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Research Article

# The Analysis of Functional Morpheme in Hansel and Gretel Short Story

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### **KEYWORDS**

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#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of the research is to identify what functional morpheme is and how to recognize it in "Hansel and Gretel" short story. A functional morpheme is a part of free morpheme. A morpheme is the smallest unit in English linguistics that forms a word. There are two kinds of morpheme; they are free morpheme and bound morpheme. A morpheme that can stand on its own is called free, and ones that cannot are bound. A free morpheme has two types; they are lexical and functional morpheme. Functional morpheme is a morpheme that is commonly used in some articles to connect words or sentences. A functional morpheme is a part of Morphology. Functional morpheme is mostly used in English and it can be found in an English story. It is used because it gives influences the sentences. Without functional morpheme, sometimes the sentences will have no meaning or read awkwardly so it can give a different meaning to the sentences themselves. The data of the research was taken from "Hansel and Gretel" short story and the results of students' analysis. The participants of the research were the 1st semester of English Department students. A qualitative descriptive method was used to do the research. After doing the research, there are some results found in the research, they are (1) two items in the article section; (2) four items for the conjunction part; (3) eight items for the preposition part; and (4) eight items in the pronoun section.

## INTRODUCTION

Structures of the language do not only occur in the sentence but also in the word. Words in sentences can change depending on the context. The changing of the words is related to morphology. Morphology is one of study in Linguistics. Morphology deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2010). Some items are discussed in Morphology. Morpheme is the main discussion in Morphology. Morpheme is the smallest linguistic piece with a grammatical function. Morpheme is an important part of

linguistics that can help learners to find out the meaning of unknown words by combining morphemes with other parts of linguistics.

Morpheme is divided into two parts; they are free and bound morpheme. According to (Blevins, Morphology, Maiden, Anderson, Corbett, & Carstairs-mccarthy), the morphemes that can stand on their own are called free, and the ones that cannot are bound. Bound morphemes are also called affixes which can be classified into prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. There are two kinds of free morpheme; lexical and functional morpheme. A lexical morpheme is a free morpheme that forms the meaning of sentences, phrases, and expressions; meanwhile, functional

morpheme is a morpheme that simply modifies the meaning of the word not supplying the root meaning. A functional morpheme is as same as bound morpheme and is slightly the same with inflectional morphology. It discusses progressive (-ing), past tense (-d, -ed, -ied), plural (-s, -es), conjunction (and, or, but), preposition (on, in, at), articles (a, an, the), pronoun (I, your, their).

Concerning language, usually, Morphology is used to study the formation of words such as creating a new word, combining two words into one, or specifying the origin of the word. Morphology has a lot of definitions from some experts. According to Carthy as cited in (Nurngaini, Hastuti, & Andriani, 2019), the word Morphology is derived from the Greek word morphe meaning form and logos meaning science. It means Morphology is a study of word formation. Aronoff and Fudeman, 2010 state that Morphology referred to the mental system involved in word formation or to the branch of Linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed. Morphology deals with the structure of words. Knowing, knowingly, and unknowingly are kinds of derivational morphology. The base word is "know" and it is added with morphemes –ing, -ly, and un-.

According to March et al. (2014), Morphology is the study of investigating forms in language rather than depending on identifying words. Morphology plays an important role in the construction of linguistic units and structures. It is Morphology that allows the language to adopt new words from the existing words (derivational morphology) or to change the grammatical aspect of a word according to its use in a specific context (inflectional morphology). Khan, Akram, and Khan (2016) explained that the study of morphology contains a thorough examination of several bits of language that combine to make a single linguistic unit, known as the 'word'. Linguistically these bits are called morphemes. A morpheme is a minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function. There are two subcategories of morphemes, namely free and bound morphemes. Free morphemes can stand by themselves in isolation, e.g. boy, cat, dog, etc., while bound morphemes are always attached to free morphemes and never occur in isolation, e.g. -ness in madness. The former contains lexical morphemes that have a dictionary meaning (like a wall, book, fan, etc.) and functional morphemes that have grammatical functions to fulfill (like a, an, the, etc.). The latter contains derivational morphemes and inflectional morphemes. The main difference between the two is that derivational morphemes produce new words in a language by changing their word class, e.g. teach—teach-er, while inflectional morphemes indicate aspects of the grammatical function of a word and never change its grammatical category e.g. boy-boy-s. In conclusion, Morphology is the study of a basic word and word formation. Creating a new word in a language, to describe,

to analyze, and to modify existing words is some purpose of morphological processes.

