

## ANALYSIS OF FREE MORPHEMES AND BOUND MORPHEMES IN THE LYRICS OF THE SONG "BEST PART" BY DANIEL CAESAR AND H.E.R

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### ABSTRACT

*This study analyzes free morphemes and bound morphemes in the lyrics of the song "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R. Using a literature review approach, the main data were taken from the official lyrics obtained from the Genius website, and secondary sources such as books and journals relevant to morphological theory and lyric analysis. The results show that the lyrics of "Best Part" contain various free morphemes, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and pronouns. Additionally, bound morphemes in the form of suffixes were also found. These findings provide insights into how linguistic elements play a role in creating meaning and conveying messages through song lyrics.*

**Keywords:** *free morphemes, bound morphemes, morphological analysis, song lyrics, "Best Part"*

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### Introduction

Music has been an inseparable part of human life since ancient times. Besides providing entertainment and pleasure, music also serves as a medium for expressing emotions, conveying messages, and inspiring creativity. Music is a form of human art that utilizes sound as its medium for enjoyment. Within it, there are various elements such as rhythm, melody, harmony, form, style, and expression. The expression in music is not only limited to the instruments used but also reflected in the lyrics of the songs (Fitriani, 2023).

For many people, music is a way to entertain themselves, relieve stress, and find peace amidst the daily hustle and bustle. In a constantly changing and often stressful world, music becomes an important escape for many individuals. Through various genres and artists, people can find a sound that resonates with their mood, ranging from upbeat to contemplative. Music also often serves as a connector between people from diverse cultural backgrounds, languages, and experiences. In an era where technology enables instant access to millions of songs, music has become an integral part of many people's daily lives, providing profound experiences and often accompanying significant moments in their lives.

In music, lyrics are a crucial element, serving as literary compositions composed of a collection of words arranged in a manner that conveys specific meanings and messages. lyrics serve as a method of communication and a medium for conveying messages, whether directly or indirectly (Siallagan et al., 2024). Lyrics are a unique form of art as they combine elements of language and music. As literary works, song lyrics employ linguistic elements such as words, sentence structures, stylistic devices, and so on to create meaning and convey messages. However, song lyrics also need to consider musical aspects such as rhythm, melody, and vocal harmonization.

One of the important linguistic aspects in examining song lyrics is morphology. Viewed through a linguistic lens, morphology is a field of study within linguistics that explores word forms, their alterations, and the consequences of such alterations (Azzahro et al., 2024). Morphology is a linguistic discipline dedicated to understanding the makeup of words within a language. Its objective is to dissect and elucidate languages, unearth linguistic patterns, and aid in the formation of new vocabulary (Kasir, 2024). Therefore, morphology holds significant importance in comprehending word meanings and the arrangement of these words to construct meaningful sentences.

In morphology, the concept of morphemes is fundamental. Morphemes are the smallest units of language that cannot be broken down further. They are classified into two types: free morphemes (morfem bebas), and bound

morphemes (morfem terikat) (Septiana, 2020). Bound morphemes are elements of words that cannot function independently and need other morphemes to form meaning. Conversely, free morphemes are components of words that have standalone meaning and can be used without additional morphemes (Putria & Ratnaningsih, 2022).

Free morphemes can be categorized into two types: lexical morphemes and functional morphemes. Lexical morphemes include nouns, adjectives, and verbs, while functional morphemes include conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and pronouns. Meanwhile, bound morphemes consist of affixes such as prefixes, infixes, and suffixes.

The analysis of morphemes, both free and bound morphemes, in song lyrics can provide valuable insights into how linguistic elements play a role in creating meaning and conveying messages through art forms like music. The selection of words and sentence structures can help songwriters express emotions and ideas more effectively. One popular song that is interesting to examine from a morphological perspective is "Best Part" by singers Daniel Caesar and H.E.R. in 2017. The song "Best Part" is an adult R&B track that achieved success in October 2018. With simple music production using acoustic guitar, bass, synthesizer, and snaps, along with vocal harmonies, the song highlights an engaging rhythm. The sampled snap adds an additional touch to the song with reverberant sounds on the second and fourth beats (Merrill, 2022).

