Suffix –Ing in the Book of Romans the Holy Bible

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Abstract

This article investigates the suffix –ing in The Book of Romans of The Holy Bible. This research belongs to a qualitative content with the use of descriptive design and distributional method to analyse gerunds, prepositions, and present participles as well as their functions as nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. The idea behind the distributional method is to identify morphemes through the distribution in various phrases or sentences. In this case, the data collected in this research was from The Holy Bible, specifically from The Book of Romans (Authorized King James Version) which contained 16 chapters. The Book of Romans consisted of various letters or epistles, written by the apostle Paul to the Christian church in Rome and aimed to give them direction, reassurance, and guidance. The results show that in a total of 115 words that the researchers found, 41 or 30% of them are gerunds functioning as nouns, 74 or 53% are present participles with 40 verbs, 3 adverbs, and 7 adjectives, as well as 24 or 17% prepositions.

Keywords: gerund, preposition, present participle, suffix

INTRODUCTION

In the English language learning process, students are required to study grammar, the use of gerunds and present participles included. Indonesian researchers (Nurhayati, 2019; Andriani, Yuniar, & Abdullah, 2021; Aniuranti, Faiza, & Wulandari, 2021) have conducted several studies in school, trying to enhance students' understanding of English grammar. However, many EFL students found grammar, including gerunds and present participles, difficult even at the university level (Ekaningsih, 2017; Aniuranti, Faiza, & Wulandari, 2021). Effendi, Rokhyati, Rachman, Rakhmawati, and Pertiwi (2017) also mention the difficulties university students face when constructing correct and good English sentences.

Obviously, grammar is significant in the English language learning process. Grammar is the asset, parameter, and structure of a language (Mashudi, Nurmansyah, Saenko, Nurjamin, & Sharifullina, 2022). Mashudi et al. (2022) describe grammar as having "a vital role in learning a second language". As university students, especially those majoring in English, grammar knowledge will become the foundation. Therefore, they emphasize the vital role of grammar for learners to converse and utilise English appropriately.

While learning English grammar, students encounter various topics, including tenses, functions within the clauses, types of sentences, types of phrases and so on. Basic grammar has become one of the essential elements of a language (Effendi et al, 2017). The use of gerunds and present participles is known to be one of the obstacles in learning English grammar. Those who do not know about gerund might mistake it for a present participle, the most known form of a verb with the suffix –ing.

In a study done by Al-Muthmainnsh (2018), students of 11th grade in MAN 1 Palu's ability in using the suffix –ing was examined by applying the inductive method. There were 8 meetings in total. Using the inductive method, she found that her students were able to identify the functions and the grammar rule of the suffix –ing. The functions of the suffix –ing in the research include a verb in the present progressive, a gerund, and an adjective in the present

participle. This study was done at the high school level. Lumbanbatu (2018) conducted research to check whether or not her students could determine gerund and present participle in s sentence. She collected the data through dialogues presented in tests. The study revealed that 78.26% of her students could identify them and 21.74% could not.

Some other studies of gerunds and to infinitive were conducted (Aswandi, Malik, & Saputra, 2018; Febriyanti, 2019; Mushtaq & Zehra, 2021; Unggul & Gulö, 2017). However, the researchers could only find a few works the gerund and present participle –ing, for example Irawan and Syafi'I (2021), Lumbanbatu (2018) and Šimůnková (2018). Hence, the researchers decided to analyse the suffix –ing as a gerund and present participle and two questions were formulated as follows:

1. What are the functions of the suffix –ing used in the Book of Romans of The Bible?
2. What is the frequency of word containing the –ing suffix in the Book of Romans of The Bible functioning as a gerund and present participle?

In the study of language, one of the branches known is morphology. Lardiere (2006) describes morphology as 'the study of the form', relating to the fundamentals of words. According to Katamba (1993, p.3), this branch of linguistics did not emerge until the nineteenth century. Morphology, as known now, brings awareness of the significance of words and their structure (Katamba, 1993, p.3). Lardiere (2006, p.59-60) also mentions that morphology focuses on the relationship between a meaning and a form within the words themselves. Morphology investigates the development of words as well as their association, which aids in the language-making process (Idham, Aljangawi, Massa'd, Baagbah, & Elshatshat, 2022).

