

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the research background, research problem, research focus, research objectives, research significance, and definition of keywords.

1.1. Research Background

English learners have to master the foundation skills of English. The skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. According to Dalman (2014), reading is an intellectual procedure which involves discovering various information included in written materials. Reading can also be considered a cognitive procedure that involves understanding the meaning of the material being read. Therefore, reading is process thinking where the readers try receive meanings from written materials.

In Indonesia, English is the first foreign language that must be learned and practiced, not only that but must be mastered. When studying a piece of writing, the learner must also have a thorough knowledge of the word. Words are very important in mastering English because they are a component of grammar. To improve their vocabulary understanding, students can employ morphology as a branch of linguistics that analyzes the internal structure of words and the rules of word production. Morphology is a science that studies

small elements in language, which literally means studying knowledge about forming elements into word Yule (2017). So that students by studying morphology learn the grammar of words and how to form words from small components. In linguistics, these smallest components are called morphemes. Morphology will study the analysis of the form and function of morphemes in English with the aim of providing an understanding of the process of forming and using words in everyday English.

Morpheme is an important element in morphology. Yule (2020) explains that a morpheme is a small unit that provides meaning or grammatical function. Hippisley and Stump (2016) also stated that morphemes are minimally meaningful elements. One word in English can consist of several morphemes which can be changed into several word forms and have different meanings, this is influenced by the systematics of word formation. Morphemes have two types, free morpheme and bound morpheme. First, free morpheme which can stand alone as a complete word that is clear and has meaning without being combined with other morphemes. Second, bound morpheme is a morpheme that has no meaning if it stands alone, bound morpheme will have a clear meaning if combined with other morphemes so that a meaningful word will be formed.

According to Fromkin et al., (2018) bound morphemes are morphemes in language that cannot stand alone as words with complete meaning, but must be bound with other morphemes to form words. These morphemes are usually affixes, such as prefixes and suffixes, which are used to change the

meaning or class of the base word. Therefore, derivational morphemes are a special type of bound morphemes which are used to form new words or derived words by changing the meaning, word class, or grammatical function of the base word. Aronoff (2017) also stated that Derivational refers to the process or concept of forming new words or derived words in a language by using derivational morphemes (affix morphemes such as prefixes, ending suffixes, or infixes) to change the meaning or class of the base word. This derivational process is often used to expand vocabulary and convey richer meaning in language.

According to Yule (2010) a prefix is a letter or group of letters that are placed at the beginning of the root of a word to become the meaning of the word. For example prefix un- in the word “unhappy” which means not happy. According to Fromkin et al., (2018) suffix is a type of affix that is placed at the end of a base word to change the meaning, word class, or grammatical function of the word. The use of prefixes and suffixes is very common in languages around the world and is one of the main ways of forming new or derived words.

English for Nusantara is a textbook published by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology which is used (by grade VIII) in several junior high schools through out Indonesia, both in public and private schools to assist learning in the Merdeka curriculum. English for Nusantara is an English learning book that has rich and varied material, including the use of the prefixes and suffixes. These materials are designed to

help students understand and use prefixes and suffixes appropriately in a variety of English contexts. For example, the suffix -ly is used to form adverbs, such as 'quickly' or 'happily', while the suffix -est is used to form words in the superlative form, such as 'tallest' or 'smartest' (smartest). With material presented in a systematic and varied manner, students are expected to be able to master the use of prefixes and suffixes in English better and improve their overall language skills.

Understanding prefixes and suffixes are important because they not only expand vocabulary, but also provide a deep understanding of how language develops and changes over time, as well as allowing learners to explore additional meanings that can be added to base words, thereby increasing the flexibility and expressivity of the language. Based on the result of the research on morphology in language problems teaching and learning, that there are problems focus by the English learners. Because many students who study English face problems in understanding derivational morphemes according to Cahya et al., (2022) that the problem of students is understanding derivational morphemes there are noun, verb, adjective and adverb. Because of that, the researcher is interested in researching prefixes and suffixes in the English for Nusantara textbook, especially for grade VIII. Grade VIII in English for Nusantara is neither too difficult nor too basic, and it becomes more engaging by using comic strips. Overall, comic strips serve as an effective tool for exploring linguistic elements in a way that is both educational and enjoyable for students. Therefore, the researcher conducts an

investigation entitled “AN ANALYSIS OF DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES FOUND IN COMIC STRIPS OF “ENGLISH FOR NUSANTARA IN EIGHT GRADE” TEXTBOOK”.

1.2. Research Problem

Based on the background, the following research problem is:

What are derivational morphemes (prefixes and suffixes) found in comic strips of English for Nusantara in eight grade textbook?.

1.3. Research Focus

This research is focused on words in comic strips which contain derivational morphemes of English for Nusantara eight grade which display prefixes and suffixes as well as changes in the meaning of words after the prefix and suffix are added.

1.4. Research Objectives

This research will analyse the derivational morphemes prefixes and suffixes found in comic strips of English for Nusantara of eight grade textbook. Fromkin et al., (2018), describe that if a derivational morpheme is added to a word, it will change the meaning. It can be interpreted that a derivational morpheme produces a new word or a new meaning. Changes the part of speech or word class of the free morpheme or root it attached to.

1.5. Research Significance

This research provides two benefits, namely theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically

The results of this research will enrich knowledge about morphology especially derivational morphemes.

2. Practically

- 1) For teachers, the results of this research are hopefully becoming a reference of the fellow teacher in teaching material on word formation in enriching vocabulary.
- 2) For students, the results of this research are hopefully becoming a reference of the students in studying word formation to enrich vocabulary.
- 3) For the next researchers, the results of this research are hopefully becoming a reference in doing the further research in the same field.

1.6. Definition of Keywords

Some keywords are clarified to avoid misunderstanding. The keywords are as follows:

1. Derivational Morpheme

Derivational morpheme if tied or attached to another morpheme, will form a new morpheme/word or to form a word with grammar

(lexeme) that is different from the previous words. This research focus on the prefixes and suffixes data of morphemes found in comic strips from English for Nusantara in eight grade junior high school.

2. Prefix

According to Yule (2010) a prefix is a letter or group of letters that are placed at the beginning of the root of a word to another word with different meaning. For this research, the author examined prefixes in comic strips from English for Nusantara in eight grade textbook to find out the actual situation of the process of forming new words.

3. Suffix

Based on Bauer (2010) the study of suffix morphemes and their patterns in the formation of new words in a language is known as analysis in derivational morphology. The primary focus is on how suffix morphemes affect changes in the underlying word's meaning, word class, or grammatical function. For this research the author will examine suffix in comic strips from English for Nusantara in eight grade textbooks to find out the actual situation of the process of forming new words.

4. Comic Strip

Comic strips, a series of adjacent images, usually arranged horizontally, designed to be read as a narrative or chronological sequence. This research will focus on reading texts contained comic strips in the book English for Nusantara in Eight Grade Textbook.

5. English for Nusantara in Eight Grade Textbook

English for Nusantara is a textbook specifically designed for facilitating English language learning for learners in Nusantara. This book may adapt learning materials and contexts to local needs and contexts in the Indonesian archipelago. In this research the English for Nusantara in eight grade textbook at junior high school level as a learning reference published by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (2022).