

AN ANALYSIS OF INFLECTIONAL AFFIXES IN ARIANA GRANDE'S SONG LYRICS

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Abstract : This research aimed to analyze the types of inflectional affixes in Ariana Grande's song lyrics. The method employed in this research was the descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research were in the form of words from Ariana Grande's song lyrics which consist of inflectional suffixes. The source of the data was five of Ariana Grande's songs entitled 'My Everything', 'One Last Time', 'Just a Little Bit of Your Heart', 'Point of View', and 'Almost is Never Enough'. The data were collected through listening to the songs, reading the lyrics, and taking notes of the words which consist of inflectional affixes. The results showed that there are seven types of inflectional affixes found in the song lyrics, which were noun plural, present participle, comparative, present third-person singular, past participle, past tense, and noun singular possessive. The type of inflectional affix which found the most is the present participle which occurs 18 times. Then, nine plurals with a total of 11 occurrences. After that, the following noun plural was past tense which was found in 6 different lyrics. Next was present third-person singular with 3 occurrences. Then, the fifth position was comparative which is found in 2 lyrics. Finally, the least used type of inflectional affixes was past participle and noun singular possessive which only appears one time each.

Keywords: *inflectional affixes, song lyrics, prefix, suffix*

INTRODUCTION

Language plays an essential role in human lives since it is a tool of communication. (Maru, 2016) stated that "*All social processes rely on language, and people need it to communicate with one another*". Through the ability to communicate with one another, humans have created functioning societies and

even built civilizations. (Chaika, 1982) states that (language and society are so intertwined that it is impossible to understand one without the other). (Liando, 2017) stated that *"It is very difficult to communicate knowledge, express sympathies, and clarify critical cases without language"*. That is why studying language can be considered an obligation for every human being.

(Aronoff, 2010) explains the definition of morphology as a sub-discipline of Linguistics that studies words, along with their internal structures, and how they are formulated. It is the study of morpheme, *the* smallest meaningful unit in a language. A morpheme is divided into two different categories which are free morpheme and bound morpheme. A free morpheme is an independent morpheme; it has a meaning on its own, like the word *'teacher'*. Meanwhile, when a morpheme depends on another morpheme to express a meaning, it is called a bound morpheme, e.g., the conjunction *'-est'* in the word *'smartest'* is a bound morpheme. Another terminology used to describe bound morpheme is affixes.

According to (Crowley, 1995), affixes are dependent morphemes that must be attached to a root morpheme. An affix can be classified into two different types based on its function; derivational and inflectional. (Kolanchery, 2015) stated that "A derivational affix is an affix that is added into a base to form a new word that differs from its previous parts of speech classification". In other words, a derivational affix can be able to change the semantic meaning of the combined word. For example, in the word *'sadness'*, the additional *'-ness'* to the root *'sad'* changes the word from an adjective (sad) to a noun (sadness). The other type of affix is the inflectional affix. (Plag, 2002) defines an inflectional affix is an affix that is incapable of creating a new word and changing the part of speech of the combined word. It can only change the grammatical content of the word (Lumentut and Lengkoan, 2021). The example of inflectional affixes is the additional *'-ed'* in the word *'watched'* and the additional *'-s'* in the word *'likes'*.

Affixes are divided into many categories depending on their position. However, this research only focused on the analysis of two types of affixes, which are suffix

and prefix. A suffix is an affix that is placed after the stem word, like the bound morpheme *'-ing'* in the word *'cooking'*. The process of adding a suffix in a stem word is called suffixation (Kandati and Tatipang, 2021). On the other hand, a prefix is an affix that is placed before the stem word. For example, when the prefix *'-time'* is added to the word *'possible'*, it becomes a whole new word *'impossible'*. The process in which a prefix is added into a stem is called prefixation.

