

## Morphologic Segmentation Linearity in Jose Garcia Villa's *PROEM*

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### ABSTRACT

Morphology is the study of the intertwined relationship of morphemes, or what we commonly refer to as "words.". Analysis of words enables us to experience how to break apart unfamiliar words in order to understand their overall meanings. It aids us in understanding how prefixes and suffixes can change a word's meaning and how much of our language is constructed. This paper aims to analyze morphologically the textuality of the poem Proem by Jose Garcia Villa by describing the segmentation of the content and function words in the textuality of the poem PROEM focusing on the affixation structuration of the lexical and grammatical morphemes. This study covers a linear morphologic analysis of the segmentation of the content and function words in the textuality of the poem. This paper also uses a descriptive analysis method of research in analyzing the data gathered. The linear morphologic segmentation of morphemic contents of the poem "PROEM" by Jose Garcia Villa reveals nineteen lexical morphemes. There are ten (10) simple form (roots), seven (7) complex forms (affixations and roots), one (1) compound form (two roots combined), and one (1) compound-complex form (two roots combined and affixation). On the other hand, there are seven (7) grammatical morphemes of three prepositions, two determiners and two conjunctions. It further reveals that words undergo changes in terms of their class after going through the process of affixation. The results prove that the poem "Proem" by Jose Garcia Villa follows morphologic segmentation linearity in its free verse textuality. This study thus recommends that a parallel morphological investigation be conducted on different textualities of poetry used and read by teachers and students in the process of academic discourse.

**Keywords:** *affixation, morphology, segmentation linearity, structural analysis*

### Introduction

The study of Morphology impacts and affects both the student and the instructor; it compliments the learner and the teacher in many fundamental ways and reasons that to study this field of linguistics becomes a necessity. Analysis of words enables us to experience how to break apart unfamiliar words to understand their overall meanings. It aids us in understanding how prefixes and suffixes can change a word's meaning and how much of our language is constructed. An increase in vocabulary and reading comprehension will also be experienced by language learners when sufficient knowledge of Morphology is achieved.

Just by learning a few prefixes, roots,

and suffixes, a world of new words linked to that one word part is introduced to that student. Take the prefix 'dis,' which means not, apart, or away. It's linked to a variety of words like disconnect, disappear, and dishonest. Now, if a student is presented with a word like dislocate and he only recognizes the prefix 'dis,' he will at least know it's something negative. But, if he has also learned the root 'loc,' which means place, then he can understand why someone would be in a lot of pain if she dislocated her shoulder. By knowing the root 'loc,' words like locomotion, locale, and locating can all be understood. Changing the suffix for a word, like locating, can alter its meaning by making it present tense as in locates or changing it to locale so that we're now talking about a setting or location (Wilson, 2003).

On the part of the teacher, being well-versed in morphemic analysis is a big advantage. Teaching will be more manageable and basic. It will enable the teacher to fully grasp the gist of the subject matter because the words used are fully understood.

This study argues that the poem "PROEM" by Jose Garcia Villa follows morphologic segmentation linearity in its free verse textuality. This assumption is supported by Corder's theory of linear grammar. This theory assumes that grammar interprets a language's syntactic composition as a "string" of grammatical categories laced together similar to that of beads on a necklace, or as a series of "slots" to be filled with words of the right category for each slot. For this reason, this model of linguistic description is also called "slot-and-filler grammar" because it treats the structure of the sentence as a linear pattern. The choice of each successive category depends upon the category immediately preceding it. This theory is supported by the Linear Grammar (LG) theory by Noam Chomsky which defines linear grammar as a practical framework for linguistic analysis influenced by three traditions in linguistic theory: (1) categorical grammar (CG), a kind of syntactic analysis founded by Joachim Lambek that treats lexical entries and grammar rules, respectively, as axioms and inference rules as a proof theory; (2) montague semantics, founded by Richard Montague, primarily influenced by earlier philosophical logicians Frege (1892), Carnap (1947), and Kripke (1963), and (3) dynamics semantics, founded by Kamp (DRT, 1981), Heim (FCS, 1982), and others who based their ideas on the Philosophical paradigm that focuses on the role of context in the interpretation of multi-sentence discourses..

