

# Inflectional Affixes in William Shakespeare's Play Romeo and Juliet

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**Submission date:** 22-Aug-2024 02:49PM (UTC+0700)

**Submission ID:** 2435982946

**File name:** SINTAKSIS\_-\_VOLUME\_2,\_NO.\_5,\_SEPTEMBER\_2024\_hal\_127-137.docx (59.88K)

**Word count:** 3494

**Character count:** 17571

## **Inflectional Affixes in William Shakespeare's Play *Romeo and Juliet***

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**Abstract.** This thesis examines inflectional affixes in William Shakespeare's Play *Romeo and Juliet*. The objectives of this study are to find out the types of inflectional affixes in William Shakespeare's Play *Romeo and Juliet* based on Fromkin, Rodm<sup>6</sup> & Hyams (2011) theory. This study applied descriptive qualitative method. The results of this study are eight types of inflectional affixes namely third-person singular present, past tense, progressive, past participle, plural, possessive, comparative, superlative. The writer found that there are 18 data categorized into third-person singular present, 10 data categorized into past tense, 2 data categorized into progressive, 8 data categorized into past participle, 13 data categorized into plural, 16 data categorized into possessive, 2 data categorized into comparative and 2 data categorized into superlative.

**Keywords:** Inflectional Affixes, Morphology, *Romeo and Juliet*, Types

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Linguistics is primarily concern with the uniquely human ability to express thoughts and feelings through freely created speech, sound or its counterparts (Bauer, 2012). Language same with communication which is transfer of information from one person to other. Language helps humans to express feelings and thoughts through communication (Chomsky, 1965).

The branch of Linguistics that studies the relationship between form and meaning, within words and between words is know as morphology. Morphology is a science that studies the formation of words and their combination (Bauer, 2012). One of the studies of morphology is morpheme. Morpheme is the smallest meaningful grammatical unit (Haspelmath and Smith, 2010). Morpheme classify into two kinds namely free and bound morphemes. Bound morphemes have two terms they are Derivational and Inflectional morphemes. Derivational is creating new lexemes through the affixation process.

Inflectional is the process of creating distinct words. (Hazen, 2014) states that, inflectional is a change in the form of a word without changing the lexical identity of the word or without changing the class of the word. The purpose of inflectional morphemes is to produce a different form of a word that conveys grammatical information without altering the meaning of the original term. Inflectional suffixes cannot come before a derivational suffix; they only have grammatical meaning. It means Inflectional morpheme is a morpheme that describing the tenses, the numbers, the person, etc (Fromkin et al 2014).

## 2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Inflectional morphemes are morphological processes that alter a word's form to indicate a grammatical subclass. (Delahunty & Garvey, 2010) states that, in inflectional affixes which only creates a modified version of the added word. However, it does not change the category but adds some details to the word category in order to indicate things like past tense, plural, and comparison of degree.

According to Fromkin, Rodman & Hyams (2011) There are eight types of inflectional affixes namely third person singular present, past tense, progressive, past participle, plural, possessive, comparative, and superlative as follows:

### a. Third Person Singular Present

Third person singular present is inflection by adding -s or -es in the end of the verb. It used to indicate that the subject of a verb is in the third person (He, She, It) and the action is happening in the present. It is typically added to the base form of the verb. Suffix -s attached in order to make grammatically correct, not change the meaning, and not change the part of speech of the base.

### b. Past Tense

Past tense is a verb form used to indicate actions, states or events that happened in the past. The past tense is formed by adding -ed ending to regular verbs, such as "talked", "played", or "walked". Suffix -ed attached in order to make grammatically correct, not change the meaning and not change the part of speech of the base.

### c. Progressive

Progressive tense, also known as continuous tense is a verb form used to express an action that is taking in a specific moment in the present or past continuous tense. Progressive is formed by using the auxiliary verb "to be" (is, am, are, was, were) and followed by the -ing form of the verb.

### d. Past Participle

Past participle is a verb form that is used to indicate a completed or totally in the past. To form the past participle, regular verbs typically added "-ed" to the base form of the verb and irregular verbs have their own unique forms that is added with "-en" for the past participle. The Suffix -ed attached in order to make grammatically correct, not change the meaning and not change the part of speech of the base.