In conducting this research, the researchers used some songs as the object of the study. The researchers used songs as the object because songs are one of the most efficient and effective media for learning English (Lengkoan, 2017). (Hampp, 2019) says that *"Song is a very good 'tool' to help students learn English, more specifically songs are believed to be able to motivate students while following English learning"*. The songs that are used are five of Ariana Grande's songs, which are (1) My Everything, (2) One Last Time, and (3) Just a Little Bit of Your Heart (4) Point of View (5) Almost Is Never Enough.

The reason why the researchers were interested in taking those songs as their research object is that the singer, Ariana Grande is one of the greatest singers of the current time, so when using Ariana's songs as the object, the researchers hoped that they and any other people who read this research would be able to take new insights from those songs rather than only enjoying it as art products. Moreover, (Olii, 2020) claims that *"In real life, a song lyric inspires human life. Therefore, sometimes when people listen to the song, they do not just try to understand the meaning of the lyrics, but also the message from the author to the listener through the lyrics"*. Thus, the researchers decided to conduct research entitled *"An Analysis of Inflectional Affixes in Ariana Grande's Song Lyrics"*.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Morphology

Morphology is a branch of linguistics that particularly studies the formulation of words. (Lieber, 2009) defines *Morphology* as “the study of word formation, including the ways new words are coined in the language of the world and the way forms of the word, are varied depending on how they are used in sentences”. (Bauer, 2012) also adds that Morphology studies the structure of words and how they are made up of the smallest meaningful units. Based on the definitions above, it can be concluded that morphology analyzes the structure of words, how they are formed, and their relationship to other words.

Morpheme

(Lieber, 2009) A morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit of a language”. According to (Booij, 2005), a morpheme is the minimal linguistics unit with a grammatical meaning. A morpheme is different from a word; a morpheme sometimes does not stand alone, while a word, always stands alone. In simpler words, a morpheme is the smallest unit of a language that has meaning or serves a grammatical function. A morpheme can be divided into two different types called free morpheme and bound morpheme.

Free Morpheme

According to (Yule, 2006) a free morpheme is a morpheme that can stand alone without any combination of another morpheme. A free morpheme can stand independently and function as words without any addition of grammatical function.

A free morpheme can also be classified into two types; lexical and functional free morpheme. A lexical-free morpheme is a morpheme that carries the meaning or content of a message. Examples of a lexical free morpheme are the words like 'house', 'work', 'type', and so on. On the other side, a functional free morpheme

does not carry the meaning or content of a message, it only helps the grammatical function of a message, for example 'I', 'but', 'if', etc.

Another way to differentiate lexical and functional free morphemes is from their ability to be attached by bound morpheme. A lexical morpheme is a morpheme that can be attached by a bound morpheme, while a functional free morpheme cannot be attached by a bound morpheme.

Bound Morpheme

Contrary to the free morpheme, a bound morpheme is a morpheme that is incapable of standing alone as a word. (Booij, 2005) states that bound morpheme is a morpheme that cannot function independently as a word. Bound morphemes can only appear as parts of words. For example, 'dis-' only appears when attached to other morphemes to form a word. A bound morpheme is coined either before the root, like 'im-', 'un-', 're-', etc., or after the root, such as '-less', '-ly', '-ed' and so on. A bound morpheme that comes before the root is called a prefix, while a bound morpheme that follows the root is called a suffix.

Affixes

Affix is a bound morpheme that is attached to a word stem to form a new word or word form. According to (Procter, 1980), affix is "a group of letters or sounds added to the beginning of a word or the end of the word". (Haspelmath, 2010) "Explains that affix is bound to a word or main part of a word, usually has abstract meaning, and cannot on its own. In other words, an affix can be defined as a bound morpheme that is combined with a word stem or stem to form a new word or alter its meaning. The example of affixes is the additional 'dis-' and '-ly' to the word 'like' to form new words 'dislike' or 'likely' are affixes. Affixes can be categorized into two types based on their position, namely suffix and the prefix".

