

**MORPHOSYNTACTIC ANALYSIS ON INFLECTIONAL AFFIXES  
OF POLITICAL NEWS ON BBC NEWS**

**THESIS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM  
MALANG  
2023**

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OF POLITICAL NEWS ON BBC NEWS**

**THESIS**

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2023**

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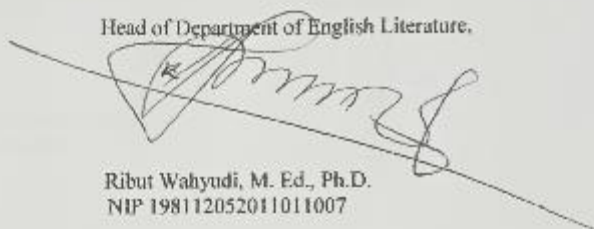
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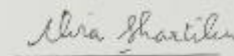
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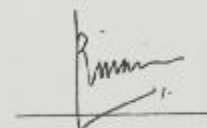
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## MOTTO

العلم بلا عمل كالشجر بلا ثمر

“Al ilmu bilaa ‘amalin kassyajari bilaa tsamarin”

*“Knowledge without charity or practice is like a tree without fruit.”*

## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is proudly dedicated to my beloved parents, my late father, H. Abdul Mukti Khoiruddin, and my mother, Hj. Khotijah, and my beloved sisters, Shalhah and Maftuhah who always support me.

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This thesis will never be completed without contributions and supports from important persons. First of all, I would like to thank my beloved parents, my late father, H. Abdul Mukti Khoiruddin, and Hj. Khadijah, who has motivated me to finish this thesis and given me the strength to keep struggling in my life. Then, my sincere gratitude regards to the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. M. Faisol, M.Ag., and the Head of the Department of English Literature, RibutWahyudi, M.Ed., who have provided the teaching, and learning facilities that support the smoothness of learning in Faculty of Humanities, UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Next, my best gratitude goes to my thesis advisor, Rina Sari, M.Pd., who always guided me in struggling with my thesis till it is well-accomplished. My sincere thank also goes to all of the lecturers of the Department of English Literature who has taught, guided, gave valuable knowledge and motivation to me during my study.

I also extend my gratitude to all of my friends in the Department of English Literature, and my *musyrif* and *musyrifah* friends. My special thank goes to my



*musyrif* and *musyrifah* friends, especially Najmi, Nurul, Kholid, Oca, Diana, Miftah, and Ziyah in Ma'had Sunan Ampel Al-Aly UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang who have supported me. Finally, I also thank to UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang who always strengthens us with knowledge and religious aspects.

Malang, 30 November 2021

The researcher,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a cursive name.

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## ABSTRACT

**Jamilah, Asiyatul.** (2021). *Morphosyntactic analysis on inflectional affixes of Political News on BBC News*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Rina Sari, M.Pd.

Keywords: morphosyntax, inflectional affixes, BBC News.

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One of the most important components of language is Morphology and Syntax. Morphology learns about how words are structured, and how words are formed from the smallest units and studies the effect of changing word forms on word groups and meanings. Meanwhile, Syntax learns about how the process of arranging sentence structure. The purpose of this study is to find the use of types and functions of inflectional morphology and to find out how the inflectional words are represented in a tree diagram in a political article on BBC News.

The form of data analyzed in this research is the words and sentences containing inflection and clause structure in political articles of BBC News. Therefore, this research is categorized as descriptive qualitative research. 10 political articles were analyzed. The researcher as the main instrument of this research analyzed the data by classifying the data into types and functions of inflectional morphosyntax and analyzing them by using the theories of Brinton (2000) and Miller (2002).

The research found some findings. It shows that there are 7 types of inflections found in political articles on BBC News, they are plural number, present tense third person singular, past tense, past participle, present participle, comparative degree, and superlative degree. Next, there are 3 functions of inflection that are found in political articles on BBC News, they are as nouns, verbs, and adjectives. The data shows that the most dominant type of inflection used in political articles on BBC News is a word that has the suffix –s in plural number which functions as a noun and the suffix –ed which functions as a verb. Meanwhile, there are 5 syntactic functions found in political articles on BBC News, they are as subject, predicate, object, complement, and adverb. The most dominant syntactic function found in political articles on BBC News is the inflectional word which functions as a predicate.

## ABSTRAK

**Jamilah, Asiyatul.** (2021). *Morphosyntactic analysis on inflectional affixes of Political News on BBC News*. Skripsi. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Dosen Pembimbing: Rina Sari, M.Pd.

Kata kunci: morphosyntax, inflectional affixes, BBC News

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Bahasa adalah instrumen fundamental untuk komunikasi dan interaksi. Salah satu komponen terpenting bahasa adalah Morfologi dan Sintaksis. Morfologi mempelajari tentang bagaimana struktur kata, bagaimana kata tersebut dibentuk dari unit terkecil, dan mempelajari pengaruh perubahan bentuk kata terhadap jenis dan arti kata. Sementara itu, Sintaksis mempelajari tentang bagaimana proses mengatur struktur kalimat. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan penggunaan tipe dan fungsi dari morfologi infleksi dan untuk mengetahui bagaimana kata infleksi direpresentasikan kedalam diagram pohon yang ditemukan dalam artikel politik pada berita BBC.

Bentuk data yang dianalisis di penelitian ini adalah kata-kata dan kalimat yang mengandung infleksi morfosintaks yang terdapat dalam artikel politik pada berita BBC sehingga penelitian ini dikategorikan sebagai penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Artikel politik yang dianalisis terdiri dari 10 data. Peneliti sebagai instrumen utama penelitian ini mengklasifikasi data sesuai dengan tipe infleksi dan menganalisisnya dengan menggunakan teori milik Brinton (2000) dan Miller (2002).

Penelitian ini menghasilkan beberapa hasil penelitian. Ada 7 tipe infleksi yang ditemukan dalam artikel politik pada berita BBC, yaitu plural number, present tense 3rd person singular, past tense, past participle, present participle, comparative degree, and superlative degree. Berikutnya ditemukan 3 fungsi infleksi, yaitu sebagai kata benda, kata kerja, dan kata sifat. Data menunjukkan bahwa tipe infleksi yang paling dominan digunakan dalam artikel politik pada berita BBC adalah kata yang berimbuhan –s pada plural number yang berfungsi sebagai kata benda dan kata yang berimbuhan –ed yang berfungsi sebagai kata kerja. Sementara itu ada 5 fungsi sintaksis yang ditemukan dalam artikel politik pada berita BBC, yaitu subjek, predikat, objek, komplemen, dan adverb. Fungsi sintaksis yang paling dominan muncul di artikel-artikel politik pada berita politik adalah kata infleksi yang berfungsi sebagai predikat.

## مستخلص البحث

اسية الجميلة (2021). تحليل مورفوسينتيكتيك حول ألقاب الانعطاف في الأحبار السياسية في بي بي سي نيوز. البحث الجامعي قسم اللغة الإنجليزية وأدبها. كلية العلوم الأنسانية بجامعة مولانا مالك أبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالانج. المشرفة: رينا ساري، الماجستير.

الكلمات الرئيسية: مورفوسينتاكس، بناء الجملة، بي بي سي نيوز.

اللغة هي أداة أساسية للتواصل والتفاعل. إحدى من مكونات اللغة المهمة هي علم التشكل وبناء الجملة. اشتمل علم التشكيل عن كيفية بناء الكلمات، وكيف تكون الكلمات من أصغر الوحدات، ودرس عن تأثير تغيير أشكال الكلمات على مجموعات الكلمات والمعاني. وفي الوقت نفسه، تعلم النحو عن عملية ترتيب تراكيب الجملة. الغرض من هذه الدراسة هو معرفة استخدام أنواع ووظائف مورفولوجيا التصريف ومعرفة كيفية تمثيل الكلمات التصريفية في الرسوم البيانية الشجرية الموجودة في المقالات السياسية على أخبار بي بي سي. سيهدا البحث يسمى بالبحث الوصفي لأن البيانات تحليلها بالكلمات الواردة في المقالات السياسية. كانت 10 بيانات في شكل مقالات سياسية تحليلها وأصبحت الباحثة الأداة الرئيسية لهذا البحث لتحليل البيانات. بعد جمعت البيانات، قامت الباحثة بتحليل هيكل الانعطاف والفقرة. بعد تحليل المقالة، تم تصنيف البيانات وفقاً لنوع الانعطاف وبنية الجملة باستخدام نظرية برينتون (2000) (2002) وميلرز.

أظهرت النتائج أن هناك 7 أنواع من التصريفات الموجودة في مقالاتهم الإخبارية في بي بي سي: عدد الجمع، المضارع المفرد للشخص الثالث، الفعل الماضي، الفاعل الماضي، الفاعل المضارع، الدرجة المقارنة، ودرجة التفضيل. وهناك 3 وظائف تصريف هي الاسم، والفعل، والصفة تُظهر البيانات أن أكثر أنواع التصريف السائدة المستخدمة في المقالات السياسية على أخبار بي بي سي هو عدد الجمع الذي يعمل كاسم. وفي الوقت نفسه، هناك خمس وظائف نحوية موجودة في المقالات السياسية على أخبار بي بي سي نيوز، وهي الموضوع، والمسند، والموضوع، والمكمل، والظرف. أن الوظيفة النحوية الأكثر شيوعاً التي تظهر في المقالات السياسية على أخبار بي بي سي هي كلمة الانعطاف التي تعمل كمسند.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>THESIS</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>APPROVAL SHEET</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>LEGITIMATION SHEET</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>MOTTO</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>DEDICATION</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
A. Background of the Study	1
B. Research Questions	6
C. Objectives of the Study	6
D. Significance of the Study	6
E. Scope and Limitation	7
F. Definition of Key Terms	8
G. Previous Study	8
H. Research Method	11
1. Research Design	11
2. Research Instrument	12
3. Data Source	12
4. Data Collection	13
5. Data Analysis	13
<b>CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE</b>	<b>15</b>
A. Morphology	15
1. Free Morphemes	18
2. Bound Morphemes	18
B. Morphosyntax	19
C. Brinton's Inflectional Morpheme	20
D. Syntax	24
E. Tree Diagram	25
F. Syntactic Functions	26
<b>CHAPTER III: FINDING AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>29</b>

A. Finding	29
1. Types and Functions of Inflectional Morphology	29
2. The inflection words represented in three diagram	34
B. Discussion	46
<b>CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION</b>	<b>49</b>
A. Conclusion	50
B. Suggestion	51
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>CURRICULUM VITAE</b>	<b>94</b>

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of the background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of key terms, previous studies, and research method. This part is intended to be the initial framework for delivering the content of the discussion to the next chapter.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

A language is a communication tool used to convey messages or intentions to others. Someone will understand the meaning of communication depending on how they use the language. Therefore, someone must master the elements of the language itself, such as structure, sentences, and vocabulary (Halawa, Raflis, & Reni, 2018, p. 133). The language itself has aspects of form and meaning, so every utterance has meaning. For example, the word 'table' has the concept or meaning of 'something used as a seat.'

The smallest unit of language is the morpheme (Halawa, Raflis, and Reni, 2018, p. 133). It means that the units cannot be subdivided further and they have a meaning. For example, the word 'developer' and 'development' come from the same word 'develop' that has a similar meaning (Maulidina, Indriyani, Mardewi, 2019, p. 104).

A morpheme is the main discussion of morphology (Cahyadi, 2018, p. 17). Morpheme has two kinds; they are free and bound. A free morpheme is a morpheme

that can stand alone, for example, 'home'. A bound morpheme is a morpheme that cannot stand alone, for example, the affix 's'. The kinds of a bound morphemes are prefixes and suffixes. Bound morphemes are classified into two, namely derivational and inflectional (Cahyadi, 2018, p. 18). Inflectional morphemes are those which do not create new meanings (Nurhikmah, 2018, p. 2). A derivational morpheme is a morpheme that transforms a word into another word that has a related meaning (Finegan, 2008, p. 42). It means that derivational morpheme creates a new word and new meaning.

Inflection is the morphological marking of morphosyntactic and morphosemantic information like a case, number, person, tense, and aspect (among others) on words (Marzi, Blevins, Booij and Pirrelli, 2020, p. 228). Inflection usually occurs when it is used to express various meanings that are usually added to nouns, verbs, and adjectives in various grammatical forms. Nouns are generally changed into the plural form, whereas verbs are changed into various tenses, and adjectives are generally changed into the comparative or superlative form. Booij (2006) stated that "inflection had been identified as part of morphology that is important to syntax" (p. 655).

In this research, the two branches of linguistics namely morphology and syntax are combined into one unity called morphosyntax. Morphosyntactic is the adjective for morphosyntax. Morphosyntax is derived from morphology which studies word forms and morphemes and the syntax itself discusses how the words are arranged in a sentence. Therefore, morphology is closely related to syntax. The syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies deeper into discourse, sentences, clauses, and



phrases. Andrew (2004) stated that "syntax could be said to be a rule which studies the formation of words" (p. 22). The combination of the word will form a phrase, the variety of the phrase will form a clause, and the combination of a clause will create a sentence. However, people sometimes still get composed about the meaning or class of a word when its form is changing. Here, the study of morphology and syntax is related to the phenomena mentioned above.

The studies of morphology and syntax can be combined into what is called morphosyntax. They are combined because they have a close relationship. According to Radford (1999), morpho-syntax reveals a word's grammatical group is affected by laws on morphology and syntax (p. 516). Heidi (2010) stated that "the morphosyntactic structure relies explicitly on a vocabulary of categories and characteristics (noun, verb, tense, case, etc.)" (p. 1). Based on the statement above the researcher is interested in analyzing morphosyntax. Therefore, the researcher tries to analyze the morphosyntax in BBC News through the morphology-syntax approach.

There are several studies about morphology and syntax previously performed by previous researchers. Akuamah's (2021) research studied morphosyntactic analysis of some Asante weed names. The data of this research were collected from 20 native speakers of Asante through unstructured interviews using Katamba's (1993) theory. In comparison, Agustiani's (2018) research. She analyzed morphosyntactic errors in the students' written descriptive texts. The researcher used the students' written descriptive texts written by the fourth-semester students of a genre-based writing class in the academic year 2017/2018 to be analyzed.

The next previous study was conducted by Mukarromah (2020). This research studied about morphosyntactical issues that lead to grammatical errors in university students' writing by using James' (1998) theory. While The next previous study is about morphosyntactic conducted by Zainuddin (2016) who investigated the morphosyntactic issues in English descriptive writing of EFL learners in Indonesia. This research used the theory of Chomsky's minimalist program. Nurdiani and Fauzan (2020) analyzed morpho-syntax in political news in online Tempo magazine. This research was qualitative and content analysis design.

The researcher has found gaps in the previous studies. The first gap is there are not many previous studies study about morphosyntax related to tree diagrams. The second gap is the previous study focused on analyzing the patterns of clause structure and this research focused on analyzing the types and functions of inflectional morphology which are represented in the tree diagram. The third gap is the present research uses BBC News as the object of the study, which previous studies have not studied using the morphosyntax theory. The last gap is the researcher applies the theory of linguistic structure of Modern English and the Introduction of English Syntax proposed by Brinton (2000) and Jim Miller (2002). The researcher wants to analyze further about inflectional morphology related to syntax. The researcher tries to determine the types and functions of inflectional morphology that is related to syntax in the articles taken from BBC News because morphology and syntax have a relationship.

News is information that explains an event that occurs in everyday life or a worldly problem. It is also included in the delivery of the language. If there is an

inaccurate language structure in the news, it can make the readers will lead to having positive or negative thoughts. BBC News (British Broadcasting Corporation) channel provides live internet broadcasts for everyone through the website on YouTube. The researcher analyzes political articles on BBC News as the object to be analyzed using the morpho-syntax approach. Political news certainly looks frightening to the public because politics is considered to cause several problems for the nation. This assumption must be correct because politics in democracy determines the steps for the nation's future.

Inflectional morphology-syntax will affect the language used in oral or written texts because the English language without inflection will be difficult to understand. Inflectional affixes are required to make a sentence grammatically correct, but they add little meaning to the word. They never change the grammatical class of a word, but each grammatical class has its own special set of inflectional affixes. The researcher chooses the title "Morphosyntactic Analysis Of Political News On BBC News "because the researcher thinks that inflectional analysis Morphology-Syntax is very important to explain, how the meaning of inflection in an English word and any text easily. Therefore, the researcher analyzes the morphosyntax on political articles taken from BBC News to understand better how the sentence structure is used in the articles.

The researcher analyzes the types and functions of inflectional affixes that are often used in the news, especially in the political news of BBC News. The inflection in this research is also associated with syntax, not only with Morphology, so it is necessary to pay attention to the verb's form in the news. Inflection is significant to

be studied in understanding the text presented in English. By analyzing the inflectional morphology and syntax in the news, the readers will easily understand its meaning.

