

## Conference Paper

# Morphological Structure in Jason Mraz's Songs

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**ORCID:***Inatigris Anggriani Harahap: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3835-706X>***Abstract**

This research focused on the morphological structure in Jason Mraz's songs. This study used the theory of the Rochelle hypothesis (2009) and examined the morphemes found in Jason Mraz's songs and their morphological structure. The songs were obtained directly from Google. This research applied a qualitative method. The data were analyzed by reading the lyrics of the Jason Mraz's songs, underlining word by word, identifying the words by classing them into morphemes, and calculating the morphemes of each word to find out the frequency of the morphological structure. Jason Mraz's songs used free morphemes (87.8%) dominantly in the songs, and also used bound morphemes, namely inflectional morphemes (8.5%) and derivational morphemes (3.7%).

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## 1. Introduction

English becomes a familiar language for many people in the world. It can be seen that English is easy to be found anywhere. It can be found at schools, product, newspaper, cassetts, films, and even songs. Let us see, in education, goverments include the language in curriculums and make it as an international examination. It is also found out of education. We can find most of product use English. It has been success to take people' interesting. In entertainment is also popular. Let us see, many English songs can be got in youtube, films or advertisement. Then it can increase and more popular as long as the time.

English songs are easy to be got. It can be in youtube, films or advertisement. One of the most popular English songs is Jason Mraz's songs. In 2008, songs titled' I'm yours' is the most popular at the time. Why not. It can be easily got by buying the casset in DVD shop, or can be downloded in internet. Jason Mraz's songs have unique characteristics. Jason Mraz's songs are always characteristiced by fast lyrics and it is quite difficult to

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follow it. Yes, on the other hand, it can help foreign language students' pronunciation which they can practice it to improve their speaking especially for pronunciation. As we know that pronunciation is the most difficult one in learning English, Jason Mraz's songs may help their difficulties.

Morphology is also one of English subject when people continue and study in at university level. It discusses about how the text is constructed and create meaning. It tells how words are built to have meanings. It means that morphology can help students understand language easily. With morphology, the students know and understand the stucture of the language itself. Students are able to listen, read, write and speak English are the goals of teaching English. But in fact, although the students are university students and even under graduated, they are still difficult to practice their English, especially understanding songs. Why not, they are still difficult to cheat the songs, how can they understand it? But, by knowing morphological structure in the songs, the students will be easier to understand the songs.

Based on the background of the research, the writer is interested in investigating morphological structure in Jason Mraz's songs. The researcher chooses Jason Mraz's songs because the songs are the most famous songs in that time. In this case, the researcher analyzes five songs, namely title ' I'm yours, lucky, have it all, I won't give up, let's see what the night can do'. It is interesting to know what morphemes are found in Jason Mraz's songs and how morphological structure in Jason Mraz's songs is. Thus the result can be as a reference for English teacher to introduce morphology in understanding songs, and can also use the songs as a material for morphological practice.

## 2. Literature

### 2.1. Morphological Structure

Morphology is one of linguistic field which studies about how word is formed (Rochelle: 2009). It shows how the word is conctructed and created based on the function in a sentence. Morpheme is the smallest unit of a word (Andrew: 2002). It is the basic of the word. Morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit that is used to form a word (Rochelle: 2009). It is the unit that creates a word. Some of morphemes can stand alone such as book, go, there, etc, and some of morphemes cannot stand alone such as –un, -ive, -tion, -ly, -im, -ness. The morphemes that can stand alone are called as free morphemes, while the morphemes that cannot stand alone are called as bound

morphemes (Rochelle: 2009). Bound morphemes can come from prefixes and suffixes. Prefixes are morphemes that come before the word root, and suffixes are morphemes that come after the word root. Prefixes and suffixes can come together called as affixes. (Rochelle: 2009). Morphology is divided into two parts, they are inflectional and derivational word constructions. Inflectional is word formation which does not change category and create new a lexeme, but it just changes the grammatical context, while derivational is word formation which changes category and also creates a new lexeme (Rochelle: 2009).

## 2.2. Song

Song is one of literary works. Song is a short piece of music with words that you sing (Bull: 2008). Song contains language exposition used by a composer to express her/his feeling, thought, and willing. By listening or singing songs, people can be relaxed because it can affect human's brain. Song is a short poem set to music and it is rhymed in stanzas, poetry and verse (Fowler: 1951). It means that song is a sequences of word formed in a poem set to music. That is why, song becomes popular for human to enjoy themselves.

## 2.3. Relevant Studies

Based on semantics, prefix and particle verbs consistently control form (Eva Smolka: 2019). It means that morphological structure has big function to form a language. Adults, children and adolescents are sensitive to morphological structure in visual word processing, but at some cases can be changed over the adolescence course (Nicola: 2017). In this case, the writer was interested in analyzing morphological structure in songs, those are Jason Mraz's songs.

