

**INFLECTIONAL AND DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES FOUND IN THE NOVEL  
"KRAKEN" BY CHINA MIEVILLE: A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

Muhammad Ma'ruf Maulana  
Universitas Pertiwi  
*200350042@pertiwi.ac.id*

Sahril Mujani  
Universitas Pertiwi  
*sahril.mujani@pertiwi.ac.id*

Ratih Dwi Astuti  
Universitas Pertiwi  
*ratih.dwi@pertiwi.ac.id*

**ABSTRACT**

Morphological analysis of literary texts provides insights into the structure and formation of words, essential for understanding language complexity. This study aims to analyze the types of inflectional and derivational affixes in the novel "Kraken" by China Miéville, focusing on their morphological processes and prevalence in the text. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data from chapter ten of "Kraken" were analyzed. Inflectional and derivational suffixes were identified and categorized based on established morphological theories. The analysis identified 92 instances of inflectional suffixes, predominantly singular to plural transformations, and 40 instances of derivational suffixes, mainly adjective to adverb conversions. This study highlights the significant role of affixation in enhancing linguistic richness in literary texts, offering new perspectives on language use in speculative fiction.

**Keywords:** ChinaMiéville; derivational suffixes; inflectional suffixes; Kraken; morphology; novel

**INTRODUCTION**

Morphology is the branch of linguistics that studies word structure. Morphology studies how words are formed, their internal structure, and how they relate to other words in the same language (Galani, 2004). Morphology is a comprehensive textbook on the study of word structure and formation in linguistics (Krovetz, 1993b). According to Rochelle Lieber (2021), morphology involves examining how words are made, covering the process of word formation in different languages around the world, as well as changes to word forms based on their use in sentences (Lieber, 2021).

As a native speaker of your language, you have an innate understanding of how new words are produced, and every day, you encounter and understand unfamiliar words with ease (Halle, 2003). According to Geert Booij, 2005. When you check an English

dictionary for the word "walk," you won't find separate entries for "walk," "walks," or "walked." You also won't be disappointed if it doesn't have an entry for "walking." If you encounter the phrase "My staff walked out yesterday" and want to know its meaning ("go on strike"), you'd look for "walk out" instead of "walked out." Some dictionaries don't even mention "walks," "walked," or "walking" separately; they assume users understand these variations without needing specific entries. That's why it's important to learn morphology to make it easier to understand affixed words like the one above.

A morpheme is defined as the smallest grammatical unit in a language (Francis Katamba, 1993). Morphemes are the building blocks of words, and each morpheme carries a specific meaning. They cannot be divided further without losing or altering their meaning

(Leu, 2020). In English, they are the foundations that make up words. For example, the word "unjustifiable" is made up of 3 morphemes: "un-" (which means "not"), "justify", and "-able" (which is used to create adjectives). Morphemes cannot be subdivided without losing the meaning of the word.

According to (Lieber, 2021), a morpheme is the smallest unit of meaning in a language. It is a foundational concept in the study of morphology, which is the branch of linguistics that focuses on the structure and formation of words. Morphemes form through roots or affixes, which can be at the start, middle, or end of a word. In English, we have two types: free morphemes, which stand alone like "cat," and bound morphemes, which need other morphemes, like "un-" in "unhappy" or "-ed" in "walked." The core of a word, where prefixes and suffixes are attached, is known as the base. For example, "wipe" is the base of "unwipe." When bases have prefixes or suffixes attached, they become derived words. The process of adding a prefix or suffix to form a derived word is called affixation.

Affixation is categorized into two types: inflectional and derivational. Inflectional affixation involves adding prefixes or suffixes that don't alter the word's class, typically for grammatical reasons (Francis Katamba, 1993). These modify a word's tense, number, aspect, mood, or gender without changing its grammatical category (e.g., adding "-s" to "cat" to form "cats"). On the other hand, derivational affixation changes the word's class, often resulting in new meanings. (Francis Katamba, 1993) These are used to create new words or to change the grammatical category of a word (e.g., "happy" to "happiness"). This article concentrates on inflectional and derivational suffixes, commonly encountered in various media such as novels, songs, and newspapers.