## **B. Research Questions**

Based on the background of the study above, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of inflectional affixes used in BBC News?
2. How are the inflected words in BBC News represented in the tree diagram?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the research questions, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the types of inflectional affixes used in BBC News.
2. To describe how the inflected words found in BBC News are represented in the tree diagram.

## **D. Significance of the Study**

The result of this research is expected to provide contributions both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to give a contribution to the research on morphosyntax. The researcher expects the finding of this research can give contributions or additional sources in inflectional affixes, especially on how to analyze the inflectional morphologically and how to inflectional words represented in tree diagrams in political articles using Brinton's (2000) theory and Miller's (2002) theory.

Practically, this research can give a contribution to other researchers, students of the English Literature Department of UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, and journalists. The other researchers can use this research as a reference, source of information, and reference material about inflectional morphology and syntax. For the students, they can understand deeply about inflectional morphology and syntax and know how to use the inflectional word for research articles by reading this research. Journalists, it is expected that they can get more information about how to choose the right words and compose appropriate sentences in providing information.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation**

The scope of the research is describing inflectional affixes (morpho-syntax) in BBC News. While the limitation of this research is it only focuses on political articles, specifically concerning with types and functions of selected political articles on BBC News. The researcher tries to describe how the word changes and how BBC News uses the sentence to strengthen the statement. The researcher wants to play an essential role in the interface between morphology and syntax, especially inflection. The researcher thinks this kind of research has not been widely studied by the previous study, exactly about morphosyntax. The researcher chooses ten political articles in BBC News because politics is very important for society to foster a sense of patriotism for the glory and prosperity of their homeland, and politics is not bad as long as people know how to do good politics and its origins are for the benefit of the community.

## **F. Definition of Key Terms**

There are some key terms used in this research that is defined as follows:

1. Morphosyntactic is a study of grammatical categories and has a set of rules governing linguistic units whose properties are explained using morphological and syntactic studies.
2. Inflectional morphology is the process of word formation to express grammatical meaning, but it cannot change the class of a word, like the meaning and part of speech of a word. This research studies how the structure of the grammatical function is used in the news.
3. Syntax studies how to make words into phrases, clauses, and sentences. This research studies how the structure of the formation of the word to form correct sentences, especially in the news.
4. BBC News is a British regional newspaper station based in London, England, with an audience share of 0.8%. It is one of the channels that is broadcasting English news that provides all kinds of news. This research studies the political articles on online BBC News.

## **G. Previous Study**

There are some previous studies related to this research. The first previous study is Akuamah's (2021) research using Katamba's (1993) theory. This research studied morphosyntactic analysis of some Asante weed names. The data of this research were collected from 20 native speakers of Asante through an unstructured interview. This research discussed some 44 weed names in Asante. It aims to identify and categorize the form and structure of these weed names in Asante, and

also to investigate the morphosyntactic component of Asante weed names. The result of this research showed that the weed names were morphologically structured as single words, di-morphemic, phrases, and clauses reduced to weed names. Syntactically, these sentential names can be simple, compound, and complex sentences which can function as declarative and imperative sentences.

The second previous study is Agustiani's (2018) research. She analyzed morphosyntactic errors in the student's written descriptive texts. The researcher used the students' written descriptive texts written by the fourth-semester students of a genre-based writing class in the academic year 2017/2018 to be analyzed. The data included 20 students out of 22 students who wrote their written descriptive texts since two students did not attend the class and they didn't write the descriptive texts. The result of this research was 98 errors found in the students' written descriptive texts which involved misformation, omission, addition, and misordering. The most dominant error belongs to the misformation of verbs in subject-verb agreement which involves 30 errors (30.62%).

The next previous study was conducted by Mukarromah (2020). The researcher found the morphosyntactical issues that lead to grammatical errors in the university student's writing by using James' (1998) theory. The data of this research was collected from a writing assignment in three writing classes. This research involved 95 students from three writing classes. The result of this research showed that the most frequent errors are singular/plural markers (30.43%), followed by article errors (21.51%), and prepositional errors (5.23%).

The next previous study is about morphosyntactic conducted by Zainuddin (2016) investigated the morphosyntactic issues in English descriptive writing of EFL learners in Indonesia. This research used the theory of Chomsky's minimalist program. He applied the qualitative design, namely case studies. This research involved 10 students from the English Language and Literature Department, at University Negeri Medan, Indonesia. The result of this research found that Indonesian EFL students commit many morphological and syntactical errors in their writing. Some errors are because of the lack of knowledge of English grammar system and because of the nonexistence of the English grammar rules in the Indonesian language system.

The last previous study that focused on morphosyntactic analysis is from Nurdiani and Fauzan's (2020) research. This research analyzed the morpho-syntax in political news on online Tempo by using Brinton's (2000) theory. This research was qualitative and content analysis design that analyzed derivation and inflection and the pattern of clause structure. The data source was the political article news on Online Tempo magazine in January 2019. The researcher used the method to find the types and patterns of derivational morphemes, inflectional morphemes, and sentence structure. The results of this research are 26 inflectional morphemes with 6 patterns, 11 derivational words with 4 patterns, and 7 patterns of clause structure.

The researcher concludes that each research has a different subject and object although they discussed morphemes. The present research only focuses on inflectional affixes (morphosyntactic) using Brinton's (2000) theory and Miller's (2002) theory about modern English design, including morphosyntax. According to



Brinton (2000, p. 85), "the function of inflectional affixes is to indicate grammatical meaning, such as tense or number".

## **H. Research Method**

According to Mackey and Gass (2016, p. 2), the way people approach their understanding of language learning will guide them in how they go about collecting information (data) to answer our questions. Based on this statement, it can be concluded that the research methodology is a way to find out the results of a specific problem, where this problem is also called a research problem.

### **1. Research Design**

The research data of this research are words rather than numbers, therefore, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative and morpho-syntactic approach. According to Creswell (2009, p. 4), qualitative analysis is a way of investigating and recognizing the meanings of individuals or groups identified with the asocial dilemma of society.

This present research is categorized as a descriptive qualitative approach for several reasons: first, the researcher studies inflectional morphology and syntax. Second, the researcher analyzed interpreted, and described the types and functions of inflectional morphology and syntax of the political articles on BBC News.

### **2. Research Instrument**

According to Creswell (2009, p. 175), the researcher is the main instrument that conducts examination, observation, or interview to gather the data in qualitative

research. The major instrument of this research is the researcher herself because she collected, analyzed, and described the data obtained from this research.

### 3. Data Source

All of the analyzed data in this research were taken from the articles of the BBC News website at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world/asia>. The data are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences containing inflectional affixes morphologically and syntactically (morphosyntax) based on Brinton's (2000) and Miller's (2002) theory. The researcher chose ten political articles from BBC News because politics is crucial for society to foster a sense of patriotism for the glory and prosperity of their homeland, and politics is not bad as long as we know how to do good politics and its origins are for the benefit of the community. The BBC News was chosen as a data source because many inflectional affixes related to this study could be found. The titles of selected political articles are *Ousted Myanmar MPs in Hiding Urge Revolution* (March 14, 2021), *Arrests over Assault on Muslim Boy at Hindu Temple* (March 14, 2021), *Myanmar Coup: The 'Battle Tactics' Used in Crackdowns on Protests* (March 12, 2021), *Minister Pays Compensation Over 'Lying Cow' Slur* (March 12, 2021), *Sri Lanka Moves Towards Burka Ban* (March 13, 2021), *Matt Gaetz: Why This Trump Ally is Fighting for His Political Life* (April 6, 2021), *Grand Jury to Consider Donald Trump Charges* (May 26, 2021), *China is 'Trampling on Hong Kong's Democracy'* (April 4, 2021), *Why Narendra Modi's Visit to Bangladesh Led to 12 Deaths* (April 1, 2021), *Israel Politics: Lapid Nears Coalition After Netanyahu Fell Short* (May 31, 2021).

#### **4. Data Collection**

The researcher used some stages to collect the data. Firstly, the researcher selected the political articles on online BBC News to be analyzed. There are ten articles taken from the website of BBC News Asia at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world/asia>. Secondly, the researcher identified the sentences in the articles which refer to the inflectional affixes process by underlining them.

The theory of Brinton (2000) and Miller (2002) was used as the consideration to identify the inflectional affixes morphologically and syntactically that occurred in the article. Brinton's theory explains the linguistic structure of modern English, one of which is about inflectional morphology, and Miller's (2002) theory explains English syntax, one of which is a tree diagram.

#### **5. Data Analysis**

There are several steps to analyze the data. Firstly, the researcher classified the data for each category to answer the research question about the types of inflectional morphology. They are plural number, present tense 3rd person singular, past tense, past participle, present participle, comparative degree, and superlative degree. Secondly, the researcher described and analyzed the types of inflectional morphology and syntax, and their functions to find out the syntactic structure of the words by using a tree diagram based on the theories of Brinton (2000) and Miller (2002). The last step is the researcher concluded the result of the study.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter presents an explanation of morphology, morphosyntax, Brinton's inflectional morphemes, syntax, and tree diagram. The researcher reviews the relevant theories to analyze the data.

#### **A. Morphology**

Morphology is a branch of linguistics that must be present in making a sentence. The word 'linguistic' is derived from the Latin 'Lingua' which means language. According to Brinton (2000), linguistics is defined as the study of language systems. Linguistics, according to Hornby (1994), is the study of human expression including its units, nature, structure, and alteration. Morphology is a branch of linguistics that studies words and is concerned with the study and analysis of their structure, types, and classes of a word.

There are many definitions of morphology that have been explained by a linguist. One of them is Aronoff and Fudeman (2001, p. 2), who state that linguistics morphology refers to the mental system involved in word formation or to the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed. Thus morphology provides how a word is structured. Morphology greatly influences the order of a sentence because morphology learns how words become a phrase and phrases into a sentence.

Bloomfield (1933, p. 207) describes morphology as "the construction in which bound form appears among the construction of a language". For instance, in one

word there are two different meanings, the word "someone", and the word can be "some and one", each of which has a different meaning. The word "book and –s, loudly and –ly" also consist of two units that have only one meaning that also can stand alone.

According to Fromkin (2003, p. 76), morphology is the analysis of the internal structure of words and the rules by which words are formed. The term morphology is made up of two morphemes, "morph and ology". The suffix –ology refers to a science or branch of knowledge. Based on the description above, it can be inferred they are all very similar. From some definitions that are stated above, the researcher defines morphology as a branch of linguistics concerning the grammatical learning of word structure.

In this research, the researcher linked morphology with syntax that only focused on inflectional affixes. In previous research, "*Inflection at the Morphology Syntax Interface*" (Marzi et al., 2020) which took the post-Bloomfieldian model theory that attempted to provide a relationship between inflection features and morphosyntactic units, was carried out by combining shapes and elements into the 'morpheme' inflection.

Morphology in this research is associated with syntax because they have a close relationship. Crystal (1985, p. 234) said that the application of morphosyntax to the category of a number of nouns will affect the syntactic structure. The third singular subject requires a singular verb by adding the s/es suffix as in the example *He reads a newspaper.*

In the study of morphology, word and morpheme are basic units. Morphology analyzes words, their internal structures, and their formation by identifying and learning morphemes (Cahyadi, 2018, p.17). The existence of such a word can deny that the word can not always be included in the unit meaning of a language. The most appropriate part is called a morpheme. A morpheme is the smallest unit of language with a meaning or grammatical feature. As a result, morphology is described as the study of morphemes and their arrangement in forming the word.

Morpheme, according to Haspelmath (2002, p. 11), is the smallest meaningful constituent of a linguistic expression. According to Embick (2015, p. 6), a morpheme is a nation in that grammar includes representations of the sound and meaning facets of language. Based on the definition above, the researcher concludes that a morpheme is a smaller unit of a word that has a meaning even though the morpheme can stand alone or not. For example, the word *unbreakable* consists of three morphemes, *un-*, *break*, and *-able*.

The researcher gives an analogy above by looking at the following English word to make them easier to understand. The word 'teachers' is made up of three morphemes, they are (teach) + (er) + (s). Each of the morphemes has a meaning: (teach) = verb form (however it might be representing semantically); (er) = the person who does an action; (s) = a plural marker on a noun, if they are combined, they will mean something like "more than one person who teaches. According to Brinton (2000), morpheme-based on form and distribution is divided into free morpheme and bound morpheme.

## **1. Free Morphemes**

According to Brinton (2000, p. 84), "a free morpheme is a morpheme that can stand alone". O'Grady (1997, p. 714) said that a free morpheme is a morpheme that can be a word by itself. A free morpheme can also be added to other morphemes, and their meaning can be found in the dictionary because a free morpheme is always a root. For example, the word *agreement* (*agree*: free morpheme) and (*-ment*: bound morpheme).

## **2. Bound Morphemes**

A bound morpheme is a morpheme that cannot stand alone or is still attached to another morpheme including both prefixes and suffixes such as *-re*, *-ness*, *-ion*, *-ize*, and many others. The word *restart* consists of two morphemes: the free morpheme is "start" and the bound morpheme is "-re". A bound morpheme is divided into two categories: derivational morphemes and inflectional morphemes.

### **a. Derivational Morphemes**

One kind of bound morpheme which creates a new meaning is called a derivational morpheme. The process of creating new types of language can be found in the derivation process of morphological studies. This is the process of combining affixes which can be either a prefix and/or suffix with a root to form new words. Brinton (2000) says that derivational affixes have two functions, the first function is to convert one part of speech to another for the case to be class-changing and the second function is to change the meaning of the root for the case to be class-maintaining.

## **b. Inflectional Morpheme**

An inflectional morpheme is one part of a bound morpheme that does not create a new meaning. Inflectional morpheme encodes grammatical categories such as plural (workers), the person (works), tense (picked), or case (John's) (Plag, 2002, p. 19). Brinton (2000) says the function of inflectional affixes is to indicate grammatical meaning, such as tense and number. Therefore, inflectional morphology is the process of forming words to express different grammatical categories but not changing the meaning of the word.

Inflections provide information and refine grammatical statistics about the meaning of an existing linked word. For example, the word 'cats' consists of a free morpheme 'cat' and an inflectional morpheme '-s'. The bound morpheme -s does not change the lexical meaning and syntactic category of the morpheme 'cat.' It only shows that the word 'cats' is plural because it gives a grammatical sense. Both are (cat and cats) included in the category of nouns. Inflectional formatives were included among the terminal elements of a syntactic representation, along with bound stems and free forms (Marzi, Blevins, Booij, & Pirrelli, 2020, p. 232).

## **B. Morphosyntax**

Generally, morphology is concerned with word structure, whereas syntax is concerned with sentence structure. Morphosyntax combines two major fields of linguistics: morphology and syntax. According to Brinton (2000, p. 12), "the syntax is an extensive and complex area of language, sometimes the two components of morphology and syntax are classified together as grammar". The word "*works*", for example, is formed from the morpheme work and the morpheme -s. This discussion



occurs in the science called morphology. However, the word “works” is influenced by another word which, together with the word “works” itself, forms a bigger structure which is called syntactic structure. In English, “works” occurs in the syntactic structure called sentence whose subject is the third person singular and whose tense is simple present such as the following sentences: *My father works every day.*

### **C. Brinton's Inflectional Morphemes**

The researcher used the theory of Brinton (2000) to analyze the research questions. The theory of Brinton is used to analyze the types and functions of inflectional morphemes. The types of an inflectional morphemes are described as follows:

#### **1. Types of Inflection**

According to Brinton (2000), inflectional morphology has a particular attachment to all members of a specific word class. He also divides the types of inflectional morphology in modern English into 7 types, which are plural number, present tense (3rd person singular), past tense, past participle, present participle/present progressive, comparative degree, and superlative degree.

**Table 1. The Productive Inflections of Modern English**

<b>Types of inflection</b>	<b>Sign</b>	<b>Example</b>
1. Plural number	-s	Things <u>̄</u>
2. Present (non past) tense, 3rd person singular	-s	she writes <u>̄</u>

3. Past tense	-ed	Walk <u>ed</u>
4. Past participle	-ed	has walk <u>ed</u>
5. Present participle/ present progressive	-ing	Studying
6. Comparative degree	-er	Longer
7. Superlative degree	-est	Longest

Table 1 contains the first type of inflection, which is a plural number. A Plural number is used when the noun refers to more than one item, usually, a plural number is followed by a suffix “-s” or “-es”. The use of these two additions cannot be arbitrary. There are rules for using additional “-s” and “-es”: most nouns can be added directly to the “-s” like things. The words that end with “s, x, z, ch, and sh” are added with “-es”, for example, *clashes*. The word that ends with “-y” but with a vowel before it is added with “-s”, for example, *boys*. The word that ends with “-y” but with a consonant before the letter, is added with “-es”, for example, *parties*. The plural number of morpheme “-s” is not always realized by the suffix “-s” for example the word *man* (singular) to *men* (plural), *woman* (singular) to *women* (plural).

The next type is present tense 3rd person singular. Present Tense is a tense that is used to talk about something general, something that always happens repeatedly, or a general truth. The use of Simple Present Tense in the third person singular then the verb is added by the suffix –s, for example “she writes”.