Morpheme is an important component in word formation. According to Adisutrisno (2013), Morphology cannot be separated to linguistic terms for the most element unit of grammatical form. This element unit is called morpheme. Similarly, according to Nurngaini et al. (2019), morpheme is a minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function. Concerning meaning, morpheme cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts. One of the functional units is grammatically used to indicate past tense. For example, the word reopened consists of three morphemes. One minimal unit of meaning is open, another minimal of meaning is remeans again, and a minimum unit grammatical function is –ed indicating past tense.

The grammatical function of a morpheme is important, the meaning must be constant. Consider the English word lovely and Especially, end with the suffix –ly. Although using the same suffix, when adding –ly to the adjective especial, that change into an adverb. When we add –ly to the noun love, that creates an adjective. The conclusion, not all of the words ending with –ly change to be an adverb. What on the surface appears to be a single morpheme turns out to be two. One attaches to an adjective (special) and creates an adverb, and the other attaches to a noun (love) and creates an adjective. According to Lieber as cited in (Fadilah, 2018), morpheme is the meaningful unit that is used to form words. It means morpheme cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts because the word is a smaller part of the sentence.

There are two kinds of morpheme; they are bound morpheme and free morpheme. A bound morpheme is a morpheme that cannot stand alone. The affixations needed to be attached to the morpheme. The affixation can be a prefix or suffix. The prefixes are: en-, re-, il-, dis-, ir-, etc., while a free morpheme is a morpheme that can stand by itself as single words, for example, large, happy, responsible, location, duplicate. The free morphemes can generally be identified as a set of separate English word forms such as basic nouns, adjectives, verbs, etc.

A free morpheme is divided into two categories, they are lexical morpheme and functional morpheme. Lexical morphemes are the ordinary nouns, adjectives, and verbs that we think of as the words which carry the content of messages we convey. Examples are book, apple, happy, blue, walk, swim, etc. While functional morphemes consist of an article, such as a, an, the; conjunction, such as: and, or, but, so, because, so that; preposition, such as: in, on, above, in front of, out of; and pronoun, such as him, her, their, itself. They are called an open class of words since we can add new lexical morphemes to the language easily.

Functional morpheme is part of free morpheme. Functional morpheme modifies the meaning of a word rather than supplying the root meaning. Functional morpheme is generally considered a closed class, which means that new functional morphemes cannot normally be created. Functional morphemes consist of functional words in the language such as: 1) conjunctions, 2) prepositions, 3) articles, and 4) pronouns. Each of those parts in functional morphemes has different function.

Conjunction is one of eight parts of speech. It is used to connect words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. Incoherent or mispunctuated sentences often result from misused conjunctions (Kusumawardhani, 2017). A conjunction is defined as an indeclinable part of speech that links other parts of speech, in company with which it has significance, by classifying their meaning or relations (Unubi, 2016). Setimaji, Abdulah, & Haryudin (2019) explained that conjunction also combines a set of grammatical functions into larger grammatical units. There are three types of conjunctions are: subordinate conjunctions, coordinate conjunctions, and correlative conjunctions. Subordinate conjunctions break sentences into word clusters called dependent (or subordinate) clauses. Dependent clauses cannot stand alone and must be connected to an independent clause to make a complex sentence. Subordinate conjunctions connect the dependent clause to the independent clause. Examples: "Although she was ill, she still went to school yesterday"; "If only there is a long life, maybe we will meet again"; and so forth.

After	If only	Unless
Although	In order that	Until
As	Now that	When
As if	Once	Whenever
As long as	Provided	Where
As though	Rather than	Whereas
Because	Since	Wherever
Before	So that	Whether
Even if	That	While
Even though	Though	Within
If	Without	Besides

**Figure 1.** Common Subordinate Conjunctions https://carey.jhu.edu/uploads/files/Conjunctions

Coordinate conjunctions are single words that connect similar parts of a sentence, such as adjectives, nouns, and clauses. These are used to link words, phrases and clauses. They are conjunctions which are used to join together clauses of equal rank. In other words, they generally connect sentence elements of the same grammatical class such as nouns with nouns, adverbs with adverbs, phrases with phrases and clauses with clauses. Huddleston divides coordination into two-basic coordination (Decapua, 2017). The words for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so are the examples of coordinate conjunctions.

