

**An Analysis of Derivational and Inflectional Morphemes Found
in Kamala Harris' Speech**

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Abstract

The study investigates the types and functions of derivational and inflectional morphemes found in Kamala Harris's 2024 Democratic National Convention speech. Although previous research has examined these morphological categories in written texts and media discourse, little attention has been given to their use in political speech, particularly in contemporary American rhetoric. This study addresses that gap by analyzing how morphological structures contribute to grammatical clarity and rhetorical effectiveness. Employing a qualitative descriptive approach, the researcher manually transcribed the 12-minute speech (1,325 words) and identified all words containing bound morphemes. The analysis followed the framework of Fromkin et al. (2011) for morpheme classification and Miles et al. (2014) for qualitative data analysis, including condensation, display, and conclusion drawing. Each morpheme was coded and categorized according to its type and grammatical function. The findings reveal a total of 330 morphemes, comprising 120 derivational and 210 inflectional forms. Derivational morphemes were distributed across nine types, primarily forming nouns (49.2%) and adjectives (35%). Inflectional morphemes covered seven categories, dominated by plural and past tense markers. The study concludes that derivational morphemes contribute to lexical expansion by forming new word classes, whereas inflectional morphemes mark grammatical relationships within the speech. These results highlight how morphological choices enhance linguistic precision and persuasive power in political discourse, offering implications for both morphological theory and discourse analysis.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a fundamental aspect of human life because it functions as a means to convey ideas, feelings, thoughts, and information. It also plays an essential role in cognitive development, social relationships, and cultural understanding (Bigelow et al., 2021). According to Setiadi (2024), language is an inseparable part of society because it enables humans to interact and build meaning within various social contexts. Similarly, Syamsuar (2022)

defines language as both oral and written communication, encompassing verbal (orthographic) and non-verbal (gestural) forms. In the modern era, English has become the most prominent global language due to its use in various domains such as economics, politics, education, and social interaction. Crystal (2003) refers to English as a "global language," emphasizing its dominance in international communication with approximately 1.5 billion speakers worldwide. Consequently, mastery of English is vital for

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individuals to participate effectively in global academic and professional environments.

For students, vocabulary mastery represents one of the most essential components of English proficiency (Brooks et al., 2021). Vocabulary knowledge enables effective oral and written communication across diverse social and cultural contexts (Abadi, 2023). Vocabulary reflects the learner's understanding of meaning and appropriate word usage in context (Bouknify & Meryem, 2025). However, the vastness of English vocabulary poses a challenge. Goulden et al. (1990, as cited in Kirana et al., 2018) reported that Webster's Third New International Dictionary contains around 114,000 word families, an amount far beyond the realistic mastery of learners. This extensive lexicon, coupled with the dynamic nature of English word formation, makes it difficult for non-native learners to fully memorize and comprehend vocabulary (Hayakawa et al., 2019). One crucial solution to this challenge lies in understanding morphological processes, particularly derivational and inflectional morphemes, which reveal how words are formed, classified, and modified according to grammatical functions.

Morphology, as a subfield of linguistics, focuses on the internal structure and formation of words. It studies how words relate to meaning and grammatical function within a language system (Darikin et al., 2003, as cited in Hidayah et al., 2024). Understanding morphology allows learners to comprehend how word changes affect meaning and grammatical roles such as tense, number, or gender. The basic unit of morphology is the morpheme, which represents the smallest meaningful element in a word (Karimbayevna, 2023). Morphemes can be categorized into free morphemes, which can stand alone (e.g., book, pen, pencil), and bound morphemes, which must attach to a base word to convey meaning (Maulidia et al., 2019). Bound morphemes are further divided into derivational and inflectional morphemes, each serving distinct linguistic purposes.

Derivational morphemes create new words and may change the grammatical category or meaning of the base word (Hidayah et al., 2024).

For instance, sing becomes singer, changing from a verb to a noun, or happy becomes happily, changing from an adjective to an adverb. Conversely, inflectional morphemes modify words to express grammatical relationships such as tense (-ed), number (-s), or possession (-'s) without altering the word class (Zaniar et al., 2024). A solid understanding of these morphemes helps learners recognize how words are generated, how grammatical markers function, and how meaning is constructed in discourse. Moreover, investigating these morphological patterns is important in identifying difficulties encountered by English learners, particularly those from linguistically different backgrounds (Anisa Fajriati et al., 2024).