The next type of inflection is Past Tense. Past Tense is used to talk about an event that happened in the past and ended in the past at a specific time. The sentence in the simple past tense is marked with a second verb (verb 2) which is added with the suffix –ed for regular verbs, indicating the past, for example, “they walked”.

The fifth type of inflection is the Past Participle. The past Participle is the third verb used in the Present Perfect Tense. This tense has a form where the word ends with “-ed” for regular verbs, for example, “*has walked*”.

The next type is Present Participle or Present Progressive. The Present Participle is a form of verb added with the suffix “-ing” and comes after another verb to indicate a continuous action, for example, “studying”.

The seventh type of inflection is comparative degree. A comparative degree is used to compare two people, animals, and things. In the second level, the adjective will change its form by adding the suffix –er or also adding “more” before the adjective, for example, the word “longer”.

The last type of inflection is superlative degree. It is included in the third type of degree of comparison. A superlative degree is used as a comparison of three or more things, people, and animals. The words containing superlative degree will be added with the suffix –est or added with the prefix *most*, for example, the word “the longest”. These prefixes and suffixes cannot be used naturally, but they depend on the syllable of a word.

## **2. The Function of Inflection**

A word that has an inflectional affix will affect the form of the word. The addition of inflectional affixes in a word as a marker of person, number, and gender

in English verbs is a language strategy to express congruence or adjustment between a verb and its subject or a verb and its tense. Brinton (2000) argues that inflectional affixes are very different from derivational affixes, where inflectional affixes only have one function, namely to show grammatical functions. The inflection change paradigmatically based on the person, number, and gender of the actor.

According to Brinton (2000), there are three functions of inflection, they are noun, verb, and adjective. The details can be seen in the following table:

**Table 2. The Function of Inflectional Morphology**

Function of Inflection	Case	Example
1.Noun	Plural number	book <u>s</u>
2. Verb	Present (non past) tense, 3rd p sg	he takes
	Past tense	studied
	Past participle	has studied
	Present participle/ present progressive	teaching
3. Adjective	Comparative degree	longer
	Superlative degree	longest

Table 2 contains three functions of inflection. The first function of inflection is as a noun. The type of inflection that functions as a noun is a plural number. According to the example, *books* function as nouns added with the suffix –s.

The second function of inflection is as a verb. The inflection types that function as verbs are present tense 3rd person singular, past tense, past participle, and present progressive. The examples of inflection that function as verbs are *he takes, studied, has studied, and teaching*. The word *takes* is added by the suffix –s. The word that is added by –s does not only have the function as a noun but also has a function as a verb in form of present tense 3rd person singular.

The third function of inflection is as an adjective. The inflection types that function as adjective are comparative degree and superlative degree, for example, *longer* for comparative and *longest* for superlative.

#### **D. Syntax**

The syntax is one of the branches of linguistics that focuses on sentence structure. According to Brinton (2010), "syntax is the study of the order and arrangement of the word into larger units, as well as studies of types and structure of sentences (such as questions or commands), of clauses (such as relative or adverbial clauses) and phrases (such as prepositional or verbal phrases)" (p. 12). Syntax and morphology in traditional grammar are classified into grammatical.

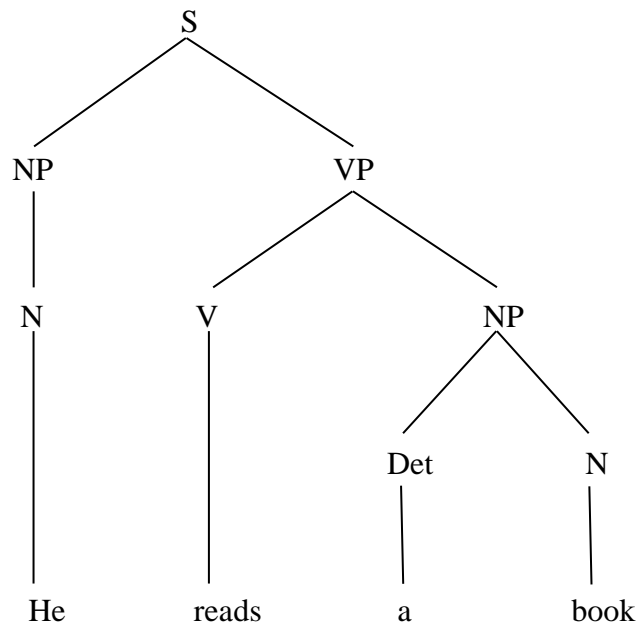
Syntax in a sentence always talks about the relationship between one word with another as a speech. Syntax has to do with "how words are put together to build phrases, how phrases are put together to build clauses or bigger phrases, and how clauses are put together to make sentences" (Miller, 2002, p. xii). Therefore, in studying the syntax in a sentence or phrase, there are two main ideas "head and modifier". An example is "*a large dog*, the word *dog* is the head, and *a* and *large*

are its modifiers, so a given head may have more than one modifier and may have no modifier" (Miller, 2002, p.1).

The syntactic structure includes the problem of syntactic functions, syntactic categories, and syntactic units. Syntactic functions are related to the term subject, predicate, object, and adverb. The syntactic category is known as the part of speech. While the syntactic structure discusses phrases, clauses, and sentences.

### **E. Tree Diagram**

According to Miller (2002, p. 178), "a tree diagram can be used to show the arrangements of words into phrases and phrases into clauses or bigger phrases". Higher nodes form the foundation of the diagrams, from which lines descend to lower nodes. Some nodes, labeled noun phrase (NP), verb phrase (VP) adjective phrase (AdjP), and so on, indicate slots where word sequences can occur. A tree diagram is a useful tool for defining syntactic relationships. An NP is immediately dominated by a VP and is the object of the complement of the sentence containing the verb phrase. in the following diagram, the nodes NP and VP are daughters of S and sister nodes of each other. NP is the left sister and VP is the right sister. For an example of the tree diagram: *he reads a book*



The word *reads* is a verb class. The word *reads* is the main verb of the verb phrase *reads a book*. As a verb *reads* means to look at and understand the meaning of the written or printed words or symbols. The words *reads* is inflection of the verb. It's formed to show the function of verbs in the form of present tense third person singular. The word *a book* is a complement of the verb phrase *reads*.

It is conventional to draw trees with the ches that develop downwards as it were they branching from the root "S". It is useful to develop some terminology to describe the syntactic relation between constituents since these relations turn out to be central to the syntactic description.

### **F. Syntactic Functions**

The syntactic function is also known as the grammatical function and grammatical relation. The grammatical relationship between two syntactic parts in a sentence is indicated by grammatical relations. According to Miller (2002, p.

104), "there are three major relationship hold between verbs and their complement nouns (and noun phrases) they are subject, direct object, and oblique object".

### **1. Subject**

The most complex grammatical function is that of the subject (Miller, 2002). There is no common structural form for the subject functions. Instead, there is a class of various forms of expression that all participate in the same way in the mappings to argument structures. Structural expressions of the subject include NPs in a certain phrase structure configuration. Subjects are generally in the form of nouns such as names of people, animals, plants, and objects. The subject can be a noun, noun phrase, or pronoun. For example, "*The tigers hunt prey at night*". (Miller, 2002, p. 104).

### **2. Direct Object**

The direct object function has no single universal structural form. Instead, there is a class of various forms of expression that all participate in the same way in the direct object mappings to argument structures. The direct object's structural expressions comprise NPs in a certain phrase structure arrangement. According to Miller (2002, p. 111), "another criterion that has been proposed for direct objects in English relates to the positions occupied by particles such as *the back*". Where a verb combines with two NPs, the particle occurs after the verb, but before or after the direct object NPs. For example, "*Sinta sent back the diamond necklace*, or *Sinta sent the diamond necklace back*. Miller". (2002, p. 111).

### **3. Oblique Object/Indirect Object**



According to Miller. (2002, p. 112), recent work in syntax deploys the concept of the oblique object; in English, an oblique object is any noun phrase that is the complement of a preposition, where the prepositional phrase is itself the complement of a verb". The noun phrase preceding "to" was said to be the indirect object. For example, *He went to Egilsay.*

## CHAPTER III

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter covers the discussion of the findings and the theoretical framework implemented. The finding includes the explanation of the data analysis of inflection and clause structure (morpho-syntax) found in BBC News. In the discussion, the researcher expands the analysis on the findings section using Brinton's theory (2000) and Miller's theory (2002).

#### **A. Findings**

The data of this research are in the form of words for inflectional morphology and syntax. The data were taken from ten political articles on BBC News posted from March until May 2021 at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world/asia>. The types of inflectional morpheme and clause structure of syntax are explained separately as follows:

##### **1. Types and Functions of Inflectional Morphology**

The researcher classified the data for each category of inflection found in BBC News into 7 types, they are plural number, present tense 3rd person singular, past tense, past participle, present progressive, comparative degree, and superlative degree. The researcher found 192 words related to the plural number, 20 words related to present tense 3rd person, 73 words related to past tense, 72 words related to past participle, 8 words related to present progressive, 9 words related to comparative degree, 6 words related to the superlative degree.

##### **a. The Suffix –s (in noun)**

The word chosen as the data for analyzing the inflectional affixes is:

a) *right **groups** have expressed concern.*

b) *Two **men** have been arrested in India.*

The sentence of the data **a)** and **b)** show that in past participle, the auxiliary which is suitable with plural morphemes added to the noun is *have*. The base of the word *groups* in the sentence **a)** is group. Its meaning according to Oxford Advanced Learners is a number of people or things that are together in the same place or that are connected in some way. The sentence of the data **b)** is a plural morpheme that didn't realize by the suffix *-s*, the singular form of the word *men* is *man*. Its meaning is an adult male human. The researcher found 192 words related to the plural number in the article on BBC News. Adding the suffix *-s* doesn't change the meaning and the word class of the word *groups*. The word *groups* and *men* indicates that there are more than one group and man. The word *groups* is constructed by two morphemes, they are "*group*" is a free morpheme and "*-s*" is a bound morpheme. It can be seen that the bound morpheme "*-s*" refers to the plural number form. The affix "*-s*" in the data above carries information about the plurality of those entities.

#### **b. The Suffix *-s* (in verb)**

a) *He **leads** a group of legislators.*

b) *The move **comes** nearly two years.*

The sentence that is chosen as the data of inflectional affixes *-s* that are attached to the verb is **a)** *He leads a group of legislators*. Its meaning according to Oxford Advanced Learners is to go with a person or to be in control of something. The second sentence is **b)** *The move comes nearly two years* and the meaning is to move to or

towards a person or place. The words *leads* and *comes* are inflections of verbs. It's formed to show the function of verbs in forming present tense third person singular. There are 20 words found related to inflectional words including present tense third person singular. The base words of *lead* and *come* added with the affix “-s” resulted from the inflected word *leads* and *comes* referring to the verb of third person singular. This function of affix “-s” can be seen grammatically, if the inflected words used are in the subject *she*, *he*, or *it*.

**c. The Suffix –ed (in verb)**

- a) *Mr. Modi arrived in Dhaka*
- b) *Myanmar became independent from Britain in 1948.*

The word that chosen as the data of inflectional affixes –ed that is attached to verb is **a)** *Mr. Modi arrived in Dhaka*. Its meaning according to oxford advanced learner's is to get to a place, especially at the end of the journey. The second sentence is **b)** *Myanmar became independent from Britain in 1948*. Its meaning is to start to be something. The inflectional words *arrived* and *became* are formed to identify the function of verbs in forming past tense. There are 73 words related to inflectional word in forming past tense. The attachment of suffix –ed in data **a)** and **b)** does not change the meaning and the word class of the word. The verb base *arrived* has been added to the verb affix “ed”. The bound morpheme “ed” in the data **a)** refers to the past tense form of a regular verb in inflection such as *arrived* and the data **b)** refers to the irregular verb. The words *arrived* and *became* indicates the activity happening in the past time.

**d. The Suffix –ed (in verb)**

- a) *prosecutors in New York have **convened** a grand jury*
- b) *The times has **reviewed** receipts from cash app*

The word that was chosen as the data of inflectional affixes –ed that attached to verb is **a) *prosecutors in New York have **convened** a grand jury***. Its meaning according to oxford advanced learners are to arrange for people to come together for a formal meeting. The second data is **b) *the times has reviewed receipts from cash app*** that the meaning is to check a piece of work to see if there are any mistakes. The inflectional words *convened* and *reviewed* are formed to identify the function of verbs in forming past participles. There are 72 words related to inflectional words in the form of Past Participles. The attachment of the suffix –ed does not change the meaning and the word class of the word. The verb base *convened* has been added to the verb affix “ed”. The bound morpheme “ed” refers to the past participle form of the regular verb in inflection such as *convened* and *reviewed*. The word *convened* and *reviewed* indicates the activity happening in the past time.

#### **e. The Suffix –ing (in verb)**

- a) *The CRPH is **seeking** international recognition*
- b) *Benjamin Netanyahu is **trying** to dissuade his opponents*

The word that chosen as the data of inflectional affixes –ing that is attached to verb is **a) *the CRPH is **seeking** international recognition***. Its meaning according to oxford advanced learners is to look for something or somebody. The second data is **b) *Benjamin Netanyahu is **trying** to dissuade his opponents*** that the meaning is to

make an attempt or effort to do or get something. There are 8 data related to inflectional words in the form of the present progressive. The attachment of the suffix –ing does not change the meaning and the word class of the word. The inflection words like *seeking* and *trying* are formed to show the function of verbs. Therefore, the words *seeking* and *trying* indicate that the activity is in progress. The verb affix “ing” has been added to the verb base “*seek, try*” and results from the inflected word. It changes the form of the base which is an infinitive verb into a verb in present progressive.

**f. The Suffix –er (in adjective)**

a) *It has become **harder** to get ordinary people*

b) ***Smaller** parties are usually needed to make up the numbers*

The word that was chosen as the data of inflectional affixes –er that attached to the verb is a) *it has become **harder** to get ordinary people*. Its meaning according to oxford advanced learners are having difficulty in doing something. The second data is b) ***smaller** parties are usually needed to make up the numbers*. That the meaning is not large in size, number, degree, amount, etc. There are 9 words related to the inflectional word in the form of comparative degree. The data of inflectional morphemes like “*harder* and *smaller*” are constructed by two morphemes, they are *hard, small* (free morpheme), and –er (bound morpheme). The attachment of the suffix –er does not change the meaning and the word class of the word. The inflection words like “*harder* and *smaller*” are formed to show the function of adjectives in forming comparative degrees. The bound morpheme –er refers to the

regular form of comparative degree. Every adjective that consists of one or two syllables is added by the suffix –er, for example, the word *harder* and *smaller*.

**g. The Suffix –est (in adjective)**

a) *This is **the darkest** moment of the nation*

b) ***The latest** casualties follow the death of 12 protesters on Saturday.*

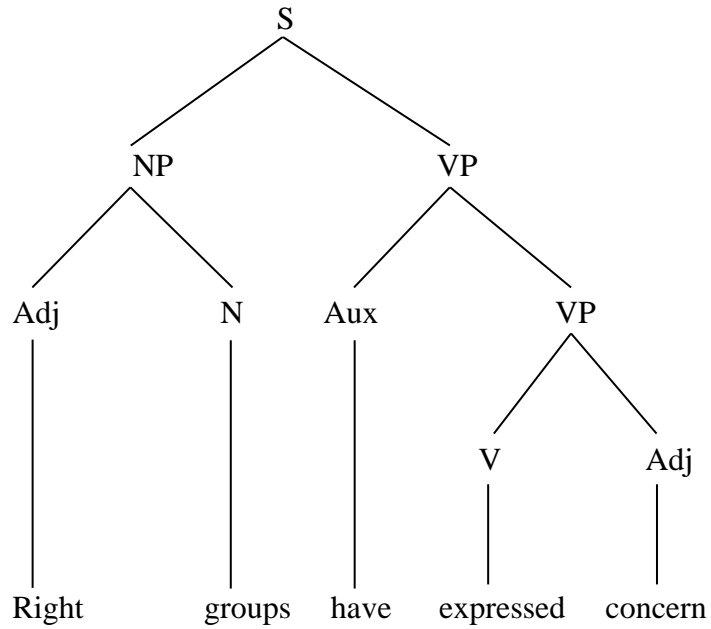
The word that was chosen as the data of inflectional affixes –est that attached to the verb is **a) this is *the darkest* moment of the nation**. Its meaning according to oxford advanced learners are unpleasant and without any hope that something good will happen. The second data is **b) *the latest* casualties follow the death of 12 protesters on Saturday** which is the meaning is near the end of a period of time, a person’s life, etc. There are 6 words related to inflectional words in the form of superlatives. The inflectional words “*darkest* and *latest*” are the inflection of adjectives. They are formed to identify the function of adjectives in forming superlative degrees. The attachment of the suffix –est does not change the meaning and the word class of the word. The base form “*dark* and *late*” are in a positive form of an adjective, and after the inflectional process becomes a comparative degree of the adjective form “*darkest* and *latest*”.

