

A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF BBC NEWS: INFLECTIONAL AND DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES IN “US INFLATION STABLE AHEAD OF IRAN SHOCK”

Ladya Nafla Usna, Hapni Nurliana H.D Hasibuan, Annisa Permata Islami, Syadza Adila Putri

Universitas Riau, Indonesia

Ladya.nafla6065@student.unri.ac.id , hapni.nurliana@lecturer.unri.ac.id , annisa.permata@lecturer.unri.ac.id , syadza.adila@lecturer.unri.ac.id

Abstract

This study aims to investigate the use of inflectional and derivational morphemes in the BBC News article titled “US Inflation Stable Ahead of Iran Shock.” A descriptive qualitative method was employed to analyze primary data obtained from the selected article, while relevant linguistic books and previous studies on morphology were used as supporting secondary sources. The analysis revealed that 24 inflectional morpheme tokens and 10 derivational morpheme tokens were identified in the selected data. The inflectional morphemes included plural, progressive, past tense, comparative and superlative, possessive, and third-person singular forms, which express grammatical information related to number, tense, degree, possession, and agreement. Derivational morphemes included verb-to-noun, verb-to-adjective, noun-to-adjective, and adjective-to-adverb formations, contributing to changes in lexical meaning and, in some cases, word class. The findings provide a focused description of how inflectional and derivational morphemes operate within the selected news text. However, the findings are limited to the analyzed article and are not intended to represent the morphological characteristics of BBC News or news reporting in general.

Keywords: *morphology; inflectional morphemes; derivational morphemes; word formation; BBC News article*

I INTRODUCTION

In a media environment where news is rapidly disseminated globally and accessed by readers from diverse linguistic backgrounds, international outlets like BBC News relied on a tightly controlled written register to ensure clarity and precision. This register prioritizes informational density, explicit grammatical marking, and lexical accuracy, enabling complex political and economic developments to be communicated effectively without sacrificing comprehensibility. As a distinct genre of text, news reportage is systematically analyzed in corpus-based studies that highlight the linguistic patterns unique to this form of communication, including its formal style and structured approach to presenting factual relations (Biber et al., 1999; Crystal, 2003).

From a linguistic perspective, word formation is studied within the field of morphology, which examines how words are structured and how their internal components contribute to meaning. Words are not formed arbitrarily; rather, they follow systematic patterns involving smaller units known as morphemes (Yule, 2010). Morphological analysis enables a deeper understanding of how meaning is constructed and conveyed in written discourse. Morphemes, the smallest meaningful units of language, serve as the building blocks of words and allow speakers and writers to generate various word forms from a limited number of bases (Chomsky, 1965). Morphology, therefore, plays a crucial role in understanding language structure and use (Bauer, 2003; Booij, 2005).

Morphemes can be classified into two types: inflectional and derivational (Yule, 2010; Aronoff, 1976). These two types serve different grammatical and lexical functions. Inflectional morphemes express grammatical information, including past tense and plurality, without changing the word class. In contrast, derivational morphemes are used to form new words, often altering both the meaning and grammatical category (Fromkin et al., 2014; Lieber, 2021). These distinctions have been widely accepted in morphological theory and are essential for analyzing written discourse (Katamba, 1993; Haspelmath, 2010).

Classical studies of English word formation consistently emphasize that morphological operations are rule-governed and systematic. Foundational works by Marchand (1969), Matthews (1991), and Dressler (1987) established the distinction between processes that encode grammatical information and those that generate new lexemes, a distinction that remains central to morphological theory. More recent theoretical treatments by Booij (2005) and Spencer (2021) further frame morphology as a principled interface between form and meaning, while Bybee (1985) and Carstairs-McCarthy (2002) demonstrate how morphemes systematically organize both lexical and grammatical information across languages.

These theoretical foundations converge on a fundamental distinction: inflectional morphemes signal grammatical categories such as tense, number, and agreement without altering the word class of the base, whereas derivational morphemes form new lexical items that may change both the meaning and grammatical category of the base form (Yule, 2010; Aronoff, 1976; Lieber, 2021). This distinction is not merely taxonomic but has practical consequences for how written registers, including news language, deploy morphological resources to achieve grammatical precision and lexical variety (Quirk et al., 1985; Leech, 2006).