Previous studies have explored derivational and inflectional morphemes in various contexts. Anikah et al. (2023) examined 57 affixes, identifying 53 inflectional and 4 derivational morphemes, while Fitria (2020) found 357 morphemes in Tempo.com, consisting of 97 derivational (27.17%) and 260 inflectional (72.83%) forms. Similarly, Arbi et al. (2021) investigated derivational prefixes (un-, in-) and suffixes (-ion, -al, -er, -ive, -ity, -ly) and identified five types of inflectional morphemes (-s, -'s, -ed, -es, -ing). Although these studies contributed valuable insights, most focused on written or digital texts. Little attention has been given to spoken political discourse, particularly speeches by contemporary leaders. This gap highlights the need to analyze how morphological features function in persuasive oral communication.

Kamala Harris's speech was selected for analysis because it represents modern political rhetoric characterized by inclusivity, empowerment, and persuasive appeal. As the first female Vice President of the United States, Harris's speeches reflect not only linguistic precision but also socio-political influence. Analyzing the derivational and inflectional morphemes in her speech provides a deeper understanding of how morphological processes contribute to meaning, clarity, and rhetorical strength in political discourse.

Based on this rationale and the existing research gap, this study aims to examine the types and functions of derivational and inflectional morphemes found in Kamala Harris’s speech. Specifically, the research addresses the following questions: (a) What types of derivational and inflectional morphemes are found in Kamala Harris’s speech? And (b) What are the linguistic functions of these morphemes in the speech?

The classification of derivational and inflectional morphemes in this study follows the framework proposed by Fromkin et al. (2011), which outlines eight major types of derivational processes (e.g., noun to adjective, verb to noun, adjective to adverb) and several inflectional categories (e.g., plural, past tense, possessive). Additionally, the functions of these morphemes are analyzed following Kolanchery (2015, as cited in Purwanti, 2020), who explains that derivational morphemes create new lexical roots, while inflectional morphemes indicate grammatical aspects without changing the word class.

METHODS

This study employed a qualitative descriptive design, which allows for an in-depth exploration of linguistic phenomena through textual analysis rather than numerical measurement. The phenomenon under investigation concerns the morphological aspects of language, specifically derivational and inflectional morphemes as they appear in Kamala Harris’s speech. The data were collected from a YouTube video entitled Kamala Harris’s Speech at the Democratic National Convention (DNC), delivered in August 2024. The speech lasted approximately 12 minutes and 37 seconds and was manually transcribed by the researcher with verification against the video’s closed captions. The resulting corpus consisted of 1,325 words after excluding audience reactions and non-verbal elements.

Data collection utilized documentation and note-taking techniques (Maulidia et al., 2019), in which the researcher identified and recorded words

containing bound morphemes. As the primary instrument of the research, the researcher conducted all stages of the process, including data collection, transcription, coding, categorization, and interpretation. Following the qualitative design, this approach enabled the researcher to focus on context and meaning construction within authentic spoken discourse.

Data analysis followed the framework proposed by Miles et al. (2014, as cited in Hutagalung et al., 2023), consisting of three stages: (1) data condensation, in which only words relevant to derivational and inflectional processes were selected and verified using the Oxford English Dictionary; (2) data display, in which findings were presented in tabular form to clarify each morpheme’s type, function, and occurrence; and (3) conclusion drawing, where interpretations were made regarding how morphemes contribute to grammatical structure and meaning in the speech.

Each identified morpheme was coded systematically to ensure consistency and transparency: “D-M” for derivational and “I-M” for inflectional morphemes, followed by a numerical indicator representing the subtype. The classification of morphemes referred to the framework of Fromkin et al. (2011) for derivational categories (e.g., noun-forming, adjective-forming, verb-forming) and Kolanchery (2015, as cited in Purwanti, 2020) for functional categorization (lexical vs. grammatical functions).

