Original Research Article

A Morphological Analysis of Martin Luther King Jr's "I HAVE A DREAM" Speech: a Compositional Semantic Perspective

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Abstract

This research work has investigated the importance of linguistic morphology in the construction of new lexemes and grammatically conditioned words on the first hand and the way both derivational and inflectional morphemes function to carry and impart compositional meaning in text on the other. Premised on the objective of raising more awareness on the significance of morphological research, this paper has applied both the quantitative and qualitative analysis methods to the historic speech "I Have a Dream" by the African American civil rights figurehead Martin Luther King Jr. The scientific roadmap thus carved has led its process through the identification, labelling and numbering of the distinctive derivational (50 /40%) and inflectional (75 / 60%) morphemes. A furthering of the quantitative input has displayed an outstanding use of nominalisations with nouns derived from adjectives 17 [13.6%] and from verbs 12 [9.6%] with bound morphemes such as "ity", "ice", "ation", "tion", "or", and "dom". On the inflectional part, the prevailing use of regular and irregular plural number imparting morphemes (47 / 37.6%) together with tense inflections (16 / 12.8%) pair up to confirm, in a qualitative analytical approach, the ideological perspective of the speaker to include the largest anonymous members of the African American community as the intended beneficiaries of his unquenchable soft but vibrant battle for freedom. The use of tense indicating morphemes has revealed the presence of a threefold tense progression from the past tense (simple past and past perfect) to the simple present and then to the future. The crosscheck of the semantics of such morphemic operations has uncovered the perspective of Martin Luther King Jr for the logical representation of the sufferings of the Black community and liberation struggles in the past, the need to keep the battle going in the present time with the conviction of brighter days in the future.

Keywords: linguistic morphology, inflection and derivations, morphological analysis, semantics.

INTRODUCTION

The definitional approach to linguistics as the scientific study of language bears a heavy load of the endeavours entrusted to the scientists of that complex semiotic system used for social interaction. Moreover, it rings the bell of the hierarchical perspective of language through the compositional network of the sound, the morpheme, the word, the clause, the sentence and the paragraph (DeCarrico, 1998; Feldman, 2006; Peters, 1983). In the achievement of the meaning making tool that language represents, language users are more naturally aware of the internal structure of phrases, clauses and sentences through syntactic rules than they are of the internal structure of words through morphology.

In their attempt to locate morphology within the wider field of linguistics, Larsen-Freeman and DeCarrico (2010) see it in the category of formal grammars together with syntax under the umbrella of the chomskian endeavours (Chomsky, 1981, 1995), as opposed to functional grammars as led by Halliday (1978, 1994). In spite of the relevance of such a standpoint, this study is purposed to investigate not only the contribution of morphemes in their forms as the smallest graphological building blocks but also in the meaning they carry through their lexicogrammatical functions in text. This simultaneous twofold view of language adopted in this work, falls in tune with the perspective defended by some applied linguists (Widdowson, 1989; Hymes, 1972) who have argued for a view that draws not on only one approach to language, but rather on both the formal and functional views. Actually, in their meaning carrying function through language use, words do not just exist the way they are found in speeches and written texts. Rather,

they are composite constituents, built out of various minimal semantic and grammatical bits of language. Yule (2014: 66) identifies such bits of language as the 'elements in the message' technically known in language science as the morphemes that serve in the making up of what is commonly known as the 'word'. A focus on the study of the internal structure of the word is thus an exploration of the morpheme, through its typology, its many different functions, which is the major role devoted to morphology as a sub branch of linguistics (Yule, 2014; Rafold, 2006:59). The question thus springs to the mind on checking for the underpinning rationale related to morphology in the architecture of language.