Morphology is an essential field in Linguistics. It is a study of words. Below are different scholarly definitions of Morphology: John Lyons (1968) says : "...*morphology deals with the internal structure of words...*" L. Bloomfield ( 1973) says: "*By the morphology of a language, we mean the constructions in which bound forms appear among the constituents.*". A. Gleason ( 1970 ) says: "...*morphology is the description of the more intimate combinations of morphemes, roughly what are familiarly called 'words'...*". Charles F. Hockett ( 1958 ) says: "*Morphology includes the stock or segmental morpheme and the ways in which words are built out of them*".

Morphology, according to Parker and Riley is defined as the structure of words that

involves word-formation. Each word is made up of basic units of meaning (morphemes) which is more or less constant in sense and form. Generally, that can stand alone (having sense) in meaning as words by themselves are called FREE MORPHEMES, whereas those morphemes that can only be meaningful when attached to free morphemes are called BOUND MORPHEMES. In the word "BOYS", the word BOY is the free morpheme (root) and -S is the bound morpheme (suffix of plurality).

FREE MORPHEMES can be lexical morphemes (can stand in a sentence sensibly alone as content words) such as Noun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb or grammatical morphemes (can only be sensible when they express some sort of relationship between lexical morphemes as function words) such as Preposition, Determiners, and Conjunction.

BOUND MORPHEMES refer to affixes (prefix, suffix, infix), which can be inflectional morphemes (do not change the part of speech of words to where they are attached) and derivational morphemes (change the part of speech of words or vary/shift the meaning of words to where they are attached). Parker and Riley further theorize that new words are formed through a process known as WORD-FORMATION (also known as idiom-formation). The processes involved are as follows;

DERIVATION- addition of a derivational affix, changing the syntactic category of the item to which it is attached ex: orientation, CATEGORY EXTENSION- the extension of a morpheme from one syntactic category to another ex: chair as a noun to chair as a verb, COMPOUNDING- creating a new word by combining two free morphemes ex: put-down, ROOT CREATION – a brand new word is made based on no pre-existing morphemes ex: Kodak, CLIPPED FORM- a short form of a pre-existing morpheme ex: bra for brassiere, BLEND- the combination of parts of two pre-existing forms ex: smog, ACRONYM- a word formed from the first letter(s) of each word in a phrase ex: NASA and ABBREVIATION- a word formed from the names of the first letters of the prominent syllables of a word ex: TV for Television.

From the different definitions mentioned, it is conclusive to say argue that Morphology is a branch of Linguistics that examines how words are formed, the forming process of the word, and its transformation process in forms, which then clarifies the differences in its function and meaning.

This linear morphologic analysis of the segmentation of the content and function words in the textuality of the poem PROEM by Jose Garcia Villa focuses on the affixation structuration of the lexical and grammatical morphemes.

Specifically, it focuses on the following:

*lexical morphemes*; and  
*grammatical morphemes*.

Students need strategies to acquire new words independently. Educating language scholars to use word parts to ascertain the meanings of words in the text can be beneficial to their lexico development. "Knowing some common prefixes and suffixes (affixes), base words, and root words can help students learn the meanings of many new words" (Armbruster, Lehr, & Osborn, 2001). With this study, students will appreciate how roots and affixes are used to derive meaning from an unknown word, enriching their vocabulary. Affixation, simple it may seem, but from its simplicity comes the uniqueness nay complexity of the word-formation p.

### **Method**

This study covers a linear morphologic analysis of the segmentation of the content and function words in the textuality of the poem "PROEM" by Jose Garcia Villa, which will be analyzed using affixation structuration of the lexical and the grammatical morphemes. Hence, each word in the poem will be categorized as lexical morphemes and grammatical morphemes. Lexical morphemes will be categorized as noun affixations, verb affixations, and adverb affixations, while grammatical morphemes will be categorized as constituents (determiner, prepositions, and pronoun).

This paper uses a descriptive analysis method of research. Language description is the main concern of this study. It focuses on the analysis of the language, not how language is acquired. It purely describes the language of the textuality which can either be oral or written. Surakhmad (1994) states that the descriptive method is a kind of research method using the technique of searching, collecting, classifying, analyzing the data, interpreting them, and finally drawing the conclusion.