A novel is a literary work of fiction in which there are cultural, social, moral, and educational messages. (Albert Sydney Hornby, 2015). A novel is a narrative that spans an extensive plot in one or more books, depicting human life with imaginative elements (Tri Priyatni Endah, 2010). The word novel comes from the Latin *Novellus*, the word *Novellus* is formed from the word *novus* which means new or new in English. It is said to be new because

the novel form is a form of literary work that comes later than other forms of literary work, namely poetry and drama. The object of this research will be a novel, the title of the novel will be the object is "Kraken."

*Kraken* China Miéville presents a captivating story set in a fantastical version of London teeming with magic and mystery. We follow Billy Harrow, a cephalopod specialist whose routine tour of the Natural History Museum takes a bizarre turn when the prized Giant Squid suddenly vanishes. Unbeknownst to him, this disappearance triggers a dangerous conflict among various factions in the city, including squid worshippers, criminal masterminds, and sorcery-fighting law enforcement. As Billy finds himself caught in the middle of this surreal world, he discovers that he holds the key to a powerful, embryonic god capable of reshaping reality itself. With ancient spirits, wizards, and demonic duos hot on his trail, Billy must navigate a perilous journey through London's hidden depths as he grapples with his newfound role in a battle that could determine the fate of the entire city and beyond.

There are some previous studies regarding this topic that supported this study. The first is an article written by (Furqon Edi Wibowo; Endang Rismawati, 2022) To identify inflectional and derivational suffix types, they used the theory developed by (Miles and Huberman's theory). The method which is used in this study is a qualitative research method, They used a purposive sampling technique to determine the subject for this research.

The second is an article written by (Ni Made Citra Wahyu Ningsih; Ni Putu Cahyani Putri Utami, 2024) This article supported this study because it also analyzed derivational suffixes found in the return of Sherlock Holmes novel. The focus of this study was to classify various types of derivational suffixes and to analyze the morphological process of the data source. They article, use a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach was employed, and the data analysis technique utilized in this study involved analyzing the form of derivational suffixes found in the novel, applying the theory of morphology.

The third article that supported this study was written by (Putu Reika Kasnadevi; Ni Putu

Cahyani Putri Utami, 2024) “*Types of Derivational Affixes Found in Bbc News Articles*”. This article supported this study because it also analyzed derivational suffixes found in *BBC News Articles*. The aim of this study is to focus on examining the various types of derivational affixes using data extracted from select BBC News articles. Qualitative and observational methods were employed in this study to analyze the data. The data for this study were identified based on the primary theory proposed by Katamba (1993), along with the supporting theory put forth by Carstairs and McCarthy (2002), aimed at addressing the topic presented in this research.

This study highlights previously unexplored linguistic aspects in China Miéville's novel “Kraken”, focusing on the analysis of inflectional and derivational suffixes. As one of the leading contemporary authors in the fantasy and science fiction genres, Miéville is famous for his writing style rich in imagination and complexity of language. However, so far, no study has specifically examined the use of inflectional and derivational suffixes in his works. This study is an original contribution that aims to fill the gap in the literature on linguistics in Miéville's works. By analyzing how Miéville uses inflectional suffixes to change word forms according to their grammatical functions (such as tense, plurality, and possessive) and how derivational suffixes are used to create new words and enrich the novel's lexicon, this study provides new insights into Miéville's writing techniques. The research findings are expected to make a significant contribution to the field of literary linguistics and open the door for further research on language use in works of speculative fiction. The reason the writer chose the novel is also because there is no researcher who has used the novel as an object of study. In addition, this analysis is also expected to help readers and literary critics in understanding more about the complexity and richness of language in “Kraken”, thus increasing appreciation of Miéville's work as a whole. Thus, this study not only offers a new perspective on the use of inflectional and derivational suffixes in “Kraken”, but also contributes to a broader understanding.