To enhance the reliability and validity of the findings, peer checking was conducted with two linguistics experts who reviewed the transcription accuracy, morpheme categorization, and interpretation of results. The researcher also rechecked the coding consistency and used dictionary-based cross-references to verify each identified morpheme. These procedures were implemented to minimize researcher bias and ensure the accuracy of linguistic classification throughout the analytical process.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data results of the types and functions of Derivational and inflectional morphemes are respectively shown in the table below:

Table 1. Table of Types and Functions of Derivational Morphemes

No	Data	Type of Derivational Morpheme	Function
1	Goodness	Adjective to Noun	NF

2	Business	Adjective to Noun	NF
3	Incredible	Adjective to Adjective	Adj F
4	Thankful	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
5	Unexpected	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
6	Stranger	Adjective to Noun	NF
7	Unlikely	Adjective to Adjective	Adj F
8	Especially	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
9	Unshakable	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
10	Scientist	Noun to Noun	NF
11	Marriage	Verb to Noun	NF
12	Student	Verb to Noun	NF
13	Joyful	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
14	Laughter	Verb to Noun	NF
15	Fearless	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
16	Elementary	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
17	Mostly	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
18	Beautiful	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
19	Neighborhood	Noun to Noun	NF
20	Construction	Verb to Noun	NF
21	Trusted	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
22	Community	noun to Noun	NF
23	Importance	Adjective to Noun	NF
24	Kindness	Adjective to Noun	NF
25	Courageous	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
26	Extraordinary	Adjective to Adjective	Adj F
27	Injustice	Adjective to Noun	NF
28	Immersed	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
29	Movement	Verb to Noun	NF
30	Lawyer	Noun to Noun	NF
31	Sexually	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
32	Safety	Adjective to Noun	NF
33	Dignity	Adjective to Noun	NF
34	Justice	Adjective to Noun	NF
35	Proudly	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
36	Entirely	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
37	American	Noun to Noun	NF
38	Regardless	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
39	Nomination	Verb to Noun	NF
40	President	Verb to Noun	NF
41	Election	Verb to Noun	NF
42	Opportunity	Adjective to Noun	NF
43	Bitterness	Adjective to Noun	NF
44	Cynicism	Noun to Noun	NF
45	Divisive	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
46	Violence	Adjective to Noun	NF

47	Fundamental	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
48	Peaceful	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
49	Realistic	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
50	Practical	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
51	Prosecutor	Verb to Noun	NF
52	Foreclosure	Verb to Noun	NF
53	Security	Adjective to Noun	NF
54	Important	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
55	Unserious	Adjective to Adjective	Adj F
56	Extremely	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
57	Gravity	Adjective to Noun	NF
58	Armed	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
59	Enforcement	Verb to Noun	NF
60	Different	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
61	Separately	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
62	Sexual	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
63	Political	Adjective to Adjective	Adj F
64	Criminal	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
65	Prosecution	Verb to Noun	NF
66	Presidency	Noun to Noun	NF
67	National	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
68	Affordable	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
69	Insurance	Verb to Noun	NF
70	Endless	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
71	Department	Verb to Noun	NF
72	Education	Verb to Noun	NF
73	Preschool	Noun to Noun	NF
74	Personal	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
75	Available	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
76	Shortage	Adjective to Noun	NF
77	Billionaire	Noun to Noun	NF
78	Truly	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
79	Prosperous	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
80	Fully	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
81	Responsibility	Adjective to Noun	NF
82	Reproductive	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
83	Freedom	Adjective to Noun	NF
84	Potentially	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
85	Pregnancy	Adjective to Noun	NF
86	Medication	Verb to Noun	NF
87	Abortion	Verb to Noun	NF
88	Nationwide	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
89	National	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
90	Anti-abortion	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
91	Coordinator	Verb to Noun	NF