As far as the architecture of language is concerned, various scholars (Haspelmath and Sims, 2010; Crystal, 2008; Bauer, 2012; Booij, 2005; Aronoff and Kirsten, 2011) suggest in various ways that a rigorous and scientific morphological investigation and analysis of language requires a thorough clarification of the irrelevantly and confusing all-inclusive meaning of the central concept of the "word" construct. Such a quest gets satisfied through a definitional approach to the basic terms of the lexeme, the word-form, the paradigm and the word token. In this perspective, Haspelmath and Sims (2010) describe the **LEXEME** as a word in the abstract sense, a theoretical construct representing the core meaning shared by inflected forms. The lexeme is thus the abstract unit underlying such sets of grammatical variants as *walk, walks, walking, walked* for the lexeme WALK, or *big, bigger, biggest* for the lexeme BIG. Inflections thus create various forms of the same lexeme, while derivation creates new lexemes. An inflected word is thus viewed as a 'grammatically conditioned variant of the lexeme' whereas a derived word creates a relationship between distinctive lexemes. This insight on the lexeme makes it possible to better grasp the **WORD-FORM** as a word in its concrete sense, serving as a signifier, in the saussurian perspective. In an analytical way, word-form = [lexeme + grammatical meaning]. All the word-forms belonging to the same lexeme represent its **PARADIGM** as they express different grammatical functions, but the same basic/core semantic concept.

Based on this conceptual clarification, how then do free and bound morphemes combine through derivational and inflectional processes to create new 'grammatically conditioned variants and new lexemes respectively? In a more insightful gear and within a functional lens, how do these morphemes carry meaning both at the word and text levels?

Along its scientific route, this research work seeks to achieve the general objective of shedding light on the compositional constitution of the lexical and grammatical units in text, while foregrounding the way these bits of language that are morphemes, impart meaning for the achievement of the social semiotic mandate of language.

In a predictive manner, this work hypothesises that language users continually form and modify the specific content parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs out of the infinite productivity property of language based on the communicative needs they are willing to satisfy within specific contexts.

In its endeavour to accurately answer the above phrased queries, to achieve the general and specific objectives and finally test the predicted hypothesis, this paper runs along four major sections such as the [1]theoretical framework, [2]the methodology of the study, [3]the analysis of the collected data, and [4]the discussion of the findings.

1 - Theoretical framework
The history of the word "morphology" identifies its first uses as the "the branch of biology that deals with the form of living organisms and their parts, and the relationships between their structures". The word morphology itself is derived from the Greek word "morphe" meaning "form". In the linguistics arena, morphology maintains its form based semantics with an orientation to the way some bits of language [spare parts] are assembled to form words. The more commonly known definition of morphology as the internal structure of language (Yule, 2010) thus receives attention from scholars in the field in a broadening and insight feeding perspective. Carstairs-McCarthy (1993 / 2002) thus posits that morphology is the area of grammar concerned with the structure of words and with relationships between words involving the morphemes that compose them. A genuine grasp of morphology and the needs it serves in language as a semiotic system thus covers both its definition as the internal structure of words, but also the processes at work within it (Eka, and Rahayu https://repository.unmul.ac.id/bitstream/handle/123456789/19755/An%20Introduction%20to%20English%20Morphology-Famala.pdf?sequence=1). Morphology operates through the morpheme, "a minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function" (Yule, 2010) There are many different motivations for undertaking morphological studies. Haspelmath and Sims (2010) identify three of such motivations such as the need for:

- **an elegant description** as it is the responsibility of linguists to describe and analyse the world's languages as correctly and insightfully as possible based on well-framed rules. For example, specify the way English words form their plural forms;
- **a cognitively realistic description** whereby morphologists express the same generalisations about grammatical systems that the speakers' cognitive apparatus has unconsciously arrived at;

- **a system-external explanation** in the pursuit of some links between morphological operations and the realities out there within the linguistic community.

In addition to these, Eka, and Rahayu (idem) stress the usefulness of morphological analysis for the creation of a typology of languages for similarities and differences charts designing purposes, and the investigation into the nature of linguistic systems for more insight about the architecture of human language. There are two main morphological sub branches in linguistics: inflectional morphology and derivational morphology.

1.1 - The sub branches of morphology
1.1.1. - Inflectional morphology
Crystal (2008) defines 'inflection/inflexion' as "a term used in morphology to refer to one of the two main categories or processes of word-formation (inflectional morphology), the other being derivational. Inflectional morphology conveys grammatical information. An inflected word keeps its original speech part and basic semantic meaning while providing some grammatical more specific input for communication accuracy. The English language distinguishes eight common morphological inflections such as plural, third-person singular, present tense, past tense, present participle, past participle, comparative and superlative degree. More specifically, there are four inflections attached to verbs, "s" for 3rd person singular, present tense, "ing" for present participle, "ed" indicating past tense and "en" for past participle. There are two inflections attached to adjectives: -er for comparative and -est marking superlative degree. There are two inflections attached to nouns, one marking possessive cases and the other marking plural (Yule, 2014; Aronoff, 1994).