Prefix

A prefix is an affix that is added to the beginning of a word. (Katamba, 2006) says that prefix is an affix that is attached before a root or a stem or a base such as 're-', 'un-', and 'in-', to form the words 're-make', 'un-happy', 'in-decent'".

Suffix

A suffix is an affix that is added at the end of the word. According to (Katamba, 2006) suffix is an affix that is attached after the root, or base such as '-ly', '-er', '-ing', '-ed'. In short, a suffix is an affix that is added to a morpheme to create a new word and/or alter its meaning. The example of suffixes in English is '-ly' in 'lovely', '-ed' in 'jumped', '-ness' in 'happiness', etc.

Inflectional Affixes

(Yule, 2010) defines inflectional affix as a part of bound morpheme that has no function to create new words in a language, but rather used to indicate the grammatical function of words, such as the use of singular or plural, past tense, or not, comparative or possessive, etc. There are eight types of inflectional affixes in English. The table below presented the eight types of inflectional affixes, their name, and their examples according to (Stageberg, 1981):

Table 1: Types of Inflectional Affixes

Affixes	Examples	Name
-s pl.	dogs, oxen, mice	Noun plural
-s sg ps	boy's	Noun singular possessive
-s pl ps	boys', men's	Noun plural possessive
-s 3d	Vacates	Present third-person singular
-ing vb	Discussing	Present participle
-D pt	chewed, rode	Past tense
-D pp	chewed, eaten, swum	Past participle
-ER cp	bolder, sooner, nearer	Comparative
-EST sp	boldest, soonest	Superlative

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

Qualitative research is the method that is employed by the researchers. According to (Holloway, 1997), qualitative research is a type of social study that focuses on how individuals understand and make meaning of their own experiences and the society in which they live. The findings of this study are discussed in detail explanation rather than in the form of statistical data.

Object of the Study

The objects of this research were several song lyrics from the singer Ariana Grande. The lyrics in which the process of affixation appears were analyzed.

Data Collecting Techniques

There were some steps that the researchers conducted in collecting the data. Firstly, the researchers listened to the songs from an official music platform, which is *Spotify*. Secondly, they read the song lyrics from the site *azlyrics.com*. After that, they listened to the songs and read the lyrics simultaneously to prevent mishearing. These processes were done repeatedly. Then, the researchers took notes whenever they saw/heard the lyrics in which the affixation process appears.

Data Analysis

(Oroh, 2021) mentions that "*The purpose of data analysis is to come up with findings or the answers for the research questions*". The collected data are analyzed with the steps proposed by (Miles & Huberman, 1994). Those three steps are data reduction, data display, and conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Data Reduction

Through analyzing three of Ariana Grande's song lyrics, the researchers found out that there were a lot of affixations in the songs they researched. The researchers then reduced the data to be only the inflectional affix ones. There was a total of 42 inflectional affixes found in Ariana Grande's song lyrics.

1. I've **cried** enough **tears** to see my reflection in them (*My Everything, line 1*)
2. I've **cried** enough **tears** to see my reflection in them (*My Everything, line 1*)
3. I'm **saying** sorry for the sake of us (*My Everything, line 8*)
4. And it's **taking** me a lot to say (*My Everything, lines 10 & 23*)
5. And now that he's gone, my heart is **missing** something (*My Everything, lines 11 & 24*)
6. You're **traveling** with my heart (*My Everything, line 16*)
7. 'Cause what we got is worth **fighting** for (*My Everything, line 21*)
8. At least I'm **being** honest (*One Last Time, line 4*)
9. 'Cause I know that I **failed** you (*One Last Time, line 6*)
10. She **gives** you everything (*One Last Time, line 10, 32*)
11. I need to be the one who **takes** you home (*One Last Time, lines 16, 22, 38, 44, 51, 57 & 59*)
12. All I really care is you wake up in my **arms** (*One Last Time, lines 20, 42 & 55*)
13. Just a little bit is all I'm **asking** for (*Just a Little Bit of Your Heart, lines 15, 30, 43 & 49*)
14. 'Cause I can't find the **words** to (*Just a Little Bit of Your Heart, line 18*)
15. It's like you got **superpowers** (*Point of View, line 1*)
16. Turn my **minutes** into hours (*Point of View, line 2*)
17. Turn my minutes into **hours** (*Point of View, line 2*)
18. **Loved** me like you do (*Point of View, line 13, 17 & 30*)