92	Simply	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
93	Openly	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
94	Pollution	Verb to Noun	NF
95	Finally	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
96	Conservative	verb to Adjective	Adj F
97	Proudly	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
98	Immigration	Verb to Noun	NF
99	Broken	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
100	Exactly	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
101	Citizenship	Noun to Noun	NF
102	Obligation	Verb to Noun	NF
103	Strengthen	Noun to Verb	VF
104	Competition	Verb to Noun	NF
105	Leadership	Noun to Noun	NF
106	Mobilize	Adjective to Verb	VF
107	Aggression	Verb to Noun	NF
108	Hostage	Noun to Noun	NF
109	Terrorist	Noun to Noun	NF
110	Organization	Verb to Noun	NF
111	Musical	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
112	Flattery	Verb to Noun	N F
113	Accountable	Verb to Adjective	Adj F
114	Tyranny	Noun to Noun	NF
115	Strength	Adjective to Noun	NF
116	Fairness	Adjective to Noun	NF
117	Dearly	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F
118	Worthy	Adjective to Adjective	Adj F
119	Heartbreaking	Noun to Adjective	Adj F
120	Practically	Adjective to Adverb	Adv F

Note,

NF : Noun Formation
 Adj F : Adjective Formation
 Adv F : Adverb Formation
 VF : Verb Formation.

The author found 120 Derivational Morphemes in Kamala Harris' speech. From these types and functions, Kamala Harris'

speech found the following types and functions of derivational morphemes: First, there are 20 adjectives to nouns, 19 nouns to adjectives, 25 verbs to nouns, 1 noun to verb, 17 verbs to adjectives, 1 adjective to verb, 17 adjectives to adverbs, 6 adjectives to adjectives, 14 nouns to nouns and there are 59 noun formations, 42 adjective formations, 2 verb formations, and 17 adverb formations derivational functions.

Table 2. Table of Inflectional Morpheme Types and Functions

No	Data	Type of Inflectional Morpheme	Function
1	Traveled	Past participle	As past participle form

2	Going	Progressive form	As present participle form
3	Delegates	Plural	As plural
4	Raised	Past tense	As past form
5	Journeys	Plural	As Plural
6	Looking	Progressive form	As Present Participle Form
7	Finished	Past tense	As Past Form
8	Supposed	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
9	Rented	Past tense	As Past Form
10	Lived	Past tense	As Past Form
11	Moved	Past tense	As Past Form
12	Packed	Past tense	As Past Form
13	Belongings	Plural	As Plural
14	Parents'	Possessive	As Possessive
15	Jobs	Plural	As Plural
16	Hills	Plural	As Plural
17	Earliest	Superlative	As Superlative
18	Memories	Plural	As Plural
19	Parents	Plural	As Plural
20	Filled	Past tense	As Past Form
21	Smiled	Past tense	As Past Form
22	Flatlands	Plural	As Plural
23	Flats	Plural	As Plural
24	Firefighters	Plural	As Plural
25	Nurses	Plural	As Plural
26	Workers	Plural	As Plural
27	Tended	Past tense	As Past Form
28	Lawns	Plural	As Plural
29	Worked	Past tense	As Past Form
30	Hours	Plural	As Plural
31	Leaned	Past tense	As Past Form
32	Families	Plural	As Plural
33	Loved	Past tense	As Past Form
34	Believed	Past tense	As Past Form
35	Instilled	Past tense	As Past Form
36	Values	Plural	As Plural
37	Personified	Past tense	As Past Form
38	Treated	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
39	Eldest	Superlative	As Superlative
40	Women's	Possessive	As Possessive
41	Mentioned	Past tense	As Past Form
42	Ideals	Plural	As Plural
43	Rights	Plural	As Plural
44	Learned	Past tense	As Past Form
45	Leaders	Plural	As Plural
46	Lawyers	Plural	As Plural