There are two types of inflections, the regular and the irregular one. Regular inflection involves certain conventional affixes to form a new word form such as « ed » for past tense and « s » for plural. Irregular inflections occur when grammatical information is added to words in ways that are strictly codified as in the case of irrregular inflections. Illustrative cases "ate" where the infinitive "to eat" is inflected for past tense, "mice" where "mouse" is inflected for plural.

1.1.2. - Derivational morphology
"Derivation" is a term used in morphology to refer to one of the two main categories or processes of word-formation, the other being inflectional. "Derivational affixes usually occur closer to the root morpheme than inflections do" (Crystal, 2008). Derivational morphemes include suffixes, such as the -ish in "foolish", the -ly in "quickly", and the -ment in "payment", and prefixes, such as re-, pre-, ex-, mis-, co-, un- (Yule, 2014). As Booij (2005) specifies, the basic function of derivational processes is to enable the language user to make new lexemes. The rich history of the English language through its encounters with other languages has made it to host anglo-saxon, French, Greek and Latin lexicographical influences. This has generated derivational prefixes such as *un* (not), *re* (again), *dis* (not), *in* (not), *mis* (wrong), *a* (not), *fore* (before), *de* (opposite), *pre* (before), *en* (within or in), *sub* (under, below), *inter* (between, among), *trans* (across, change), con (with), co (together), di (twice), *super* (above), *semi* (half, partly), *anti* (against), *mid* (middle), and derivational suffixes such as *er* (doer), *y* (characterised by), *ful* (ful of), *ness* (quality of), *less* (without), *ment* (action), *hood* (state), *able/ible* (capable of), *en* (to become or cause to be). Derivational morphemes operate both with and without a change in the grammatical class of the base word. On the first hand, one can notice cases of adjectives derived from nouns (power / powerful) verbs derived from nouns *(person / personify),* nouns from adjectives *(free / freedom),* verbs from adjectives *(fat / fatten),* nouns from verbs *(teach / teacher)* adverbs from adjectives *(skilful / skilfully),* adjectives from verbs *(excite / excitable).* On the other the English language displays examples of derived words wherein the parts of speech remain unaltered. Illustrations show cases of noun to noun (man / manhood), adjective to adjective *(accurate /inaccurate),* verb to verb *(cover / discover),* adverb to adverb *(precisely / imprecisely)*

2 - METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY
This research work is designed to thoroughly investigate the way language users (speakers and writers) almost unconsciously assemble inflectional and derivational morphemes all along the process of meaning making. The corpus analysed in this paper is an extract from the historic speech "I have a dream" delivered by Martin Luther King JR the African American human right activist, on August 28th, 1963, subsequently to the March on Washington. The need for accurate and accessible results has made it necessary to combine both qualitative and quantitative methods in data analysis. The selection of the mixed method adopted in this research work is purposed to achieve two goals. On the first hand, quantitative analysis provides the means for a synoptic and comparative view of the many different variables such as the derivational and inflectional components and the composite aggregates that are included in each of them. This makes it possible to pair up and compare such variables. On the second hand, the qualitative perspective of the analysis is instrumental for digging into the collected data and gathered results for description and interpretation purposes in order to uncover their meaning and significance.

For this purpose, this study has designed keys for the designation of both inflectional and derivational morphology and the many different entries that compose then throughout the selected corpus. Each

identified morphological operation has thus been labelled and numbered under its specific typology and subsequently aggregated for the quantitative distinctive and cumulative analyses. The second half of the analytical process, the qualitative one, has included the explanation of the morphological meaning patterns both at lexical and overall textual levels. The final major step in the achievement of this paper is the discussion of the findings which has dealt with the recapitulation of the mixed method analysis together with the answers to the research questions as well as the crosscheck of the achievement of the research objectives and the hypothesis.

3 - Data analysis

This section of the work includes morphological features identification, quantitative analysis and qualitative analysis.

3.1 - Morphological features identification

This part of the work includes the identification, the labelling and the numbering of both derivational and inflectional features in the texts.