Examples: "I have known her for years"; "That woman has a daughter and two sons"; and so on.

Savitri, Setiyono, and Widodo (2021) explained that correlative conjunctions are couples of words that work together as a conjunction. They connect similar parts of a sentence, such as adjectives, nouns, and clauses. However, unlike coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions are combinations of coordinating conjunctions, not only a single word. They always come in pairs and link grammatically equivalent items. Kinds of correlative conjunctions are as ... as, both ... and, either ... or, neither ... nor, not only ... but also, not ... but, as well as whether ... or. Examples: "My little sister likes candy as much as she likes ice cream"; "Both James and Thomas are my cousins"; and so forth.

A preposition is a word or group of words used to link nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. The use of the right prepositions can affect the quality of the information given in spoken language (Suzanne, 2017). Preposition can be defined as a word that shows the relationship between two things. Prepositions show the relationship between nouns by modifying the noun that follows them (also called the object of the preposition). It also uses to show direction, time, place, location, spatial relationships, or to introduce an object in, on, in front of, behind, beside, above, between, under are examples of preposition. Preposition is mostly used before noun and the noun can plural or plural. Preposition usage is one of the most difficult aspects of English grammar for non-native speakers to master. 'It is difficult to learn to use language prepositions correctly in a foreign (Wanodyatama, 2020). Moreover, it is difficult to learn to use prepositions correctly in a foreign language. Pratiwi, Putri, and Suhadi (2020) stated that prepositions express a relation in space between two or more entities or a relation in time between two events, or various other abstract relations such as instrument and cause. Preposition is formed to ease the learning English process. There are two types of prepositions, they are simple preposition and complex preposition (Wahyuningsih, 2021). Examples: "There are some books on the table"; "That little girl is walking between her parents"; and so on. There are some rules about using prepositions:

English	Usage	Example
in	months/seasons     years     time of day     centuries and historical periods     after a certain period of time	in August/in the summer in 1985 in the evening in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century Mystic Market closes in two hours.
at	time of days noon, night, and midnight names of mealtime age	<ul> <li>at 2:30</li> <li>at night</li> <li>at breakfast</li> <li>Ilearned how to use a computer at 12.</li> </ul>
on	days of the week	• on Friday
since	<ul> <li>from a period of time up to the present (when it started)</li> </ul>	I have been a student since 2004.
for	how long a period of time has been	I have been a student here for 2 years.
fromto	the beginning and end of a period of time	My appointment is from 13:30 to 14:00.
until	a period of time up to a specific point in time	I cannot go dancing until I finish reading this chapter.
by	in the sense of "at the latest"     due date	<ul> <li>You must return your book by April 21<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>My essay is due by the end of the week.</li> </ul>

English	Usage	Example
in	<ul> <li>when something is in a place, it is inside it (enclosed within limits)</li> </ul>	in class/in Victoria  in the book  in the car/in a taxi  You look serious in this photo.
at	located at a specific place (a point)     for events     place where you are to do something typical (watch a movie, study, work)	at the library at a concert/at a party at the cinema/at school/at work
on	being on a surface (not enclosed)     for a certain side (left, right)      for a floor in a building     for public transport     for television, radio	Ileft the keys on the table. Go down this hall to the end, turn right, and it's the third door on your left. My apartment is on the fourth floor. If orgot my phone on the bus. You can hear my brother on the radio.
to	<ul> <li>moving toward a specific place (the goal or end point of movement)</li> </ul>	Every morning, I take the bus to campus.
from	for the origin or starting point	I used carrots from my garden. I received a suspicious email from my bank. I will be on vacation from July 31 for a week.
towards	movement in direction of something	I suddenly saw a dog running towards me.
across	movement from one side to another	<ul> <li>There is a coffee shop across the street.</li> <li>I swam across the lake.</li> </ul>
through	movement from one side to another but "in something"	I entered the room through an open window. You have to go through the kitchen to get to the bathroom.
between	<ul> <li>a place "in the middle" of two or more separate people or things</li> </ul>	I was standing between my friend and his parents.     The gap between the rich and poor keeps growing.
among	a place "surrounded" by more than two people or things together as a group (in the sense of "included in")	France is among the countries of Western Europe.     Among the advantages of exercising regularly are lower risks of depression and a better quality of life.