47	Battled	Past tense	As Past Form
48	Decided	Past tense	As Past Form
49	Wanted	Past tense	As Past Form
50	Reflected	Past tense	As Past Form
51	Started	Past tense	As Past Form
52	Asked	Past tense	As Past Form
53	Confided	Past tense	As Past Form
54	Abused	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
55	Reasons	Plural	As Plural
56	Charged	Past tense	As Past Form
57	Survivors	Plural	As Plural
58	Words	Plural	As Plural
59	Speaks	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
60	Americans	Plural	As Plural
61	Dreams	Plural	As Plural
62	Greatest	Superlative	As Superlative
63	Battles	Plural	As Plural
64	Members	Plural	As Plural
65	Views	Plural	As Plural
66	America's	Possessive	As Possessive
67	Principles	Plural	As Plural
68	Elections	Plural	As Plural
69	Unites	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
70	Highest	Superlative	As Superlative
71	Aspirations	Plural	As Plural
72	Leads	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
73	Listens	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
74	Fights	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
75	Predators	Plural	As Plural
76	Banks	Plural	As Plural
77	Delivered	Past tense	As Past Form
78	Faced	Past tense	As Past Form
79	Helped	Past tense	As Past Form
80	Veterans	Plural	As Plural
81	Students	Plural	As Plural
82	Colleges	Plural	As Plural
83	Cheated	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
84	Wages	Plural	As Plural
85	Seniors	Plural	As Plural
86	Cartels	Plural	As Plural
87	Guns	Plural	As Plural

88	Drugs	Plural	As Plural
89	Communities	Plural	As Plural
90	Fights	Plural	As Plural
91	Offices	Plural	As Plural
92	Underestimated	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
93	Lives	Plural	As Plural
94	Ways	Plural	As Plural
95	Consequences	Plural	As Plural
96	Happened	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
97	Tried	Past tense	As Past Form
98	Votes	Plural	As Plural
99	Failed	Past tense	As Past Form
100	Assaulted	Past tense	As Past Form
101	Officers	Plural	As Plural
102	Politicians	Plural	As Plural
103	Begged	Past tense	As Past Form
104	Fanned	Past tense	As Past Form
105	Flames	Plural	As Plural
106	Crimes	Plural	As Plural
107	Intends	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
108	Extremists	Plural	As Plural
109	Journalists	Plural	As Plural
110	Opponents	Plural	As Plural
111	Sees	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
112	Citizens	Plural	As Plural
113	Ruled	Past tense	As Past Form
114	Rails	Plural	As Plural
115	Powers	Plural	As Plural
116	Written	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
117	Closest	Superlative	As Superlative
118	Advisors	Plural	As Plural
119	Companies	Plural	As Plural
120	Conditions	Plural	As Plural
121	Funds	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
122	Schools	Plural	As Plural
123	Programs	Plural	As Plural
124	Provides	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
125	Charting	Progressive form	As Present Participle Form
126	Classes	Plural	As Plural
127	Expected	Past tense	As Past Form
128	Opportunities	Plural	As Plural
129	Owners	Plural	As Plural

130	Entrepreneurs	Plural	As Plural
131	Needs	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
132	Groceries	Plural	As Plural
133	Founders	Plural	As Plural
134	Knows	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
135	Friends	Plural	As Plural
136	Breaks	Plural	As Plural
137	Sales	Plural	As Plural
138	Prices	Plural	As Plural
139	Decisions	Plural	As Plural
140	Matters	Plural	As Plural
141	Braggs	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
142	Years	Plural	As Plural
143	Stories	Plural	As Plural
144	Shared	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
145	Husbands	Plural	As Plural
146	Fathers	Plural	As Plural
147	Called	Past tense	As Past Form
148	Handpicked	Past tense	As Past Form
149	Doctors	Plural	As Plural
150	Patients	Plural	As Plural
151	Couples	Plural	As Plural
152	Treatments	Plural	As Plural
153	Survived	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
154	Happening	Progressive form	As Present Participle Form
155	Allies	Plural	As Plural
156	Plans	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
157	Abortions	Plural	As Plural
158	Passes	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
159	Minds	Plural	As Plural
160	Freedoms	Plural	As Plural
161	Places	Plural	As Plural
162	Miscarriages	Plural	As Plural
163	Fuels	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
164	Unlocks	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
165	Decades	Plural	As Plural
166	Democrats	Plural	As Plural
167	Republicans	Plural	As Plural
168	Strongest	Superlative	As Superlative