**2. The inflection words are represented in three diagram**

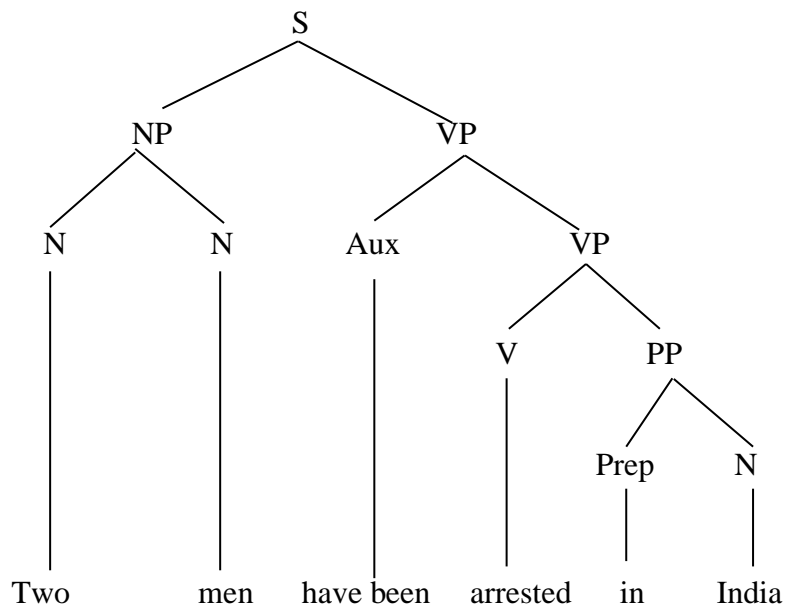
The tree diagram is used to analyze the position of the inflected word in syntax. A tree diagram can be used to convey information about the syntactic structure of phrases and clauses. It is easier to read and understand than the other way. Therefore, this theory helps determine the positions of the inflected words in clauses.

**a. The Suffix -s (in noun)**

a) *Right groups have expressed concern.*



b) *Two men have been arrested in India.*

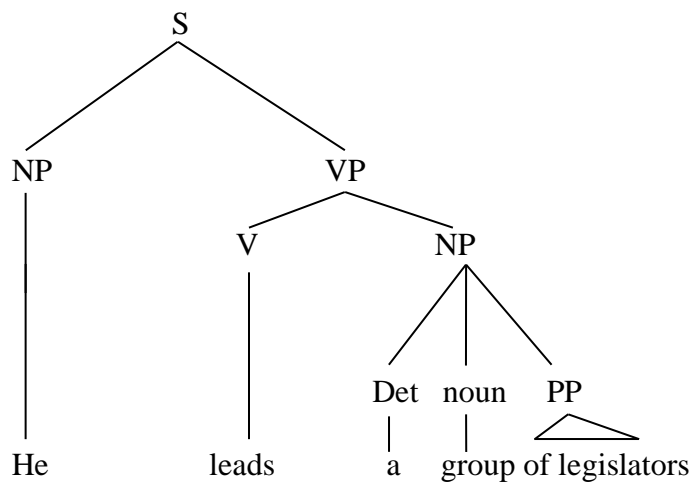




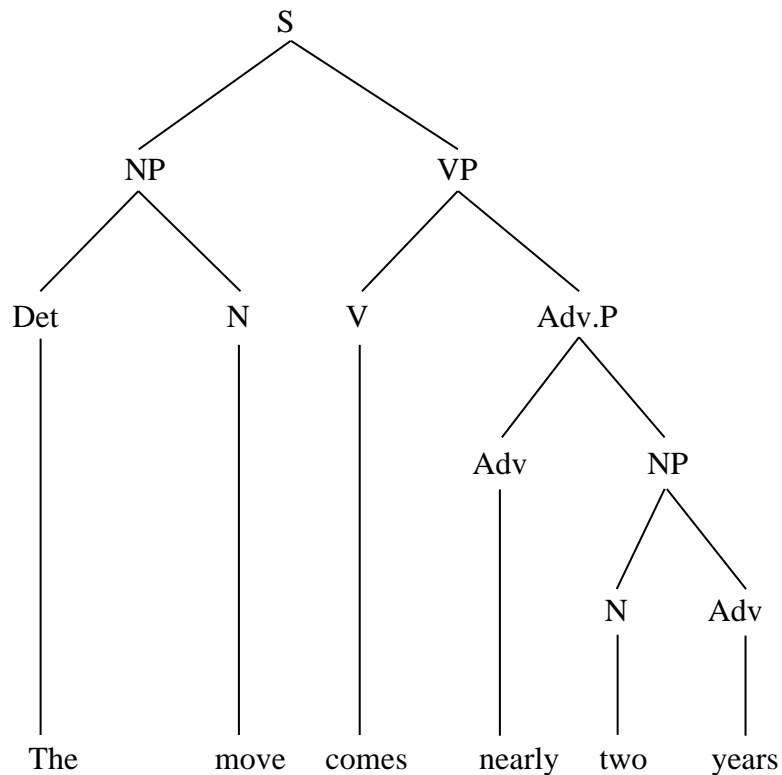
In the sentence above the words *groups* and *men* are part of a subject. The word *groups* in the data a) has a position as a subject that the word *right* as a modifier of the noun phrase *right groups* and *groups* as the head of the noun phrase *right groups*. While the subject in the data b) is a noun phrase that consists of two nouns “*two*” and “*men*” whereas the *men* as the head of the noun phrase. In this sentence there is morphological form determines the arrangement of syntactic structure. At the sentence level, the subject must agree with the verb. The sentence above is in the form of past participle. The subject *groups* contain inflectional morpheme –s added in the final position which is the form of the word *groups* is a plural number. If the subject is in the form of the plural number, the form of the verb must adjust with the form of the subject, for example: in the sentence above the verb form use the auxiliary “have” in the past participle form because the subject is plural number (*groups*).

**b. The Suffix –s (in verb)**

a) *He leads a group of legislators*



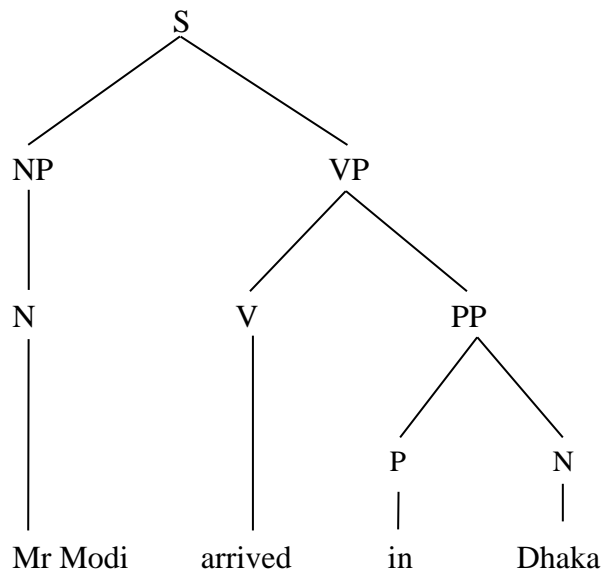
b) *The move comes nearly two years*



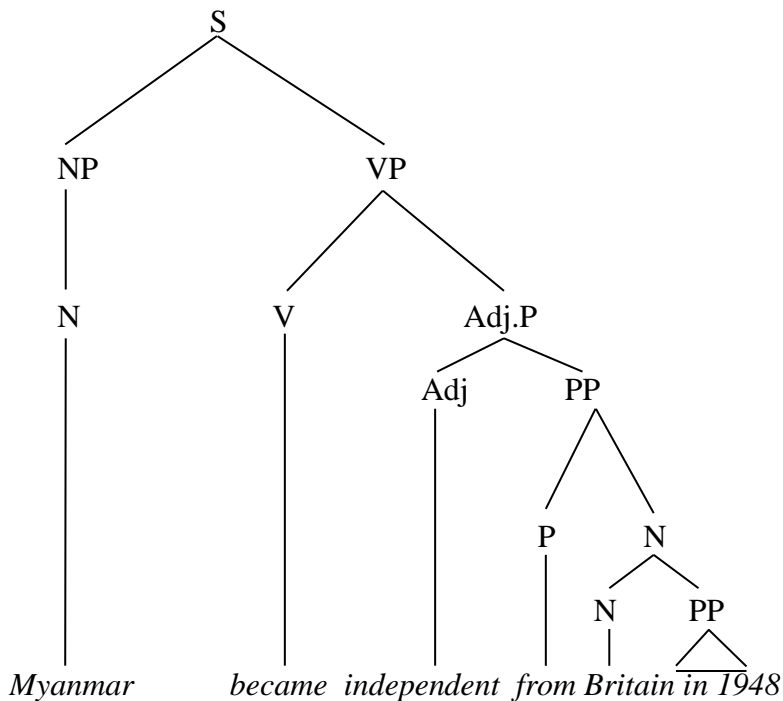
In the sentence above the word *leads* and *comes* is a part of predicate. The word *leads* and *comes* have positions as verbs of the sentence. *Leads* as the head of the verb phrase *leads a group of legislators* and *comes* as the head of the verb phrase *comes nearly two years*. In this sentence there is morphological form determines the arrangement of syntactic structure. The sentence above is in the form of simple present tense. The verb *Leads* and *comes* contain inflectional morpheme –s added in the final position because the subject is a singular noun or the third person singular.

**c. The Suffix –ed (in verb)**

a) *Mr Modi arrived in Dhaka*



b) *Myanmar became independent from Britain in 1948*

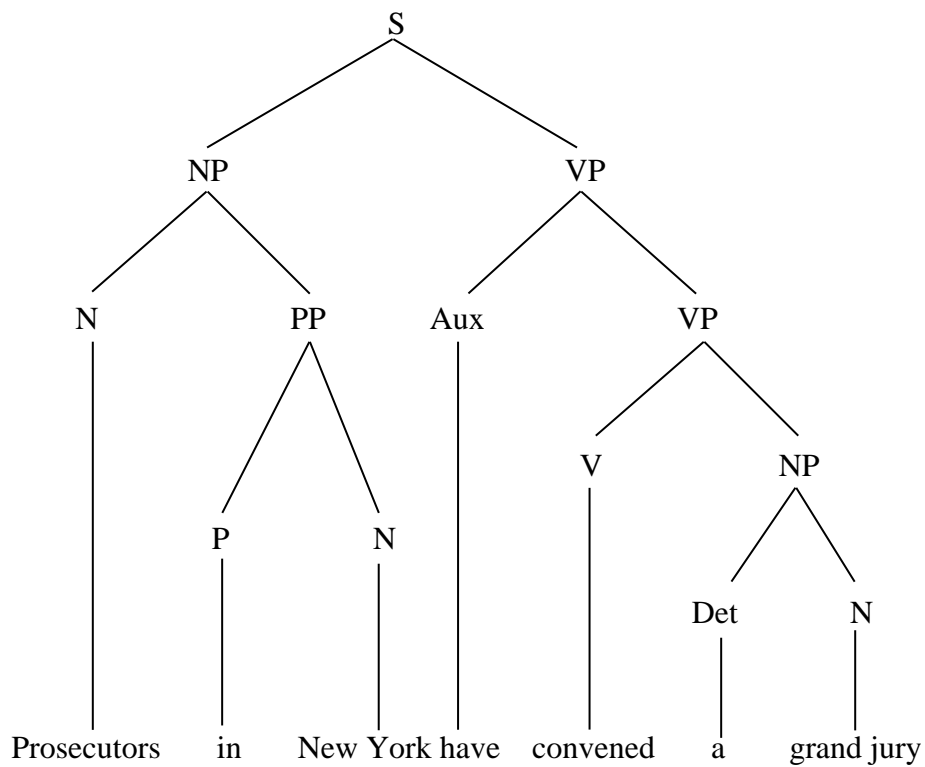


The sentence of the data **a)** and **b)** are included as a simple sentences in the form of past tense. In the sentence above the word *arrived* and *became* is the part of the predicate and their position as a verb. The word *arrived* and *became* is the main verb of the verb phrase. In the data **a)** It is also followed by the prepositional phrase in the form of the preposition “in” and the noun “Dhaka”. The sentence of

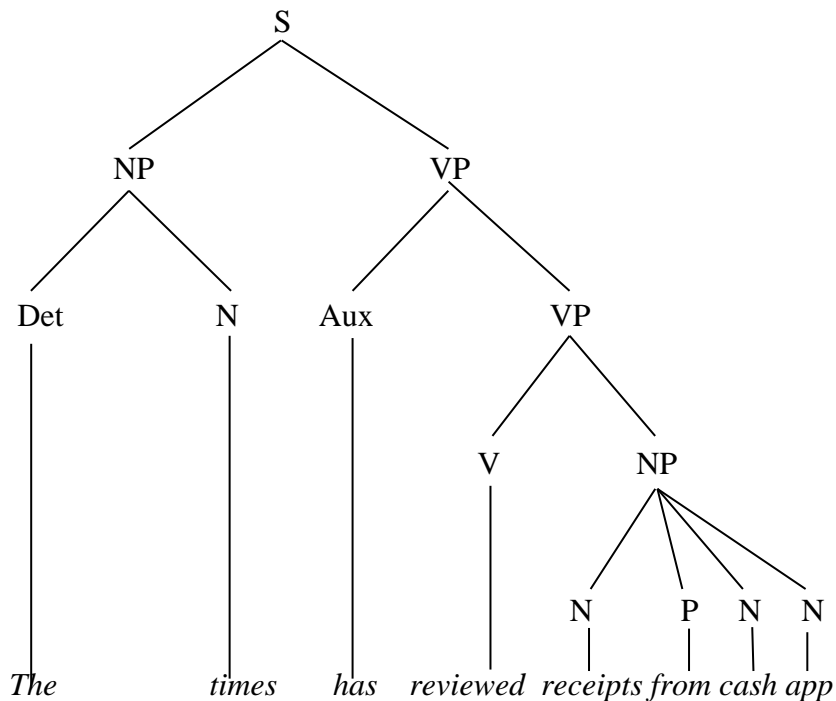
the data **b**) is in the form of a past tense morpheme which is not represented by the suffix –ed. This morpheme occurs with particular verbs called irregular verbs, for example, the word *became*. This variant of a past tense morpheme is said to be lexically conditioned.

**d. The suffix –ed (in verb)**

a) *prosecutors in New York have **convened** a grand jury*



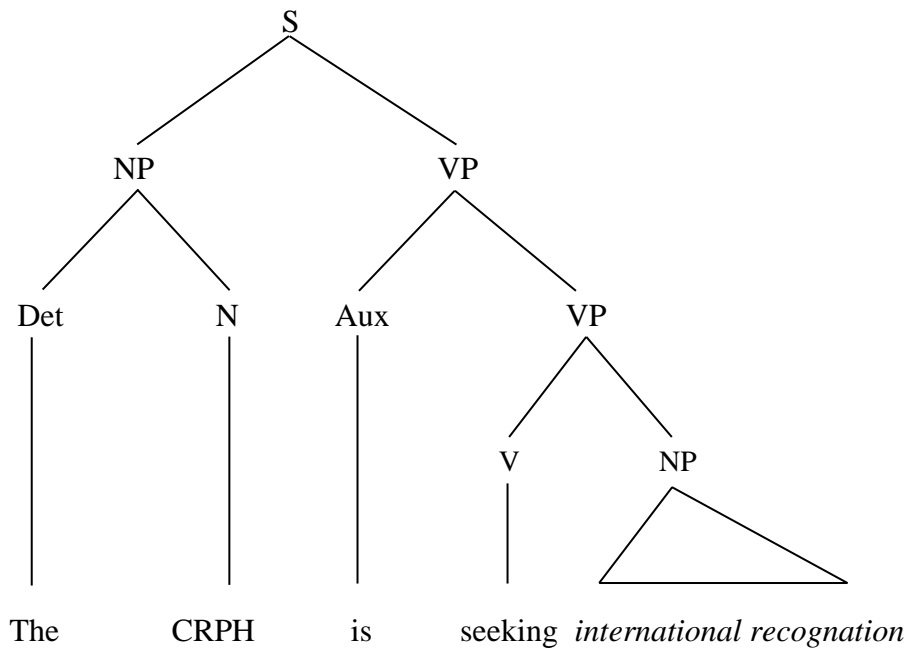
b) *The times has reviewed receipts from cash app*