Additionally, several studies have highlighted the role of derivational and inflectional morphemes in written discourse. Simaremare et al. (2021) found that derivational affixes contribute to the creation of new meanings and grammatical categories in written texts. Similarly, Rahmadewi et al. (2023) examined derivational morphemes in BBC-related media discourse and showed their contribution to the formation of more specific lexical items. In contrast to these studies focusing mainly on derivational morphology, Goni et al. (2022) examined both inflectional and derivational morphemes in written discourse, including social media texts. Biber et al. (1999), from a broader register perspective, emphasized the role of grammatical structures in organizing information and maintaining clarity in written and spoken discourse. Together, these studies indicate that morphological processes contribute to both lexical formation and grammatical organization across different forms of written discourse.

Register studies by Biber and Conrad (2009) and Biber and Gray (2010) demonstrate that written genres such as news and academic prose are characterized by high informational density, elaboration, and structural complexity. These register characteristics highlight the importance of examining linguistic choices at different levels of language, including morphology, to understand how formal written English achieves precision and coherence in professional contexts.

However, the studies reviewed above have examined morphological processes across different types of written texts, including student writing, social media, and BBC-related media discourse. The BBC-related study by Rahmadewi et al. (2023), for example, focuses on derivational morphemes, while Goni et al. (2022) examines both inflectional and derivational morphemes in social media captions. These studies provide useful descriptions of morphological forms, but the present study takes a more focused approach by examining both inflectional and derivational morphemes together within one authentic BBC News article and interpreting their use in the immediate context of the text. The selection of a single article is therefore intended to allow a closer examination of the morphological forms and their contextual functions rather than to represent BBC News or economic news as a whole. The article "US Inflation Stable Ahead of Iran Shock" was selected because it contains a range of inflectional and derivational forms within a contemporary news text, making it suitable for a focused morphological analysis. Based on this focus, the present study applies the morphological frameworks proposed by Yule (2010) and Fromkin et al. (2014) to identify, classify, and interpret the use of inflectional and derivational morphemes in the selected news text.

II METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method because it is appropriate for analyzing linguistic data based on words rather than numerical measurements. Qualitative research involves interpreting and describing language phenomena to uncover patterns and meanings in context (Creswell, 2014). In line with qualitative research principles, the researcher served as a data collection instrument; nevertheless, objective procedures were emphasized to ensure replicability and minimize bias (Moleong, 2017).

The data for this study consisted of primary data and supporting secondary sources. The primary data were drawn from a BBC News article titled "US Inflation Stable Ahead of Iran Shock," dated 11th March 2026 in the available records. The article was selected because it presents a contemporary economic news event involving inflation, consumer prices, food and housing costs, and the Federal Reserve, providing a range of words and contexts relevant to the analysis of inflectional and derivational morphemes. Secondary sources were obtained from relevant books and previous studies on morphology, particularly those discussing inflectional and derivational morphemes (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011; Booij, 2005; Carstairs-McCarthy, 2002). These sources provided the theoretical basis for identifying, classifying, and interpreting the morphological forms found in the primary data. Thus, the primary data provided the linguistic forms and contexts for analysis, while the secondary sources provided the theoretical concepts and criteria for interpreting those forms.

Data were collected through document analysis (Bowen, 2009) by closely reading the selected news article and identifying words containing inflectional and derivational morphemes. The identified

words were then classified and analyzed based on the morphological frameworks of Yule (2010) and Fromkin et al. (2014). The analysis examined the base forms, affixation processes, and functions of the identified morphemes to determine their inflectional or derivational status (Carstairs-McCarthy, 2002). The results were subsequently interpreted to identify morphological patterns within the context of the selected news text, with reference to classical and contemporary morphological studies (Marchand, 1969; Matthews, 1991; Spencer, 2021).

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 RESULTS

The analysis revealed that both inflectional and derivational morphemes were present in the BBC News article "US Inflation Stable Ahead of Iran Shock." Inflectional morphemes appeared more frequently (24 tokens) than derivational morphemes (10 tokens), indicating their greater presence in the selected data. Inflectional morphemes identified in the data include plural forms (-s), progressive forms (-ing), past tense forms (-ed), comparative and superlative forms (-er, -est), possessive forms ('s), and third-person singular forms (-s). Meanwhile, derivational morphemes include several word-formation processes that contribute to changes in lexical meaning and, in some cases, grammatical category.