19. I'm **getting** used to receiving (*Point of View, line 19*)
20. I'm getting **used** to receiving (*Point of View, line 18*)
21. I'm getting used to **receiving** (*Point of View, line 18*)
22. Still getting good at not **leaving** (*Point of View, line 19*)
23. I love you even though I'm **scared** (*Point of View, line 20*)
24. **Learning** to be grateful for myself (*Point of View, line 25*)
25. **Things** we've always been afraid of (*Point of View, line 23*)
26. I can feel it **starting** to subside (*Point of View, line 24*)
27. But now I'm out here **falling, falling** (*Point of View, line 37 & 38*)
28. Frozen, slowly **thawing** (*Point of View, line 37*)
29. I won't keep you **waiting, waiting** (*Point of View, line 39*)
30. All my baggage **fading** safely (*Point of View, line 40*)
31. And if my **eyes** deceive me (*Point of View, line 45*)
32. But in time, our **feelings** will show (*Almost is Never Enough, lines 5, 22 & 37*)
33. 'Cause **sooner** or later (*Almost is Never Enough, line 6, 23 & 38*)
34. 'Cause sooner or **later** (*Almost is Never Enough, line 6, 23 & 38*)
35. The truth is everyone **knows** (*Almost is Never Enough, lines 8, 25 & 40*)
36. So close to **being** in love (*Almost is Never Enough, lines 10, 27 & 42*)
37. If I would have **known** that you wanted me the way I wanted you (*Almost is Never Enough, lines 11, 28 & 43*)
38. If I would have known that you **wanted** me the way I **wanted** you (*Almost is Never Enough, lines 11, 27 & 41*)
39. Then maybe we wouldn't be two **worlds** apart (*Almost is Never Enough, lines 13, 29 & 44*)
40. But right here in each **other's** arms (*Almost is Never Enough, line 14, 30 & 45*)
41. But right here in each other's **arms** (*Almost is Never Enough, line 15, 30 & 45*)

42. You'd be **standing** right where you were (*Almost is Never Enough*, line 19)

Table 2: Analysis of types of inflectional affixes in the lyrics of 'My Everything'.

No	Song Lyrics	Types
1.	I've cried enough tears to see my reflection in them	Past tense
2.	I've cried enough tears to see my reflection in them	Noun Plural
3.	I'm saying sorry for the sake of us	Present Participle
4.	And it's taking me a lot to say	Present Participle
5.	And now that he's gone, my heart is missing something	Present Participle
6.	You're traveling with my heart	Present Participle
7.	'Cause what we got is worth fighting for	Present Participle

1. Cried

Cry (verb) + -d pt (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the first line of Ariana Grande's song "My Everything" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ed" of the word "cried", and is a Past Tense type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "cry" which is a present tense verb, and when attached with the "-ed" suffix, it becomes a past tense verb.

2. Tears

Tear (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the first line of Ariana Grande's song "My Everything" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-s" of the word "tears" and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word

is “tear” which is a singular noun, and when attached with the “-s” suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

3. Saying

Say (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 8th line of Ariana Grande’s song “My Everything” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-ing” of the word “saying”, and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “say” which is a present verb.

4. Taking

Take (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 10th and 23rd lines of Ariana Grande’s song “My Everything” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-ing” of the word “taking”, and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “take” which is a present verb.