In making this article, the writer hopes it will contribute to achieve some theoretical, academic, and practical significance for either the writer or the reader, at least in three things: personal, academic (linguistics), and practical (society). Personally, this article provides a better understanding of the topics covered by the writer itself. Academically, this article provides an understanding from a linguistic perspective, namely Inflectional and Derivational Suffixes, which hopefully will contribute to Pertiwi University and *Kulturistik Journal*. Practically, it provides benefits to readers in general, especially additional knowledge for people who do the study of Inflectional and Derivational Suffixes.

There are two reasons why the author selected the novel *Kraken* (chapter 10) as the subject of analysis. To begin with, this novel's diverse genres make it highly engaging. Second, the author thinks that this work can be examined through a linguistic lens in addition to its genre, with a great deal of its vocabulary, particularly its inflectional and derivational suffixes, being amenable to morphological analysis.

The purpose of this article is to identify the different kinds of inflectional and derivational suffixes in the novel *Kraken* (chapter 10) and to use tree diagrams to analyze these suffixes during the morphological process.

## METHOD

The data for this study is sourced from chapter ten of China Miéville's novel “*Kraken*.” The article specifically concentrates on identifying and analyzing words containing inflectional and derivational suffixes, and determining the most prevalent types of these suffixes.

The data in this article are presented using a descriptive qualitative method. The data was gathered in multiple stages by the author: first, she meticulously read the novel “*Kraken*” to identify all words that contained derivational and inflectional suffixes; second, she classified the suffixes according to their types; and last, she tallied the data. While the theory put forth by Rochelle Lieber (2002) and Geert Booij (2005) was used to analyze the types of inflectional and derivational suffixes present in chapter ten of the novel “*Kraken*,” data analysis

was done using tree diagram theory to examine the morphological analysis process.

## DISCUSSION

In this analysis, the writer defines two types of suffixes, namely inflectional and derivational suffixes in the novel *Kraken* by China Mieville. In the novel *Kraken* by China Mieville chapter 10. There are 92 words that contain inflectional suffixes and there are 40 words that contain derivational suffixes. The writer only chooses 2 words from each suffix to be analyzed in this research, namely inflectional suffixes (table 1) and Derivational suffixes (table 2).

Table 1. Inflectional Suffixes Found in *Kraken* Novel chapter 10

No.	Inflectional Suffixes	Occurrences	Percentages
1.	Singular - Plural	41	44,56%
2.	Present Tense - Past Tense	31	33,69%
3.	Present Tense - Perfect Tense	15	16,30%
4.	Present Tense - Present Participle	3	3,26%
5.	Adverb - Adverb	1	1,08%
6.	Adjective - Superlative Adjective	1	1,08%
Total		92	100%

The table provided presents data categorized based on the types of suffixes found in the novel "*Kraken*," including Inflectional Suffixes. After conducting observations and thoroughly analyzing the data extracted from

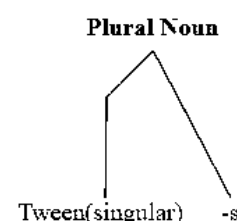
Chapter 10 of the novel "*Kraken*" by China Mieville, this study identified a total of 92 instances that qualify as Inflectional Suffixes.

### 1. Singular to Plural

The morphological process singular to plural

#### Data 1 Suffix -s

...For the bulk of her *tweens* and teens, (Singular to Plural) (China Mieville - *Kraken* (Chapter 10), Line 1, Page 67.)



(Figure 1- Suffix -s)

Figure 1 illustrates the morphological process of the word "Tweens," which falls under singular-to-plural transformations. The base word for "tweens" is "tween," which is a noun. As per the Online Oxford Learner's Dictionaries (2024), "tween" is categorized as a noun singular and can be turned into a plural noun by appending the suffix -s. This morphological process involves adding the inflectional suffix -s to "tween," thus altering its word class from a noun singular to a plural noun and it's not giving new meaning. The suffix "-s" is added to "tween" to make it plural, resulting in "tweens." This is a regular pluralization process in English, where "-s" or "-es" is typically added to nouns to indicate more than one. Adding the plural suffix "-s" to indicate that the term refers to more than one individual in this age group. Thus, "tweens" are formed through the morphological processes of blending and pluralization.

