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Norman C. Stageberg *An Introductory English Grammar*. 2020	**المصادر والمراجع**

Analysis of Chapter Eleven: Inflectional Paradigms in *An Introductory English Grammar* by Norman C. Stageberg

Chapter Eleven of *An Introductory English Grammar* (fifth edition, 2000) by Norman C. Stageberg, co-authored with Dallin D. Oaks, focuses on inflectional paradigms, a key concept in understanding how words change form to express grammatical categories such as number, tense, case, or degree. Building on earlier chapters about morphemes (Chapter Eight), word classification (Chapter Nine), and word-formation processes (Chapter Ten), this chapter provides advanced students with a systematic framework for analyzing how inflectional morphemes modify words to fit specific grammatical contexts. It is particularly valuable for linguistics students and non-native English learners aiming to master the grammatical nuances of English.

Content and Structure

Chapter Eleven introduces **inflectional paradigms** as the sets of forms a word can take to indicate grammatical categories. Unlike derivational morphemes, which create new words (e.g., "happy" to "happiness"), inflectional morphemes modify a word's form to express grammatical relationships without changing its core meaning or part of speech. Stageberg outlines the primary inflectional categories in English, focusing on the following word classes and their paradigms:

- **Nouns**: The chapter discusses noun inflections for **number** (singular vs. plural, e.g., "cat" vs. "cats") and **possessive case** (e.g., "cat's" or "cats'"). It explains regular plural forms (adding "-s" or "-es") and irregular forms (e.g., "child" to "children," "mouse" to "mice"). The possessive inflection is highlighted as a way to indicate ownership or association.
- **Verbs**: Verb paradigms are explored in detail, covering inflections for **tense** (e.g., present "walk" vs. past "walked"), **person and number** (e.g., "walks" for third-person singular), **mood** (e.g., indicative, subjunctive), and **aspect** (e.g., progressive "walking"). The chapter explains regular verb conjugations (e.g., "-ed" for past tense) and irregular verbs (e.g., "go" to "went" to "gone"). Auxiliary verbs and their roles in forming complex paradigms (e.g., "has walked" for present perfect) are also addressed.
- **Adjectives and Adverbs**: The chapter covers **comparative** and **superlative** forms for adjectives and some adverbs, such as "big," "bigger," "biggest" or "fast," "faster," "fastest." It notes irregular forms like "good," "better," "best" and explains how these inflections indicate degree.

- **Pronouns**: Pronoun paradigms are discussed, focusing on **case** (nominative, objective, possessive; e.g., "I," "me," "my"), **number** (singular vs. plural, e.g., "he" vs. "they"), and **gender** (e.g., "he" vs. "she"). The chapter highlights how pronouns have more complex inflectional paradigms than other word classes due to their varied grammatical roles.

Stageberg emphasizes that English has a relatively limited set of inflectional morphemes compared to other languages, with only eight primary inflectional endings: noun plural ("-s"), noun possessive ("-'s"), verb third-person singular present ("-s"), verb past tense ("-ed"), verb past participle ("-ed" or "-en"), verb present participle ("-ing"), adjective/adverb comparative ("-er"), and adjective/adverb superlative ("-est"). The chapter also addresses **allomorphs**, variant forms of inflectional morphemes (e.g., the past tense "-ed" pronounced as /t/ in "walked," /d/ in "played," or /ɪd/ in "wanted").

Pedagogical Approach

Chapter Eleven is designed to balance theoretical explanation with practical application, consistent with Stageberg's accessible teaching style. The chapter includes exercises that prompt students to identify and analyze inflectional forms in words and sentences. For example, students might be asked to conjugate a verb like "sing" across its paradigm (e.g., "sing," "sings," "sang," "sung," "singing") or to determine the inflectional morphemes in a phrase like "the cats' toys." These exercises reinforce the chapter's concepts and help students apply inflectional analysis to real-world language use.

The chapter uses clear, everyday English examples to illustrate paradigms, making it accessible to both native and non-native speakers. Its structured approach, with concise definitions and practical tasks, supports classroom instruction and self-study, particularly for non-native learners in regions like Vietnam, where the textbook is a staple for English majors.

Objectives

The primary objective of Chapter Eleven is to enable students to understand and analyze inflectional paradigms, equipping them with the skills to recognize how words change form to express grammatical relationships. The chapter aims to deepen students' knowledge of English morphology by focusing on how inflectional morphemes function within noun, verb, adjective, adverb, and pronoun paradigms. It seeks to help students, especially non-native learners, master the grammatical accuracy required for effective communication by understanding inflectional patterns. Additionally, the chapter connects inflectional paradigms to syntax, showing how inflections

contribute to sentence structure and agreement, fostering a comprehensive understanding of English grammar.

Contributions

Chapter Eleven makes significant contributions to English grammar education by providing a clear and systematic framework for understanding inflectional paradigms. Its detailed exploration of how nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns inflect to express grammatical categories offers students a critical tool for analyzing language structure. By emphasizing English's limited but essential inflectional morphemes and their allomorphs, the chapter enhances students' ability to navigate grammatical nuances, which is particularly valuable for non-native learners.

The inclusion of practical exercises strengthens the chapter's pedagogical value, making it a vital resource for educators and students in linguistics and English language courses. By linking inflectional paradigms to earlier discussions of morphemes and word formation, Chapter Eleven bridges theoretical and practical linguistics, supporting advanced learners in mastering English grammar. Its clarity and accessibility have made it especially impactful for non-native English learners, reinforcing the textbook's global influence in grammar instruction and its role as a cornerstone in linguistics education.