Text 1: I Have a Dream

The keys for the identification and analysis of the morphological linguistic features run as follows: inflectional morphology = FL, degree = Dg; possessive case = PC; tense = T; number = Nb; derivational morphology = DV, verb to noun = V-N ; adjective to noun = Aj-N ; noun to adjective = N-Aj; verb to adjective = V-Aj ; noun to adverb = N-Av ; noun to noun = N-N

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the [1FL]greatest[-Dg] [1DV]demonstration[-V-N] for [2DV]freedom[-Aj-N] in the history of our nation. Five score [2FL]years[-Nb] ago, a great [3DV]American[-N-Aj], in [3FL]whose[-PC] [5DV]symbolic[-N-Aj] shadow we stand today, [4FL]signed[-T] the [6DV]Emancipation[-V-N] [7DV]Proclamation[-V-N]. This [8DV]momentous[-N-Aj] decree [5FL]came[-T] as a great beacon light of hope to [6FL]millions[-Nb] of Negro [7FL]slaves[-Nb] who [8FL]had [9FL]been [10FL]seared[-T] in the [11FL]flames[-Nb] of [12FL]withering[-V-Aj] [9DV]injustice[-Aj-N]. It [13FL]came[-T] as a [10DV]joyous[-N-Av] daybreak to end the long night of their [11DV]captivity[-V-N]. But one hundred [14FL]years[-Nb] [15FL]later[-Dg], the Negro still [16FL]is[-T] not free. One hundred [17FL]years[-Nb] [18FL]later[-Dg], the life of the Negro is still [12DV]sadly [19FL]crippled[-T] by the [20FL]manacles[-Nb] of [13DV]segregation[-V-N] and the [21FL]chains[-Nb] of [14DV]discrimination[-V-N]. One hundred [22FL]years[-Nb] [23FL]later[-Dg], the Negro [24FL]lives[-Nb] on a [15DV]lonely[-Aj-Av] island of [16DV]poverty[-Aj-N]. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true [17DV]meaning[-V-N] of [25FL]its[-PC] creed: '' We hold these [26FL]truths[-Nb] to be self-evident, that all [27FL]men[-Nb] are [28FL]created[-T] equal.'' I have a dream that one day on the red [29FL]hills[-Nb] of Georgia, the [30FL]sons[-Nb] of former [31FL]slaves[-Nb] and the [32FL]sons[-Nb] of former slave [33FL]owners[-Nb] will be able to sit down together at the table of [18DV]brotherhood[-N-N]. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state [34FL]sweltering[-T] with the heat of [19DV]injustice[-N-N], [35FL]sweltering[-T] with the heat of [20DV]oppression[-V-N], will be [36FL]transformed[-T] into an oasis of [21DV]freedom[-Aj-N] and [22DV]justice[-Aj-N]. I have a dream that my four little [37FL]children[-Nb] will one day live in a nation where they will not be [38FL]judged[-T] by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today! I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with [39FL]its[-PC] [23DV]vicious[-N-Aj] [40FL]racists[-Nb], with [41FL]its[-PC] [24DV]governor[-V-N] having his [42FL]lips[-Nb] [43FL]dripping[-T] with the [44FL]words[-Nb] of [25DV]'interposition[-V-N]' and [26DV]'nullification[-V-N]',-- one day right there in Alabama little black [45FL]boys[-Nb] and little black [46FL]girls[-Nb] will be able to join [47FL]hands[-Nb] with little white [48FL]boys[-Nb] and white [49FL]girls[-Nb] as [50FL]sisters[-Nb] and [51FL]brothers[-Nb]. I have a dream today! I have a dream that one day every valley shall be [52FL]exalted[-T], and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough [53FL]places[-Nb] will be made plain, and the [27DV]crooked[-N-Aj] [54FL]places[-Nb] will be made straight; ''and the glory of the Lord shall be [55FL]revealed[-T] and all flesh shall see it together.'' This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to [28DV]transform[-N-V] the [29DV]jangling[-V-Av] [56FL]discords[-Nb] of our nation into a [30DV]beautiful[-N-Aj] [31DV]symphony[-N-N] of [32DV]brotherhood[-N-N]. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for [33DV]freedom[-Aj-N] together, [57FL]knowing[-T] that we will be free one day. And this will be the day—this will be the day when all of [58FL]God's[-PC] [59FL]children[-Nb] will be able to sing with new [34DV]meaning[-V-N]. And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And so let [35DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring from the [36DV]prodigious[-N-Aj] [60FL]hilltops[-Nb] of New Hampshire. Let [37DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring from the [38DV]mighty [61FL]mountains[-Nb] of New York. Let [39DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring from the [40DV]heightening[-N-Aj] [62FL]Alleghenies[-Nb] of Pennsylvania. Let [41DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring from the sow-capped [63FL]Rockies[-Nb] of Colorado. Let [42DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring from the [43DV]curvaceous[-N-Aj] [64FL]slopes[-Nb] of California. But not only that. Let [44DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let [45DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let [46DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let [47DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring. And when this [65FL]happens[-T] and when we allow [48DV]freedom[-Aj-N] ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of [66FL]God's[-PC] [67FL]children[-Nb], black [68FL]men[-Nb] and white [69FL]men[-Nb], [70FL]Jews[-Nb] and [71FL]Gentiles[-Nb], [72FL]Protestants[-Nb] and [73FL]Catholics[-Nb], will be able to join [74FL]hands[-Nb] and sing in the [75FL]words[-Nb] of the old