### 2. Present Tense to Past Tense

The Morphological process present tense to past tense

#### Data 2 Suffix -ed

...Mr. Bearing's head, had *stared* furiously at her nails. (Present Tense to Past Tense) (China Mieville - *Kraken* (Chapter 10), Line 22, Page 67.)

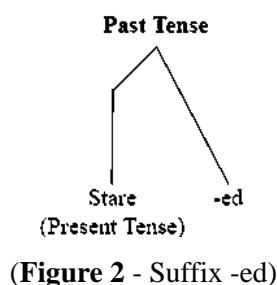


Figure 2 illustrates the morphological process of the word "Stared," which falls under Present Tense-to-Past Tense transformations. The base word for "Stared" is "stare," which is a verb. As per the Online Oxford Learner's Dictionaries (2024), "stare" is categorized as a Present tense and can be turned into a Past Tense by appending the suffix -ed. This morphological process involves adding the inflectional suffix -ed to "stare," thus altering its word class from a present tense to a past tense and it's not giving new meaning. In English, the regular past tense is typically formed by adding the suffix "-ed" to the base form of a verb. This process is known as inflection, specifically inflection for tense. Therefore, the word "stared" is formed by the morphological process of adding the regular past tense suffix "-ed" to the verb "stare."

### 3. Present Tense to Perfect Tense

The Morphological process present tense to perfect tense

#### Data 3 Suffix -en

...Mr. Bearing had **shaken** his whiteboard marker.(Present Tense to Perfect Tense) (*China Mieville - Kraken* (Chapter 10), Line 17, Page 67.)

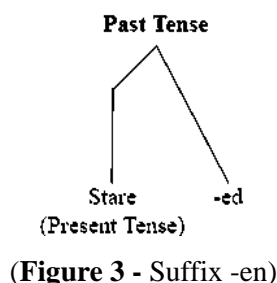


Figure 3 illustrates the morphological process of the word "shaken," which falls under Present Tense-to-Perfect Tense transformations. The base word for "Shaken" is "shake," which is a verb. As per the Online

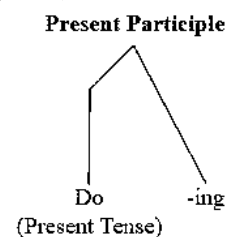
Oxford Learner's Dictionaries (2024), "shake" is categorized as a Present tense and can be turned into a Perfect Tense by appending the suffix -en. This morphological process involves adding the inflectional suffix -en to "shake," thus altering its word class from a present tense to a perfect tense and it's not giving new meaning. In summary, the word "shaken" is formed by an irregular morphological process where the verb "shake" changes form to "shaken" to function as its present tense. This present tense form is used in perfect tense.

### 4. Present Tense to Present Participle

The Morphological process present tense to present participle

#### Data 4 Suffix -ing

...What's it **doing**, sir.(Present Tense to Present participle) (*China Mieville - Kraken* (Chapter 10), Line 66, Page 68.)



(Figure 4 - Suffix -ing)

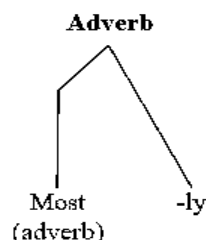
Figure 4 illustrates the morphological process of the word "Doing," which falls under Present Tense-to-Present Participle transformations. The base word for "Doing" is "do," which is a verb. As per the Online Oxford Learner's Dictionaries (2024), "do" is categorized as a Present tense and can be turned into a Present Participle by appending the suffix -ing. This morphological process involves adding the inflectional suffix -ing to "do," thus altering its word class from a present tense to a present participle and it's not giving new meaning. "Do" is a verb meaning to perform an action, task, or activity. Therefore, the word "doing" is formed by the morphological process of adding the suffix "-ing" to the verb "do," resulting in a word that can function as both a present participle.

### 5. Adverb to Adverb

The morphological process adverb to adverb

### Data 5 Suffix -ly

*Mostly* there were no effects at all, (Adverb to Adverb) (China Mieville - *Kraken* (Chapter 10), Line 54, Page 68.)