English	Usage	Example
of	between two noun phrases to show that the first belongs to or is part of the second     to say how people are related	The keyboard of my computer is pink.  Richard is the son of Audrey/He is a good friend of mine.
with	Between two noun phrases when the second is a particular feature of the first     to say that people or things are together     for the specific thing used to perform an action	Ispilled coffee on the computer with a pink keyboard. Ithink Sarah is studying with Tara/I went to a workshop with my friend. My roommate killed a spider with a book.
by	when we want to describe an action in a more general way	My roommate saved my live by killing the spider.

English	Usage	Example
about	For topics (in the sense of "with regard to/concerned with")	<ul> <li>She was the author of many books about the history of ancient Egypt.</li> </ul>
for	<ul> <li>with a purpose/giving a reason (associated with an action; shortened form of "for the purpose of")</li> </ul>	The concept of class is important for understanding how society works.  Theories about strategies for linking nouns and verbs
from	the origin, cause or agent of something	The meaning is often hard to guess from the individual words.
in	<ul> <li>inclusion, location or position within a time period or limits</li> </ul>	You can see this in works by contemporary authors.
on	the basis for something	<ul> <li>Many engineers proceed on the assumption that the digital age is unique.</li> </ul>
of	belonging to, relating to, or connected with     describe a relation/causation      the origin, cause, motive or reason of something	The results of the investigation are still relevant. The root of the problem is the absence of any evidence supporting our thesis. Henderson discovered that the king died of poisoning by analyzing blood samples.
by	describe a direct cause or agent	<ul> <li>According to folklore, he was killed by strangulation by the Mad King when he protested the new tax.</li> </ul>

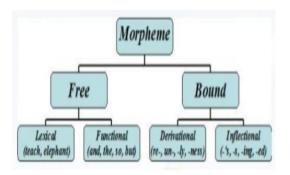
**Figure 2.** Rules of Prepositions https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/grammar/pre positions

Articles are used to show whether a noun is general or specific. Articles are written before noun and noun can be singular or plural. The articles a, an, and the are kinds of articles. A is used for noun which begins with consonant letter or sound, an is used for noun which begins with vowel letter or sound, and the is used noun which is specific. A and an are called indefinite articles because the noun is general while the is called definite article because the noun is specific. Examples: "I have a new story book"; "My sister always eats an apple every morning"; and so forth.

Pronouns are grammatical item which belongs to the closed system family. Pronoun is a word that used to refer to someone or something. Pronouns are kinds of part of speech. A pronoun is important in the sentence that develops or points an object directly into the sentence. Pronoun can refresh objects and subjects (Harianja, Yudar, & Deliani, 2019). There are six groups of pronouns, (Saputra et al., 2018). These pronouns are mostly used in the sentences, they are: personal pronoun, relative pronoun, demonstrative pronoun, reciprocal pronoun, indefinite pronoun and interrogative pronoun. Each pronoun has their different function. Personal pronoun plays an important role in whether for writing and also communication. Those statements show that personal pronouns are very important to be taught in order to make students are able to construct grammatical sentences. If there are no pronouns used, people should repeat the noun for several times.

Pronouns are frequently employed in conversations and phrases to replace words that name persons, places, or things, pronouns are important (Alkadri & Tiarina, 2023). Personal pronouns are the most common used in English. Personal pronouns are divided into subject, object, possessive adjective, possessive pronoun, and reflexive pronoun. I, You They, We, He, She, and It are called subject. Subject is written in the beginning of the sentence and always written with capital letter. Me, you, them, him,

her, and it are called subject. Subject is written in the middle of at the end of the sentence and written with small letter. Possessive adjective and possessive pronoun are used to show about belonging. My, your, their, our, him, her, and its are called possessive adjective, while, mine, yours, theirs, ours, his, hers, and its are called possessive pronoun. Myself, yourself/yourselves, themselves, ourselves, himself, herself, and itself are called reflexive pronoun. Examples: "I have a new comic. This is my comic so the comic is mine"; "Do you drink coffee? Is this your coffee? Is this coffee yours?"; "They like to play football on the weekend"; and so forth.