Negro [49DV]spiritual[–N-Aj]: Free at last! Thank God [50DV]Almighty[–N-Aj], we are free at last!

3.2 - Quantitative analysis

The quantitative analysis covers the morphological patterns identified in the selected text. Actually, the identified patterns include exclusively the derivational word forms and the inflectional features that have resulted in some graphological changes in the base words (lexemes). The text displays a total number of 125 morphological applications with 50 (40%) instances of derivational occurrences and 75 (60%)

inflectional occurrences. Derivational patterns are made up of 17 (13.6%) nouns derived from adjectives, 12 (9.6%) nouns from verbs, 13 (10.4%) adjectives from nouns, 4 (3.2%) nouns from others nouns, 2 (1.6%) verbs derived from nouns and 2 (1.6%) adverbs derived from verbs. As far as graphological inflectional features are concerned, they display 16 (12.8%) instances for tense, 47 (37.6%) for number indicating plurality, 5 (4%) for degree and 7 (5.6%) for possessive cases as summarised in Table 1 and schematised in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Table 1: Morphological operations

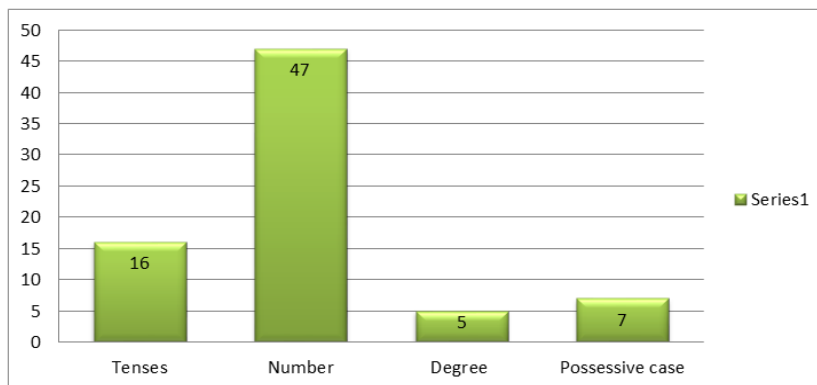|	Morphological patterns	Number	Rate (%)
Derivations	Adjective to noun	17	13.6
	Verb to noun	12	9.6
	Noun to adjective	13	10.4
	Noun to noun	4	3.2
	Noun to verb	2	1.6
	Verb to adverb	2	1.6
	Total 1	**50**	**40**
Inflections	Tense	16	12.8
	Number	47	37.6
	Degree	5	4
	Possessive case	7	5.6
	Total 2	**75**	**60**
Total 1 + Total 2		**125**	**100%**