169	Endorsed	Past tense	As Past Form
170	Believes	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
171	Ordered	Past tense	As Past Form
172	Refused	Past tense	As Past Form
173	Politics	Plural	As Plural
174	Killed	Past tense	As Past Form
175	Immigrants	Plural	As Plural
176	Confronted	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
177	Threats	Plural	As Plural
	Negotiated	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
178	Strengthened	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
179	Alliances	Plural	As Plural
180	Engaged	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
181	Troops	Plural	As Plural
182	Wins	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
183	Threatened	Past tense	As Past Form
184	Encouraged	Past tense	As Past Form
185	Days	Plural	As Plural
186	Attacked	Past tense	As Past Form
187	Russia's	Possessive	As Possessive
188	Countries	Plural	As Plural
189	Working	Progressive form	As Present Participle Form
190	Putin's	Possessive	As Possessive
191	Israel's	Possessive	As Possessive
192	Committed	Past tense	As Past Form
193	Months	Plural	As Plural
194	Hostages	Plural	As Plural
195	Released	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
196	Ends	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
197	Forces	Plural	As Plural
198	Interests	Plural	As Plural
199	Tyrants	Plural	As Plural
200	Dictators	Plural	As Plural
201	Rooting	Progressive form	As Present Participle Form
202	Favors	Plural	As Plural
203	Autocrats	Plural	As Plural
204	Wants	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
205	Belongs	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense
206	Inspired	Past tense	As Past Form
207	Separates	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense

208	Possibilities	Plural	As Plural
209	Heirs	Plural	As Plural
210	Sacrificed	Past tense	As Past Form
211	Guided	Past participle	As Past Participle Form
212	Generations	Plural	As Plural
213	Comes	Third person singular present	As the Subject Third Singular Person in Present Tense

The researcher found 213 inflectional morphemes in Kamala Harris' speech. From these types and functions, Kamala Harris' speech found the following types and functions of inflectional morphemes: firstly, the types are 110 plural, 46 past tense, 23 third person singular present, 16 past participle, 6 progressive form, 6 possessive, and 6 superlative and the inflectional functions are 110 the function as plural, 46 the function as past form, 23 the function as the subject third singular person in present tense, 16 the function as past participle form, 6 the Function as Present Participle Form, 6 the function as possessive, and 6 the function as superlative.

The results of this study identified several types of derivational and inflectional morphemes in Kamala Harris' speech. One of the main results is the dominance of the change from verb to noun, which is seen in words such as movement (from move), education (from educate), and election (from elect). This process generally involves suffixes such as -ment, -tion, -ation, -er, -ion, and -age, which serve to form nouns that describe an action or process. Previous research by Luh et al. (2022) found that 79.9% of the 179 words analyzed in the Instagram captions of @bawabali_official account were derivative forms from verbs to nouns. The results of this study show a similar pattern, with the verb to noun category being one of the most dominant in Kamala Harris' speech. The difference is that in Kamala Harris' speech, the use of nouns derived from verbs tends to be used to strengthen her political arguments and describe abstract concepts such as movement and education, while in Instagram captions it is more often used in the context of everyday communication. In addition, changes from adjective to noun are also found, such as in the words goodness (from good), business (from busy),

and kindness (from kind). This change occurs through the addition of suffixes such as -ness, -ity, -ance, and -th, which function to form abstract nouns. Katamba (1994) in Luh et al. (2022) stated that these suffixes are very productive in forming abstract nouns from adjectives, which are often used to express moral concepts or qualities of a person. In Kamala Harris' speech, the use of these words serves to emphasize values such as kindness and goodness, which are relevant in the context of politics and leadership.

The transformation from noun to adjective is also found in words like courageous (from courage), fundamental (from fundament), and realistic (from real). Suffixes such as -ous, -al, -ic, and -ist serve to give these words properties or characteristics. According to Baayen (1992) in Naismith and Kanwit (2021), suffixes -ic and -ous are often used in academic and technical terms, while -al is more common in various formal contexts. In Kamala Harris' speech, the use of these adjectives aims to provide a stronger and more persuasive description of the concepts discussed. In addition, the change from verb to adjective is also found in words such as trusted (from trust), thankful (from thank), and affordable (from afford), which use the suffixes -ed, -ful, and -able to describe the quality or condition resulting from an action. Prayogi et al. (2018) found that the formation of adjectives through suffixation can cause lexical and grammatical changes in meaning. In Kamala Harris' speech, adjectives such as affordable are used to highlight economic and social welfare policies. The transformation from adjective to adverb occurs in words such as especially (from especial), truly (from true), and proudly (from proud), using the suffix -ly as the main form. This finding is reinforced by a study conducted by Prayogi et al. (2018), which shows