### e. Plural

Plural is a type of inflectional affixes, this type is the addition of -s or -es at the end of a word which means to express the number of nouns or can be said to be plural.

f. Possessive

Possessive inflectional is the addition of the affix 's or s' which is used to show that the word is possessive, such as Jack's car. This example states that the addition of an apostrophe or -'s means ownership or as a symbol that it shows a possessive noun.

g. Comparative

In comparative, in addition of inflectional with -er in comparative adjectives. In order to describe the differences, in order to compare the variations, it is appended to the word's base form between two objects. Such as longer and bigger. From the examples, it shows that the word long and big belongs to adjective. To show the word more long and more big it added by suffix -er and becomes longer and bigger.

h. Superlative

In superlative, the inflectional addition is -est it called as superlative adjective. Where in the end of adjective, it is added with -est. A word's base form is suffixed with -est to assign an object a quality level, either higher or lower.

### 3. METHODS

To analyzed this study, the writer applied descriptive qualitative method. The data that used for this research are all the words that contained in William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet and the writer observe and identify the types of inflectional affixes contained in William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet. The source of data is from William Shakespeare's play script Romeo and Juliet that taken from the internet which is access on the website:

[https://folger-main-siteassets.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2022/11/romeo-and-juliet\\_PDF\\_FolgerShakespeare.pdf](https://folger-main-siteassets.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2022/11/romeo-and-juliet_PDF_FolgerShakespeare.pdf)

### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The writer found 8 types of inflectional affixes in William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet based on Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2011: 51) theory. Those types are third person singular present, past tense, progressive, past participle, plural, possessive, comparative, and superlative.

**a. Third-Person Singular Present**

There are 18 data using third-person singular present type which found in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* as follows:

Data 1: A dog of the house of Montague *moves* me.

*Moves* is inflectional word. It adds the suffix *-s* to the end of the word base to denote the use of **third-person singular present**. The base word of *moves* is *move*. This word is a verb, and its usage in this form follows the present tense rule which creates new words without altering their meanings. To indicate that this is third-person singular present, there is a single person *a dog*. Suffix *-s* appended are appended to make the base grammatically correct, without altering its meaning or part of speech. Therefore, *moves* is third-person singular present.

Data 2: She lives uncharmed

The word *Lives* is inflectional word. It adds the suffix *-s* to the end of the word base to denote the use of **third-person singular present**. The base word of *lives* is *live*. This word is a verb, and its usage in this form follows the present tense rule which creates new words without altering their meanings. To indicate that this is third-person singular present, there is a single person *she*. Suffix *-s* appended are appended to make the base grammatically correct, without altering its meaning or part of speech. Therefore, *lives* is third-person singular present.

Data 3: She dies with beauty dies her store

Based on the data above, *dies* is inflectional word. It adds the suffix *-s* to the end of the word base to denote the use of **third-person singular present**. The base word of *dies* is *die*. This word is a verb, and its usage in this form follows the present tense rule which creates new words without altering their meanings. To indicate that this is third-person singular present, there is a single person *she*. Suffix *-s* appended are appended to make the base grammatically correct, without altering its meaning or part of speech. Therefore, *dies* is third-person singular present.

**Table 1.** Third-Person Singular Present Inflection in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*

No.	Base Words	Third- Person Singular Present Affixes	New Words
1.	move	-s	moves
2.	live	-s	lives
3.	die	-s	dies
4.	make	-s	makes
5.	come	-s	comes
6.	gallop	-s	gallops
7.	start	-s	starts
8.	seem	-s	seems
9.	bear	-s	bears
10.	crave	-s	craves
11.	speak	-s	speaks
12.	lean	-s	leans
13.	bestride	-s	bestrides
14.	fight	-s	fight
15.	rest	-s	rests
16.	look	-s	looks
17.	begin	-s	begins
18.	beat	-s	beats

#### b. Past Tense

There are 10 data using past tense type which found in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* as follows:

Data 4: He *breathed* defiance to my ears.

The word *breathed* is inflectional word. By adding the suffix *-ed* to the end of the base word, it denotes the use of the past tense. The base of word *breathed* is *breath*. This word is a verb, and its form is utilized to the past tense rule, which creates a new term without altering the meaning of the origin word. The suffix *-ed* is appended to make the sentence grammatically correct, without altering its meaning or base's part of speech. Therefore, *breathed* is past tense.

