

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Morphology

Morphology is the scientific study of word structure. Since most speakers view words as indivisible units of meaning, the assertion that they have structure may come as a surprise. Many words have simple morphologies, which is probably why this is the case. The majority of English words, however, have complex morphology. Actually, they are decomposable into significantly smaller parts (Katamba, 1994, pp. 19-20).

Consider, for example, the word-form *unbelievable*. This can be segmented to show its constituent elements thus: *un - believe - able*. Each of these segments has a distribution, meaning, and shape (or sets of forms) all of its own. Therefore, the prefix *un-* has a negative meaning and is found in terms like *unpleasant*, *unexpected*, and *unofficial*; the word *believe* has a fixed meaning and is found in word-forms like *believes*, *believed*, and *believing*; the suffix *-able* has a fixed meaning and is found in phrases like *breakable*, *pleasurable*, and *understandable*. It is not possible to further split any of the segments *un*, *believe*, *able* into smaller segments that work in the same manner as they do; each segment represents a morpheme.

The smallest, indivisible units of semantic content or grammatical function that make up words are referred to as morphemes. By definition, a morpheme cannot be divided into smaller parts that can indicate a grammatical function, like the singular or plural number in a noun, or have meaning on their own (Katamba, 1994, p. 20). A morpheme that can stand alone as a word is referred to as free morpheme, whereas a morpheme that must be attached to another element is referred to as bound morpheme (O'Grady & Guzman, 2013, p. 102). The collection of distinctive English word forms, including basic nouns, adjectives, verbs, and so forth, are known as free morphemes. The basic word forms are called stems when they are used with bound morphemes attached (Yule, 2010, p. 68). For example, the word-form *disagreement*. The prefix *dis-* and suffix *-ment* are bound morphemes because they cannot stand alone whereas *agree* is identity as stem which is the basic word form of *disagreement*.

2.1.2 Word-Formation

The study of word-formation focuses on the internal structure of complex words, classifying the forms and meanings of morphemes, and comprehending how these building blocks combine to form words in a given language. It contributes to our understanding of how languages evolve and how new words are created (Müller et al., 2015, p. 3).

Yule (2010) states that there are many different types of word-formation processes, including acronyms, derivation, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, coinage, borrowing, and multiple processes.

2.1.2.1 Coinage

Coinage, sometimes referred to as neologism, is the process of creating new words through word formation. Unlike other processes, coinage involves the creation of new words from scratch, without reference to any previously existing language. As a result, this is the least common process of word-formation in English. (Yule, 2010, p. 53). The most common sources are made-up trade names for commercial goods that eventually become generic terms for any variation of that product, typically without capital letters. For example, *Starbucks* coined the term *frappuccino* by combining the words *frappe* (a type of iced coffee) and *cappuccino* (an espresso-based drink).

2.1.2.2 Borrowing

Adopting words from other languages is a common process known as “borrowing” in the formation of English words (Yule, 2010, p. 54). The English language has absorbed a great deal of vocabulary from other languages over the years, including German, French, Greek, Spanish, Japanese, Hindi, Arabic, and Persian. The borrowed words can take different forms and can be used in different ways. For example, some borrowed words are used in their original form, such as *sushi* (borrowed from Japanese) or *pajama* (borrowed from Hindi). Other words are adapted to fit English phonetics and spelling such as *restaurant*, which was borrowed from French, underwent phonological adaptation, resulting in pronunciation changes.

2.1.2.3 Compounding

Combining two or more words to form a new word that has a meaning that is frequently connected to the meanings of the original words is known as compounding (Yule, 2010, p. 55). Compounding is a productive process in English and a widely used process for creating new words that capture specific meanings or concepts. There are several types of compounds, including noun-noun compounds like *bookshelf*, *sunflower*, *snowball*; verb-noun compounds like *swimming pool*, *running shoes*, *sleeping bag*; adjective-noun compounds *greenhouse*, *bigfoot*, *redflag*; and adverb-adjective compounds *well-known*, *high-pitched*, *soft spoken*.

2.1.2.4 Clipping

A longer word can be made shorter by eliminating one or more syllables through a process called clipping (Yule, 2010, p. 56). This process entails truncating a word to create a shorter version while retaining its core meaning. Clipping is common in both informal and colloquial language and can occur in a variety of parts of speech, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. For example, *ads* (from *advertisement*), *bike* (from the word *bicycle*) and *uni* (from the word *university*).

2.1.2.5 Blending

Blending is the process of creating new words by combining two or more existing words. Blending, as opposed to compounding, is the process of combining parts of two or more words to create a new word with a different meaning (Yule, 2010, p. 55). Blending occurs when words that are frequently used together become fused

over time, or when new concepts or technologies necessitate the creation of new words. Blending is common in a variety of contexts, such as popular culture, technology, and everyday language. For example, *brunch* (from *breakfast* and *lunch*), *sitcom* (from *situation* and *comedy*) and *frenemy* (from *friend* and *enemy*).

2.1.2.6 Back-Formation

The process of generating a new word by excising an assumed suffix or affix from an already-existing word is called back-formation. It is frequently applied to verbs to form a new verb by taking the assumed affix off of an already-existing noun or adjective (Yule, 2010, p. 57). The original word's grammatical category or meaning may be altered as a result of this removal. For example, *televise* (back-formed from *television*), *babysit* (back-formed from *babysitter*), and *confess* (back-formed from *confession*).

