

# The Development of Morphology Acquisition Among the Children of 1.5 – 3.5 Years Old

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**Abstract**—The aim of this study is deals with the development of morphology acquisition among the children of 1.5 until 3.5 years old a. The objectives of the research were to find out morphemes are acquired by the children 1.5 until 3.5 years old. This research conducted by the qualitative research and the research design of this research is cross-sectional design. The data were obtained by the observation by recorded the utterances made by children in natural context. The data collected were analyzed by interactive models by Miles and Huberman and Saldana model. The subject of the research were 8 children of 1.5 until 3.5 years old and the research take 2 children from each age. The result of the research is the free morpheme has been produced in age 1.5 years old. Meanwhile there are different ability in acquiring bound morpheme. Firstly, child in age 1.5-2.0 has different ability in acquiring bound morphemes, secondly, child in age 2.1-2.5 has been able to produced suffixes and partikel, but there is different ability in acquiring prefix. Thirdly, child in age 2.6-3.0 has different ability in acquiring prefix and suffixes. And Fourthly, child in age 3.1-3.5 has been able to produced bound morphemes.

**Keyword** : Morphological Acquisition, Order of Mor Morphological Acquisition, Free Morpheme Acquisition

produce free morpheme, such as *car*, *go*. Next ,during the second year of speech, they also begin to produce bound morpheme. Bound morphemes can be divided into derivational and inflectional morphemes. It means between two and two and half, children begin to produce derivational affixes, mostly suffixes, but these may be rare before age three. In English, for instance, children start to produce agent and instrument –er, thought they do not use this suffix until around age four.(Clark :1998). Meanwhile According to Dardjowidjojo, Affixes had been acquired in 2:0 , the free morphemes has been changed from the age 1:9:0 .Since this age, its already used suffix and passive prefix {di-}, the use of passive prefix it's limited, and have a large of syntactic effect. Based on the theory it's prove there is differences achievement in acquiring affixes between western children and Indonesian children in morphology acquisition, it's proven when the researcher get the preliminary data from children who age rare 1.5, 2.0 and 3 years old.

Therefore, this study will be focused on what types of morpheme do the children of 1.5-3.5 years old.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Morphology in the context of language acquisition is considered the same as in adult speaker context. According to Clark (1998) In adult speaker context, morphology discusses (stem, root, inflectional, derivational, word formation and compounds). This means that in the context language acquisition, morphology discuss the same aspects, like stem, root, etc.

Further in acquisition, the domain morphology is the word. Inflection and word formation treated in a similar way by children acquiring morphology, it means children work with words. Their earliest inflections are typically learnt as parts of words, and only later are analyzed for forms and meanings. Once this is done, children appear able to extend paradigms with rule-like application of an affix to new instances. In doing so, they also regularize irregular forms until they learn to produce the appropriate irregular forms.

One of the first steps in acquiring a morphology system is discovering which phonetic strings correspond to morphemes. Morphemes can be divided into free morpheme and bound morpheme. It means children typically begin to say their first words between twelve and twenty months age. And they

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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One of the first steps in acquiring a morphology system is discovering which phonetic strings correspond to morphemes. Morphemes can be divided into free morpheme and bound morpheme. Free morphemes had been acquired in 1;0 years,

in this age the production of morphemes is still limited, for example *papa, mama*. In this age the children can't said something that related to the things, condition and event. (Dardjowidjojo : 2000). Affixes had been acquired in 2:0, the free morphemes has been changed from the age 1:9:0. Since this age, its already used passive prefix {di-}, the use of passive prefix it's limited, and have a large of syntactic effect. Because the used of this prefix all of the sentence structure will be changed. (Dardjowidjojo : 2000).

Meanwhile, bound morphemes' can be divided into **derivational** and **inflectional** morphemes. 'Derivational morphemes' are generally used to 'make new words or to make words of a different grammatical category from the stem', whereas 'inflectional morphemes are used to produce new words in the language, but rather to indicates aspects of the grammatical function of a word' (Yule, 2006 : 64-65).