Data 5: You *lived* at odds so long

*Lived* is inflectional word. By adding the suffix *-ed* to the end of the base word, it denotes the use of the past tense. The base of word *lived* is *live*. This word is a verb, and its form is utilized to the past tense rule, which creates a new term without altering the meaning of the origin word. The suffix *-ed* is appended to make the sentence grammatically correct, without altering its meaning or base's part of speech. Therefore, *lived* is past tense.

Data 6: She agreed within her scope of choice

*Agreed* is inflectional word. By adding the suffix *-ed* to the end of the base word, it denotes the use of the past tense. The base of word *agreed* is *agree*. This word is a verb, and its form is utilized to the past tense rule, which creates a new term without altering the meaning of the origin word. The suffix *-ed* is appended to make the sentence grammatically correct, without altering its meaning or base's part of speech. Therefore, *agreed* is past tense.

**Table 2.** Past Tense Inflectional Affixes in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*

No.	Base Words	Past Tense Inflectional Affixes	New Words
1.	breath	-ed	breathed
2.	live	-d	lived
3.	agree	-d	agreed
4.	cry	-ed	cried
5.	mask	-ed	masked
6.	learn	-ed	learned
7.	kill	-ed	killed
8.	marry	-ed	married
9.	advance	-d	advanced
10.	ordain	-ed	ordained

### c. Progressive

There are 2 data using progressive type which found in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* as follows:

Data 7: for the watch is *coming*

The word *coming* is inflectional word. By adding the suffix *-ing* to the end of the word, it denotes the usage of progressive. The base word of *coming* is *come*, This word is verb and its form is utilized in a progressive rule that creates new words without altering the meaning. Suffix *-ing* adding to a word did not alter the meaning, it makes the word grammatically correct. Therefore, *coming* is progressive.

Data 8: But with a rearward *following* Tybalt's death

*following* is inflectional word. By adding the suffix *-ing* to the end of the word, it denotes the usage of progressive. The base word of *following* is *follow*, This word is verb and its form is utilized in a progressive rule that creates new words without altering the meaning. Suffix *-ing* adding to a word did not alter the meaning, it makes the word grammatically correct. Therefore, *following* is progressive.

**Table 3.** Progressive Inflectional Affixes in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*



*Juliet*

No.	Base words	Progressive Inflection Affixes	Inflection Words
1.	come	-ing	coming
2.	follow	-ing	following

**d. Past Participle**

There are 8 data using past participle type which found in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* as follows:

Data 9: She hath not *seen* the change

*Seen* is inflectional word. The word *seen* is the base of *see*. Suffix *-en* adding in the end of the base word indicates the perfect tense. The suffix *-en* is added to make the base grammatically correct without altering its meaning or part of speech. Therefore, *seen* is past participle.

Data 10: I have said before

The word *said* is inflectional word. The word *said* is the base of *say*. Suffix *-id* adding in the end of the base word indicates the perfect tense. The suffix *-id* is added to make the base grammatically correct without altering its meaning or part of speech. Therefore, *said* is past participle.

**Table 4.** Past Participle Inflectional Affixes in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*

No.	Base Word	Past Participle Inflection Affixes	New Word
1.	see	-en	seen
2.	say	-d	said
3.	swallow	-ed	swallowed
4.	invite	-ed	invited
5.	remember	-ed	remembered
6.	stain	-ed	stained
7.	praise	-ed	praised
8.	learn	-ed	learned

**e. Plural**

There are 13 data using plural type which found in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* as follows:

Data 11 :...we'll not carry *coals*.

*Coals* are inflectional word. It denotes the use of plural by adding the suffix *-s* to the end of the base word. The base word of *coals* is *coal*. This form is meant to demonstrate plural forms that create new words without altering the meaning. Suffix *-s* added to the word to make it grammatically correct without altering the base's part



of speech. Therefore, *coals* are plural.

Data 12: ...between our *masters*.

The word *masters* are inflectional word. It denotes the use of plural by adding the suffix *-s* to the end of the base word. The base word of *masters* is *master*. This form is meant to demonstrate plural forms that create new words without altering the meaning. Suffix *-s* added to the word to make it grammatically correct without altering the base's part of speech. Therefore, *masters* are plural.

**Table 5.** Plural Inflectional Affixes in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*

No.	Base Words	Plural Inflectional Affixes	New Words
1.	coal	-s	coals
2.	master	-s	masters
3.	head	-s	heads
4.	sword	-s	swords
5.	window	-s	windows
6.	friend	-s	friends
7.	star	-s	stars
8.	net	-s	nets
9.	grasshopper	-s	grasshoppers
10.	bone	-s	bones
11.	new	-s	news
12.	year	-s	years
13.	rose	-s	roses

#### f. Possessive

There are 16 data using possessive type that found in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. The following are some analysis Of possessive type.