From morphology, morphemes as the smallest units of language surfaces. Which then serves as the groundwork for the language and literacy process (Lee, Wolters, & Grace, 2022). As mentioned by Finegan (2014, p.40) in his book, words in a language become the most tangible elements. He regards those elements as morphemes (2004, p.47). It combines meaning with the way things sound as well as their form (what they mean) (Lardiere, 2006, p.61).

In making up a sentence, the words themselves can consist of more than one morpheme. There are a few types of combining with one being affixation, with the use of prefixes and suffixes (Pyles & Algeo,

1993, p.266). As explained by Finegan (2014, p.49), suffixes are usually attached by the end of the stem, while prefixes are located in the front. He also mentions that adding prefixes is only a "common way of creating new words" (2004, p.52).

There is no denying that while writing or speaking, learners will encounter affixes, suffixes included. Panjaitan, Togatorop and Damanik (2020) suggest that suffixes are morphemes applied by the end of a stem that "contributed to the meaning of words". However, as mentioned by Wardaugh and Fuller (2021), two effects influenced the stems that they are attached to. Suffixes are divided into two types, derivational and inflectional.

During the English learning process, learners will have to learn about the structure of making up words and sentences. Basic grammar has become one of the essential elements of a language (Effendi et al, 2017). The use of gerunds and present participles is known to be one of the obstacles in learning English grammar. For those who do not know about gerunds might mistake it as a present participle, the most known form of a verb with the suffix –ing.

The definition of gerund can be found in lots of grammar books. Azar (2017, p. 303), for instance, describes gerund as "the –ing form of a verb used as a noun". Which then elaborated by Burch (2003, p.94), that it has the function "as nouns and can appear where nouns do: in the subject slot, the direct object. They can also function as objects of prepositions and as appositives". A similar definition can also be found in Simamora's book (as cited in Lumbanbatu, 2018), where he states gerund may be used not only as a subject and direct object but also as a subjective complement and appositives. Gerunds that function as an object are divided into two, namely as "the object of the sentence" and as "the direct object of a certain verb" (Lambanbatu, 2018). Azar (2017, p.304) in her book lists the verbs that are followed by gerunds, such as: enjoy, appreciate, mind, quit, finish, avoid, etc.

Similar to gerund, the present participle is a verb with the addition of –ing by the end of the word (Azar, 2017). It is commonly used as a progressive

tense. In accordance with Azar (2017), progressive tense provides the impression of action in motion throughout that precise time. Usually, the verb 'to be' is placed before the progressive tense.

METHODOLOGY

For this research, the researchers conducted the distributional method to analyse gerunds, present participles, and prepositions in The Book of Romans (Authorized King James Version) of The Holy Bible. In the distributional method, units of language itself became the object of analysis (Raflis & Lase, 2018). The main goal of the distributional method is to make linguistic analysis less dependent on meaning and to establish a language's structure solely based on the distribution of its forms (Joseph, 2020). The idea behind the distributional method is to identify morphemes through the distribution in various phrases or sentences. In this case, the data is taken from The Book of Romans. The Christian doctrine presented in The Book of Romans is the most well-defined of all the Scriptures. Thus, using The Book Romans as the main source of data provides the researchers with large numbers of lexical items containing the suffix *–ing*.

The research itself is in the form of qualitative. Unlike quantitative research, qualitative generates non-numerical data. Instead, qualitative research investigates people's beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behaviour, and interactions (Pathak, Jena, & Kalra, 2013). Pathak et al. (2013) also believe that qualitative research uses the humanistic or idealistic approach when dealing with questions. Needleman and Needleman (1996) assert the role of qualitative studies is to gain a holistic insight into human interaction and look through the evidence in a particular case.

Other than that, the researchers also integrate the use of descriptive design to analyse gerunds, prepositions, and present participles as well as their functions as nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. A descriptive design aims not to look for a new theory, but rather to describe features of a phenomenon (Hammond & Wellington, 2012). Moreover, this research falls towards a qualitative descriptive study which derives from the inquiry itself, meaning to study within the research area (Lambert & Lambert, 2012).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data was taken from The Book of Romans (AKJV) in The Holy Bible, which contained 16 chapters. The Book of Romans consisted of various letters or epistles, written by the apostle Paul to the Christian church in Rome and aimed to give them direction, reassurance, and guidance (Ma, 2022). The researchers tabulated the data as shown:

Table 1. The suffix *–ing* in chapter 1

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	3 "**Concerning [1.1]** his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, …"	Prep
2.	3 "… the seed of David **according** [1.2] to the flesh."	Prep
3.	4 "... **according [1.3]** to the spirit of holiness…"	Prep
4.	9 "...that without **ceasing [1.4]** I make mention of you always in my prayers."	V
5.	10 "**Making [1.5]** request, if by any means…"	V
6.	22 "**Professing** [1.6] themselves to be wise, they became fools."	V
7.	23 "…and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and **creeping [1.7]** things."	Adj
8.	27 "And likewise also the men, **leaving [1.8]** the natural use of the woman…"	V
9.	27 "...men with men **working [1.9]** that which is unseemly…"	V
10.	27 "...that which is unseemly, and **receiving [1.10]** in themselves…"	V
11.	29 "**Being [1.11]** flled with all unrighteousness, fornication…"	N
12.	31 "Without **understanding [1.12],** covenantbreakers…"	N
13.	32 "Who, **knowing [1.13]** the judgment of God, that they…"	V

In chapter 1 of The Book of Romans, the researchers found 10 excerpts and 13 words containing the suffix *–ing.* Two of these are gerunds functioning as a noun, as seen in verses 29 and 31. **Being [1.11]**

becomes a noun because to start a sentence, a subject is usually a noun or a pronoun, depending on the context (Khairani, 2019). Gerund **being [1.11]** followed by the adjective *filled* means the experience or condition of being filled. In this case, it is followed by nouns such as *unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity,* and *whisperers*. This means 'being filled' by the experience or condition of *unrighteousness, fornication* or *wickedness*.

The gerund **understanding [1.12]** comes after the word *without*, which in this case is a preposition. To complete the phrase, a preposition is usually followed by a noun; in this case, it is **understanding [1.12]**. According to Khairini (2019), the correlation concerning persons, things, or actions appears when a preposition comes before a noun or a pronoun. Therefore, the preposition *without* and the gerund **[1.12]** means the absence of *understanding*.

The eight words found that fall under the participle form function into verbs and an adjective. The seven verbs found in chapter 1 are as follows:

9 "...that without **ceasing [1.4]** I make mention of you always in my prayers"

10 "**Making [1.5]** request, if …"

22 "**Professing [1.6]** themselves to be wise, they became fools"

27 "And likewise also the men, **leaving [1.8]** the natural use of the woman…"

27 "...men with men **working [1.9]** that which is unseemly…"

27 "...that which is unseemly, and **receiving [1.10]** in themselves …"

32 "Who, **knowing [1.13]** the judgment of God, that they…"

As for the adjective, the researchers could only one verse containing it. The participle form **creeping [1.7]** is followed by the noun *things*, making it a modifier. The word *creeping* modifies *things*. Things that are creeping, meaning animals that creep (i.e. lizards and/or crocodiles). The researchers could come to this conclusion based on her observation from the previous phrase of *four-footed beasts*.

The researchers found three verses containing a preposition, one of which happened to be at the start of the sentence. Verse 3 starts with the preposition **concerning [1.1]** followed by the pronoun *his*. It is not wrong to use the preposition at the beginning of a sentence since it is to show how words are associated with one another (Craiker, n.d). The other two words are **according [1.2]** and **[1.3]**, both are followed by the preposition *to*, making it a prepositional phrase. In this chapter, the researchers could not find words with the suffix *–ing* that serves as an adverb.

Table 2. The suffix *–ing* in chapter 2

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	2 "... of God is **according [2.1]** to truth against them…"	Prep
2.	4 "…the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long **suffering [2.2]**…"	N
3.	4 "...not **knowing [2.3]** that the goodness of God … repentance?"	V
4.	6 "Who will render to every man **according [2.4]** to his deeds."	Prep
5.	7 "To them who by patient continuance in well **doing [2.5]** seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life"	N
6.	14 "...do by nature the things contained in the law, these, **having [2.6]** not the law, are a law unto themselves"	V
7.	15 "...their conscience also **bearing [2.7]** witness…"	V
8.	15 "… and their thoughts the mean while **accusing [2.8]**…"	V
9.	15 "… or else **excusing [2.9]** one another"	V
10.	16 "… God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ **according [2.10]** to my gospel."	Prep
11.	18 "… the things that are more excellent, **being [2.11]** instructed out of the law"	N
12.	23 "Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through **breaking [2.12]** the law … God?"	V

