

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Fictional words in media such as movies or TV shows are created to help build the fictional worlds by creating a distinct way of speaking that differs from the standard English language. According to Noletto (2024) fictional languages could be created nearly from scratch or derived from existing natural languages. Creating fictional words and languages that are actually altered versions of the standard English language helps the audience understand them easier while also still having their own distinctive touch.

Fictional words can be an interesting topic to study from various perspectives, one of which is through the lens of language or linguistics. Linguistics is the scientific study of language (Crystal, 2008). Linguistics consists of many branches, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantic, and pragmatics (Fromkin et al. 2013).

Morphology is the study of the structure of words. New words are created using different processes called word formation. Word formation according to Yule (2023) consists of borrowing, compounding (which consists of blending), clipping (which consists of hypocorisms and backformation), conversions, coinage (which consists of acronyms), derivation, and multiple processes. Word formation can be applied to analyze how new words are created in various media other than movies and TV shows, such as posters, advertisements, and social media posts.

While morphology explains how fictional words are formed and their lexical meanings, it does not fully capture their communicative functions in interaction. To understand how these words function within its text, it is necessary to examine the speech functions they perform in speakers' utterances. Speech functions analysis provides a framework for identifying the communicative purposes of utterances. Holmes (2013) categorized speech functions into six types: expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic, and phatic. Sometimes, an utterance can have more than one function. Analyzing speech functions of utterances that contain fictional words could help the audience understand what the fictional words mean and what their functions are.

According to Kaiser and Shibahara (2014), film is seen as a material for enhancing vocabulary and communicative competence. Films employ language in rich audiovisual contexts, which helps develop an understanding between utterances and the contexts (Kaiser and Shibahara, 2014). Therefore, to understand the meaning of fictional words, one must analyze the utterances and context when they are being said.

In this study, the author will analyze the type of word formation and its functions used in the fictional words from the movies *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025). These movies were chosen for this study because they contain fictional words that mostly are similar to everyday English. Therefore, they are unique but still understandable for viewers to enjoy and create a lasting impression. Moreover, these fictional words could be analyzed in order to understand the writer's process in creating these words. *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025) are fantasy-musical adaptations of the stage musical *Wicked*. These movies

tell the origin stories of two major characters from the story *Wizard of Oz*: The Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good. *Wicked* (2024) tells the story of how they met at college in Shiz University while *Wicked: For Good* (2025) continues to tell the story of the two witches while the events of the story of the *Wizard of Oz* occur, giving the audience a new perspective of the original story. Like *Wizard of Oz*, *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025) took place in the land of Oz. There are many aspects that help build Oz into the whimsical and magical place it is. One of which is how the citizens of Oz speak. They speak in English, but some of the words are created to be slightly different than everyday English. They take words that are common in everyday English and add different affixes and combine different words to make it their own such as “Pessi-mystical” and “Confusifying.”

Many studies have applied word formation in analyzing the form of words in different media. Rantia (2023) analyzed the slang words, their meanings, and the types of word formations used in the *Aladdin* (2019) movie script. Another study by Raskyana (2024) analyzed the word formation of the words using Yule’s word formation processes. This study also analyzed the types of slang that were found in the movie *Fast X*. A journal article by Sopiah and Yulianisha (2023) also analyzed the word formation processes of slang in the movie *Camp Rock*. Another similar study is a journal article by Kamagi, et al. (2023). This study was aimed to analyze the word formation processes by Yule that was used in the movie *Captain Marvel*. Lastly, the thesis by Wiranata (2020) also analyzed the word formation processes in the movie *Ready Player One* using Yule’s word formation processes.

There are also previous studies that analyzed the speech function of dialogues in movies. One of which is a journal article by Wardhana and Maharani (2023). This study analyzed the types of Holmes' speech functions used by the main characters of the movie *Turning Red*. Another similar study is a journal article by Dwiningtyas, et al. (2023). This study applied Holmes' speech functions in the movie *Over the Moon*. A journal article by Dewi (2024) also utilized Holmes' speech function in the movie *Frozen II*. Another study on Holmes' speech functions is a journal article by Friarly and Linuwih (2023). This study specifically explores the speech functions of the main character in the movie *Joker*. Lastly, the journal article by Maharani, et al. (2025) is a study that also analyzes speech functions in the movie *La La Land*.

Similar to the previous studies, this study will also analyze word formation processes in movie scripts. But this study differs from the other studies because this study will not analyze the word formation processes of common words or slang in English. It will analyze the vocabulary that is only found and used in the movie *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025). This study will also analyze the speech functions of the utterances that contain the fictional words, from there the functions of the fictional words in the utterances will also be explored and how it contributes to building the characters and the plot of the movies.

1.2. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the author will try to answer these following questions:

1. How are the fictional words from the movies *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025) formed through word formation processes?
2. What are the functions of the fictional words used by the characters in the movies *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025)?
3. How do the fictional words support the characterization and plot of the movies *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025)?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

This study has several purposes, as mentioned in the following:

1. To explore the types of word formation used in the fictional words in the movie *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025).
2. To identify the functions of the fictional words in the utterances of the movies *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025).
3. To analyze the roles of the fictional words in building the plot and characters of the movies.

1.4. Limitation of the Study

This study will only analyze the fictional words found in the movies *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025), the words and clauses that can be found in the English dictionary will not be analyzed. Those words are used to check the meaning of fictional words. Visual elements of the movies are also only used to provide context, not as the object of the analysis. This study will also not include the fictional words from the Broadway musical *Wicked*.

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study can help the readers understand how fictional words from movies are formed and how they can be understood by analyzing the dialogues between the characters in movies. This study will also enlighten readers on how crucial the role these fictional words play in the overall movies