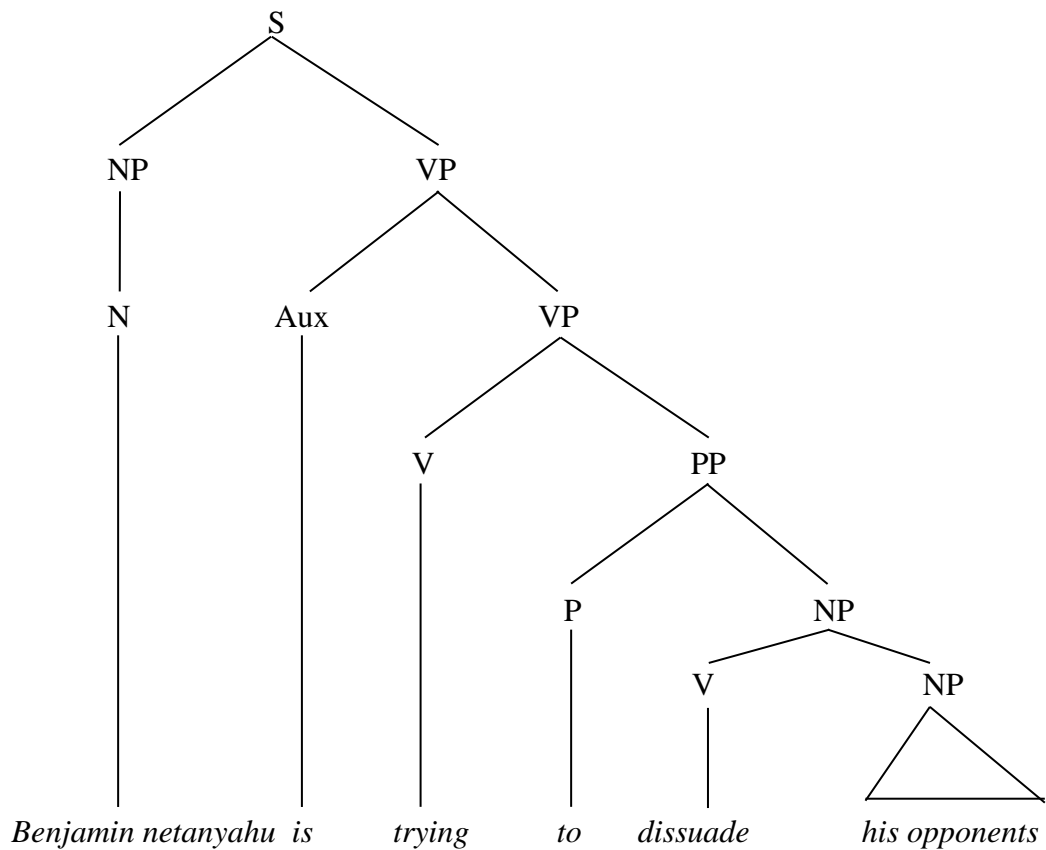
In the sentence above the words *convened* and *reviewed* are the part of predicate and have a position as a verb. The words *convened* and *reviewed* are the main verb of the verb phrase. The data of **a)** and **b)** is in the form of the past participle. The words “*have* and *has*” as the auxiliary of the verb phrase. The verbs containing past participle morphemes are usually called verb three (V3) because, in the list, this verb is placed in column three. Past participle morphemes –ed is added to the verbs after the auxiliary verb *have*, *has*, or *had*.

**e. The Suffix –ing (in verb)**

a) *The CRPH is **seeking** international recognition*



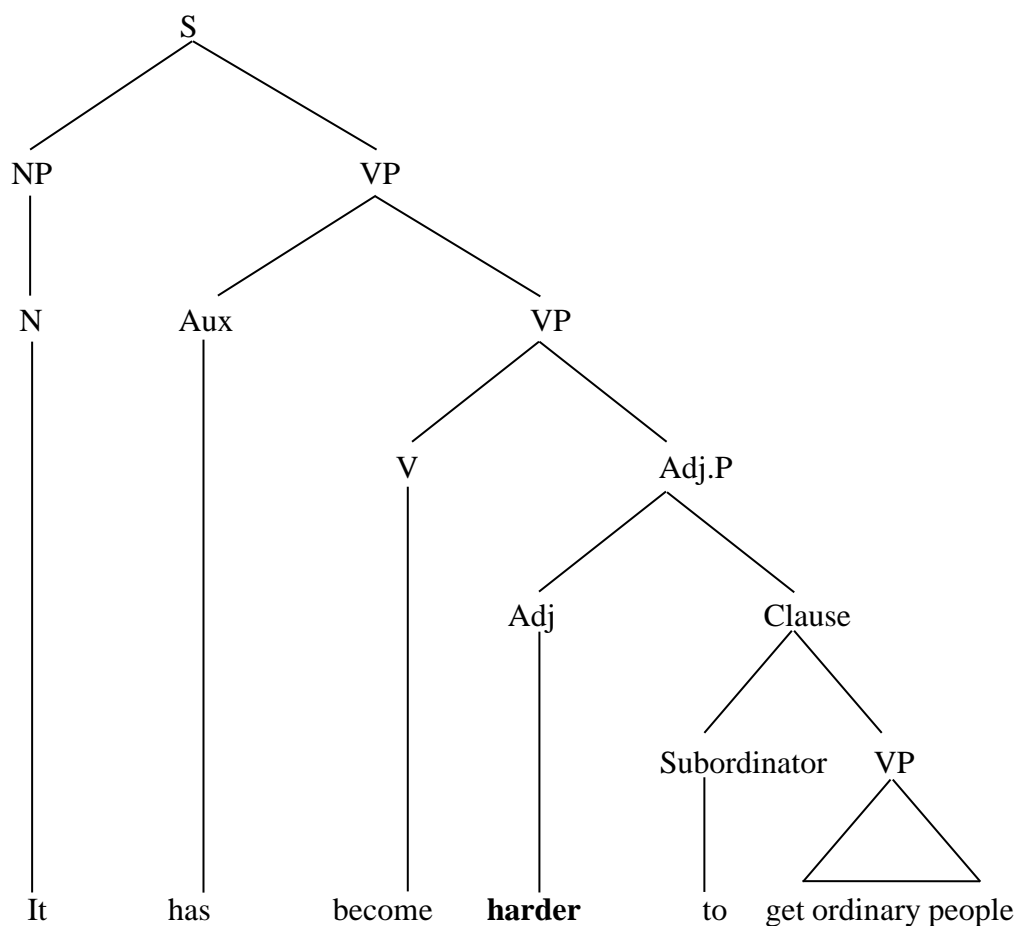
b) *Benjamin netanyahu is **trying** to dissuade his opponents*



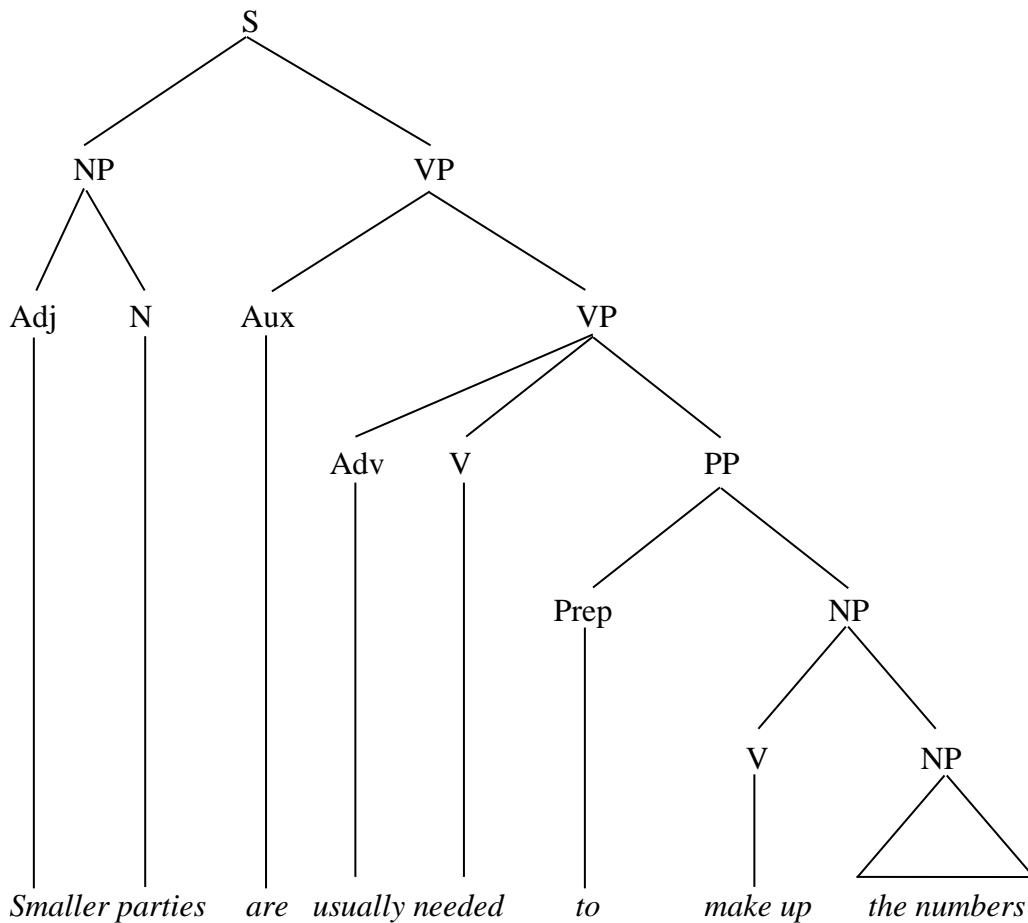
In the sentence above the words *seeking* and *trying* are a part of the predicate. The words *seeking* and *trying* have positions as verbs with the auxiliary *are* the pre-modifier. The verb phrase *is seeking* and *is trying* in the data **a)** and **b)** consists of the verb *seeking* and *trying* as the head of the verb phrase and auxiliary modifies the head as pre-modifier.

**f. The Suffix –er (in adjective)**

a) *It has become **harder** to get ordinary people*



b) *Smaller parties are usually needed to make up the numbers*

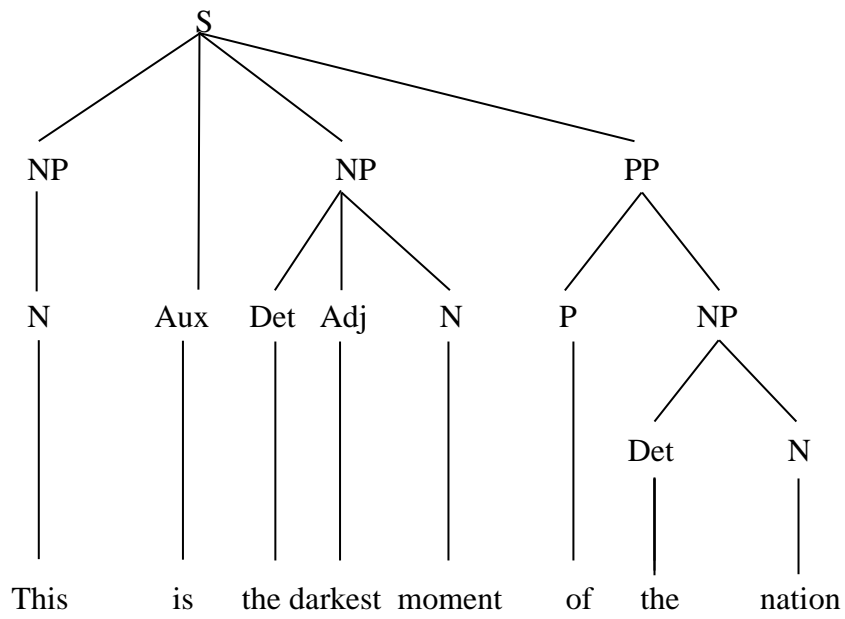


In the sentence above, the words *harder* in the data **a)** is a part of complement. The word *harder* has a position as an adjective and it is the head of the adjective phrase to get ordinary people which is a modifier of the adjective phrase. The word *smaller* in the data **b)** is the part of a subject. The word *smaller* has the position of an adjective and it modifies the noun *parties*. The noun phrase *smaller parties* in the data **b)** consists of the adjective *smaller* as the pre-modifier of the phrase and the noun *parties* as the head of the phrase.

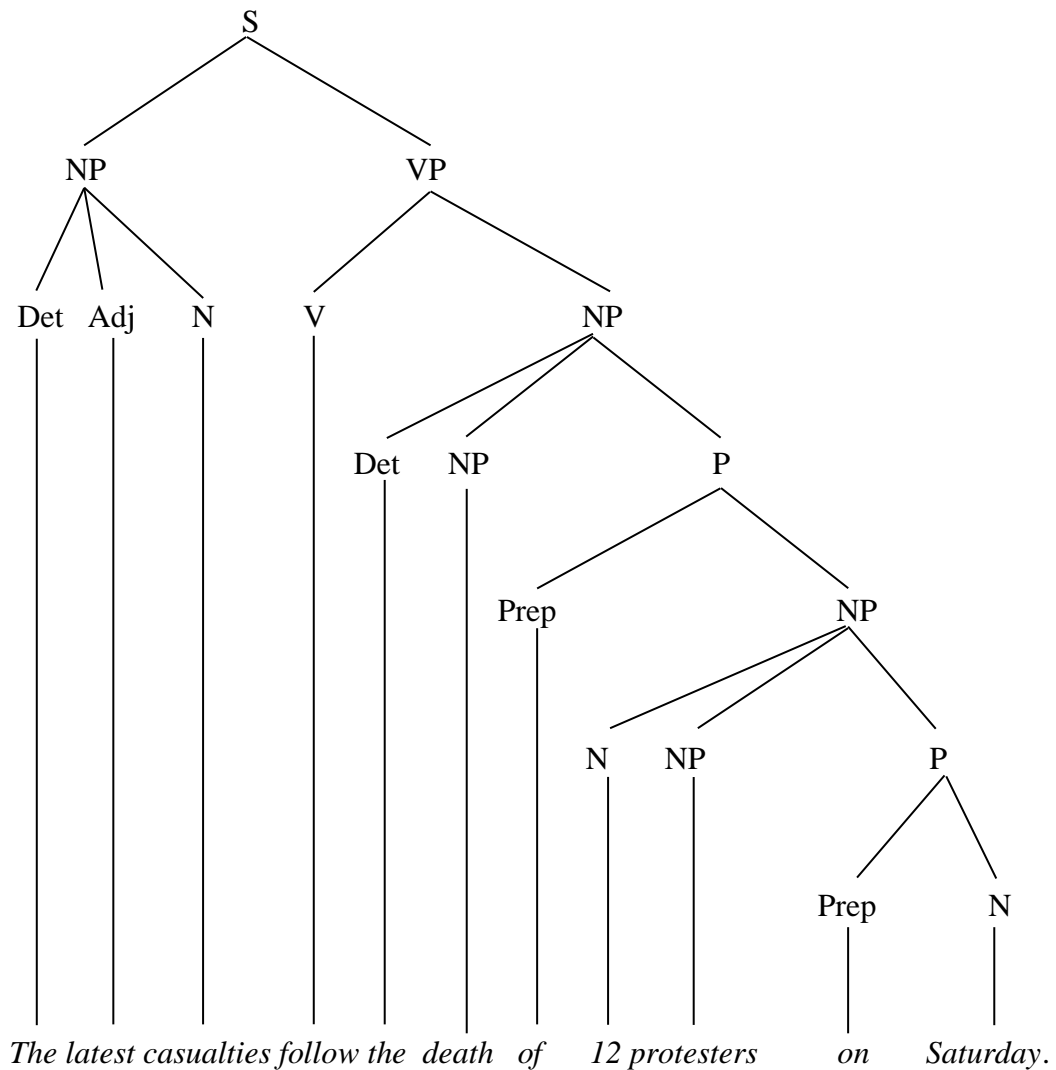
**g. The Suffix –est (in adjective)**

a) *This is **the darkest** moment of the nation*





b) *The latest casualties follow the death of 12 protesters on Saturday.*



According to the sentence above, the word *darkest* in the data **a)** is the part of an object. The word *darkest* has a position as an adjective and it modifies the noun *moment* which is the head of the noun phrase. The noun phrase *the darkest moment* consists of the adjective *the darkest* as a pre-modifier of the phrase and the noun *moment* as the head of the phrase. The sentence above is in the form of the present tense. The word “is” is the present tense form of the auxiliary. While the data **b)** the word *latest* is the part of a subject. The word *latest* has a position as an adjective

and as a pre-modifier of the phrase, and the noun *casualties* is the head of the noun phrase.

## **B. Discussion**

The researcher found 435 words related to inflectional morphology that related to syntax in political articles on BBC News after the data were analyzed using Brinton's theory (2000) for the types of inflectional affixes and Miller's (2002) theory for syntactic structure by using a tree diagram. From the research finding, it is found that the most common type of inflectional morpheme used in the political news of BBC News is plural number (suffix –s in noun) and past tense (suffix –ed in verb) whereas the most common of the syntactic function of inflected words is as a predicate.

Inflection is always marked by suffixation, which this argument is in line with Brinton's statement (2000) that inflectional affixes always occur last (only suffixes) following the root (Brinton, 2000). The researcher found 7 types of inflectional morphology that were used in a political article on BBC News. There are 192 words related to the *plural number*, 20 words related to *Present Tense 3rd person singular*, 73 words related to *Past Tense*, 72 words related to *Past Participle*, 8 words related to *Present Participle*, 9 words related to *Comparative Degree*, 6 words related to *Superlative Degree*.