5. Missing

Miss (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 11th and 24th lines of Ariana Grande’s song “My Everything” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-ing” of the word “missing” and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “miss” which is a present verb.

6. Traveling

Travel (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 16th line of Ariana Grande’s song “My Everything” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-ing” of the word “traveling”, and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “travel” which is a present verb.

7. Fighting

Fight (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 21st lines of Ariana Grande’s song “My Everything” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-ing” of the word “fighting”, and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “fight” which is a present verb.

Table 3: types of inflectional affixes in the lyrics of ‘One Last Time’.

No	Song Lyrics	Types
1.	At least I’m being honest	Present Participle
2.	‘Cause I know that I failed you	Past tense
3.	She gives you everything	Present Third-Person Singular
4.	I need to be the one who takes you home	Present Third-Person Singular
5.	All I really care is you wake up in my arms	Noun Plural

1. Being

Be (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 4th line of Ariana Grande’s song “One Last Time” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-ing” of the word “being”, and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “be” which is a present verb.

2. Failed

Fail (verb) + -d pt. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 6th line of Ariana Grande’s song “One Last Time” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-ed” of the word “failed”, and is a Past Tense type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “fail” which is a present tense verb, and when attached with the “-ed” suffix, it becomes a past tense verb.

3. Gives

Give (verb) + -s 3d. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 10th and 32nd lines of Ariana Grande’s song “One Last Time” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to

be the “-s” of the word “gives”, and is a Present Third-Person Singular type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “give” which is a present tense verb.

4. Takes

Take (verb) + -s 3d. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on 16th, 22nd, 38th, 44th, 51st, 57th, and 59th lines of Ariana Grande’s song “One Last Time” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-s” of the word “takes”, and is a Present Third-Person Singular type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “take” which is a present tense verb.

5. Arms

Arm (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 20th, 42nd, and 55th line of Ariana Grande’s song “One Last Time” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-s” of the word “arms”, and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “arm” which is a singular noun, and when attached with the “-s” suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

Table 4: types of inflectional affixes in the lyrics of ‘Just a Little Bit of Your Heart’

No	Song Lyrics	Types
1.	Just a little bit is all I’m asking for	Present Participle
2.	‘Cause I can’t find the words to	Noun Plural

1. Asking

Ask (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 15th, 30th, 43^d & 49th line of Ariana Grande’s song “Just a Little Bit of Your Heart” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-ing” of the word “asking”, and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “ask” which is a present verb.

2. Words

Word (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 18th line of Ariana Grande’s song “Just a Little Bit of Your Heart” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-s” of the word “words”, and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “word” which is a singular noun, and when attached with the “-s” suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

Table 5: types of inflectional affixes in the lyrics of ‘Point of View’.

No	Song Lyrics	Types
1.	It’s like you got superpowers	Noun Plural
2.	Turn my minutes into hours	Noun Plural
3.	Turn my minutes into hours	Noun Plural
4.	Loved me as you do	Past Tense
5.	I’m getting used to receiving	Present Participle
6.	I’m getting used to receiving	Past Tense
7.	I’m getting used to receiving	Present Participle
8.	Still getting good at not leaving	Present Participle
9.	I love you even though I’m scared	Past Tense
10.	Learning to be grateful for myself	Present Participle
11.	Things we’ve always been afraid of	Noun Plural
12.	I can feel it starting to subside	Present Participle
13.	But now I’m out here falling, falling	Present Participle
14.	Frozen, slowly thawing	Present Participle
15.	I won’t keep you waiting, waiting	Present Participle
16.	All my baggage faded safely	Present Participle
17.	And if my eyes deceive me	Noun Plural

1. Superpowers

Superpower (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 1st line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-s" of the word "superpowers" and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "superpower" which is a singular noun, and when attached with the "-s" suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

2. Minutes

Minute (noun)+ -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 2nd line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-s" of the word "minutes" and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "minute" which is a singular noun, and when attached with the "-s" suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

3. Hours

Hour (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 2nd line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-s" of the word "hours" and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "hour" which is a singular noun, and when attached with the "-s" suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

4. Loved

Love (verb) + -d pt. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 13th, 17th, and 30th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-d" of the word "loved", and is a Past Tense type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "love" which is a present tense verb, and when attached with the "-ed" suffix, it becomes a past tense verb.