In chapter 2 of The Book of Romans, the researchers found 12 words containing the suffix –*ing*. Four of these are gerunds functioning as a noun, as seen in verses 4, 7, and 12. The gerund **suffering [2.2]** and **doing [2.5]** became a noun with the adjectives *long* and *well* before them. Gerund **being [2.11]** followed by the adjective *instructed* meant the experience or condition of being instructed. In this case, being instructed is the experience or condition out of the law. The researchers found three verses containing a preposition, one of which happened to be at the start of the sentence. The three gerunds are **according [2.1]**, **[2.4]** and **[2.10]**. They are followed by the preposition *to*, making it a prepositional phrase. In this chapter, the researchers could not find words with the suffix –*ing* that serves as an adverb and an adjective.

Table 1. The suffix –*ing* in chapter 3

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	4 "...That thou mightest be justifed in thy **sayings** [3.1], and mightest overcome when thou art judged."	N
2.	14 "Whose mouth is full of **cursing** [3.2] and bitterness"	N
3.	21 "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, **being** [3.3] witnessed by the law and the prophets"	N
4.	27 "Where is **boasting** [3.4] then? It is excluded…"	N
5.	30 "**Seeing** [3.5] it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision…"	V

In chapter 3, the researchers found four excerpts containing gerunds and one present participle functioning as a verb. The gerunds in this chapter are formed into noun phrases. For example, **sayings [3.1]** became a noun in the sentence, "*That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings*", showing how a person might be proved right by one's saying. The function of **cursing [3.2]** here is equivalent to *bitterness*, signifying one's foul attitude by always cursing and saying nasty things. **Being [3.3]** is followed by an adjective *witnessed*, which meant the

experience or condition of being witnessed. In this case, 'being witnessed' to experience or condition of the law.

Table 2. The suffix –*ing* in chapter 4

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	1 "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as **pertaining [4.1]** to the flesh, hath found?"	Prep
2.	18 "...the father ..., **according [4.2]** to that which was spoken…"	Prep
3.	19 "And **being [4.3]** not weak in faith, he considered not his own…"	N
4.	21 "And **being [4.4]** fully persuaded that, what he had promised…"	N

Proceeding to the next chapter, the researchers found four excerpts containing the suffixes –*ing* and functioning as both gerund and preposition. Table 6 shows 2 gerunds and 2 participles functioning as a preposition. The researchers found it interesting that participle functioning as a verb could not be found. Because, so far, most words with the suffix –*ing* found are in participle form and function as a verb.

The two gerunds found are as shown in verses 19 and 21:

> 19 "And **being [4.3]** not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about …"

> 21 "And **being [4.4]** fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was …"

Both **[4.3]** and **[4.4]** are the gerunds *being* followed by adjectives *weak* and *persuaded*. The two prepositions found are as follows:

> 1. "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as **pertaining [4.1]** to the flesh, hath found?"

> 18 "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, **according [4.2]** to that which was spoken …"

Pertaining [4.1] is equivalent to **according [4.2]**, functioning as a preposition

followed by *to*. As aforementioned, the researchers could not find words containing the suffix –*ing* in participle form and functioning as a verb and an adjective.

Table 3. The suffix –*ing* in chapter 5

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	3 "…but we glory in tribulations also: **knowing [5.1]** that tribulation worketh patience."	V
2.	9 "Much more then, **being [5.2]** now justifed by his blood.."	N

In this chapter, the researchers found two verses containing the suffix –*ing* as a gerund and a present participle functioning as a verb. A verb, according to Harmer (2007), has the purpose to describe an action, experience, or state. The verb that the researchers found is in verse 3. **Knowing [5.1]** is the state of being aware of how tribulation creates perseverance. Meanwhile, **being [5.2]** in this context is a gerund followed closely by the adjective *justified*. This signifies the state of one being justified.