## 3. Research Method

This study used descriptive qualitative research to find out the result. Qualitative research is a scientific activity which aims to examine descriptive data, it is about a narration of a phenomenon (Gay: 2009). It tries to find out about how to get a chart of the phenomenon.

The data of the research was morphological structure in Jason Mraz's songs that obtained from geogle. There are five songs, namely title ' I'm yours, lucky, have it all, I

won't give up, and Let's see what the night can do'. The researcher analyzed the lyrics of the songs then separate each word by underlining and then identified the words by classifying them into morphemes, then calculate the morphemes of each word to find out the frequency morphological structure used in Jason Mraz's songs as morphological structure is how the word is constructed to construct a language based on its function in a sentence (Rochelle: 2009). The result then is analyzed by making percentages of each morpheme to know what morphemes are found in the songs and how the morphological structure is in the songs. The sources of data for this research are Jason Mraz's songs. The songs were found in internet, that is geogle. The song was sung by Jason Mraz.

Technique for collecting data were observing five songs of Jason Mraz in the internet directly.

Technique for analyzing data, this data of this research used a descriptive qualitative technique. The techniques for analyzing data were as follows: searching the five songs of Jason Mraz in the internet, analyze songs by separating word by word by underlining, then identified the words by classing them into morphemes, and calculated the morphemes of each word to find out the frequency morphological structure used in Jason Mraz's songs

## 4. Result and Discussion

### 4.1. Result

The result of this research were presented to answer the two questions in section one. To analyze the morphemes were found in Jason Mraz's songs, the researcher separate word by word by underlining the words and then classing the words into morphemes. The results are in the below;

The total of morphemes found in the five songs of Jason Mraz were 1636 free morphemes, 160 inflectional morphemes and 68 derivational morphemes.

The percentage of morphemes found in the five songs of Jason Mraz is in the table below:

Based on the data analysis, it shows that free morpheme is the most usual found in the songs, that is 87.8 %. It means that the songs still hold the nature of the language or we can say the songs still use word root to describe and tell their story in the songs. Then it makes the songs are quite long and of course it makes quite difficult for listeners or readers to follow the songs. It shows that the songs use just a bit bound morphemes.

TABLE 1: The Morphemes found in Five Songs of Jason Mraz

No	Title of Songs	Kinds of Morpheme		
		Free Morpheme	Bound Morpheme	
			Inflectional	Derivational
1	I'm yours	291	32	17
2	Lucky	244	32	19
3	Have it all	520	44	20
4	I won't give up	287	38	8
5	Let's see what the night can do	294	14	4
<b>Total</b>		1636	160	68

TABLE 2: The Percentage of Morphemes found in the Five Songs of Jason Mraz.

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<b>Total</b>		1636	160	68
<b>Percentage</b>		87.8%	8.5%	3.7%

The songs just use a bit derivational morpheme, that is 3.7 %, and inflectional morpheme is 8.5%. It means that Jason Mraz's songs prefer to use word root, or free morpheme than bound morpheme. Then it makes Jason Mraz's songs' characteristics, that is a bit long and fast to be read.

#### 4.2. Discussion

The five songs of Jason Mraz have free morphemes and bound morphemes even though they have different title, and then they have both of bound morphemes, namely, inflectional morphemes and derivational morphemes. The most dominant morpheme found in the five songs of Jason Mraz is free morpheme (87.8%), the second is inflectional morpheme (8.5%) and the third is derivational morpheme (3.7 %). It means that Jason the five songs of Jason Mraz dominantly used free morpheme or word root. It means that the songs like to use more base word than bound morpheme. The free morphemes made the songs sought long and difficult to follow. In addition, the songs had fast tone that made the songs were difficult to follow by people.

Based on the result, it shows that the five songs of Jason Mraz used free morphemes and bound morphemes. The bound morphemes were inflectional morphemes and derivational morphemes. It means than Jason Mraz's songs have used morphological structure in the songs, and the dominat morpheme used in the song was free morpheme.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the result, it concludes that Jason Mraz's songs used free morphemes and bound morphemes. The bound morphemes were devided by two, namely inflectional morphemes, and derivational morphemes. But the most dominant morpheme used was free morpheme. There were free morphemes (87.8%), inflectional morphemes (8.5%) and derivational morphemes (3.7%). It means that Jason Mraz's songs prefer to use word root or free morpheme than bound morpheme. It can be seen that the Jason Mraz's songs is found most of free morpheme. Bound morphemes are also found, but just a bit. It means that Jason Mraz's songs's way of describing the song story by using word root. The songs still use nature of the language. It can be concluded that Jason Mraz's songs have morphological structure.

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