Based on the research finding, there are several words that fall into two types, for example, the word *opened*, *held*, *happened*, *fought*, and *died*. They belong into two types past tense and past participle because they are regular verbs that the form

of v2 (second verb) and v3 (third verb) are the same. It happens because inflectional affixes have a function to indicate grammatical meaning (Brinton, 2000).

Similar to the previous study which is accomplished by Nurdiani and Fauzan's (2020) research, they found there are 5 patterns of inflectional affix used in one political article of online tempo in January 2019, they are *present participle changing to past participle*, *present participle changing to the verb for the third subject*, *singular changing to the plural*, *adjective changing to the comparative and adjective changing to the superlative*. *Plural number* is the most dominant used pattern of inflectional affixes in Nurdiani and Fauzan's (2020) research.

The other previous study also studied morphosyntax but the previous study above (Akuamah's (2021) research, Agustiani's (2018) research, Mukarromah's (2020) research, and Zainuddin (2016) research) analyzed morphosyntax in a different object. They research analyzed the morphosyntax but didn't use the tree diagram to analyze the morphology that related to syntax. The result of the research of Mukarromah (2020), and Zainuddin (2016) are the same as the present research which is the plural number is commonly found in their research, but there are differences in their findings, they found a lot of mistakes in using the suffix -s in the plural number.

However, this research is different from the previous research. The data of this research were collected from the article of political news on BBC News. Furthermore, the theory of Brinton (2000) and Miller (2002) used to classify the data on the types of morphology that are associated with syntactic structure by using a tree diagram.

The tree diagram has been used in order to find the syntactic function of the inflected word. The next finding is that the researcher found 5 syntactic functions of an inflected word that were used in a political article on BBC News. They are 70 functions related to the subject, 175 functions related to predicate, 63 functions related to the object, 26 functions related to complement, and 43 functions related to adverbial. The most dominant function of syntactic structure is the predicate.

Based on these research finding, the tree diagram analysis of simple sentence in data 2.1 and 2.4 show that the sentences do not only consist of NP and VP based on Miller's (2002) theory. It can be indicated by the adverb phrase, prepositional phrase, and auxiliary. The researcher found that the position of plural numbers is not only as subject or object but it can be as complement and adverb. In the data of 2.1 and 2.4, the position of plural number is as subject and the verb of these sentences adjusts with the subject of the sentence whereas the verb form is the past participle.

The finding of data 2.2 is the form of present tense third person singular where the verb is added –s when the subject form is third person singular. In this sentence, there are two kinds of inflectional morphology (present tense and plural number). The function of the present tense is as a predicate while the plural number is a complement of the verb phrase. The data of 2.2 and 2.3 consist of NP, VP, and PP, while the data of 2.5 and 2.6 consist of NP, VP, Aux, and CP. The finding of data 2.7 does not use verb phrases because this sentence uses the auxiliary as the nominal form of a sentence.

The researcher used simple sentences to analyze the inflectional morphology that related to syntax using a tree diagram. In an analysis of the political article on BBC News, the researcher found various forms of using a tree diagram to analyze the syntactic structure. The researcher is still baffled as to analyze the use of the tree diagram in determining inflection if they are objects or complement especially in a compound-complex sentence. After analyzing the inflectional morphology of political news on BBC news, the researcher discovered many uses of the suffix –s in a plural number and the suffix –ed in tenses. However, in representing the inflectional affixes in the tree diagram, many are found the inflectional words that function as predicates because the words that have the suffix –ed in a sentence must be a predicate, but the words that have the suffix –s in the sentence must not be the subject but it can function as a predicate, object or complement.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion of the research based on the findings and several suggestions to the readers, specifically for further researchers that will study similar topics to this research.

#### A. Conclusion

This chapter studies the types and functions of inflectional morphology and syntax in political articles on BBC News. This research used Brinton's theory (2000) and Miller's theory (2002) to analyze the data. Some conclusions can be taken from the finding. There are 7 types of inflectional morphemes that are found in 10 political articles on BBC News. Those are *plural number* (192 words), *present tense 3rd person singular* (20 words), *past tense* (73 words), *past participle* (72 words), *present progressive* (8 words), *comparative* (9 words), and *superlative* (6 words). Thus the suffix –s in a plural number and the suffix –ed is the dominant type of inflectional morpheme used in political articles on BBC News.

There are 3 functions of inflectional morpheme found in 10 political articles of BBC News. This function corresponds to the types of inflection. There are as nouns (plural number), as verbs (present tense 3rd person singular, past tense, past participle, and present progressive), as adjectives (comparative, and superlative degree). Because these functions adjust with the types of inflection, the dominant function of inflectional morpheme is as a noun for plural numbers and as a verb.

A tree diagram has been used to find the syntactic function of the inflected word. There are 5 functions of syntactic structure found in 10 political articles on BBC News. They are subject, predicate, object, complement, and adverbial. The dominant syntactic function of the inflected word found in 10 political articles on BBC News is as a predicate.

## **B. Suggestion**

After analyzing the inflectional morphology and syntax in political articles on BBC News, the suggestion are suggested to English learners and further researchers who are interested in conducting research related to inflectional morphology and syntactic analysis. The researcher is aware that this research is still far from the perfectness since studying morphosyntax needs carefulness in analyzing the inflection and representing them in tree diagrams.

For English learners, especially for students of the English Department of UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, it is suggested that they can use this research as a reference, source of information, and reference material about morphosyntax. From the finding and discussion, the students can learn deeply about inflectional morphology and syntax and know how to use grammar or inflectional words when writing English.

This research has limitations related to the subject of the study. Further researchers are suggested to analyze the whole part of morphology, for example analyzing the derivational and inflectional morphology since the present research analyzes morphology focused on inflection. Besides, further researchers can study derivation and inflectional affixes and use other ways to represent morphology in



syntactic analysis, so it enlarges the knowledge dealing with the morphosyntactic area. They may conduct research using different objects and other theories in the form of morphosyntax. The object can be English songs, speeches, English poetry, English newspapers, and other sources that can be analyzed through morphology and syntactic analysis.

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## APPENDIX

### Inflectional Affixes on Political Article on BBC News

**Table 1.Data of Inflectional Morphology: Plural Number**

Types of inflection	Sign	Inflectional Words
1. Plural number	-s	films, groups, assaults, attacks, muslims, temples, suspects, managers, grounds, beings, crackles, appears, dozens, crackdowns, protests, protesters, videos, incidents, tactics, weapons, deaths, , executions, cheers, crowds, demonstrators, homes, residents, units, crimes, communities, militaries, commanders, views, standards,fireams, documents, millions, dollars, drones, locations, critics, powers, civilians, firms, interests, arms, policies, leaders, guests, celebrations, worshippers, prayers, clashes, batons, parts, rallies, bullets, rocks, stones, properties, wounds, hospitals, students, processions, supporters, officials, casualties, citizens, islamists, schools, relations, sentiments, matters, campaigns, immigrants, infiltrators, comments, parties, hardliners, gangs, maintains, activists, concessions, rivers, ganges, years, neighbours, lawmakers, doors, things, stories, towards, reactions, topics, kinds, politicians, decades, decisions, works, rights, bargains, benefits, voices, thousands, followers, backs, figures, patriots, months, topics, others, representations, networks, systems, exists, recollections, discussions, monies, costs, funds, legislators, reportes, witnesses, eyewitnesses, moments, brothers, oppressions, efforts, weeks,

		sanctions, hotels, coverings, problems, regulations, buddhists, girls, members, victims, reports, flirtations, gifts, allegations, calls, defenders, controversies, stunts, times, payments, conversations, relationships, girlfriends, parallels, politics, details, communications, accusations, dectractors, democrats, weighs, prosecutors, opponents, reports, partners, negotiations, instincts, talks, populations, seats, numbers, investigations, dealings, deductions, write-offs, criminals, roadblocks, sides, attempts, weeks, areas, streets, points, acts, times, murders, demonstrations, colombians, days.
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**Table 2. Data of Inflectional Morphology: Present Tense 3rd Person Singular**

Types of Inflection	Sign	Inflectional Words
2. Present (non past) tense, 3rd person singular	-s	takes, actions, remains, leads, comes, moves, cautions, spokes, sits, shoots, lies, had, adds, lives, killings, casts, shootings, boasts, changes, retains.

**Table 3. Data of Inflectional Morphology: Past Tense**

Types of Inflection	Sign	Inflectional Words
3. Past tense	-ed	Arrested, took, posted, said, showed, forced, kicked, told, named, felt, saw, questioned, entered, confirmed, reported, wrote, tweeted, captured, deployed, involved, applied, targeted, turned, broke, followed, happened, arrived, coincided, exceeded, intervened, opposed, organised, prompted, came, added, helped, became, fought, described, drew, triggered, went, cancelled, killed, addressed,

		missed, asked, wanted, knew, started, affected, warned, planned, enjoyed, did, attacked, supported, avoided, criticised, trusted, decided, kept, threw, travelled, removed, claimed, ordered, accused, marked, began, grew, arued, held
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**Table 4.Data ofInflectional Morphology: Past Participle**

<b>Types of Inflection</b>	<b>Sign</b>	<b>Inflectional Words</b>
4. Past participle	-ed	have expressed, was arrested, was swift, have been reported, have killed, have acted, has verified, have confirmed, has used, have given, had hoped, have sparked, was meant, were damaged, were admitted, were attacked, have died, have invited, has justified, have enjoyed, has complicated, have raised, have denied, have caused, has left, have triggered, have not stopped, has given, have not signed, has become, have made, have taken, has paid, was made, was sacked, have received, has vowed, have refused, was killed, was appointed, have disputed, has announced, has taken, were registered, have not adhered, has asked, has included, has reviewed, have called, has said, was given, have convened, has focused, has begun, have treated, have lowered, was withdrawn, seen, forbidden, said, told, fought, cancelled, opened, died, born, criticised, kept, taken, travelled, removed, held.

**Table 5. Data ofInflectional Morphology: Present Participle/Present Progressive**

<b>Types of Inflection</b>	<b>Sign</b>	<b>Inflectional Words</b>
5. Present participle / present progressive	-ing	is facing, is showing, is trying, is focusing, is seeking, are escorting, stating, worrying

**Table 6. Data of Inflectional Morphology: Comparative Degree**

<b>Types of Inflection</b>	<b>Sign</b>	<b>Inflectional Words</b>
6. Comparative	-er	Easier, earlier, smaller, harder, closer, faster, further, better, less.

**Table 7. Data of Inflectional Morphology: Superlative Degree**

<b>Types of Inflection</b>	<b>Sign</b>	<b>Inflectional Words</b>
7. Superlative	-est	the darkest, the latest, longest, the best, the worst, least.

## Article 1

### **Indian police arrest two men after assault on Muslim boy at Hindu temple**

Published 14 March





Image caption, Police have named Shringi Nandan Yadav (centre) as their main suspect over the alleged assault

**Two men have been arrested in India following a violent assault on a 14-year-old Muslim boy who entered a Hindu temple to drink water, police say.**

Footage of the incident, which occurred in Ghaziabad in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, sparked outrage after it was widely shared online last week.

In the video, posted on Instagram, one man can be seen beating and kicking the boy as a second person films it.

Rights groups have expressed concern over an apparent rise in such assaults.

In Uttar Pradesh, there has been an increase in recent years of **reported targeted attacks on minorities**, including Muslims, by "extremist Hindu groups", according to Human Rights Watch.

Some Hindu temples in India do not permit entry to non-Hindus, and the site in Ghaziabad had a sign stating that it was "forbidden" for Muslims to enter, The Indian Express newspaper reported.

### **Incident account disputed**

The incident involving the boy in Ghaziabad, named as Asif, reportedly took place last Thursday and was later posted online by one of the suspects, police said.

It showed the teenager being struck in the head, forced to the ground and then repeatedly kicked, including in the groin.

Asif's father - not named in the report - told The Indian Express that his son "**was in the area when he felt thirsty... he saw a tap at the temple and began drinking**".

However, managers of the Hindu temple in Ghaziabad have questioned whether the incident was a dispute over water, stating that there was a tap outside and that Asif should not have entered the temple grounds.

Ghaziabad police have named the suspect as Shringi Nandan Yadav, a resident of the city of Bhagalpur in the state of Bihar. They said he had told them that he was working as a caretaker at the temple where the alleged assault took place.

Another man, named only as Shivanand, has been arrested in connection with the filming of the incident, police confirmed on Sunday.

Ghaziabad police Supt Kalanidhi Naithani said the main suspect was arrested shortly after the incident was first reported, and that "strict action" would be taken.

The reaction on social media was swift - and angry. "What kind of sick person [do] you have to be to mercilessly assault a child?" journalist Rifat Jawaid tweeted.

Another Twitter user, local news reporter Navya Singh, wrote: "This incident is not just brutal but also shows how brazenly the assaulter shared the video on social media."

Indian opposition politician Tejashwi Yadav tweeted that Asif was the victim of a "poisonous ideology that teaches human beings not to be human".

## Article 2

### Myanmar coup: The 'battle tactics' used in crackdowns on protests

By Joshua Cheetham  
BBC News  
Published 12 March



Image caption, Human rights groups are calling on Myanmar's military to end its use of lethal force against civilians

On a busy street in Yangon, police are escorting a man as gunfire crackles in the background.

The man appears to be in custody and is showing no resistance - then suddenly an officer shoots him from behind, kicking him as he lies on the ground.

The incident, captured on video, is one of dozens that have been reported since a military coup in Myanmar on 1 February brought protesters onto the streets.

Crackdowns against protests have already killed over 70 people, according to a UN estimate.

But the military, or Tatmadaw, insists that security forces have acted with restraint against "riotous protesters" who they accuse of attacking police.

'Absolutely wrong'

In a new report, human rights group Amnesty International has verified more than 50 videos of violent incidents circulating on social media.

Based on this evidence, it says that while security forces have also been using non-lethal tactics against protesters, they've been stepping up the use of battlefield weapons and lethal force in recent weeks.

Some deaths at the hands of military and police forces amount to extrajudicial executions, says Amnesty.

In one video, a member of the Tatmadaw in Dawei is seen lending his rifle to a police officer deployed alongside him. The officer then crouches, takes aim and shoots, causing cheers of celebration from personnel around him.

Several protesters in Yangon, the main city, have confirmed to the BBC that they've seen military personnel fire live ammunition into crowds of demonstrators, causing deaths and injuries.

Amnesty says the military has used a range of weapons at protests - from sniper rifles to uzis. Sometimes it fires them indiscriminately.

One clip shows security forces in the town of Mawlamyine riding on trucks and allegedly shooting live ammunition at random, including into people's homes.

Several Yangon residents, who were not involved in protests, have also told the BBC that their homes have been fired upon by security forces.

Amnesty has expressed concern, too, about the deployment of military units which have previously been involved in alleged war crimes against communities like the Rohingya.

"These are militaries and commanders that have an extremely poor, worrying record in terms of military combat. To deploy them to policing exercises is absolutely the wrong thing to do," says Joanne Mariner, Amnesty's director of crisis response.

"Clearly the military is not interested in what the protesters have to say, but under international law they have the right to express their views peacefully," she adds.

'Lives depend on it'

Under international law and UN standards, security forces must not use firearms against protesters unless there is an imminent threat of death or serious injury, and a less harmful alternative is not available.

Instead, "the rule of minimum force" must be applied to protesters says Ian Foxley, a researcher at the University of York's Centre for Applied Human Rights.

But firearms are only part of the junta's arsenal. Government budget documents from the last two fiscal years, reviewed by the New York Times, show that the military earmarked millions of dollars for surveillance technology - including drones, hacking software and tools to track people's locations in real time.

The military has also targeted internet access during the coup, and shut off access to various websites and social media, including Facebook.

Critics suggest that these technological capabilities have given the military sweeping powers to monitor civilians and co-ordinate action against demonstrators.

With the death toll rising, advocacy firms like Justice for Myanmar are calling for targeted sanctions against the Tatmadaw and its extensive, opaque business interests.

"Given the excessive and systematic killings and the weaponry that has historically been deployed against ethnic communities for decades, the UN Security Council must immediately impose a global arms embargo," the group add. "live in myanmar depend on it."

### Article 3

## Why Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh led to 12 deaths

By Anbarasan Ethirajan  
BBC News  
Published 31 March



Image caption, Protests against Mr Modi's visit left 12 people dead

**Bangladesh had hoped that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence at its 50th independence anniversary celebrations last week would be memorable.**

But the visit turned deadly as violent protests broke out against Mr Modi, leaving at least 12 people dead.

Mr Modi is a polarising figure both at home and abroad. His government, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has often been accused of pursuing policies that target Muslim minorities, and not doing enough to curb violence against them. The BJP denies the charges.

His contentious image appears to have sparked the protests in the capital Dhaka - and the violence that followed no doubt was an embarrassment to both countries. It also casts a shadow on what has always been an amicable relationship between India and Bangladesh.

What happened in Bangladesh?

Mr Modi arrived in Dhaka for a two-day visit on 26 March, Bangladesh's independence day. It also coincided with the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's founder and father of the current prime minister, Sheikh Hasina.