Table 4. The suffix –*ing* in chapter 6

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	9 "**Knowing [6.1]** that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more…"	V
2.	9 "...Christ **being [6.2]** raised from the dead dieth no more…"	N
3.	18 "**Being [6.3]** then made free from sin…"	N
4.	22 "But now **being [6.4]** made free from sin…"	N
5.	22 "...ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end **everlasting [6.5]** life."	Adj

In chapter 6, the researchers found three gerunds and two present participles as a verb and an adjective. Three of the gerunds are the word **being [6.2], [6.3],** and **[6.4]** followed by adjectives each. Next, the verb **knowing [6.1]** is the state of being aware of how tribulation creates perseverance. Lastly, the word **everlasting [6.5]** becomes an adjective, modifying the noun *life*. *Everlasting*, acquired from Oxford Learner's Dictionary (OLD) (2022), means

"continuing forever or never changing". Consequently, everlasting life means a long and/or never-ending life.

Table 5. The suffix –*ing* in chapter 7

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	6 "But now we are delivered from the law, that **being [7.1]** dead wherein we were held…"	N
2.	8 "But sin, **taking [7.2]** occasion by the commandment, wrought in me…"	V
3.	11 "For sin, **taking [7.3]** occasion by the commandment, …"	V
4.	13 "...But sin, that it might appear sin, **working [7.4]** death in me by that which is good…"	V
5.	13 "...that sin by the commandment might become **exceeding [7.5]** sinful."	Adv
6.	23 "But I see another law in my members, **warring [7.6]** against the law of my mind…"	V
7.	23 "...and **bringing [7.7]** me into captivity ..."	V

The researchers found two gerunds and five present participles functioning as verbs and an adjective in chapter 7. The gerund that the researchers found is the word **being [7.1].** It is followed by the adjective *dead* meant the experience or condition of being dead. In this case, *being dead* is the experience or condition of not being alive.

The next gerund is the word **exceeding [7.5]** found in verse 13. The initial thought that the author had was that it is an adjective; moreover, the author noticed the adjective *sinful* that came after it. After checking in Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the author found *exceeding* as a noun with the definition "*the action of exceed in various senses*" (2022). However, in this particular context, it becomes an adverb and an intensifier to modify 'become sinful'. The researchers also found that in OED, the adverb *exceeding* was commonly used during

the 17-18th century (2022). These days, the use of *exceedingly* as an adverb is more common rather than *exceeding*.

Finally, the seven verbs found in chapter 7 are as follows:

8 "But sin, **taking [7.2]** occasion by the commandment, wrought in me…"

11 "For sin, **taking [7.3]** occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me."

13 "...But sin, that it might appear sin, **working [7.4]** death in me by that which is good…"

23 "But I see another law in my members, **warring [7.6]** against the law of my mind…"

23 "...and **bringing [7.7]** me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

Table 6. The suffix –*ing* in chapter 8

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	3 "...God **sending** [8.1] his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh…"	V
2.	23 "...we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting** [8.2] for the adoption…"	V
3.	26 "...but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with **groanings** [8.3] which cannot be uttered."	N
4.	27 "...because he maketh intercession for the saints **according** [8.4] to the will of God."	Prep
5.	28 "...to them who are the called **according** [8.5] to his purpose."	Prep

In chapter 8, the author found one gerund, two present participles functioning as verbs, and two prepositions. The word **groanings [8.3]**, according to OLD (2022), means "a long deep sound made when someone/something groans". In this context, *groanings* are meant to be words that cannot

be uttered or spoken by the Spirit. Verse 26, the sentence that contained the gerund **groanings [8.3],** is as follows:

26 "...but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with **groanings [8.3]** which cannot be uttered."

The proposition that the author found is the word **according [8.4]** and **[8.5]**. Both are followed by the preposition *to*, making it a prepositional phrase. Additionally, the verbs that the author found are:

3 "...God **sending [8.1]** his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh"

23 "...we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting [8.2]** for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

Table 7. The suffix -*ing* in chapter 9

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	1 "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also **bearing [9.1]** me witness in the Holy Ghost"	V
2.	4 "...and the **giving [9.2]** of the law, and the service of God, and the promises"	N
3.	5 "Whose are the fathers, and of whom as **concerning [9.3]** the flesh Christ came…"	Prep
4.	11 "For the children being not yet born, neither **having [9.4]** done any good or evil…"	V
5.	11 "... that the purpose of God **according [9.5]** to election might stand…"	Prep
6.	22 "What if God, **willing [9.6]** to shew his wrath, and to make his power known…"	V
7.	22 "...endured with much long **suffering [9.7]** the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction"	Adj
8.	27 "Esaias also crieth **concerning [9.8]** Israel…"	Adv

Table 9 contains the suffixes –*ing* found in chapter 9 of The Book Romans. The author

found one gerund, four present participles functioning as verbs and an adjective, and, lastly, two prepositions. The gerund **giving [9.2]** has the definite article *the* before it, automatically making it a noun. Azar (2017) describes the use of *the* with a definite noun after when both the speaker and the listener know the precise objects being mentioned.