Here, Structural Analysis of words in the textuality is made. In Linguistics, Structural Analysis is the process of breaking down words into fragments in order to figure out what they really imply. The components in a word, which are divided into bits of pieces contribute to the analysis of its overall meaning of a word. Many words in the English language are composed of a root, a prefix, and/or a suffix. With this, a word is analyzed according to its usage in the sentence or phrase.

This paper describes the poem PROEM by Jose Garcia Villa. The chosen author is Jose Garcia Villa, a world-renowned poet, literary critic, short story writer, and visual artist from

the Philippines. He is a recipient of the coveted title in Philippine Arts: National Artist for Literature (1973). He is considered by many literary scholars as one of the brightest modern-day writers irrespective of race or language. He is regarded as the Best Filipino writer in English by literary critics from the Philippines and around the globe. JGV pioneered the reversed consonance rime scheme but what really cemented his place in the poetry world is his "comma poems", a style of writing poetry where he creatively and innovatively place a comma after each word in the poem. Jose Garcia Villa would make his readers pause for every word, slowing the pace of the poem resulting to what he called "a lineal dignity of pace and movement". A stroke of genius indeed. He used Doveglion, a blending of the words "Dove," "Eagle" and "Lion" as a pen name, coincidentally the very characters he attributed to himself. His awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, Philippines Heritage Award, Poetry Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, and Shelley Memorial Award. The poem "PROEM" is one of his more simple poems, ideal for this linguistic inquiry.

The morphologic analysis of this poem is organized into three phases. Idealization of Raw Data, Segmentation of content words (noun, verb, adjective, and adverb), and Affixation.

*Phase One* – Preparatory Phase. Since our data is in poetry form, this first phase involves the idealization of raw data. Raw data were analyzed by retrieving the ellipsis (elliptical units) in order to have complete sentences. Sentences are groups of words that make complete sense, contain a main verb, and begin with a capital letter. They are used to ask questions, make requests/commands, make statements, give orders, and express exclamations.

*Phase two*- Content words in the textuality are segmented and identified into their respective word class. They are further classified into form if they are simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex.

*Phase three* – Affixations. Affixation is adding of a morpheme (or affix) to a word to generate (a) a different form of that word (ball → balls) or (b) a new word with a different meaning (ball → baller). In English, affixation is the most prevalent method of creating new words. Prefixation (adding a prefix) and suffixation (adding a suffix) are the two main types of Affixation ( adding a suffix).

Through structural analysis, the study of the language of the textuality is done. Identification of contents words is made first. Then separation of these words according to their usage; whether it is a Noun, a Verb, an Adjective, or an Adverb is made. Analysis of the content words involves dividing the

root from the affixes, may it be a prefix or an affix or both. An explanation of the analysis will commence after that.

## Findings and Discussion

### Idealization of Raw Data

1. The meaning of a poem is not a meaning of words.
2. The meaning of poem is a symbol like the breathlessness of Birds
3. A poem cannot be repeated in paraphrase
4. A poem is not a but a grace
5. A poem has no meaning but loveliness
6. A poem has purpose than to caress

There is no need for the idealization of raw data because the lines in the poem do not contain elliptical items.

The poem "PROEM" by Jose Garcia Villa. (as shown below) contains the following lexical morphemes.

**Table 1**  
**Lexical Morphemes found in Jose Garcia Villa's Proem**

Lexical Morphemes	Forms	Roots	Affixes
Meaning (N)	Complex	Mean	-ing
Poem (N)	Simple	Poem	
Word (N)	Simple	Word-	
Symbol (N)	Simple	Symbol	
Breathlessness (N)	Compound-Complex	Breath	-less -ness
Birds (N)	Complex	Bird	
Paraphrase (N)	Compound	phrase	-s
Loveliness (N)	Complex	Love-	Para-
Purpose (N)	Simple	Purpose	-ly -ness
Thought (N)	Simple	Thought	
Is (V)	Simple	Is	
Cannot (V)	Compound	Can-	-not
Be (V)	Simple	Be	
Has (V)	Simple	Has	
Caress (V)	Complex	Care-	
Like (ADJ)	Simple	Like	-ss
Repeated (ADJ)	Complex	Repeat	
Not (ADV)	Simple	Not	-ed
No (ADV)	Simple	NO	