The song "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R. is not only intriguing to explore from a morphological perspective due to its abundant use of both free and bound morphemes in the lyrics, but also because of its captivating musicality that makes it a delightful listen. Apart from its captivating lyrical content, the song boasts musical allure, making it appealing to a wide range of listeners with diverse backgrounds and music preferences. Consequently, its captivating musicality adds another layer of justification for selecting this song as the subject of morphological inquiry, allowing for a deeper comprehension of how language contributes to crafting an emotionally evocative narrative in an artistic creation.

Several previous studies have also examined free morphemes and bound morphemes. The first study is titled *"Analysis Of Free Morphemes And Bound Morphemes In The Lyrics Of The Album 'Camelia Iv' By Ebiet G. Ade As An Alternative Teaching Material In High Schools"* by (Risma Silvia, Masitoh, 2023). This study aims to describe the types of morphemes in the lyrics as alternative teaching materials for high school students. The results of the study found 284 instances containing free morphemes and bound morphemes, consisting of prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and circumfixes. Free morphemes have complete meanings without needing to combine with other morphemes, whereas bound morphemes need to combine with other morphemes to be meaningful. The similarity between this study and the one conducted by the author is that both aim to describe free morphemes and bound morphemes in song lyrics. However, the difference is that the first study analyzes the lyrics from the album "Camelia IV" by Ebiet G. Ade, while the second study focuses on the lyrics of the song "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R. The first study involves ten songs from a full album, whereas the second study focuses on a single song. Based on the background provided, the research problem formulation for this study is, "What are the free morphemes and bound morphemes found in the lyrics of 'Best Part' by Daniel Caesar and HER?" Therefore, the objective of this research is to determine the free morphemes and bound morphemes that exist in the lyrics of the song.

The second study conducted by (Ibrahim & Rahayu, 2023), titled *"An Analysis of Morphemes on Maher Zain's Song ('One') Album,"* aimed to identify the types of morphemes in Maher Zain's songs and determine the most dominant type of morpheme. The study revealed four types of morphemes in Maher Zain's song lyrics: free morphemes, bound morphemes, inflectional morphemes, and derivational morphemes. The similarity between this study and the current research lies in their aim to analyze morphemes in song lyrics. However, there are significant differences in their approach and scope. The study on Maher Zain's songs from the album "One" expanded its analysis to fifteen songs, while the research on the song "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R. focused on a single song.

The recent study titled *"Analysis Of Free And Bound Morphemes In Supirman As' Solo Classical Guitar Album As A Potential Teaching Resource For High Schools,"* by (Nuri Tika Safitri, Sumarno, 2023). Aimed to explore the presence of free and bound morphemes within the lyrics of Supirman As' album "Gitar Klasik Tunggal." The research uncovered 725 instances containing various morphemes, including prefixes, suffixes, circumfixes, and klofixs. Specifically, the analysis identified 664 instances of free morphemes and 61 instances of bound morphemes. As a result, the study concluded that the lyrical content of the "Gitar Klasik Tunggal" album meets the criteria for effective teaching materials, thus making it a viable option for incorporation into high school. The parallel between this investigation and the author's research lies in their shared objective of delving into morpheme analysis within song lyrics, with a particular emphasis on free and bound morphemes. However, the notable disparity lies in their analytical scopes: while the examination of "Gitar Klasik Tunggal" encompasses the entire album, the study of "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R. is confined to a single track.

Drawing from the context provided, the research question posed in this study is: "What are the instances of free and bound morphemes observed within the lyrics of 'Best Part' by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R.?" Hence, the aim of this research is to ascertain the presence of free and bound morphemes within the lyrical composition of "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R.

### Method

This research employs a literature review approach, gathering and analyzing data from written sources such as books, journals, and relevant online resources. This approach is chosen because the study focuses on the analysis of song lyrics texts without involving field data collection.

The main data for this study consists of the lyrics of "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R., acquired from the official source, the Genius website ([genius.com](https://www.genius.com)), a reputable site for lyrics reference. Subsequently, these lyrics will be

meticulously examined and analyzed to identify instances of free morphemes and bound morphemes within the song's lyrics. Read repeatedly, then mark the words containing free and bound morphemes. Secondary sources such as books and journals discussing morphological theory and song lyric analysis are also collected as references. The criteria for selecting data sources include relevance, credibility, and accuracy of information. The selected sources must provide relevant information on the research topic, come from credible sources, and have high data accuracy.