3.1.1 INFLECTIONAL MORPHEMES

To provide the textual context for the inflectional forms analyzed in this study, several excerpts from the selected BBC News article are presented below:

"Consumer prices rose 2.4% over the 12 months to February, the same pace as the prior month, as rising food and housing costs were offset by falling prices for other items, such as used cars.

The figures reflect prices gathered in the weeks leading up to the start of the US-Israel war in Iran, which has triggered a sharp rise in oil prices that is starting to feed into other areas.

Analysts say the situation could push the inflation rate back above 3% in the coming months, raising uncertainty about whether the US central bank will cut interest rates anytime soon.

The Federal Reserve raised borrowing costs sharply in 2022, aiming to slow the economy and ease the pressures that had sent prices soaring.

While the inflation rate has dropped back, it has remained above the Fed's 2% target since 2021.

Wednesday's report offers "some reassurance" that inflation prices had not been moving in the wrong direction, said Seema Shah, chief global strategist at Principal Asset Management, warning that it would nonetheless be seen as "something of a historical artefact".

With oil prices up roughly \$30 in recent weeks - and potentially heading toward triple digits - investors are far more focused on how the conflict feeds into inflation over the months ahead," she said.

The average cost of a gallon of car fuel in the US jumped past \$3.50 (£2.61) on Tuesday to the highest level since 2024.

The Fed typically hesitates to respond to price spikes caused by changes in energy prices, which are known for being bumpy, but she said the persistent overshoot might make that "harder to do this time".

Table 1. Inflectional Morphology and Categorization

No	Meaning	Wordlist	Formation	Transformation
1	Plural	price	price + s	-s suffix
		content	content + s	-s suffix
		month	month + s	-s suffix
		analyst	analyst + s	-s suffix
		cost	cost + s	-s suffix
		investor	investor + s	-s suffix

		week	week + s	-s suffix
		area	area + s	-s suffix
2	Progressive	rise	rise + ing	-ing suffix
		fall	fall + ing	-ing suffix
		move	move + ing	-ing suffix
		head	head + ing	-ing suffix
		start	start + ing	-ing suffix
3	Past tense	gather	gather + ed	-ed suffix
		trigger	trigger + ed	-ed suffix
		drop	drop + ed	-ed suffix
		remain	remain + ed	-ed suffix
		jump	jump + ed	-ed suffix
		raise	raise + ed	-ed suffix
4	Comparative / Superlative	hard	hard + er	-er suffix
		high	high + est	-est suffix
5	Possessive	fed	fed + 's	's suffix
6	Third person	have	has	Suppletion /
		offer	offer + s	-s suffix

3.1.1.1 Plural Forms

The plural forms presented in Table 1 occur in the selected BBC News article in expressions referring to more than one entity, period, or economic item. The forms prices, months, analysts, costs, investors, weeks, and areas are formed by attaching the inflectional suffix -s to their respective noun bases. For example, the article uses plural nouns in statements concerning consumer prices, the coming months, and rising oil prices. In these forms, the suffix provides grammatical information about number without changing the grammatical category of the base, as the resulting forms remain nouns. Thus, in the context of the selected article, plural marking contributes to the representation of multiple entities and economic developments discussed in the news report.

3.1.1.2 Progressive Forms

The progressive forms identified in Table 1 include rising, falling, moving, heading, leading, and starting. These forms occur in the selected article in contexts describing processes and developments related to inflation, prices, and the conflict in Iran. For instance, the article refers to rising food and housing costs, falling prices, and oil prices that are starting to feed into other areas. Morphologically, these forms are created by attaching the inflectional suffix -ing to verb bases. The suffix provides grammatical information associated with an ongoing or developing process while the grammatical category of the base remains verbal. Within the selected article, these forms help describe economic changes as processes that are continuing or developing during the period under discussion.

3.1.1.3 Past Tense Forms

The past tense forms found in the data include gathered, triggered, dropped, remained, jumped, and raised. These forms occur in sentences describing events and economic developments that had already taken place. For example, the article states that the figures reflect prices gathered in the weeks before the conflict and that the war triggered a sharp rise in oil prices. The suffix -ed marks past tense without changing the grammatical category of the verb. In the selected article, these forms contribute to the chronological presentation of events by distinguishing completed actions and previous economic developments from conditions described in the present.

