verb due to the action performance.

His

The word *his* contains of one morpheme. It is a functional morpheme and has the grammatical classification of a pronoun.

Hammock

The word *hammock* contains of one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme as it can stand independently and has the grammatical classification of a noun because it is a name.

One

The word *one* is a lexical morpheme. The grammatical classification of this word belongs to a noun as it is a number and can stand independently.

Warm

The word *warm* is a lexical morpheme. It can stand alone and has an independent meaning. The grammatical classification of this word belongs to the adjective as it describes a feature.

September

The word *September* is a lexical morpheme. It has the grammatical classification of a noun because it is named after a month.

Day

The word *day* has one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme and grammatically is classified as a noun.

Wondering

The word *wondering* has two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and has an inflectional morpheme as it has *-ing* and shows the tense. It has the grammatical classification of a noun.

Neighbors

The word *neighbours* contains two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme because it can stand alone and has the grammatical classification of a noun. It also has an inflectional morpheme as it shows the plurality by *-s*.

Were

The word *were* contains of one morpheme. It is a functional morpheme and has the grammatical classification of verb depending on the usage of the word.

About

The word *about* has one morpheme. It is a functional morpheme and contains the grammatical classification of a preposition as it directs the position.

But

The word *but* is a functional morpheme and has the grammatical classification of conjunction.

Lazy

The word contains of one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of an adjective as it describes the characteristic.

Go

The word *go* is a lexical morpheme. It has the grammatical classification of a verb.

Find

The word *find* contains of a lexical morpheme and is classified as a verb.

Out

The word *out* is a lexical morpheme and is classified as a noun.

Moods

The word *moods* contain two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of a noun. it has the inflectional morpheme as it shows the plurality of the word by –s.

Unprofitable:

The word *unprofitable* has three morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme as it can stand independently and two derivational morphemes. The prefix –un and the suffix –able, therefore, are considered as inflectional morphemes. The word is classified as an adjective.

Unsatisfactory:

The word *unsatisfactory* has four morphemes. The word is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of an adjective. It has three derivational morphemes as it contains prefix –un, and another prefix –satis- is fixed with the word factory which makes them the derivational morpheme.

Wishing:

The word *wishing* contains of two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of verb. It contains an inflectional morpheme by –ing and shows the feature of tense.

Live:

The word *live* contains of one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of a verb.

Half:

The word *half* contains of one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of adjective.

Frightened:

The word *frightened* contained of three morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical context of an adjective. It has two derivational morphemes as it has the suffic –ed and another suffix –en and shows the other morphemes.

Maid-servants:

The word is a compound formed of two words: maid and servants. The word maid and servants is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of a noun. The word servants is also an inflectional morpheme as it shows plurality by servant-s and shows the inflectional feature.

Wits:

The word *wits* contains of two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of a noun. Inflectional morpheme is a part of the word by the plurality emphasis by showing wit-s.

Mischievously:

The word contains of three morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of an adverb. It contains of a prefix mis- and a suffix -ly, which makes it a derivational morpheme.

Hinting:

The word *hitting* contains of two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of a noun. It has the inflectional morpheme by -ing indication.

Dogs:

The word has two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and is a noun. It shows plurality -s and contains of an inflectional morpheme.

Going:

The word *going* has two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and the grammatical classification of a verb. The word is also an inflectional morpheme by showing -ing to the word.

Mad:

The word *mad* has one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of a noun.

General:

The word *general* contains of one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of an adjective.

Little:

The word contains of one morpheme. It is a lexical morpheme and is classified grammatically as noun.

Women:

The word contains of two morphemes. It is a lexical morpheme and has the grammatical classification of the noun. The word shows plurality through the -en of women.

Table

No.	Data	Total no. of morphemes	Free morpheme	Bound morpheme
1	Castles	two	castle	-s
2	In	one	in	-
3	The	one	the	-
4	Air	one	air	-
5	Laurie	one	Laurie	-



6 Luxuriously two -luxurious -ly
7 Lay one lay -
8 Swinging two -swing -ing
9 His one his -
10 Hammock one hammock -
11 One one one -
12 Warm one warm -
13 September one September -
14 Day one day -
15 Wondering two wonder- -ing
16 Neighbors two neighbor- -s

17 Were one were -
18 About one about -
19 But one but -
20 Lazy one lazy -
21 Go one go -
22 Find one find -
23 Out one out -



24 Moods two -mood -s
25 Unprofitable three -profit- un-, -able
26 Unsatisfactory two -satisfactory un
27 Wishing two wish- -ing
28 Live one live -
29 Half one half -
30 Frightened two fright -en, -ed
31 Maid-servants two maid servant- -s
32 Wits two wit- -s
33 Mischievously two mischeiv- -ly
34 Hinting two hint- -ing
35 Dogs two dog- -s
36 Going two go- -ing
37 Mad one mad -
38 General one general -
39 Little one little -
40 Women two wom- -en

Discussion:

The analysis of text from *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott shows the apparent significance language endows over readers in the communication of thoughts. The contextual meanings of words help to comprehend the text with extensive elaboration and detail to form a clear image of the present ongoings in scenes. The clarity in meanings allows readers to conclude themes and evaluate literature in exponential transparency. According to Cook (2003), language has a large role in conveying the meaning and sense of words and adds decision-making power in life. This theory explores the contribution of the structure of words and analyzes the morphological impact. The analysis above clarifies the morphological, grammatical, and morphemic meanings of words. It also delivers the purpose of the theory that words help to create an evident meaning and decisiveness in clarity and comprehension.

According to Bauer (2007), language is the globe and the world revolves around it. Bauer proves that without clear comprehension, experiments or data would be futile. According to Lieber (2004), the coinage of new words that omit from morphology has played its part and has welcomed a wide range of words to enter the room. Morphology and the objectives of words and their concern play a radical part in our daily life and fulfill the cues and clues.

According to the original data assembled above, the 40 words indicate the types of morphemes they contain and their role played in the individual word. Under mundane circumstances, clarifying each word and identifying the bound and free morphemes makes words understandable, and morphological classification makes it easier to achieve understandability and readability.

Morphemes are the minimal unit of a word. The exact number of free morphemes or bound morphemes, lexical or functional morphemes, and derivational or inflectional morphemes have been classified through the conducted analysis. The maximum number of morphemes classified in one word is four. The theories of Liber, Bauer, and Cook have proven suitable to the data of this research and the concluded results.

Conclusion:

The research morphologically analyzes a selected text; 40 collected words and their classification, from Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. The reading comprehension formed by words plays an exponential part in the suffixes, prefixes, plurality, possession, or tense indication. This research clears ambiguity and explores the clarity of words and achieving understanding in written discourse.

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