### **Discussion**

Based on the data analyzed in the lyrics of the song "Best Part," it is evident that both bound morphemes and free morphemes are used. These morphemes are then categorized based on their types.

"Best Part" Song lyrics by Daniel Caesar dan H.E.R:

*You don't know, babe*

*When you hold me*

*And kiss me slowly*

*It's the sweetest thing*

*And it don't change*

*If I had it my way*

*You would know that you are*

*You're the coffee that I need in the morning*

*You're my sunshine in the rain when it's pouring*

*Won't you give yourself to me, give it all, oh*

*I just wanna see*

*I just wanna see how beautiful you are*

*You know that I see it, I know you're a star  
Where you go, I'll follow, no matter how far  
If life is a movie, then you're the best part, oh  
You're the best part, ooh  
Oh-oh-oh-oh  
Best part  
It's this sunrise  
And those brown eyes, yes  
You're the one that I desire  
When we wake up  
And then we make love (make love)  
It makes me feel so nice  
You're my water when I'm stuck in the desert  
You're the Tylenol I take when my head hurts  
You're the sunshine on my life  
I just wanna see how beautiful you are  
You know that I see it, I know you're a star  
Where you go, I'll follow, no matter how far  
If life is a movie, then you're the best part  
Oh-oh-oh-oh  
You're the best part  
Oh-oh-oh-oh  
Best part (you're the best part)  
If you love me, won't you say something? (Say something)*

*If you love me, won't you? Ah*

*If you love me, won't you say something? (Say something)*

*If you love me, won't you? Love me, won't you?*

### **A. Free Morphemes in the Lyrics of the Song "Best Part"**

Based on the analysis conducted, several free morphemes were found to be used in the lyrics of the song "Best Part".

#### **Lexical morpheme**

##### **Noun:**

1. Babe (Sayang): This term is often used affectionately towards a loved one, possibly referring to a partner or sweetheart. In the lyric "You don't know, babe."
2. Thing (Hal): Generally, "thing" denotes an unspecified object or concept within the relevant context. In the lyric "It's the sweetest thing."
3. Way (Cara): Refers to the method or manner of doing something, here it could relate to how someone interacts or expresses themselves. In the lyric "If I had it my way."
4. Morning (Pagi): The early part of the day from sunrise until around noon. In the lyric "You're the coffee that I need in the morning."
5. Sunshine (Matahari): Warm, bright sunlight often symbolizing joy and happiness. In the lyric "You're my sunshine in the rain when it's pouring."
6. Rain (Hujan): Water falling from the sky in droplets, often representing renewal and cleansing. In the lyric "You're my sunshine in the rain when it's pouring."
7. Life (Kehidupan): Refers to existence and the experiences within the universe, commonly associated with human endeavors and emotions. In the lyric "If life is a movie, then you're the best part."
8. Part (Bagian): A segment or division of a larger whole. In the lyric "If life is a movie, then you're the best part."

9. Desert (Gurun): A barren, arid land often seen as a symbol of isolation and harsh conditions. In the lyric "You're my water when I'm stuck in the desert."
10. Eyes (Mata): Organs of sight in humans. In the lyric "And those brown eyes, yes."
11. Head (Kepala): Refers to the upper part of the human body containing the brain and sensory organs. In the lyric "You're the Tylenol I take when my head hurts."
12. Love (Cinta): Deep affection and emotional attachment between individuals. In the lyric "If you love me, won't you say something?"
13. Movie (Film): Audiovisual productions watched for entertainment or conveying messages. In the lyric "If life is a movie, then you're the best part."
14. Star (Bintang): Bright celestial bodies visible in the night sky. In the lyric "You know that I see it, I know you're a star."