3.1.1.4 Comparative and Superlative Forms

The comparative and superlative forms identified in Table 1 are harder and highest. The form harder is produced by attaching the inflectional suffix -er to the adjective hard, while highest is formed from high through the addition of -est. In the article, harder occurs in the expression describing a situation that might make a particular response more difficult, whereas highest is used to indicate the greatest price level within the stated period. These suffixes express degrees of comparison without changing the grammatical category of the base forms, which remain adjectives.

3.1.1.5 Possessive Forms

The possessive form identified in the data is Fed's. This form occurs in the article in reference to the Federal Reserve's economic target. The possessive marker 's is attached to the noun Fed to indicate a grammatical relationship between the institution and the following noun. The addition of the possessive marker does not change the grammatical category of the base word. In this context, the possessive form provides a compact grammatical construction for expressing the institutional relationship described in the sentence.

3.1.1.6 Third-Person Forms

The third-person singular forms identified in the selected article include offers and has. The form offers is produced through the regular addition of the suffix -s to the verb offer, whereas has is an irregular form corresponding to the verb have. Both forms occur in present-tense clauses and express agreement with third-person singular subjects. In the selected article, these forms contribute to the grammatical organization of statements describing present information, conditions, and actions.

3.1.2 DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES

To provide the textual context for the derivational forms analyzed in this study, several excerpts from the selected BBC News article are presented below:

"Inflation in the US was stable in February, ahead of the shock to energy prices triggered by the US and Israel war in Iran.

Consumer prices rose 2.4% over the 12 months to February, the same pace as the prior month, as rising food and housing costs were offset by falling prices for other items, such as used cars.

Analysts say the situation could push the inflation rate back above 3% in the coming months, raising uncertainty about whether the US central bank will cut interest rates anytime soon.

Wednesday's report offers "some reassurance" that inflation prices had not been moving in the wrong direction, said Seema Shah, chief global strategist at Principal Asset Management, warning that it would nonetheless be seen as "something of a historical artefact".

With oil prices up roughly \$30 in recent weeks - and potentially heading toward triple digits - investors are far more focused on how the conflict feeds into inflation over the months ahead," she said.

The Fed typically hesitates to respond to price spikes caused by changes in energy prices, which are known for being bumpy, but she said the persistent overshoot might make that "harder to do this time"."

Table 2. Derivational Morphology and Categorization

No	Word-Class Change	Word list	Formation	Transformation	Meaning
1	Verb to Noun	inflate	inflate + ion	inflation	process / state

		situate	situate + ion	situation	condition / state
2	Verb to Noun (Agent)	consume	consume + er	consumer	person who does action
3	Verb to Adjective	persist	persist + ent	persistent	having quality
4	Noun to Adjective	history	history + ical	historical	relating to
		bump	bump + y	bumpy	having quality
5	Adjective to Adverb	rough	rough + ly	-s suffix	in a manner
		typical	typical + ly	-s suffix	in a manner
		potential	potential + ly	potentially	in a manner
		sharp	sharp + ly	sharply	in a manner

3.1.2.1 Verb-to-Noun Forms

The verb-to-noun forms identified in Table 2 include inflation and situation. These forms occur in the selected article in relation to economic conditions and events being discussed. The form inflation is derived from the verb inflate through the addition of the suffix -ion, while situation is formed from situate with the same suffix. Through this derivational process, the grammatical category changes from verb to noun. In the selected article, these forms are used to refer to economic processes and conditions as nouns within the news report.

3.1.2.2 Verb-to-Noun Agent Forms

The form consumer represents a verb-to-noun agent formation. It is derived from the verb consume through the addition of the suffix -er. The resulting form refers to a person associated with the action expressed by the base verb. In the selected article, consumer occurs in the expression consumer prices. The derivational process changes the grammatical category of the base from verb to noun while producing a more specific lexical item.

3.1.2.3 Verb-to-Adjective Forms

The form persistent is derived from the verb persist through the addition of the suffix -ent. This derivational process changes the grammatical category of the base from verb to adjective. In the selected article, persistent occurs in the phrase persistent overshoot, describing the continuing quality of the economic condition being discussed. The derived form therefore adds descriptive lexical meaning to the noun it modifies.

3.1.2.4 Noun-to-Adjective Forms

The noun-to-adjective forms identified in Table 2 include historical and bumpy. The form historical is formed from history with the suffix -ical, while bumpy is formed from bump through the addition of -y. These derivational processes change the grammatical category of the base forms from nouns to adjectives. In the selected article, historical modifies artefact, while bumpy describes energy prices. Thus, these forms provide descriptive lexical information within their immediate textual contexts.