(Figure 5 - Suffix -ly)

Figure 5 illustrates the morphological process of the word "Mostly," which falls under Adverb-to-Adverb transformations. The base word for "Mostly" is "most," which is an adverb. As per the Online (*Cambridge Dictionary.*, 2024), "most" is categorized as an adverb and can be turned into an adverb by appending the suffix -ly. This morphological process involves adding the inflectional suffix -ly to "most," thus altering its word class from an adverb to an adverb and it's not giving new meaning. "Most" is an adverb. Therefore, the word "mostly" is formed by the inflectional morphological process of adding the suffix "-ly" to the root word "most," resulting in an adverb.

### 6. Adjective to Superlative Adjective

The morphological process adjective to superlative adjective

### Data 6 Suffix -est

...at the *highest* level blurred them, (Adjective to Superlative Adjective) (China Mieville - *Kraken* (Chapter 10), Line 77, Page 69.)



(Figure 6 - Suffix -est)

Figure 6 illustrates the morphological process of the word "Highest," which falls under Adjective-to-Superlative Adjective

transformations. The base word for "Highest" is "high," which is an adjective. As per the Online (*Cambridge Dictionary.*, 2024), "high" is categorized as an adjective and can be turned into a superlative adjective by appending the suffix -est. This morphological process involves adding the inflectional suffix -est to "high," thus altering its word class from an adjective to a superlative adjective and it's not giving new meaning. "High" is an adjective meaning having a great vertical extent. Therefore, the word "highest" is formed by the inflectional morphological process of adding the superlative suffix "-est" to the adjective "high," resulting in the superlative form of the adjective.

Table 2. Derivational Suffixes Found in *Kraken* Novel chapter 10

No	Derivational Suffixes	Occurrences	Percentages
1.	Noun to Adjective	7	17,5%
2.	Adjective to Adverb	17	42,5%
3.	Verb to Noun	6	15%
4.	Adjective to Noun	4	10%
5.	Verb to Adjective	6	15%
6.	Noun to Verb	0	0%
Total		40	100%

The second derivational mode found in the novel *Kraken* chapter 10 by China Mieville is suffixes that can change the meaning of a word. Based on the results of the research, the author found 40 words containing derivational suffixes and of these 40 words have their own types. The writer will analyze each type, but the writer will only give 1 example of words that will be analyzed in each type in this article.

The morphological processes in the source data from nouns to adjectives, adjectives to adverbs, verbs to nouns, adjectives to nouns, verbs to adjectives and nouns to verbs.

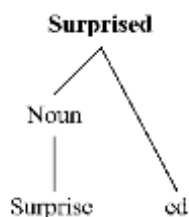
Analyzed and explained in the following sections.

### 1. Noun to Adjective

The morphological process noun to adjective

#### Data 1 Suffix -ed

....she laboriously copied and requested from **surprised**, (Noun to Adjective) (*China Mieville - Kraken* (Chapter 10), Line 44, Page 68.)



(Figure 1 - Suffix -ed)

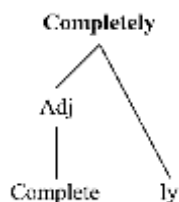
Figure 1 illustrates the morphological process of the word "Surprised," which falls under noun-to-adjective transformations. The base word for "surprised" is "surprise," which is a noun. As per the Online (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, 2024), "surprise" is categorized as a noun and can be turned into an adjective by appending the suffix -ed. This morphological process involves adding the derivational suffix -ed to "surprise," thus altering its word class from a noun to an adjective and giving it a new meaning. "Surprise" refers to an unexpected event or news, while "surprised" denotes the feeling or display of surprise (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*).

### 2. Adjective to Adverb

The morphological process adjective to adverb

#### Data 2 Suffix -ly

She was **completely** unwilling to submit to the description (Adjective to Adverb) (*China Mieville - Kraken* (Chapter 10), Line 20, Page 67.)