that the suffix *-ly* does not only function as an adverbizer from adjectives, but can also cause changes in meaning in the context of its use. They found that some adjectives given the suffix *-ly* experienced a semantic shift in meaning, as happened to the word *lonely* derived from *lone*, where the meaning changed from 'alone' to 'feeling lonely'. This shows that the derivation process from adjective to adverb is not only morphological, but can also affect the meaning of the root word. In this study, the changes from *especial* to *especially*, *true* to *truly*, and *proud* to *proudly* show that the suffix *-ly* functions to describe the way or state of an action performed, in line with the findings described by Prayogi et al. (2018).

The change from noun to noun is also found in the words *scientist* (from *science*), *presidency* (from *president*), and *citizenship* (from *citizen*), which shows how certain suffixes such as *-ist*, *-ship*, and *-hood* maintain the word category but change the meaning. This finding is reinforced by research conducted by Prayogi et al. (2018), which shows that certain suffixes can maintain the word category but still change the meaning. The suffixes *-ship* and *-hood* are often used to indicate the status or condition associated with the base word, as seen in the changes from *president* to *presidency* and *citizen* to *citizenship*. In addition, the derivation process does not only occur in the change from noun to noun, but also in the change from adjective to adjective. This can be seen in the words *unserious* (from *serious*) and *incredible* (from *credible*). The addition of the prefix *un-* to *unserious* and *in-* to *incredible* shows how derivation can change the meaning of an adjective without changing its category.

Based on these results, it is clear that derivative morphemes in Kamala Harris' speech plays an important role in enriching vocabulary and changing word classes to create more sophisticated and nuanced expressions. For example, the words *kindness* (from *kind*), *justice* (from *just*), and *movement* (from *move*) show how derivative morphemes transform adjectives and verbs into nouns, allowing the speech to convey abstract ideas and concepts more effectively. In addition, derivational morphemes also transform verbs into adjectives, such as *trusted* (from *trust*) and *unexpected* (from *expect*), which help to

increase descriptive precision and rhetorical impact. These transformations contribute to the persuasive and emotional power of speech, making the arguments presented stronger and easier for the audience to understand.

On the other hand, the inflective morphemes found in Kamala Harris' speech do not change the word class but serve to indicate grammatical aspects. The most dominant inflective form is pluralization, as in the words *students*, *principles*, and *opportunities*, which are marked with the suffix *-s* or *-es* to indicate more than one entity. Arbi et al. (2021) also found that plurals in English appear frequently in academic texts, confirming that pluralization is a fundamental element in the grammatical structure of English and is frequently used in various discourse contexts. The past tense and past participle, such as *traveled*, *believed*, and *faced*, are marked by *-ed* and function to express completed actions in past narratives. This finding is supported by research conducted by Arbi et al. (2022), who found that the past tense and past participle in English are characterized by the addition of the suffix *-ed*. This suffix functions to show a completed action in a past context. This is in line with the results of this study, where words such as *traveled*, *believed*, and *faced* undergo a form change to mark the time aspect in the grammatical structure of English. Third person singular present tense forms, such as *speaks*, *listens*, and *fight*, are marked by *-s* and show subject-verb agreement in the present tense. Previous studies have shown that the suffix *-s*, which appears in the third-person singular present tense, is used to indicate congruence between subject and verb in English grammatical structures. In English, this suffix mainly appears in the third person singular present tense, as seen in the words *speaks*, *listens*, and *fight*. Related studies have also found that this inflection is often used in various formal and informal communication contexts and helps to keep the grammar appropriate in the sentence structure. This finding is in line with the research conducted by Arbi et al. (2022), who found that inflected forms in English, including progressive, possessive, and superlative forms, have clear grammatical functions in sentence structure. In their study, the suffix *-ing* is used to signify an ongoing action in the present participle, while the suffix *-s* functions to show

ownership or association. In addition, the suffix -est is used to signify the highest level of a trait or quality. These similarities show that the inflectional system in English has a consistent pattern in various discourse contexts.