3.1.2.5 Adjective-to-Adverb Forms

The adjective-to-adverb forms identified in the selected article include roughly, typically, potentially, and sharply. These forms are derived through the addition of the suffix -ly to the adjective bases rough, typical, potential, and sharp. The derivational process changes the grammatical category

from adjective to adverb. Within the selected article, these forms provide additional information about the events and conditions being described. For example, *roughly* qualifies the amount of the increase in oil prices, typically describes the usual response of the Federal Reserve, potentially indicates a possible future development, and sharply describes the degree of change.

3.2 DISCUSSION

The discussion below interprets how inflectional and derivational morphemes operate as complementary resources in the selected news text. Inflection provides grammatical information related to number, tense, degree, possession, and agreement, while derivation contributes to the formation of new lexical items and the development of lexical meaning (Fromkin et al., 2014; Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011; Plag, 2003). In the selected BBC News article, these two morphological processes contribute differently to the grammatical structure and lexical content of the text.

3.2.1 INFLECTIONAL MORPHEMES

The findings indicate that inflectional morphemes frequently occur in the BBC News article “US Inflation Stable Ahead of Iran Shock,” highlighting their role in expressing grammatical information without changing the basic lexical category of the word. The use of plural forms such as *prices*, *months*, and *analysts* helps convey numerical information, while past tense forms such as *gathered*, *triggered*, and *raised* indicate completed actions. These grammatical markers enable the text to present information in a clear and structured manner (Fromkin et al., 2014; Huddleston & Pullum, 2002).

Plural marking *-s* appears in forms such as *prices* and *months*, including the clause “Consumer prices rose 2.4% over the 12 months to February,” where *-s* signals more than one entity without changing the noun category (Fromkin et al., 2014; Huddleston & Pullum, 2002). Within the selected article, plural marking contributes to the expression of multiple entities and periods discussed in the report. This observation is consistent with previous studies that identified plural forms as a common type of inflectional morphology in written English texts (Pradana & Putra, 2024; Fitria, 2020).

Progressive marking *-ing* is visible in items such as *rising* and *falling*, as in the clause describing how “rising food and housing costs were offset by falling prices.” In these forms, *-ing* contributes grammatical information associated with an ongoing or developing process while maintaining the verbal basis of the word (Fromkin et al., 2014; Huddleston & Pullum, 2002). Within the selected article, this form helps describe economic developments as processes occurring or developing during the period under discussion. Similar progressive forms have also been identified in previous analyses of written English morphology (Hutagalung et al., 2023; Fitria, 2020).

Past tense *-ed* occurs in forms such as *gathered*, *triggered*, and *remained*, where the suffix marks actions or events that occurred before the time of reporting. This function reflects the role of inflection in expressing tense and temporal relationships in English grammar (Biber et al., 1999; Huddleston & Pullum, 2002). In the selected article, past tense forms contribute to the chronological presentation of economic events by distinguishing completed developments from conditions described in the present.

Comparative and superlative marking *-er* and *-est* appears in forms such as *harder* and *highest*. These forms express different degrees of comparison without changing the grammatical category of the adjective (Fromkin et al., 2014; Huddleston & Pullum, 2002). In the selected article, *harder* is used to indicate a greater degree of difficulty, while *highest* identifies the greatest level within the stated period. These forms therefore contribute to the expression of comparison and degree in the description of economic conditions.

Possessive marking *'s* is represented by the form *Fed's*, which expresses a grammatical relationship between the Federal Reserve and the following noun. The possessive construction provides a concise way of expressing this relationship without changing the grammatical category of the base word (Fromkin et al., 2014; Huddleston & Pullum, 2002).

Third-person singular agreement is evidenced by *offers* and the irregular form *has*. The form *offers* is produced through the regular addition of *-s*, whereas *has* represents an irregular form of *have*. Both forms occur in present-tense clauses and contribute to subject-verb agreement in English grammar (Fromkin et al., 2014; Huddleston & Pullum, 2002). This observation is consistent with previous studies identifying third-person singular forms as part of the inflectional system of English (Hutagalung et al., 2023; Goni et al., 2022).