5. Getting

Get (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 19th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "getting", and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "get" which is a present verb.

6. Used

Use (verb) + -d pt. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 18th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-d" of the word "used", and is a Past Tense type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "use" which is a present tense verb, and when attached with the "-ed" suffix, it becomes a past tense verb.

7. Receiving

Receive (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 18th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "receiving", and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "receive" which is a present verb.

8. Leaving

Leave (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 19th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "leaving", and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "leave" which is a present verb.

9. Scared

Scare (verb) + -d pt. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 20th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-d" of

the word "scared", and is a Past Tense type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "scare" which is a present tense verb, and when attached with the "-d" suffix, it becomes a past tense verb.

10. Learning

Learn (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 22nd & 25th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "learning", and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "learn" which is a present verb.

11. Things

Thing (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 23rd line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-s" of the word "things" and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "thing" which is a singular noun, and when attached with the "-s" suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

12. Starting

Start (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 24th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "starting", and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "start" which is a present verb.

13. Falling

Fall (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 37th & 38th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point Of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "falling", and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "fall" which is a present verb.

14. Thawing

Thaw (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 37th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "thawing" and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "thaw" which is a present verb.

15. Waiting

Wait (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 39th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "waiting", and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "wait" which is a present verb.

16. Fading

Fade (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 40th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "fading" and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "fade" which is a present verb.

17. Eyes

Eye (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 45th line of Ariana Grande's song "Point of View" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-s" of the word "eyes" and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "eye" which is a singular noun, and when attached with the "-s" suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

Table 6: types of inflectional affixes in the lyrics of 'Almost is Never Enough'

No	Song Lyrics	Types
1.	But in time, our feelings will show	Noun Plural
2.	'Cause sooner or later	Comparative
3.	'Cause sooner or later	Comparative
4.	The truth is everyone knows	Present Third-Person Singular
5.	So close to being in love	Present Participle
6.	If I would have known that you wanted me the way I wanted you	Present Participle
7.	If I would have known that you wanted me the way I wanted you	Past Tense
8.	Then maybe we wouldn't be two worlds apart	Noun Plural
9.	But right here in each other's arms	Noun Singular Possessive
10.	But right here in each other's arms	Noun Plural
11.	You'd be standing right where you were	Noun Plural

1. Feelings

Feeling (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 5th, 22nd, and 37th line of Ariana Grande's song "Almost is Never Enough" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-s" of the word "feelings" and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "feeling" which is a singular noun, and when attached with the "-s" suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

2. Sooner

Soon (noun) + -ER cp. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 6th, 23rd, and 38th line of Ariana Grande's song "Almost is Never Enough" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix

was found to be the “-er” of the word “sooner” and is a Comparative type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “soon” which is a singular noun.

3. Later

Late (noun) + -ER cp. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 6th, 23rd, and 38th line of Ariana Grande’s song “Almost is Never Enough” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-er” of the word “later”, and is a Comparative type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “late” which is a singular noun.

4. Knows

Know (noun) + -s 3d. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 8th, 25th, and 40th line of Ariana Grande’s song “Almost is Never Enough” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-s” of the word “knows”, and is a Present Third-person Singular type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “know” which is a singular noun.

5. Being

Be (verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 10th, 27th, and 42nd lines of Ariana Grande’s song “Almost is Never Enough” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-ing” of the word “being”, and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “be” which is a present verb.