**Figure 3.** The Classification of Morpheme https://languageavenue.com/linguistics/general-linguistics/grammar-syntax/item/morphemes-in-english.

#### **METHOD**

This research was carried out to identify how to recognize the functional morpheme. The participants of this research were the 1st semester of English department students. The data for this research was taken from the student's answer sheets and the method used in this research was qualitative. A qualitative method was used as the method to do the research. The aim of qualitative research is to gain a comprehensive understanding of social phenomena in their natural environments (Chinyere & Val, 2023). It was used because it relied on the direct experiences of people as meaning-making agents in their daily lives and focuses on the why rather than what of social phenomena.

Qualitative researchers applied a variety of systems of inquiry, such as biography, case study, historical analysis, discourse analysis, ethnography, grounded theory, and phenomenology, as opposed to logical and statistical methods. It consisted of the effort of giving the note, the analysis, and the interpretation of the recent symptoms which have the characteristics as follows: try to give the fact, straight to the problem and the recent variables are not manipulated by the researcher. Hansel and Gretel was chosen to be analyzed because the story is not too long that will not make the students feel bored. The story consists of 259 words so it is still easy to be analyzed. The students were asked to read a Hansel and Gretel short story and then

tried to find kinds of functional morphemes in it. After finding the kinds of functional morphemes, they were asked to classify and to analyze them. They were assigned to define about the kinds of functional morphemes found in Hansel and Gretel's short story.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Hansel and Gretel

A poor woodcutter and his wife had two children named Hansel and Gretel. Their mother died when they were young. Hansel and Gretel were very sad. Soon their father remarried but their stepmother was very cruel. One day, she took the children deep into the forest and left them there. Clever Hansel had some breadcrumbs in his pocket and had dropped them on the way so that they could find their way back home. Alas! The birds ate all the crumbs and they couldn't find the path that led back home.

Hansel and Gretel went deeper and deeper into the forest. They were hungry and tired. Finally, after walking for a long time, they saw a cottage made of chocolate, candies, and rabe. "(Look Hansel! A chocolate brick!" shouted Gretel in delight and both ate it hungrily.



Now, a wicked witch lived there. When she saw Hansel and Gretel, she wanted to eat them. She grabbed the children and locked them in a cage. The witch decided to make a soup out of Hansel and eat him first. She began boiling a huge pot of water for the soup. Just then, Gretel crept out of her cage. She gave the wicked witch a mighty push from behind and the witch fell into the boiling water. She howled in pain and died instantly, Hansel and Gretel found treasure lying around the cottage. They carried it home with them. Their stepmother had died and their father welcomed them back with tears of joy. They never went hungry again!

Figure 4. Hansel and Gretel Story

After reading, finding, and classifying the functional morpheme, here are the results that have been found by the students, they are:

Table 1. The Result of the Research

Article	a
	the
Conjunction	and
	when
	but
	so that
Preposition	into
	in
	on
	of
	out of
	for
	behind
	with
Pronoun	his
	their
	they
	she
	them
	it
	him
	her

A functional morpheme is a morpheme that seems does not have meaning if it is not put in the sentence, but sometimes, the sentence itself does not have meaning and needs the functional morpheme to be understood. Based on the findings and classification above, there are: (1) two items in the article section; (2) four items for the conjunction part; (3) eight items for the preposition part; and (4) eight items in the pronoun section. In line with the findings and the theories which have been explained above, especially based on Blevins et al.'s theory, it can be said that the functional morpheme needs an article, conjunction, preposition, and pronoun to make the sentences in passages readable and easy to be understood by the readers.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the analyzed data, it can be concluded that functional morpheme helps the students to understand not only the sentences but also the passages. Perhaps without the functional morpheme, both the sentences and the passages will be difficult to understand. Mostly functional morpheme can be used to help the students in mastering grammar and vocabulary. Functional morpheme is part of morpheme which if the form of the words changes so the meaning of the words will also change. The changing of the form will be difficult to understand for the students if they do not know the base meaning of the words. The changing of the words will also change the meaning of the words so the students should know the new meaning of those words. The changing of the meaning can enrich the students in comprehending the context of the story. The results above showed that those words have helped the students to understand. It is needed for the students to read the sentences carefully to ease the passages well.

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