The prepositions that the author found are the word **according [9.3]** and **[9.5]**. Both are followed by the preposition *to*, making it a prepositional phrase. Additionally, the verbs that the author found are:

> 1 "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also **bearing [9.1]** me witness in the Holy Ghost"

> 11 "For the children being not yet born, neither **having [9.4]** done any good or evil…"

> 22 "What if God, **willing [9.6]** to shew his wrath, and to make his power known…"

Table 8. The suffix –*ing* in chapter 10

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	2 "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not **according [10.1]** to knowledge."	Prep
2.	3 "For they **being [10.2]** ignorant of God's righteousness…"	N
3.	3 "...**going [10.3]** about to establish their own righteousness…"	V
4.	17 "So then faith cometh by **hearing [10.4]**…"	N
5.	17 "...and **hearing [10.5]** by the word of God."	V
6.	21 "..All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and **gainsaying [10.6]** people."	Adj

As shown in Table 10, the researchers discovered two gerunds, three present participles functioning as verbs and an adjective, and a preposition. The gerunds in chapter 10 are **being [10.2]** and **hearing [10.4]**. **Being [10.2]** is followed by the adjective *ignorant*, which meant the experience or condition of 'being ignorant'. In this case, 'being ignorant' of God's virtue.

The gerund **hearing [10.4]** is a noun with the preposition *by* before it. **Hearing [10.5]**, on the other hand, is a verb followed by the preposition *by*. Next, **according [10.1]** is followed by the preposition *to*, making it a prepositional phrase. Lastly, the definition of **gainsaying [10.6]** according to OED (2022) is "given to contradiction, contumacious". In this context, **gainsaying [10.6]** is parallel to the adjective *disobedient*, modifying the noun *people* after it.

Table 9. The suffix –*ing* in chapter 11

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	2 "..How he maketh intercession to God against Israel **saying [11.1]**"	N
2.	5 "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant **according [11.2]** to the election of grace."	Prep
3.	8 "**According [11.3]** as it is written…"	Prep
4.	12 "…and the **diminishing [11.4]** of them the riches of the Gentiles…"	N
5.	15 "For if the casting away of them be the **reconciling [11.5]** of the world…"	N
6.	15 "...what shall the **receiving [11.6]** of them be, but life from the dead?"	N
7.	28 "As **concerning [11.7]** the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes…"	Prep
8.	28 "...but as **touching [11.8]** the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes."	Prep
9.	29 "For the gifts and **calling [11.9]** of God are without repentance."	N
10.	33 "…How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past **finding [11.10]** out!"	V

The preposition **according [11.2]** and **[11.3]** is with the preposition *to* and *as*. Thus, making it into a prepositional phrase. Additionally, **concerning [11.7]** and **touching [11.8]** are also a preposition. As cited from OED (2022), both **[11.7]** and **[11.8]** are somewhat familiar suggesting the meaning of "as regards; as relates to".

Four of the gerunds, **[11.4]**, **[11.5]**, **[11.6]**, and **[11.9]**, that the researchers found in this chapter are positioned after the article *the*, thus making it into a noun. However, one of the gerunds, **[11.1]**, is positioned after the preposition *against*. In this chapter, there is one verb in verse 33. **Finding [11.10]** in the phrase *finding out* has the same meaning as 'to uncover' according to OED (2022). Verse 33 is as follows:

> 33 "…How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past **finding [11.10]** out!"