Further, Clark (2009) says, Children acquire some derived word forms early, initially as unanalyzed wholes. But from about age 2 onwards, they start to make use of attested derived word-form patterns when they construct new words to convey specific meanings. It means between two and two and a half, children begin to produce derivational affixes, mostly suffixes, but these may be rare before age three (Clark 1998). In English, for instance, children start to produce agent and instrument *-er*, though they do not use this suffix consistently until around age four (Clark and Hecht 1982). Thus, Clark (1998) says,

Children's acquisition of inflectional morphology has been studied for a variety of different languages. Children start to acquire inflections from their earliest word use on. But they

may only produce them after some weeks, or even months. Consistent use of an inflection can be assessed against use in appropriate contexts on the one hand, and against use of other inflections (including use of no inflection) on the other.

### III. RESEARCH METHOD

This Study will be conducted by using qualitative research, the design of this research is cross-sectional design. This research described what morphology acquisition among the children of 1.5 – 3.5 years old develop the morphemes. Then the research will take 2 children from each age. The data of this research is the utterances produced by children in natural context.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### THE TYPES OF MORPHEME DO THE CHILDREN ACQUIRED

In analyzing the data of this study, the researcher applied Miles and Huberman and Saldana's technique. The data of the study were dealt with the topic which was emphasized on the development morpheme acquisition among the children of 1.5-3.5 years old. Data were taken from the utterances which were produced by the children of 1.5-3.5 years old, as follow:

childre n	Age	free morphem e	bound morpheme															
			Prefix								suffixes			Partikel				
			me-	di-	ber-	ke-	ter-	pe-	per-	Se-	-an	-kan	-i	kah	lah	tah	dan	pun
<b>SJ</b>	1.5-2.0	+	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>SH</b>	1.5-2.0	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>AR</b>	2.1-2.5	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
<b>FA</b>	2.1-2.5	+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>AZ</b>	2.6-3.0	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>RA</b>	2.6-3.0	+	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>KL</b>	3.1-3.5	+	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>NH</b>	3.1-3.5	+	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	-

Based on the data it's seen that all the children are able to acquire free morpheme in age 1.5-3.5 years old. But they are has different ability in acquiring bound morphemes at the same age or the different age, for example there is difrent achievement in acquiring bound morphemes between SJ and SH, while both of them have the same age. SJ has been able produced prefix *ter-* as much as 2, suffixes *-an*, *-kan* as much as 1, and partikel *kah, lah* as much as 1. While SH has not been able to produced bound morpheme. Further children in age 2.1-2.5 years old Between AR and FA has different ability in acquiring prefix. AR has not been able produced prefix, while FA has been able produced prefix *di-* as much as 1, but in acquiring partikel, AR has been able produced partikel *lah* as much as 3, while FA has been able produced partikel *kah and lah* as much as 1. Thus In age 2.6-3.0 years old, AZ has not been able produced prefix and suffixes, she only produced partikel *kah and lah*. While RA has been able produced prefix *di-, ber-, ter-* and suffixes *-an*. Meanwhile Children in

age 3.1-3.5 years old, have different ability in acquiring prefixes, suffixes, and partikel. KL has been produced prefix *di-* as much as 4, *ke-* as much as 1, suffixes *-an* as much as 5, and partikel *kah and lah* as much as 1. While NH produced prefix *di-* as much as 3, *ber-* as much as 1, suffixes *-an* as much as 1, *-kan* as much as 3 and partikel *lah* as much as 2

### V. FINDING

Based on the data analysis, it's found that free morpheme has been produced in age 1.5 years old. Meanwhile there are different ability in acquiring bound morpheme. First, child in age 1.5-2.0 has different ability in acquiring bound morphemes, second, child in age 2.1-2.5 has been able to produced suffixes and partikel, but there is different ability in acquiring prefix. Third, child in age 2.6-3.0 has different ability in acquiring prefix and suffixes. And Fourth, child in age 3.1-3.5 has been able to produced bound morphemes.

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