### Verb :

1. Hold: (Memegang) The act of grasping something with one's hands or another part of the body. In the lyrics "You don't know, babe / When you hold me."
2. Kiss: (Mencium) The action of touching someone's lips with one's own as a sign of affection or passion. In the lyrics "When you hold me / And kiss me slowly."
3. Make: (Membuat) The act of creating or producing something. In the lyrics "And then we make love (make love)."
4. Follow: (Mengikuti) The action of going in the same direction as someone or something. In the lyrics "Where you go, I'll follow, no matter how far."
5. Say: (Mengucapkan) The action of uttering words from the mouth to convey sound or a message. In the lyrics "If you love me, won't you say something? (Say something)."
6. Change: (Mengubah) The act of making or experiencing alterations. In the lyrics "And it don't change."
7. Give: (Memberikan) The action of providing something to someone willingly. In the lyrics "Won't you give yourself to me, give it all, oh."

8. See: (Melihat) The act of using one's eyes to observe or perceive something. In the lyrics "I just wanna see / I just wanna see how beautiful you are."
9. Wake up: (Bangun tidur) The action of emerging from sleep or consciousness. In the lyrics "When we wake up."
10. Make love: (Berhubungan seksual) The action of engaging in sexual intercourse with a partner. In the lyrics "And then we make love (make love)."

**Adjective:**

1. Sweetest: (Ter-manis) The phrase Refers to something that has a very sweet taste or quality, or is emotionally pleasing. The example usage in lyrics, "It's the sweetest thing,"
2. Brown: (Coklat) The phrase Describing the color brown. The example usage in lyrics, "And those brown eyes
3. Beautiful: (Indah) Used to describe something that is visually or emotionally appealing. Example usage in lyrics: "I just wanna see how beautiful you are."
4. Best: (Terbaik) Refers to having the highest quality or achievement. Example usage in lyrics: "If life is a movie, then you're the best part."
5. Nice: (Bagus atau menyenangkan) Used to express a pleasant or positive feeling towards something. Example usage in lyrics: "It makes me feel so nice."

**Functional morpheme**

**Conjunctions:**

1. If: Used to express a condition or requirement. Example usage in the lyrics: "If I had it my way" and "If life is a movie, then you're the best part."
2. And: Connects two parts of a sentence or phrase. Example usage in the lyrics: "When you hold me / And kiss me slowly" and "When we wake up / And then we make love (make love)."
3. When: Indicates a specific time or condition. Example usage in the lyrics: "When it's pouring" and "When we wake up."

**Prepositions:**

1. In: Indicates location or position. Example usage in the lyrics: "You're my sunshine in the rain when it's pouring."
2. With: Indicates a relationship or association between two things. Example usage in the lyrics: "You're the Tylenol I take when my head hurts."

#### **Articles and Pronouns:**

1. The: A definite article indicating a specific object or concept. Example usage in the lyrics: "It's the sweetest thing" and "If life is a movie, then you're the best part."
2. You: Refers to someone being addressed. Example usage in the lyrics: "You're the coffee that I need in the morning" and "You know that I see it, I know you're a star."
3. I: Refers to oneself. Example usage in the lyrics: "I just wanna see how beautiful you are" and "I just wanna see."

#### **Adverbs:**

1. Then: Indicates a sequence of events or a consequence. Example usage in the lyrics: "If life is a movie, then you're the best part."

### **B. Bound Morphemes in the lyrics of the song "Best Part"**

In addition to free morphemes, in the lyrics of the song "Best Part," the use of bound morphemes such as affixes such as prefixes, infixes, and suffixes is also found.

#### **Suffix:**

1. ly (from "slowly"): Used to form an adverb from a verb, indicating the manner or state of an action. In the lyrics: "And kiss me slowly"
2. est (from "sweetest"): Used to form the superlative degree of an adjective, indicating the highest or most extreme level. In the lyrics: "It's the sweetest thing."

### **Conclusion**

This study successfully identified and categorized free morphemes and bound morphemes in the lyrics of "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R. The lyrics contain various types of free morphemes such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and pronouns. Additionally, bound morphemes were found in the form of suffixes. This analysis highlights the important role these linguistic elements play in conveying meaning and emotion in the song, enriching the listener's experience and enabling deeper artistic expression. This study contributes to the understanding of morphology in song lyrics and can serve as a reference for similar research in the future.

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