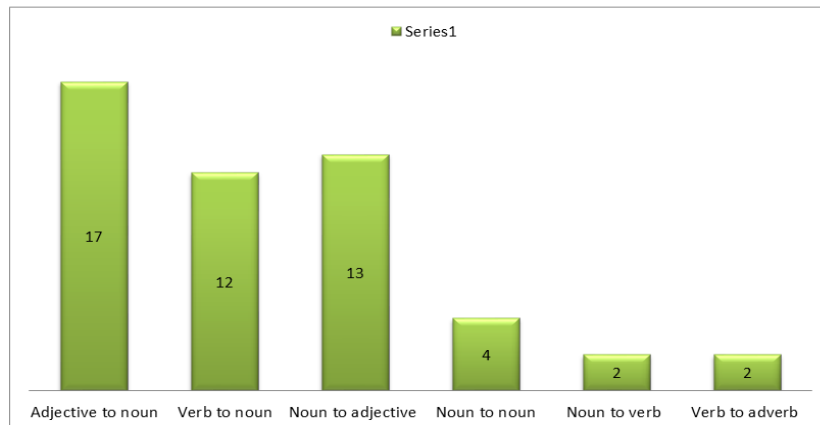**Figure 1: Inflectional morphology**

Figure 2: Derivational morphology

3.3 - Qualitative analysis

This part of the data analysis provides an opportunity for giving more interpretative insight on the specific bound derivational and inflectional morphemes used in the selected text through the way they are applied to the base words and through their semantic contributions in meaning construction impartation.

Indeed, a thorough read and search for meaning in the text shows that derivations that cause word class changes from Adjective to noun on the first hand and from verbs to nouns on the second hand rank first and second with 17 [13.6%] and 12 [9.6%] occurrences respectively. This process which is one of nominalisation displays a move on the register continuum (Matthiessen, 1993b) between a most spoken face to face register to a most written one (Carter and McCarthy, 1995). This move shows the use of language in a reflective and abstract pattern, as the text is phrased for an anonymous audience. MLK_Jr was rather communicating with the whole community of the despoiled African American people. This is shown through the use of derivational morphemes such as "ity", "ice", "ation", "tion", "or", "dom", in [11DV]captivity[V-N], [9DV]injustice[Aj-N], [13DV]segregation[V-N], [14DV]discrimination[V-N], [16DV]poverty[Aj-N], [20DV]oppression[V-N], [26DV]'nullification[V-N]', [25DV]'interposition[V-N], [24DV]governor[V-N] where MLK_Jr shows the fate of the Black community on the one hand and nominalisations such as [1DV]demonstration[V-N], [2DV]freedom[Aj-N], [6DV]emancipation[V-N], [7DV]proclamation[V-N], [22DV]justice[Aj-N] where he expresses the hope for a better future. It is noteworthy to point out the outstanding lexical density (Eggins, 2004) of "freedom" [free_dom] which has been used 16 times in the text in this morphological process whereas the word form "injustice" [unjust_injustice] was used only twice. This semantic and morphological remarkable imbalance indicates that MLK_Jr had definitely set the gear not to remain immobile with lamentations on the past but rather to hope and diligently work for a better and brighter future for the largest number. The use of derivational morphemes such as "ic" in [5DV]symbolic[N-Aj], "ous" in [8DV]momentous[N-Aj], the present participle gerund ending "ing" in [40DV]heightening[N-Aj] were used to form adjectives from nouns as a way of building new lexical devices for the description of the plagues of the Black community on the one hand, and the brightness of the expected better future life. The following numbered extracts from the text are illustrative.

a) ......a great [3DV]*American*[N-Aj], in whose [5DV]*symbolic*[N-Aj] shadow we stand today
b) This [8DV]*momentous*[N-Aj] decree came
c) ......one day, down in Alabama, with its [23DV]*vicious*[N-Aj] racists
d) ......let freedom ring from the [36DV]*prodigious*[N-Aj] hilltops of New Hampshire
e) Let freedom ring from the [40DV]*heightening*[N-Aj] Alleghenies of Pennsylvania

In a likely manner, the predominant use of plurality inflectional morphemes with 47 occurrences out of 75 total number of inflections shows clearly well this focus directed to the largest unnamed people suffering the same fate. As an illustration of his large thinking perspective (Vygotsky, 1987), he uses the "s" regular and "en" irregular plural inflectional morphemes (Yule, 2014) in [2FL]years[Nb], [6FL]millions[Nb], [7FL]slaves[Nb], [40FL]racists[Nb], [20FL]manacles[Nb], [21FL]chains[Nb], [24FL]lives[Nb] to illustrate the extent of the sufferings of the Black community and in [32FL]sons[Nb], [49FL]girls[Nb], [59FL]children[Nb], [50FL]sisters[Nb], [11FL]flames[Nb], [26FL]truths[Nb], [29FL]hills[Nb], [72FL]Protestants[Nb], [73FL]Catholics[Nb], [71FL]Gentiles[Nb] where he morphologically represents how wide he very optimistically foreshadows the magnitude of the delight to come.