6. Known

Know (verb) + -d pp. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 11th, 28th, and 43rd line of Ariana Grande’s song “Almost Is Never Enough” includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the “-n” of the word “known”, and is a Past Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is “know” which is a present verb, and when attached with the “-n” suffix, it becomes a past participle.

7. Wanted

Want (verb) + -d pp. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 11th, 27th, and 41st line of Ariana Grande's song "Almost Is Never Enough" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ed" of the word "wanted", and is a Past Tense type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "want" which is a present verb.

8. Worlds

World (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 14th, 30th, and 45th line of Ariana Grande's song "Almost is Never Enough" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-s" of the word "other's", and is a Noun Singular Possessive type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "other" which is a singular noun.

9. Arms

Arm (noun) + -s pl. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 15th, 30th, and 45th line of Ariana Grande's song "Almost is Never Enough" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-s" of the word "arms", and is a Noun Plural type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "arm" which is a singular noun, and when attached with the "-s" suffix, it becomes a plural noun.

10. Standing

Stand(verb) + -ing vb. (suffix)

The bolded word above which was on the 19th line of Ariana Grande's song "Almost is Never Enough" includes an inflectional affix. The suffix was found to be the "-ing" of the word "standing", and is a Present Participle type of inflectional affix. The root of the word is "stand" which is a present verb.

Conclusion

After reducing and displaying the data collected above by putting all of the inflectional affixes found in the lyrics of Ariana Grande's songs and then categorizing them based on their types, the data has now become the findings of the study. It was found that the inflectional affixes were used in Ariana Grande's song lyrics, in specific *'My Everything'*, *'One Last Time'*, *'Just the Little Bit of Your Heart'*, *'Point of View'*, and *'Almost is Never Enough'*.

It is concluded that there are a total of 42 lines in 5 songs that uses 7 types of inflectional affixes. The first song *'My Everything'* included 3 types of inflectional affixes in 7 lines, which are present participle within 5 lines, noun plural within 1 lyric, and past tense within 1 line as well. The second song *'One Last Time'* included 4 types of inflectional affixes in 5 lines, which are present third-person singular within 2 lines, noun plural within 1 lyric, past tense within 1 lyric, and present participle within 1 lyric. Meanwhile, the third song *'Just a Little Bit of Your Heart'* only included 2 types of inflectional affixes in 2 lines, which are noun plural within 1 lyric and present participle within 1 lyric. And then, the fourth song *'Point of View'* included 3 types of inflectional affixes in 17 lines, which are present participle within 9 lines, noun plural within 5 lines, and past tense within 3 lines. Lastly, the fifth song *'Almost is Never Enough'* included the most types of inflectional affixes which are 7 out of 9 types of inflectional affixes within 11 lines, which are noun plural within 3 lines, present participle within 2 lines, comparative within 2 lines, present third-person singular within 1 lyric, past participle within 1 lyric, past tense within 1 lyric, and noun singular possessive within 1 lyric.

In addition, using affixes, whether it is prefixes or suffixes, is very influential in written English as it is part of grammar. Not only does it help English users in understanding song lines better, but affixes are also crucial in comprehending other English materials.

CONCLUSION

After researching the inflectional affix on Ariana Grande's song lyrics, the researchers managed to conclude. One, there are seven types of inflectional affixation found in Ariana Grande's song lyrics, which are present participle, noun plural, comparative, past participle, past tense, noun singular possessive, and present-third singular. Two, from the seven types of inflectional affixes found in Ariana Grande's song lyrics, present participle (-ing vb) affixes are used the most with the frequency of 18 times. Then, the noun plural (-s pl) affixes are ranked second with the frequency of 11 times. After that, following the noun plural is the past tense (-d pt) affixes with the frequency of 6 times. Next, on the fourth position is the present-third singular with the frequency of 3 times. Then, it is followed by comparative (-er cp) with the frequency of 2 times. The least used types of inflectional affixes are the past participle affix (-d pp) affix and noun singular possessive affix (-s sg ps) which only appeared one time each.

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