2.1.2.7 Conversion

Conversion is a word-formation process that modifies a word's grammatical category, or part of speech, without adding or removing any affixes. It is also referred to as zero derivation or functional shift (Yule, 2010, p. 57). The most common type of conversion in English involves the conversion of nouns to verbs like the word *friend*—from the noun referring to a person, it can be converted into a verb, as in “*I will friend you on social media.*” Other types of conversion that is also possible is conversion of adjectives to nouns like the word *young*—from the adjective describing a person's age, it can be converted into a noun, as in “*The young have much to learn*” or verbs to nouns like *talk*—from the verb describing

speaking or communicating, it can be converted into a noun, as in “*We need to have a talk.*”

2.1.2.8 Acronym

Acronym is a type of word-formation process in which a new word is formed by combining the first letters of each word in a phrase or title (Yule, 2010, p. 58). Acronyms are frequently used in English to create short, memorable names for organizations, products, and concepts. They are commonly used in technical fields such as science, technology, and medicine, as well as in government, military, and business contexts. For example, “OSHA” (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), “SWAT” (Special Weapons and Tactics), “FOMO” (Fear Of Missing Out), and “NAFTA” (North American Free Trade Agreement).

2.1.2.9 Derivation

The process of derivation involves affixing new meanings to already-existing words. Affixes are added to a base word’s beginning (prefix) or ending (suffix) to modify its meaning and, occasionally, its function (Yule, 2010, pp. 58-59). In many languages, the derivation process is highly productive, allowing for the creation of new words based on consistent patterns and rules. For example, the word *unhappy* (the prefix *un-* + the word *happy* to create a new adjective that means “not happy”) and the word *darkness* (the word *dark* + the suffix *-ness* to create a new noun that means “the state of being dark”).

2.1.2.10 Multiple Processes

The idea that new words can be formed using more than one process of word-formation is referred to as multiple processes in word-formation. Multiple processes are commonly used in the formation of words in English and other languages (Yule, 2010, p. 60). For example, the word *brunch*, which is formed through the blending of the words *breakfast* and *lunch*. However, the word *bruncher*, meaning someone who eats brunch, is formed through the addition of the suffix *-er* to the base word *brunch*, which is an example of derivation.

2.2 Research Method

2.2.1 Research Design

This study used a descriptive qualitative research method. A descriptive case study's research goal is to create a complete, detailed depiction of some phenomenon (Ordell, 2001 in Schwandt & Gates, 2018, p. 607). Qualitative research involves gathering and analyzing data by the researcher or a designated co-researcher, involving the researcher in the process just as much as the participants and the information they provide (Creswell, 2013 in Corbin & Strauss, 2015, Chapter 1).

Using Yule's (2010) theory of word-formation processes, word-formation processes found in the novel were identified. These processes included acronym, derivation, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, coinage, borrowing, and multiple processes. Furthermore, AntConc software was used in this study to generate concordance lines, which display the context and frequency of word

occurrences in the narrative, as well as to examine words that frequently co-occur with specific target words.

2.2.2 Data Source

The study used a children's novel *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* which was written by Elizabeth George Speare as a case study to investigate the various types of word-formation processes and their functions within the narrative. The novel, which was first published in 1958, is set in the late 17th century in the Connecticut colony. The story revolves around Katherine "Kit" Tyler, a young girl who moves from the sunny island of Barbados to the Puritan community of Wethersfield. The novel explores themes such as individualism versus conformity, tolerance, and the dangers of prejudice. It depicts the contrast between Kit's more open-minded and free-spirited personality and the Puritan community's strict religious beliefs and social norms. The population of the study is the entire novel itself. In terms of sampling technique, purposeful sampling was applied. Patton (2002) stated that in purposeful sampling, researchers intentionally select data points or sites based on specific criteria or characteristics that are relevant to the research question or objective (in Creswell, 2015, p. 205).

2.2.3 Method of Collecting Data

Creswell (2015) suggested there are four types of data collection approaches in qualitative research, namely observations, interviews or questionnaires, documents, and audiovisual materials (p. 211). This study used a

non-participant observation approach because the data was gathered by observing a reading material without the researcher being present in the setting.

The data collection procedure included the following steps: To begin, the researcher read the entire novel carefully, paying close attention to language use and identifying instances where word-formation processes were used. To facilitate analysis, the novel's narrative was converted into a plain file format (*.txt) with all formatting removed. This was done to ensure that AntConc could analyze the text accurately and without interference from formatting or other special characters.

2.2.4 Method of Analyzing data

The analysis of word-formation processes was conducted using the AntConc software, a powerful computational linguistic tool that assisted in the identification and classification of linguistic features. The following steps were involved in the data analysis process:

- a. Importing the data into AntConc software: The plain file containing the novel's narrative was imported into the AntConc software platform, which provided a user-friendly interface for linguistic analysis;
- b. Identifying instances of word-formation processes: Using Yule's (2010) theory of word-formation processes, the researcher identified and classified various types of word-formation processes found in the narrative. This included recognizing derivations, compounding, inflections, and other relevant processes;

- c. Documenting the data: Instances of word-formation processes, as well as contextual information such as surrounding words or phrases, were carefully documented to ensure accuracy and facilitate further analysis;
- d. Checking for accuracy: To ensure the accuracy of the identified word-formation processes, the data was reviewed and cross-checked. This step assisted in reducing errors and preserving the findings' integrity; and
- e. Finalizing the data: The analyzed data, which included the identified word-formation processes and their functions within the narrative, was organized and ready for interpretation, presentation, and discussion.