The use of tense marking morphemes is significant enough in the way MLK Jr combines them with base verbs to convey meaning. In its qualitative analytical perspective, this study identifies the use of inflectional morphemes for a threefold tense progression from the past tense (simple past and past perfect) to the simple present and then to the future. Actually, MLK Jr uses the "ed" regular past tense inflectional morpheme as in [4FL]signed[T] and [10FL]seared[T] and the irregular past tense morpheme as in [13FL]came[T] [8FL] and had [9FL]been[T] to refer to some conclusive results of the Black American community in the past years, but which were still to deliver the expected results. The following extracts display a few such examples.

f) ....a great American ....[4FL]*signed*[T] the Emancipation Proclamation
g) This momentous decree [5FL]*came*[T] as a great beacon light of hope ......
h) It [13FL]*came*[T] as a joyous daybreak

The absence of such results is expressed by means of a connexion between those achievements of the past and the unchanged state of affairs in the present. This is achieved through the use of the irregular simple present inflectional morpheme in [16FL]*is*[T] and [19FL] *is*[T] on the one hand, and through the regular singular third person simple present morpheme "s" in [24FL]*lives*[Nb]. The following extracts from the text are illustrative at this regard.

i) .... the Negro still [16FL]*is*[T] not free.
j) ....the life of the Negro [19FL]*is* still sadly crippled
k) One hundred years later, the Negro [24FL]*lives*[Nb] on a lonely island of poverty

The third tense move is that of a passive future through the auxiliaries "will" and "shall", with the "ed" regular inflectional morphemes used for the past participle verbal forms as in the following extracts.

l) the heat of oppression, *will be* [36FL]*transformed*[T] into an oasis of freedom

m) …..they *will not be* **[38FL]**judged*[−T]* by the color of their skin

n) …..one day every valley *shall be* **[52FL]**exalted*[−T]*

o) ….. the glory of the Lord *shall be* **[55FL]** *revealed[−T]*

Discussion of the findings

This discussion section of the research work is purposed to explore the underlying meaning that is the significance of this paper through the interpretation of the findings that embed the answers to the research questions as well as the crosscheck of the predicted hypothesis.

As presented through the quantitative analysis, inflectional operations take the greatest part in the analysed corpus with 60% against 40% for derivational processes as illustrated in the pie chart in Figure 3.
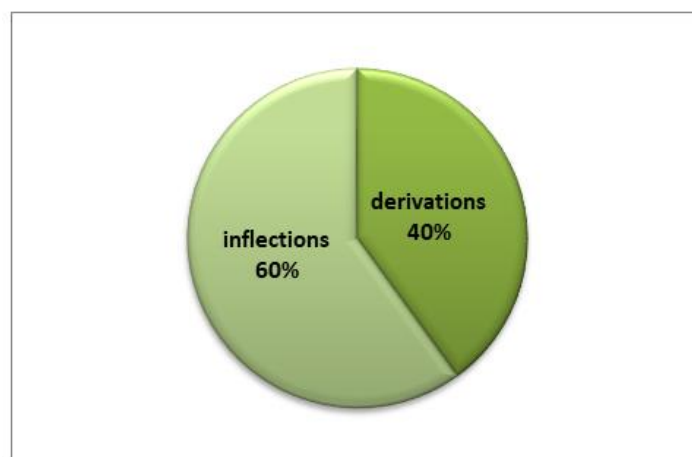

Figure 3: inflections and derivations proportions

Most importantly nominalisation takes the lead of the derived words with a whole bunch of a cumulative rate of 26% out of the total rate of 40% for derivations. This outstanding morphological process makes a shift from individual participants to the general Black American community as one can perceive through Martin Luther King Jr's speech. This gives an abstract written feature to the linguistic production although it was delivered live in the presence of a large audience. The mostly encountered derivations are those related to nouns obtained from adjectives [**[2DV]**free_freedom*[−Aj-N]*, **[16DV]**poor_poverty*[−Aj-N]*, **[19DV]**unjust_injustice*[−N-N]* **[22DV]**just_justice*[−Aj-N]*], from verbs [**[13DV]**segragate_segregation*[−V-N]*, [26DV]nullify_nullification*[−V-N]*, **[7DV]** proclaim_proclamation*[−V-N]*, **[24DV]**govern_governor*[−V-N]*] and from other nouns [brother_**[18DV]**brotherhood*[−N-N]*, **[19DV]**justice_injustice*[−N-N]*]. The use of derivational morphemes such as "ic", "ous", "ing" allowed a speech part shift from nouns to adjectives such as *[5DV]symbolic[−N-Aj]*, *[8DV]momentous[−N-Aj]*, *[23DV]vicious[−N-Aj]*, *[36DV]prodigious[−N-Aj]*, *[40DV]heightening[−N-Aj]* whereby the speaker set imagery and descriptive style on the ills of the African American community, as well as on their expected brighter future.