Data 13: I will take the wall of any man or maid of *Montague's*

*Montague's* is an inflection word. The suffix *-s* is appended to the end of the noun *Montague* in the word *Montague's* to signify the use of the possessive form while maintaining the word's meaning. The possessive sign *-s* indicates ownership or that the noun is possessive. *Montague's* is therefore a possessive inflection word.

Data 14: here comes one of my *master's* kinsmen

The word *Master's* is an inflection word. The suffix *-s* is appended to the end of the noun *master* to indicate the use of the possessive form, without altering the meaning of the phrase *master's*. The possessive symbol, denoted by an apostrophe *-s*, indicates ownership of the term. Therefore, *monster's* is possessive inflection word.

**Table 6.** Possessive Inflectional Affixes in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and*

*Juliet*

No.	Base words	Possessive Inflection Affixes	Inflection Words
1.	montague	-s	montague's
2.	master	-s	master's
3.	verona	-s	verona's
4.	aurora	-s	aurora's
5.	dian	-s	dian's
6.	daughter	-s	daughter's
7.	cricket	-s	cricket's
8.	night	-s	night's
9.	ethiop	-s	ethiop's
10.	heart	-s	heart's
11.	man	-s	man's
12.	sun	-s	sun's
13.	romeo	-s	romeo's
14.	morning	-s	morning's
15.	lady	-s	lady's
16.	cousin	-s	cousin's

**g. Comparative**

There are 2 data that indicate using the comparative type found in William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet. The following are some analysis of comparative inflection affixes.

Data 15: ...*Younger* than you...

Younger is inflectional word. The base word of *younger* is young. The suffix *-er* is added to the base word to indicate comparison, so creating the new word *younger*. Suffix *-er* does not alter the word class or the base's part of speech. The term is an adjective. Therefore, *younger* is comparative inflection word.

Data 16: Which ten times *faster* glides than the sun's beams

The word *Faster* is inflectional word. The base word of *faster* is *fast*. The suffix *-er* is added to the original word to indicate that it is *faster* to process a new word, hence adding the word fast. The suffix *-er* does not alter the base's word class or part of speech. The word is an adjective. Therefore, *faster* is comparative inflection word.

**Table 7.** Comparative Inflectional Affixes in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*

No.	Base Word	Comparative Inflectional Affixes	New Word
1.	young	-er	younger
2.	fast	-er	faster

#### h. Superlative

There are 2 data indicate using the superlative type found in *Romeo and Juliet* play. The following are the analysis of superlative affixes.

Data 17: In the farthest east begin to draw.

*Farthest* is inflectional word. The base word of farthest is far. The word far is added by suffix -est in the end of the base word to showing superlative which procedures a new word farthest. Suffix -est do not change the part of speech of the base and not change the word class. The word is an adjective. Therefore, farthest is comparative inflection word.

Data 18: ...the prettiest babe...

The word *Prettiest* is inflectional word. The base word of prettiest is pretty. The word pretty is added by suffix -est in the end of the base word to showing superlative which procedures a new word prettiest. Suffix -est do not change the part of speech of the base and not change the word class. The word is an adjective. Therefore, prettiest is comparative inflection word.

**Table 8.** Superlative Inflectional Affixes in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*

No.	Base Words	Superlative Inflectional Affixes	New Words
1.	far	-est	farthest
2.	pretty	-est	prettiest

## 5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the results and discussion above, the writer concluded that there are 8 types of inflectional affixes found in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*; <sup>11</sup>third-person singular present, past tense, progressive, past participle, plural, possessive, comparative, superlative. The writer found 142 total data; 18 data categorized into third-person singular present, 10 data categorized into past tense, 2 data categorized into progressive, 8 data categorized into past participle, 13 data categorized into plural, 16 data categorized into possessive, 2 data categorized into comparative and 2 data categorized into superlative.

The end of this study, the writer would like to propose some suggestions which hopefully will be useful for the next other writers and also the readers. In order to develop this research better for further writer focuses on the meaning of inflectional affixes. The writers suggest developing this research using different data source and other technique method of research the writer also suggests that the students should learn inflectional affixes because this affixes can improve their vocabulary and help them to find new word.

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