Leaders of the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal were all guests of honour at the event. But Mr Modi's visit, which was meant to cap off the 10-day long celebrations, set off protests.

A group of Muslim worshippers held a protest on 26 March after Friday prayers at a mosque in the city. Soon, clashes erupted and police used tear gas and batons to disperse the crowd.

Protests then spread to other parts of the country and a hardline Islamist group, Hefazat-e-Islam, called for a nationwide shut down on 28 March to protest the attacks on those who held rallies against Mr Modi's visit.



Image caption, Islamists and left-wing groups led the protests

Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd, which threw rocks and stones at security forces.

Dhaka and the eastern district of Brahmanbaria witnessed some of the worst violence. Buses, a train, a Hindu temple and several properties were damaged. A number of people with gunshot wounds were admitted to hospitals.

"Madrassa students holding processions were attacked by security forces and supporters of the [governing] Awami League. That led to the conflict. But there was no need to open fire on unarmed people," Dr Ahmed Abdul Qader, vice chairman of the Hefazat, told the BBC.

Officials say 12 protesters have died so far but the Islamist group say there were many more casualties.

"Bangladesh is a democracy and everybody has a right to say what they have to say. But they [the protesters] cannot take law and order in their hands," Anisul Haq, Bangladesh's law minister, told the BBC.

"They [the protesters] exceeded the limit. To protect the citizens of the country, and to protect law and order, the law enforcing agencies intervened," Mr Haq said.

Why were they protesting?

The protests were led by Islamists, students of madrassas (religious schools) and left-wing groups opposed to Mr Modi's visit to Bangladesh. They accused him of pursuing anti-Muslim policies.

Those who organised the rallies and even supporters of the ruling Awami League have accused security forces of brutally attacking protesters.

The incident prompted a group of eminent citizens and activists to issue an open statement demanding justice for the attacks on protesters.



Image caption, Protesters accuse Mr Modi of being anti-Muslim

Despite good bilateral relations, there has always been an undercurrent of anti-India sentiment among a section of Bangladeshis.

After the BJP came to power in India in 2014, "the anti-India sentiments turned into more of an anti-Modi feeling in Bangladesh", Shireen Huq, a women's rights activist, told the BBC.

"The protesters were not against India or the people of India. They were angry at the invitation to Mr Modi, who's extremely controversial and who's known for his anti-Muslim stance," she added.

"Bangladesh could have invited the president of India. That would have been acceptable to everyone."

But the government has justified its decision to invite Mr Modi.

"The government and the people of Bangladesh want to invite somebody from a country which steadfastly helped in our nine-month long independence war," Mr Haq said.

Does the violence affect bi-lateral relations?

India and Bangladesh have historically enjoyed a good relationship.

Bangladesh was formerly East Pakistan. It became a part of Pakistan when the Britain divided the subcontinent into a Hindu-majority India and a Muslim-majority Pakistan in 1947.

But in 1971, Bangladesh fought for its independence from Pakistan and with the help of Indian military intervention, it became a separate country.

But the BJP's rise to power has complicated matters.



Image caption, Ms Hasina (left) is facing domestic pressure for being too pro-India

In recent election campaigns in the border states of West Bengal and Assam, Mr Modi and other senior BJP leaders have often raised the issue of alleged unauthorised immigration from Bangladesh. Bangladeshi officials have denied the accusation.

In a 2019 election rally, Home Minister Amit Shah described illegal immigrants as "termites", adding that the BJP government would "pick up infiltrators one by one and throw them into the Bay of Bengal".

Mr Shah's comments drew sharp criticism from rights groups and triggered anger in Bangladesh too.

But the repeated references to unauthorised Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh, especially during polarising election campaigns, have caused resentment in Dhaka. Ms Hasina's government, which is seen as pro-India by the opposition, is facing domestic pressure.

In 2019, Mr Modi's government passed a contentious citizenship law that would give asylum to religious minorities fleeing persecution from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. By definition, that does not include Muslims.

The Citizenship Amendment Act was seen as anti-Muslim and it drew widespread criticism from India's opposition parties and rights groups.

The controversial law took Dhaka by surprise as well.



Ms Hasina went on the defensive and denied that minorities were fleeing Bangladesh due to religious persecution. Hindus constitute around 8% of Bangladesh's population of more than 160 million.

At one point Bangladesh even cancelled a few high-profile ministerial visits to India following domestic criticism of the citizenship law and a proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC).

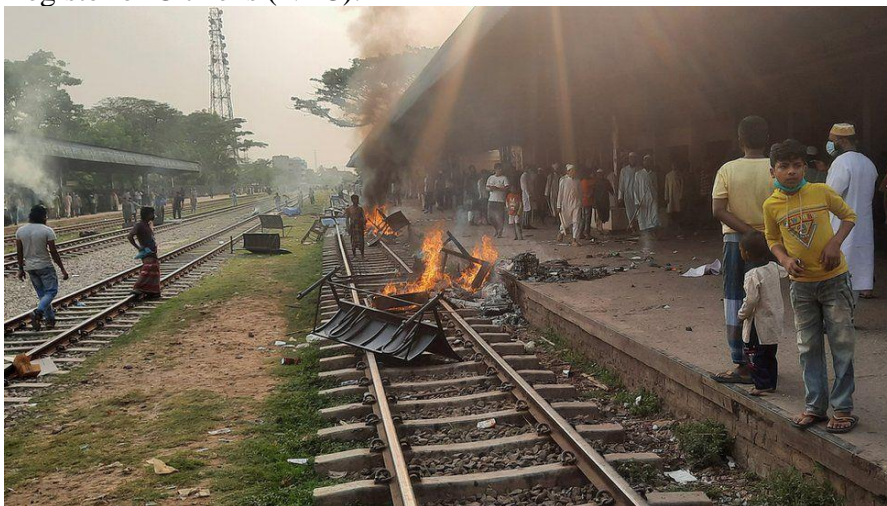


Image caption, Trains, buses and a Hindu temple were damaged in the clashes

The final NRC in Assam has left out nearly two million, including Hindus and Muslims, who ostensibly lacked sufficient documentation to prove that they were not unauthorised immigrants from Bangladesh. Hindu hardliners want the Muslims who have not made it to the list to be deported to Bangladesh.

Another thorn in the bilateral relationship is the killing of Bangladeshi civilians along the border by Indian security forces. Rights groups allege that **more than 300 people have been killed since 2011** and the shootings have triggered widespread anger in Bangladesh.

Indian officials say most of those killed are smugglers from criminal gangs. But Bangladesh maintains that many of the victims were civilians. Activists point out that despite repeated assurances from Delhi, the killings have not stopped.

"India-Bangladesh relations has been one-way traffic. Bangladesh has given lots of concessions to India without getting much in return. Still, we have many unresolved issues like the sharing of river water," Ms Huq said.

The two countries share 54 rivers and except for one, they all flow from upstream India to Bangladesh before reaching the Bay of Bengal. So India has the ability to regulate the water flow. But except for the Ganges, the two countries have not yet signed an agreement on any other river, much to the displeasure of Bangladeshis.

Maintaining a good relationship with Bangladesh is key to India's security in its north-eastern region where several indigenous separatist groups operate. Many of them have been subdued over the years with Dhaka's help.

India often boasts of its "excellent" relationship with Bangladesh. It's seen as a silver lining in its diplomacy in its backyard given Delhi's troubled ties with other neighbours such as Pakistan and China.

The anger over Mr Modi's visit is therefore a clear warning to Delhi - if the sensitivities of its neighbour are not addressed, India may end up being friends only with the government in Dhaka and not with the people of Bangladesh.

#### Article 4

## Grand jury to consider Donald Trump charges

Published 26 May



Image caption, Donald Trump has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing

**Prosecutors in New York have convened a grand jury to decide whether to indict former US President Donald Trump on criminal charges, local media report.**

They say the jury will consider evidence gathered during investigations into Mr Trump's business dealings and the alleged payment of hush money to women on his behalf.

Mr Trump, 74, denies any wrongdoing, alleging a political witch hunt.

A grand jury is set up to determine if there is enough evidence to pursue a prosecution.

Such juries are made up of citizens who examine the evidence in secret before deciding whether to pursue charges.

The decision to convene a grand jury appears to indicate that the Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance hopes to move towards bringing charges as a result of his two-year investigation.

Mr Vance went through a long court battle to obtain Mr Trump's tax records and part of his investigation has focused on tax deductions and write-offs claimed by the Trump Organization.

Last week, Letitia James, the top prosecutor in New York state, said her inquiry into the Trump Organization was now a criminal probe.

Her spokesperson said the inquiry into Mr Trump's property company was "no longer purely civil".

Mr Trump responded by saying the prosecutor was "in desperate search of a crime".

## **Article 5**

### **China is 'trampling on Hong Kong's democracy'**

By Andreas Illmer  
BBC News  
Published 4 April



Image caption, [Authorities seek to intimidate dissenters](#), critics warn

**China's overhaul of Hong Kong's electoral system is being seen as a watershed moment by those who fear Beijing's encroaching influence on the city.**

Recent changes ensure that only "patriots" loyal to the mainland can end up in positions of power. To those hoping Hong Kong might move towards greater democracy, it feels like the final blow.

The US, Australia and European countries condemned China's actions, but it has been harder to gauge the reactions in Hong Kong itself. Many people simply don't want to talk anymore.

In fact, over the past few years it has become harder and harder to get ordinary people to speak their mind about the city's relationship with the mainland.

'That's how authoritarian regimes work'

Sharing that observation with a friend in Hong Kong, the response was a cynical "Lol", with a sober afterthought: "That's how authoritarian regimes work."

Lee Jonghyuk, an assistant professor at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, told the BBC that sensitive topics of conversation would "naturally perish" under these kinds of circumstances.

"People will self-censor themselves, and this is intentional," he said.

ADVERTISEMENT

"Most likely, the Chinese Communist Party will destroy social trust among citizens by incentivizing more people on the street to report criticism to the government."

So what is it like in patriotic Hong Kong, and what do people expect in the future?



Image caption, Protests like in 2019 are likely a thing of the past

'Turning Hong Kong back 20 years'

Opposition politicians - those most directly affected by the change - are still speaking up, at least for the time being. The changes will put Hong Kong "20 odd years back," warned Lo Kin-hei, the chairman of the opposition Democratic Party.

He told the BBC that any progress over the past two decades had essentially been erased by Beijing.

"We know that the space for us to participate is much less than before, and we know that it is very difficult to get through the vetting system," he said, referring to the system which will in future decide who can run for office.

Lo Kin-hei's party treasurer, Ramon Yuen Hoi-man, said that China's leadership was "trampling on democracy" and breaking with the vision of universal suffrage spelled out in the city's constitution, the Basic Law.

Media caption,

Lo Kin-hei and other pro-democracy forces now face a difficult discussion over whether they will keep on participating in the election "or whether we will go another way".

Professor Lee, from Nanyang Technological University, said there may simply be no avenues left for political or public influence.

"I think that it is too late," he said. "China's leadership will never give in to the public. It will never revert their decisions even with the international pressure."

Talking to people on the ground is more difficult, but not impossible. "We can hear a lot of people discussing leaving the city now," said Ken Liu, who works in the city's IT sector.

He said he planned to stay - "And as long as I can find any legal way to spread my views, I will do it" - but he said he feared many would leave Hong Kong for

good. The UK has already opened a pathway out by allowing people born before the handover to get onto a special visa scheme that can lead to British citizenship. Yet that's a costly option for many, warned Professor Lee. For most ordinary Hong Kong residents, it will simply be not possible to uproot and leave. And while many might be unhappy with the changes forced by Beijing, "political rights are not essential for living".

"There is an argument of 'political bargains for economic benefits,'" he explains, pointing to mainland China where citizens have also made their peace to have political rights withheld as long as the leadership brings about economic prosperity.

'Hong Kong will prosper'

Finding voices that support China's changes is already a lot easier than finding open dissent.

Penny Sun is an online influencer with thousands of followers on social media. She told the BBC she fully backs the changes and that Hong Kong's political figures should be "patriots" and do the same.

She said she enjoyed more freedom now than she did during the long months of the 2019 protests that she described as "riots".

"During the riots I was afraid that I could be attacked for speaking my mind, I was scared something could happen to me," she said.



Image caption, Politicians should be 'patriots', said influencer Penny Sun

She said during the time of the protests those who supported China avoided talking about politics in order not to run into trouble. "That was not Hong Kong as we knew it," she said.

She said "patriotic" politicians would still be free to discuss the topics that matter and are much closer to people's lives, such as the city's pressing housing problem. "Hong Kong will prosper and our lives will be more stable."

Others fear this will only be true for those whose views align with China's, and not for those who dissent.

## Beijing's fear of a chain reaction

Many in Hong Kong, as well as observers from abroad, have been shocked by the speed with which the recent drastic changes have taken place. From the introduction last year of the much-criticised "national security law" - which criminalised secession, subversion and "collusion with foreign forces", and carries a life sentence - to the recent electoral changes.

And yet Professor Lee said he had expected those changes to come even faster. The Chinese leadership was "quite afraid of a domestic chain reaction if it would give in to Hong Kong", he said.

"Surprisingly, Beijing trusted Hong Kong's government's ability to deal with the protesters," he added. "However, when the second mass protests happened in 2019, the Communist leadership decided to engage directly in Hong Kong issues to eliminate the sources of collective actions, such as democratic representations, civil networks, and education systems."

Two years later, speaking out against Beijing has been made illegal and opposition politicians can be easily kept out of parliament.

"There will be no reversion," Professor Lee said. "This is quite certain. Universal suffrage is a mere obstacle to the stability of the Communist Party's regime."

## Article 6

### Israel politics: Lapid nears coalition after Netanyahu fell short

Published 30 May



Image caption, Benjamin Netanyahu has dominated Israeli politics for a generation

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to dissuade his opponents from forming a government as he seeks to hold on to power.

Centrist party leader Yair Lapid has until Wednesday to build a coalition.

Media reports from Israel say he is close to reaching a deal with ultra-nationalist leader Naftali Bennett.

Mr Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving PM, fell short of a decisive majority at a general election in March - the fourth in two years.

Mr Lapid could be close to reaching a deal, says BBC Middle East analyst Sebastian Usher.

Mr Netanyahu, who is on trial for fraud, has been in power for 12 years and has dominated Israeli politics for a generation. He was given the first chance at forming a government but was unable to secure the coalition partners needed.

Mr Lapid's Yesh Atid party came second to Mr Netanyahu's right-wing Likud at the last election and was given until 2 June to build a coalition.

Our analyst says the outcome of the negotiations depends on whether Mr Bennett, a former defence minister, will agree to share power in what has been described as a "change" government.

However, he cautions that no one should yet count out Mr Netanyahu, 71, whose political survival instincts remain second to none.

Mr Lapid's 28-day mandate to form a government was interrupted by the recent 11-day conflict in Gaza.

One of his potential coalition partners, the Arab Islamist Raam party, broke off talks because of the violence. There were also clashes in Israeli cities with mixed Arab and Jewish populations.

On Saturday night, Mr Netanyahu's Likud party made an offer to Mr Bennett and the leader of another potential coalition party to share the premiership in a three-way split.

However, his offer was rejected.

If Mr Lapid is unable to agree a coalition, Israelis could be going back to the polls again later this year.

Under Israel's electoral system of proportional representation, it is difficult for a single party to gain enough seats to form a government outright. Smaller parties are usually needed to make up the numbers needed for a coalition.



## Article 7

# Linda Reynolds: Australian minister settles case after calling aide 'lying cow'

Published 12 March



Image caption, Senator Linda Reynolds has paid an undisclosed sum in the settlement

**Australia's Defence Minister Linda Reynolds has paid compensation to a former aide who she called a "lying cow" after she alleged she had been raped by a former colleague.**

The confidential settlement also includes a donation to a sexual assault charity.

She apologised to Brittany Higgins for making the slur at her in her office in February.

Ms Higgins had publicly accused another staff member of raping her in 2019.

In public the minister had stood behind her former employee when she made the accusation.

Ms Reynolds remains on sick leave and on Friday posted an apology on social media, adding she "did not mean it in the sense it may have been understood".

"Given that the comment was made public, which I never intended, I also want to retract it and unreservedly apologise to Brittany Higgins and acknowledge the hurt and distress it caused to her," she explained.

In a statement, Ms Higgins said she accepted the apology.

"I am pleased that the minister has now withdrawn her comments and I accept her apology to me," Ms Higgins said. She described this period as "immensely challenging".

"Any monies I have received from the minister, as part of this settlement of my claim against her over and above my legal costs, will be paid in full to an organisation that provides counselling and support for survivors of sexual assault and abuse in the Canberra area. These funds will assist them in this important work," she explained.

When asked earlier this week if Ms Reynolds should quit, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said her remark had come "in her private office in a stressful week".

Last month, the former political adviser alleged she had been attacked in Ms Reynolds' office at Parliament House after a night out in 2019. She said she wanted a "comprehensive police investigation into what happened to me".

The man was later sacked for a separate reason.