On the inflectional part of the whole morphological process, the plurality indicating regular and irregular morphemes that have been joined to noun lexemes as in **[72FL]**Protestants*[−Nb]*, **[73FL]**Catholics*[−Nb]*, **[71FL]**Gentiles*[−Nb]*, **[2FL]** years*[−Nb]*, **[6FL]**millions*[−Nb]*, **[7FL]**slaves*[−Nb]* all work together to maintain and confirm the desire of the speaker to target the general anonymous largest number of the black community as pinpointed in the aforementioned nominalisation process. Apart from the plurality inflection, the speaker, consciously or unconsciously designed a tense flow in three successive moves through the past tense (simple past and past perfect), the simple present and the future by means of both regular and irregular bound morphemes. This descriptive summary on the way MLK Jr conveyed meaning by means of morphological derivational and inflectional processes provide satisfactory answers to both research questions, as well as it shows an achievement of the goals of this study and proves the hypothesis true.

As far as the first question is concerned, this research work is highly significant for language users in general and most specifically for the learners of English as a foreign language. Actually, the explanatory theoretical framework, the identification of the derivational and inflectional processes awakens the awareness on the compositional pattern whereby language functions to convey meaning. This very aspect presents the learning of a foreign language in a more easily approachable perspective as it shows how words are formed from smaller morphemic parts. As a matter of fact, the identification of the applied morphological processes shows the way free and bound morphemes combine through derivational and inflectional processes to create new 'grammatically conditioned variants and new lexemes respectively. Tackling the second research question related to the manner whereby these

morphemes carry meaning both at the word and text levels, the identification of such morphemes and the explanatory interpretation of their meaning imparting potential brings much insight.

CONCLUSION

This research paper has been premised on the observation of the low awareness by language users in general and the scarce scientific productions by language specialists in particular as far as the importance and meaning imparting potential of derivational and inflectional morphology in text construction is concerned. The evidence of such an observation and the subsequent questioning on the underpinning motivations have led to a process of hypothesising, data collection, analysis and the discussion of the archived results. The historic speech "I Have a Dream" by Martin Luther King Jr thus served as a corpus for the identification, the labelling and the numbering of both derivational and inflectional morphemes. Subsequently to this point of departure, the scientific research process has proceeded with a mixed method analysis aimed at putting both quantitative and qualitative methods at work for the sake of the most dependable results. By so doing, the quantitative analysis of the numerical data culled from the morphemic identification and numbering has been instrumental in uncovering the prominence of inflectional operations which come first with a rate of 60% while derivations occur in a lower rate of 40% as represented in Table 1 and Figure 1. Furthering the analysis of the numerical data has revealed the highest rates of nominalisations in derivational morphology on the first hand [33% (17+12+4)] and of tense and number morphemes in inflectional morphology on the other [63% (47+16)] as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. The qualitative analysis and crosscheck of the way the many different morphemes carry and deliver meaning into the newly formed lexemes and the grammatically conditioned lexical items have been richly conclusive. Indeed, through the predominant rate of nominalisation, this study has identified the linguistic feature of a written text with an abstract and non-individual perspective although the speech was delivered live in the presence of a wide audience. This interpretative scientific guess has been confirmed by the outstanding use of number indicating inflectional morphemes with a rate of 47 % which unquestionably indicates the mindset of the speaker to include the whole African American community as the beneficiaries of his unquenchable soft and vibrant battle for freedom. By and large, the study has confirmed its significance for both language users in general and English as a Foreign Language learners most particularly because, in actual fact, the meaning making mandate vested into language gets best achieved through the intentional selection and skilful use of morphemes. At this landing step in this research work, the research questions that have functioned as the landmarks in the whole scientific process got satisfactorily answered together with the confirmation of the predicted hypothesis.

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