Overall, the inflectional findings demonstrate how established grammatical patterns of English operate in the selected news article. The forms identified in the data do not create new lexical items; instead, they modify existing words to express grammatical categories. This finding supports the general

distinction in morphological theory that inflection primarily encodes grammatical information while preserving the basic lexical identity of the word (Booij, 2005; Spencer, 2021).

3.2.2 DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES

The analysis also shows that derivational morphemes contribute to lexical development through the formation of words with new meanings and, in some cases, different grammatical categories. Transformations such as *inflate* → *inflation* and *consume* → *consumer* demonstrate how derivational processes allow the formation of words that express processes, entities, qualities, and other lexical meanings (Fromkin et al., 2014; Plag, 2003).

Verb-to-noun derivation with *-ion* occurs in forms such as *inflation* and *situation*, where the suffix contributes to the formation of nouns referring to processes, results, or states. In the selected article, these forms allow complex events and conditions to be expressed as nominal concepts. This finding is consistent with the description of suffixation as an important process in English word formation (Plag, 2003; Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011) and with previous studies identifying *-ion* as a productive derivational suffix in written English (Pradana & Putra, 2024; Fitria, 2020).

Agent noun formation with *-er* is represented by *consumer* (*consume* + *-er*), where the suffix forms a noun referring to a person associated with the action expressed by the verb. In the selected article, this derived form identifies an economic participant within the reported situation. This process reflects the function of derivational morphology in forming new lexical items from existing bases (Plag, 2003; Bauer, 2003).

Verb-to-adjective derivation with *-ent* is illustrated by *persist* → *persistent*, where the suffix changes the verb into an adjective expressing a continuing quality or condition. In the selected article, *persistent* characterizes the continuing nature of the economic condition being discussed. This derivational process involves both a change in grammatical category and the development of a related lexical meaning (Fromkin et al., 2014; Plag, 2003; Simaremare et al., 2021).

Noun-to-adjective derivation with *-ical* appears in *history* → *historical*. The derived adjective expresses a relationship to the noun base and allows the article to characterize the described artefact in relation to history. This process illustrates how derivational suffixation can form adjectives that provide more specific lexical description (Plag, 2003; Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011). Similar adjective-forming processes have also been identified in previous analyses of media discourse (Fitria, 2020; Rahmadewi et al., 2023).

Noun-to-adjective derivation with *-y* appears in *bump* → *bumpy*. Unlike the relational meaning expressed by some adjective-forming suffixes, *-y* contributes the meaning of having or being characterized by a particular quality. In the selected article, *bumpy* describes the changing or uneven nature of energy prices. This semantic meaning is also consistent with the description of *-y* as an adjective-forming suffix indicating "having" or "characterized by" a particular quality (Collins Dictionary, n.d.). This finding demonstrates that derivational suffixes may contribute different semantic meanings even when they produce words within the same grammatical category (Plag, 2003; Simaremare et al., 2021).

Adjective-to-adverb derivation with *-ly* occurs in forms such as *roughly*, *typically*, *potentially*, and *sharply*. These forms are derived from adjective bases and function as adverbs that modify the manner, degree, or interpretation of events and conditions in the article. This process demonstrates the role of derivational morphology in expanding lexical resources through word-class transformation (Bauer, 2003; Plag, 2003). Previous studies have likewise identified *-ly* as a common derivational suffix in written English and media-related texts (Fitria, 2020; Rahmadewi et al., 2023).

The present findings are consistent with morphological theory, which distinguishes inflectional processes that primarily express grammatical information from derivational processes that contribute to the formation and development of lexical items (Booij, 2005; Haspelmath & Sims, 2010; Plag, 2003; Spencer & Zwicky, 2001). In the selected BBC News article, these two types of morphology perform complementary functions. Inflectional morphemes contribute to grammatical distinctions such as number, tense, degree, possession, and agreement, whereas derivational morphemes contribute to the formation of lexical items used to express processes, participants, qualities, and manner. The findings therefore provide a text-specific illustration of how grammatical and lexical word-formation resources operate within an authentic contemporary news text.

IV CONCLUSION

This study concludes that both inflectional and derivational morphemes are present in the BBC News article “US Inflation Stable Ahead of Iran Shock.” Inflectional morphemes occurred more frequently, with 24 identified tokens, while derivational morphemes accounted for 10 tokens. The inflectional forms expressed grammatical information related to number, tense, degree, possession, and third-person singular agreement, whereas the derivational forms contributed to changes in lexical meaning and, in some cases, word class. These findings provide a focused description of how inflectional and derivational morphemes operate within the selected news text. However, the findings are limited to this article and are not intended to represent BBC News or economic news reporting in general. Future research may examine a larger number of news articles or compare different news outlets and genres to provide a broader understanding of morphological variation in English news texts.