Image caption, Ms Higgins, pictured here with Prime Minister Scott Morrison

Earlier in the week, Ms Higgins told local media she felt unsupported by her boss and that she would lose her job if she reported her alleged rape to police.

"It's just further evidence of the toxic workplace culture that exists behind closed doors in Parliament House," she said.

In the fortnight since Ms Higgins went public, other women have come forward with allegations against the same man.

Allegations against others have also been aired publicly.

In the most high-profile case, Attorney General Christian Porter has been accused of raping a 16-year-old girl in 1988, when he was aged 17. Mr Porter has strongly rejected the allegation.

Police said they were unable to pursue an investigation, citing "insufficient admissible evidence". The woman took her own life last year.

But on Friday, a close friend of the woman, James Hooke, said in a statement that he had "clear recollections of relevant discussions" with her within months of the alleged incident.

In response to Mr Hooke's comments, New South Wales Police Commissioner Mick Fuller said he would need to know further details before he could consider reopening the investigation.

In Australia, an alleged victim's testimony is typically required, particularly in sexual assault cases, for police to proceed with an investigation that has chance of prosecution.

Mr Porter has said he will not stand down and retains Mr Morrison's support.

## Article 8

### **Myanmar protests: Ousted speaker in hiding vows to continue 'revolution'**

Published 14 March



Image caption, Myanmar has seen daily protests - like this one on 13 March in Mandalay - since the military staged a coup last month

**The leader of a group of Myanmar politicians ousted by a military coup has vowed to press on with a "revolution" against the authorities.**

In his first public address, Mahn Win Khaing Than said "this is the darkest moment of the nation and the moment that the dawn is close".

From hiding, he leads a group of legislators who have refused to accept last month's coup.

Protests continued on Sunday with at least five people killed.

Local media and a doctor quoted by AFP news agency reported a young man shot dead by security forces in the northern jade-producing city of Hpakant.

Another young man was killed in Bago, near the main city of Yangon, according to local reporters and witnesses.

Local media also reported three protesters killed in clashes in Yangon itself.

The latest casualties follow the deaths of 12 protesters on Saturday, according to BBC Burmese and eyewitnesses.

Myanmar (also known as Burma) has been gripped by street protests since the military seized control on 1 February and detained Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

The NLD won a landslide victory in last year's election, but the military said the poll was fraudulent.

NLD MPs who managed to escape arrest formed a new group, the CRPH, or Committee for Representing the Union Parliament.

Mahn Win Khaing Than was appointed acting head. The CRPH is seeking international recognition as Myanmar's rightful government.

### What did Mahn Win Khaing Than say?

In a speech on Facebook, Mahn Win Khaing Than said: "This is the time for our citizens to test their resistance against the dark moments.

"In order to form a federal democracy, which all ethnic brothers, who have been suffering various kinds of oppressions from the dictatorship for decades, really desired, this revolution is the chance for us to put our efforts together.



Image caption, Mahn Win Khaing Than is currently in hiding

"Despite our differences in the past, this is the time we must grip our hands together to end the dictatorship for good. "

The military considers the CRPH to be an illegal group, warning that anyone cooperating with them will face treason charges.

### What's the background?

Independent international observers have disputed the military's claim of the fraudulent election held in November 2020, saying no irregularities were observed.

Last week, the military accused Ms Suu Kyi of illegally accepting \$600,000 (£430,000) and 11kg of gold. No evidence was provided and an NLD lawmaker denied the allegation.

Ms Suu Kyi has been held for the past five weeks at an undisclosed location and faces several other charges including causing "fear and alarm", illegally possessing radio equipment, and breaking Covid-19 restrictions.

Since the coup the military has used violent force to try to quell protests, leaving dozens dead and prompting widespread international condemnation.

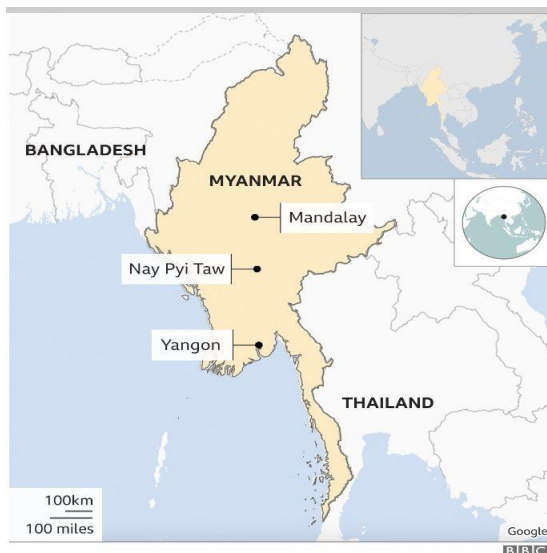
The US has announced sanctions on coup leaders, while steps are also being taken to block access by the military to \$1bn of government funds held in the US.

The military has dismissed criticism of its actions, instead blaming Ms Suu Kyi for the violence.

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#### Myanmar profile

- Myanmar became independent from Britain in 1948. For much of its modern history, it has been under military rule
- Restrictions began loosening from 2010 onwards, leading to free elections in 2015 and the installation of a government led by veteran opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi the following year
- In 2017, Myanmar's army responded to attacks on police by Rohingya militants with a deadly crackdown, driving more than half a million Rohingya Muslims across the border into Bangladesh in what the UN later called a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing"
- **Country profile**



#### Article 9

### Sri Lanka to ban burka and other face coverings

Published 13 March



Image caption, The government says the burka is a sign of religious extremism

**Sri Lanka has taken a significant step towards banning the burka and other face coverings in public, on grounds of national security.**

Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekara told the BBC that he had signed a cabinet order which now needs parliamentary approval.

Officials say they expect the ban to be implemented very soon.

The move comes nearly two years after a wave of co-ordinated attacks on hotels and churches on Easter Sunday.

Suicide bombers targeted Catholic churches and tourist hotels, killing more than 250 people in April 2019. The Islamic State militant group said it had carried out the attacks.

As the authorities tracked down the militants, an emergency short-term ban on face coverings was implemented in the majority-Buddhist nation.



Image caption, Nearly 270 people were killed in the attacks two years ago

Now the government is moving to re-introduce it on a permanent basis.

Mr Weerasekara told reporters that the burka was "a sign of religious extremism that came about recently". He added that it was "affecting national security" and that a permanent ban was overdue.

"So I have signed that and it will be implemented very soon," he said.

Mr Weerasekara also said the government planned to ban more than 1,000 madrassa Islamic schools which he said were flouting national education policy.

#### Head coverings worn by Muslim women



BBC

"Nobody can open a school and teach whatever you want to the children. It must be as per the government laid down education policy.

Most of unregistered schools "teach only the Arabic language and the Koran, so that is bad", he said.

Hilmi Ahmed, vice-president of the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka, told the BBC that if officials have problems identifying people in burkas "there would not be any objection from anyone to remove the face cover for identity purposes".

He said everyone had a right to wear a face covering regardless of their faith: "That has to be seen from a rights point of view, and not just a religious point of view."

On the question of madrassas, Mr Ahmed stressed that the vast majority of Muslim schools were registered with the government:

"There may be... about 5% which have not adhered to the regulations and of course action can be taken against them," he said.



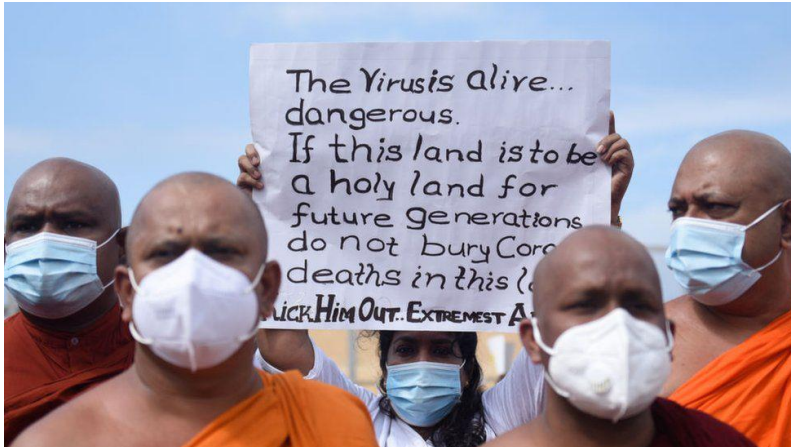


Image caption, [Pro-government demonstrators supported the ban on burials](#)

The government's planned moves follow an order last year making the cremation of Covid-19 victims mandatory, in line with the practice of the majority Buddhists, but against the wishes of Muslims, **who bury their dead**.

[This ban was lifted earlier this year](#) after criticism from the US and international rights groups.

Last month, [the United National Human Rights Council session considered a new resolution on mounting rights concerns in Sri Lanka](#), including over the treatment of Muslims.

[Sri Lanka is being called](#) to hold human rights abusers to account and to deliver justice to victims of its 26-year-old civil war.

The 1983-2009 conflict killed at least 100,000 people, mostly civilians from the minority Tamil community.

[Sri Lanka has strongly denied the allegations and has asked member countries](#) not to support the resolution.

## Article 10

### Matt Gaetz: Why this Trump ally is fighting for his political life



[Anthony Zurcher](#)

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**Matt Gaetz, a rising star in the Republican Party known for his flashy lifestyle and frequent flirtations with controversy, may now be embroiled in a sex scandal that carries very real legal jeopardy.**

Gaetz-gate, as it is being called, began with reports last week that the third-term congressman from Florida may have had sexual relations with a 17-year-old girl. Since then, the story has spiralled into a world of "sugar daddies" - men who lavish young women with cash and gifts - extortion, fraud and sex trafficking.

It has included reports that Gaetz showed photos of nude women on his phone to lawmakers on the floor of the House of Representatives and boasted about his sexual exploits.

The congressman has vehemently denied all allegations and dismissed calls for his resignation. One of Donald Trump's most loyal defenders, who has stuck by the ex-president through all of his scandals and controversies, is now facing an existential political crisis of his own, however.

**Who is Matt Gaetz (and why should we care)?**

Gaetz was first elected to the US Congress in 2016, representing a House district in the northern panhandle of Florida - a region more politically akin to neighbouring arch-conservative Alabama than the multicultural southern tip of the state. Prior to that, he had spent six years in the Florida state legislature.

Junior members of the House of Representatives usually toil in relative anonymity unless they have Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez-level media savviness or boast influential political connections.

Gaetz had both - and used them to become a leading face of a new generation of Republican politicians.

The 38-year-old congressman, blessed with good looks, better hair and a sharp tongue, has been a frequent guest on conservative cable news outlets - 346 weekday

appearances since August 2017, according to the liberal watchdog group Media Matters.

Upon taking congressional office, he quickly raised his public profile and caught the eye of that most powerful consumer of conservative media content, Donald Trump.

Gaetz became a regular warm-up speaker for Trump whenever the former president campaigned in Florida during his 2020 re-election bid. He met his fiancée, 26-year-old Ginger Luckey, while visiting Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort. He's posted Twitter selfies taken on Air Force One.



Image caption, Rep Matt Gaetz and his fiancée, Ginger Luckey, reportedly met at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort

The Florida congressman boosted his political notoriety with a variety of viral publicity stunts as well, including wearing a gas mask on the floor of the House of Representatives during debate over the first coronavirus pandemic aid bill in March 2020 and joining a group of Republican members of Congress who forced their way into a closed congressional witness deposition during the run-up to Trump's first impeachment in 2019.

In January, Gaetz travelled to Wyoming to hold a rally against Liz Cheney, the Republican congressional leader who had denounced Trump and voted to impeach him after the 6 January Capitol attack.

He's also been connected to a few stories that border on the bizarre, such as his revelation last year that he has been living with a 19-year-old non-biological, non-adopted "son", Cuban immigrant Nestor Galban, whom he met when Galban was 12 and Gaetz was dating his older sister.

**What are the allegations against Gaetz?**

Gaetz, as first disclosed by the New York Times, is being investigated by the US Justice Department for allegedly having a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old girl and paying for her to cross state lines. (Interstate trafficking of underage children for sex is a federal offence.)

It appears the investigation - which started under, and reportedly had the approval of, Trump-appointed Attorney General William Barr - is part of a larger inquiry into sex trafficking that led to the indictment of a Gaetz friend and local Florida politician, Joel Greenberg.

The 36-year-old former tax collector in Seminole County, near Orlando, was arrested last June and subsequently charged with a variety of criminal offences, including stalking, fraud, bribery, embezzlement, identity theft, forgery and sex trafficking.

According to the Times, this latest inquiry is focusing on whether Greenberg and Gaetz sought out women on so-called "sugar daddy" websites, where women sign up to meet men who provide them with cash and gifts in exchange for sex.



Image caption, Matt Gaetz supported efforts to oust Rep Liz Cheney, who voted in favour of impeaching Donald Trump

"The Times has reviewed receipts from Cash App, a mobile payments app, and Apple Pay that show payments from Mr Gaetz and Mr Greenberg to one of the women, and a payment from Mr Greenberg to a second woman," the Times reports. "The women told their friends that the payments were for sex with the two men, according to two people familiar with the conversations."

Greenberg and Gaetz were also recorded by security cameras several years ago entering a closed tax collector office on a weekend, according to information provided to the Orlando Sentinel by an unnamed source. The footage also reportedly shows Greenberg going through a basket of returned driver's licences scheduled for disposal.

"An indictment states that Greenberg used his access as an elected official to look up information about a girl between the ages of 14 and 17 in a state database, in order 'to produce a false identification document and to facilitate his efforts to engage in commercial sex acts'," the Sentinel notes. Greenberg has denied the allegations against him.

Greenberg and Gaetz's friendship - most prominently documented in photos Greenberg

tweeted of the two at a White House event in 2019 and from 2017 with Trump confidante Roger Stone - is at the very least proving politically damaging. It may yet turn out to be a legal threat as well.

**What has Gaetz said?**

Gaetz has denied having sexual relationships with any underage girls, paying women for sex or visiting "sugar daddy" websites. He said that he has been "generous" with girlfriends in the past, but he has never engaged in illegal conduct.

On Monday morning, the Washington Examiner published an opinion column by Gaetz drawing parallels to what he characterised as the unjustified political persecution of Trump, Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh and Senator John McCain.

"Washington scandal cycles are predictable, and sex is especially potent in politics," he writes. "Let me first remind everyone that I am a representative in Congress, not a monk, and certainly not a criminal."

During a contentious appearance on Tucker Carlson's highly rated Fox News talk show last week, Gaetz alleged that the Justice Department investigation was, in fact, related to an attempt by a former government official to extort money from his family.

"On 16 March, my father got a text message demanding a meeting, where in a person demanded \$25m in exchange for making horrible sex trafficking allegations against me go away," Gaetz said.

David McGee, the ex-Justice Department official Gaetz named, denies this allegation. (The Washington Post reports that the department is conducting a separate investigation into whether an attempt to contact Gaetz's father and offer legal help in exchange for assistance freeing an American believed to be held in Iran might constitute extortion.)

Gaetz also told Carlson that a then-girlfriend of his - whom the Fox host had met - was pressured by the FBI to accuse the congressman of a "pay-for-play scheme", although he has provided no additional details.

Meanwhile, [Luke Ball](#) - [Gaetz's longtime aide, spokesman and communications director for his congressional office - resigned on Friday.](#)

"The Office of Congressman Matt Gaetz and Luke Ball have agreed that it would be best to part ways," Gaetz's chief of staff informed the New York Times. "We thank him for his time in our office, and we wish him the best moving forward."

Before the Times story about the Justice Department investigation broke, [Gaetz himself was reportedly considering resigning from Congress to take a job as a commentator with the conservative cable network Newsmax.](#)

### What does this mean for Trumpworld?

Given that Gaetz has been one of Trump's most vocal defenders, the whole controversy has become, at least partially, the latest proxy battle over the former president's legacy and ongoing influence in US politics.



Image caption, [Matt Gaetz was an ardent supporter of Donald Trump](#)

With Trump out of office, politicians like Gaetz have become the heirs apparent - testing whether his confrontational conservative rhetoric, penchant for cultural warfare and right-wing populism can be a blueprint for long-term electoral success.

Gaetz certainly has followed the Trump playbook when defending himself against these allegations - conceding nothing and lobbing a shotgun blast of assorted accusations at his critics and detractors.

In his Washington Examiner piece, he even echoes Trump's "they aren't coming for me, they are coming for you - I'm just in the way" turn of phrase.

It remains to be seen whether the Trump defence will work for someone not named Trump, however. Already, some Democrats have called for him to be removed from his seat on the House Judiciary Committee. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said she agrees - if the reports are proven to be true. And Republican House leader Kevin McCarthy has said the allegations are "serious" and told reporters that he planned to speak to Gaetz (a meeting that has yet to be confirmed).

At least so far the top man at Mar-a-Lago has remained silent about the Gaetz accusations. If Trump weighs in, either via his now-common tweet-like press

releases or in a media interview, it could bolster Gaetz's defence or deliver a politically fatal blow.

In the end, however, federal prosecutors may have the final say in Gaetz's future.

## CURRICULUM VITAE



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