There are ten (10) simple forms of words, made up of roots only. They are Poem (N), Symbol (N), Purpose (N), Thought (N), Is (V), Be (V), Has (V), Not (ADV), No (ADV) and Like (ADJ). There are seven (7) complex forms of words, made up of roots and suffixes. They are Words (N), Meaning (N), Birds (N), Paraphrase (N), Loveliness (N), Caress (V) and Repeated (ADJ).

*Meaning-* from the base word mean, here the suffix -ing is added, resulting to a new word "meaning" *Words* - from the base word "word", here the suffix -s is added resulting to the plural form of the base word. *Birds-* from the base word

"Bird", here the suffix -s is added resulting to the plural form of the base word. *Caress-* from the base word "care," with the addition of the suffix -ss, the base word was transformed from a Noun to a Verb.

*Repeated-* from the base word "repeat," with the addition of the suffix -ed the past tense of the base word is formed. *Loveliness* - from the base word "Love", here two suffixes were added the suffix -ly and the suffix -ness. The addition of the first suffix (-ly) transformed the base word from a Noun to Adjective. But with the addition of another suffix (-ness) the base word is transformed back to a Noun.

*Paraphrase-* from the base word "phrase", here the prefix para- is added. Though there was no change in the kind of content word (still, the usage is as a Noun), the meaning of the base word is changed. There is only one (1) compound form or words, made up of two simple forms. The word is "Cannot" (V). *Cannot-* here we have a combination of two simple words, the verbs "can and "not"

There is one (1) compound-complex form of word, made up of two simple forms and a suffix. This is the word Breathlessness (N). *Breathlessness-* from the base word "breath", here we have an addition of a simple word (adjective) "less" and the suffix -ness. The addition of the simple word (-less) transformed the base word from a Noun to Adjective. But with the addition of the suffix -ness, the base word is transformed back to a Noun.

The poem "PROEM" by Jose Garcia Villa. (as shown below) contains the following grammatical morphemes:

**Table 2**  
**Grammatical Morphemes Found in Jose Garcia Villa's Proem**

Grammatical Morphemes	Constituents	Function in the Sentence
Of	Preposition	To indicate apposition
A	Determiner	Used to refer a noun
The	Determiner	Used to introduce a phrase
In	Preposition	Used to indicate a circumstance
To	Preposition	Used to indicate an action
But	Conjunction	Used to contrast
Than	Conjunction	Used to indicate difference in manner

The preposition OF in sentences 1 and 2 are used to indicate apposition.

- ...of poem... sentence 1 and 2
- ...of words... sentence 1
- ...of birds... sentence 2

The Determiner A in all sentences is used to refer a noun

- ... a poem... sentence 1-5
- ...a meaning... sentence 1
- ...a symbol... sentence 2
- ...a grace... sentence 4

The determiner THE in sentence 1 and 2 introduces a sentences

- ...The meaning...sentence 1 and 2

The preposition IN in sentence 3 is used to indicate a circumstance

- ...in paraphrase...

The preposition TO in sentence 6 is used to indicate an action

- ...to caress...

The conjunction BUT in sentence 4 and 5 is used to contrast

- ...but a grace... sentence 4
- ...but loveliness... sentence 5

The conjunction THAN in sentence 6 is used to indicate difference in manner

- ...no purpose than to caress.

### Conclusion

The linear morphologic segmentation of morphemic contents of the poem "PROEM" by Jose Garcia Villa reveals nineteen lexical morphemes of ten (10) simple form (roots), seven (7) complex forms (affixations and roots), one (1) compound form (two roots combined) and one (1) compound –complex form ( two roots combined and affixation) and seven (7) grammatical morphemes of three prepositions, two determiners and two conjunctions. The poem "PROEM" by Jose Garcia Villa follows morphologic segmentation linearity in its free verse textuality.

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