REFERENCES

- Aronoff, M. (1976). *Word formation in generative grammar*. MIT Press.
- Aronoff, M., & Fudeman, K. (2011). *What is morphology?* (2nd ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Bauer, L. (2003). *Introducing linguistic morphology* (2nd ed.). Edinburgh University Press.
- BBC News. (2026, March 11). *US inflation stable ahead of Iran shock*. BBC News article
- Biber, D., & Conrad, S. (2009). *Register, genre, and style*. Cambridge University Press.
- Biber, D., & Gray, B. (2010). Challenging stereotypes about academic writing: Complexity, elaboration and density. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 9(1), 2–20.
- Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S., & Finegan, E. (1999). *Longman grammar of spoken and written English*. Longman.
- Booij, G. (2005). *The grammar of words: An introduction to linguistic morphology*. Oxford University Press.
- Bowen, G. A. (2009). Document analysis as a qualitative research method. *Qualitative Research Journal*, 9(2), 27–40.
- Bybee, J. (1985). *Morphology: A study of the relation between meaning and form*. John Benjamins.
- Carstairs-McCarthy, A. (2002). *An introduction to English morphology*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Chomsky, N. (1965). *Aspects of the theory of syntax*. MIT Press.
- Collins Dictionary. (n.d.). *Suffix*. Collins Dictionary
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design*. SAGE Publications.
- Crystal, D. (2003). *English as a global language*. Cambridge University Press.
- Dressler, W. U. (1987). *Morphology*. Mouton de Gruyter.
- Fitria, T. N. (2020). An analysis of derivational and inflectional morphemes in selected news from Tempo.co. *Rainbow Journal*, 9(2), 146–155.
- Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2014). *An introduction to language* (10th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- Goni, R. C., Triyono, S., & Sahayu, W. (2022). Morphological analysis of inflectional and derivational morphemes on Instagram captions. *JELTEC: Journal of English Language Teaching, Literature and Culture*, 1(2), 99–110.
- Haspelmath, M., & Sims, A. D. (2010). *Understanding morphology* (2nd ed.). Hodder Education.
- Huddleston, R. D., & Pullum, G. K. (2002). *The Cambridge grammar of the English language*. Cambridge University Press.
- Hutagalung, E. L., Sitorus, N., & Siahaan, S. T. (2023). A morphological analysis of inflectional and derivational morphemes on students’ descriptive text grade VII of SMP Negeri 10 Medan. *Jurnal Pendidikan Tambusai*, 7(3), 24541–24546.
- Katamba, F. (1993). *Morphology*. Macmillan.
- Leech, G. (2006). *A glossary of English grammar*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Lieber, R. (2021). *Introducing morphology* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.
- Marchand, H. (1969). *The categories and types of present-day English word formation*. Beck.
- Matthews, P. H. (1991). *Morphology* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.
- Moleong, L. J. (2017). *Metodologi penelitian kualitatif*. Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Plag, I. (2003). *Word-formation in English*. Cambridge University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511841323>

- Pradana, A., & Putra, A. R. (2024). A descriptive study of English morphemes in terms of inflectional and derivational suffixes in journal articles of JDER 2023. *Edu Ling: Journal of English Education and Linguistics*, 7(2), 212–223. <https://doi.org/10.32663/eduling.v7i2.4429>
- Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1985). *A comprehensive grammar of the English language*. Longman.
- Rahmadewi, P. S. K., Setiawati, T. E., Arpin, N. P. R., & Erfiani, N. M. D. (2023). Morphology analysis of derivational morphemes on YouTube BBC News. *International Journal of Linguistics and Discourse Analytics*, 4(2), 125–135.
- Simaremare, D., Silalahi, D. E., & Purba, L. (2021). Derivational affixes in writing analytical exposition text. *JOLLT: Journal of Languages and Language Teaching*, 9(1), 44–52.
- Spencer, A. (2021). *Morphological theory: An introduction*. Routledge.
- Spencer, A., & Zwicky, A. M. (Eds.). (2001). *The handbook of morphology*. Blackwell.
- Yule, G. (2010). *The study of language* (4th ed.). Cambridge University Press.