The results illustrate the systematic role of inflective morphemes in structuring English grammar across various discourse contexts. In the specific case of Kamala Harris' speech, these morphemes not only function grammatically but also contribute to the rhetorical effectiveness of her message. The inflective morphemes in this speech primarily indicate grammatical aspects such as tense, number, and possession without altering the fundamental meaning of words. For example, the past tense marker -ed in *trusted* and *delivered* signifies completed actions, reinforcing Kamala Harris' narrative of her achievements and commitments. Similarly, plural markers such as -s in *challenges* and *communities* highlight inclusivity and collective experience, emphasizing the broad impact of the issues addressed in the speech. These inflective morphemes ensure grammatical coherence while maintaining the fluency and rhetorical impact of the speech. Beyond grammatical correctness, these morphemes also enhance the rhetorical strength of the speech, reinforcing the speaker's credibility and the consistency of her message. Furthermore, both types of morphemes work together to enhance the effectiveness of Kamala Harris' speech. Derivational morphemes expand the expressive range by forming new words and introducing varied lexical categories, while inflectional morphemes ensure grammatical correctness and clarity. This interplay not only strengthens the rhetorical appeal but also aids in audience comprehension, allowing listeners to engage more deeply with the speech's message. By analyzing these linguistic elements, we can see how morphology contributes significantly to the persuasiveness and coherence of political discourse.

This study emphasizes the use of derivational and inflectional morphology in spoken political discourse, in contrast to previous studies that focus more on written text analysis. The results show that derivational morphemes contribute to lexical variety and rhetorical effectiveness, while inflectional morphemes ensure

coherence or grammatical consistency in speech. This perspective is in line with previous linguistic studies, but also provides a new understanding of how morphology in both its derivational and inflectional forms, functions in political communication. Although this study has succeeded in finding the types and functions of derivation and inflection morphemes, this study has not discussed how often these morphemes are used or how they affect listeners. Future research could examine how these morphemes are used in different types of speech or how they play a role in how listeners understand the message. In addition, future research could also compare how often derivation and inflection patterns appear in political speeches compared to other forms of communication. Overall, this study confirms the importance of derivation and inflection morphemes in spoken language and how they fit into existing morphological theories. Derivation morphemes expand lexical resources by forming new words, while inflection morphemes provide grammatical structure by modifying existing words. However, further exploration is needed to understand their wider impact on communication and linguistic structure, especially in persuasive contexts such as political speeches.

CONCLUSION

The research was conducted by the author to know the types and functions of derivational and inflectional morphemes in Kamala Harris' Speech. Based on the data analysis in this study, the writer found 330 words containing derivational and inflectional morphemes. In detail, there were 120 derivational morphemes with 9 types of derivational morphemes such as adjective to noun, noun to adjective, verb to noun, noun to verb, verb to adjective, adjective to verb, adjective to adverb, adjective to adjective, noun to noun and the functions are noun formation, adjective formation, verb formation, and adverb formation derivational functions. From the types and functions of these derivational morphemes, in Kamala Harris' speech, the following details were found: 20 adjective to noun, 19 noun to adjective, 25 verb to noun, 1 noun to verb, 17 verb to adjective, 1 adjective to verb, 17 adjective to adverb, 6 adjective to adjective, 14 noun to noun and there are 59

noun formation, 42 adjective formation, 2 verb formation, and 17 adverb formation derivational functions. There were 213 inflectional morphemes with 7 types such as plural, past tense, third person singular present, past participle, progressive form, possessive, and superlative. The inflectional functions are the function as plural, the function as past form, the function as the subject third singular person in present tense, the function as past participle form, the function as present participle form, the function as possessive, and the function as superlative. From these types and functions of inflectional morphemes, the details found in Kamala Harris's speech are as follows: 110 plural, 46 past tense, 23 third person singular present, 16 past participle, 6 progressive form, 6 possessive, and 6 superlative. The inflectional functions are 110 the function as plural, 46 the function as past form, 23 the function as the subject third singular person in present tense, 16 the function as past participle form, 6 the function as present participle form, 6 the function as possessive, and 6 the function as superlative.

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