(Figure 2 - Suffix -ly)

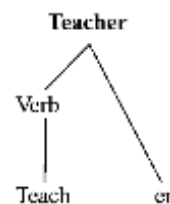
Figure 2 illustrates the morphological transformation of the word "completely," categorized under adjective-to-adverb conversions. The root word "complete" is an adjective. According to the Online (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, 2024), "complete" is classified as an adjective and can be turned into an adverb by adding the suffix -ly. This demonstrates the morphological process involving derivational suffixes, where adding -ly to "complete" changes its word class from an adjective to an adverb and giving it a new meaning. "Complete" means having all necessary parts, while "completely" is used to emphasize thoroughness or entirety in every aspect (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*).

### 3. Verb to Noun

The morphological process verb to noun

#### Data 3 Suffix -er

...One man, her biology **teacher**... (Verb to Noun) (*China Mieville - Kraken* (Chapter 10), Line 3, Page 67.)



(Figure 3 - Suffix -er)

Figure 3 illustrates the morphological transformation of the word "teacher," classified under verb-to-noun conversions. The root word "teach" is a verb. According to the Online (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, 2024), "teach" is identified as a verb that can be converted into a noun by adding the suffix -er. This exemplifies the morphological process involving derivational suffixes, where the addition of -er to "teach" changes its word class from a verb to a noun and gives it a new meaning. "Teach" means to provide lessons to students, while "teacher" refers to a person whose profession is teaching, especially in schools (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*).

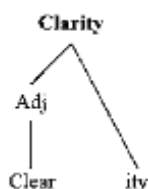
### 4. Adjective to Noun

The morphological process adjective to noun

#### Data 4 Suffix -ity

...evaluate his reasons to herself with some

**clarity** (Adjective to Noun) (China Mieville - Kraken (Chapter 10), Line 5, Page 67.)



(Figure 4 - Suffix -ity)

Figure 4 illustrates the morphological transformation of the word "clarity," categorized under adjective-to-noun conversions. The root word "clear" is an adjective. According to the Online (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, 2024), "clear" is classified as an adjective and can be turned into a noun by adding the suffix -ity. This demonstrates the morphological process involving derivational suffixes, where adding -ity to "clear" changes its word class from an adjective to a noun, and giving it a new meaning. "Clear" means easy to understand and not confusing, while "clarity" refers to the quality of being expressed clearly (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*).

#### 5. Verb to Adjective

The morphological process adjective to noun

#### Data 5 Suffix -ed

...even **concerned**, librarians and booksellers.

(Verb to Adjective) (China Mieville - Kraken (Chapter 10), Line 44, Page 68.)



(Figure 5 - Suffix -ed)

Figure 5 illustrates the morphological transformation of the word "concerned," classified under verb-to-adjective conversions. The root word "concern" is a verb. According

to the Online Oxford Learner's Dictionaries (2024), "concern" is identified as a verb that can be converted into an adjective by adding the suffix -ed. This demonstrates the morphological process involving derivational suffixes, where the addition of -ed to "concern" changes its word class from a verb to an adjective, and gives it a new meaning. "Concern" means to affect or involve somebody/something, while "concerned" means worried and feeling concern about something/somebody (*Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*).

The writer apologizes deeply because there are no examples of derivational suffixes noun to verb in chapter 10 and therefore the writer cannot provide examples into the analysis.

#### CONCLUSION

To sum up, this study offers a thorough morphological examination of the derivational and inflectional suffixes in China Miéville's novel "Kraken," specifically in chapter ten. With a particular emphasis on the ways in which suffixes are employed to alter word form and meaning, this analysis seeks to close a large gap in the body of knowledge regarding the linguistic components of Miéville's writing.

This study makes use of a number of theories, including tree diagram theory and the theory of inflectional and derivational suffix types. The novel Kraken by China Mieville chapter ten contains 92 different types and frequencies of inflectional suffixes. The most common transformation from singular to plural is 44,56%. Other common transformations include present tense to past tense (33,69%), present tense to perfect tense (16,30%), present tense to present particle (3,26%), adverb to adverb (1,08%), and adjective to super adjective (1,08%). According to Types and Frequency, chapter ten of China Mieville's Kraken novel contains 40 derivational suffixes. These can be divided into four categories: adjective to adverb (42%), noun to adjective (17,5%), verb to noun (15%), and adjective to noun (10%). The texts that were examined show no instances of noun to verb transformation.



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