Table 10. The suffix *–ing* in chapter 12

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	1 "...that ye present your bodies a **living [12.1]** sacrifice…"	Adj
2.	2 "...but be ye transformed by the **renewing [12.2]** of your mind…"	N
3.	3 "...but to think soberly, **according [12.3]** as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."	Prep
4.	5 "So we, **being [12.4]** many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."	N
5.	6 "**Having [12.5]** then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us..."	N
6.	6 "Having then gifts **differing [12.6]** according to the grace that is given to us…"	V
7.	6 "Having then gifts differing **according [12.7]** to the grace that is given to us…"	Prep
8.	6 "…let us prophesy **according [12.8]** to the proportion of faith"	Prep
9.	7 "Or ministry, let us wait on our **ministering [12.9]**…"	N
10.	7 "...or he that teacheth, on **teaching [12.10]**"	N
11.	10 "Be kindly a ectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour **preferring [12.11]** one another"	V
12.	12 "**Rejoicing [12.12]** in hope…"	V
13.	12 "...**continuing [12.13]** instant in prayer"	V
14.	13 "**Distributing [12.14]** to the necessity of saints ..."	V

The researchers found fourteen words containing the suffix *–ing* in chapter 12. This is, by far, the most that the researchers found. Mostly, they are gerunds and verbs. Five of the gerunds are as follows:

> 2 "...but be ye transformed by the **renewing [12.2]** of your mind…"

> 5 "So we, **being [12.4]** many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

> 6 "**Having [12.5]** then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us..."

> 7 "Or ministry, let us wait on our **ministering [12.9]**…"

> 7 "...or he that teacheth, on **teaching [12.10]**"

Renewing [12.2] is placed before the article *the*, consequently making it into a noun. Gerund **being [12.4] is** followed by the adjective *many* meant the experience or condition of being in a large number. In this case, 'being many' is the experience or condition of a large number of people. The word **living [12.1]** serves as an adjective with an active meaning. The noun modifies acts. The noun 'sacrifice' does something, it 'lives'. Thus, it is described as a 'living sacrifice'.

Table 11. The suffix *–ing* in chapter 13

No.	Excerpt	Gerund

No.	Excerpt	
1.	6 "...for they are God's ministers, **attending [13.1]** continually upon this very thing."	V
2.	9 "...it is briefly comprehended in this **saying [13.2]**, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."	N
3.	10 "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the **fulfilling [13.3]** of the law."	N
4.	11 "And that, **knowing [13.4]** the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep…"	V
5.	13 "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in **rioting [13.5]** and drunkenness…"	N
6.	13 "...not in **chambering [13.6]** and wantonness…"	N
7.	13 "...not in strife and **envying [13.7]**"	N

As shown in Table 13, the researchers found five gerunds and two present participles functioning as verbs. The verbs that the author found are:

6 "...for they are God's ministers, **attending [13.1]** continually upon this very thing."

> 11 "And that, **knowing [13.4]** the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep…"

The first gerund, **saying [13.2]**, has the determiner *this*, thus making it into a noun. The second gerund, **fulfilling [13.3]**, has the article *the*, also making it into a noun. The gerunds in verse 13 are all parallel of the words before and/or after them, i.e., **rioting [13.5]** and drunkenness, **chambering [13.6]** and wantonness, and strife and **envying [13.7]**. As a whole, verse 13 is as follows:

> 13 "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

Table 12. The suffix *-ing* in chapter 14

No.	Excerpt	Gerund
1.	9 "...that he might be Lord both	N

of the dead and **living [14.1]**."

In Table 14, the researchers found only one word containing the suffix *–ing*. The researchers discovered only a gerund. The gerund **living [14.1]** is a noun parallel with the noun phrase 'the dead'. Therefore, in this context, it is the Lord of the dead (those who are not alive) and the living (those who are still alive).

Table 13. The suffix *–ing* in chapter 15

No.	Excerpt	Function
1.	4 "..for our **learning [15.1]**, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures …"	1
2.	5 "…to be likeminded one toward another **according [15.2]** to Christ Jesus"	Prep
3.	15 "...as **putting [15.3]** you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,"	V
4.	16 "...**ministering [15.4]** the gospel of God…"	V
5.	16 "...that the **offering [15.5]** up of the Gentiles ..."	N
6.	16 "...**being [15.6]** sanctified by the Holy Ghost."	N
7.	23 "But now **having [15.7]** no more place in these parts…"	V
8.	23 "...and **having [15.8]** a great desire … to come unto you"	V
9.	29 "...I shall come in the fulness of the **blessing [15.9]** of the gospel of Christ."	N

The gerund **offering [15.5]** and **blessing [15.9]** are placed after the article *the*, consequently making them into nouns. **Being [15.6]** is followed by an adjective *sanctified*, which meant the experience or condition of 'being made holy'. In this case, once is 'made holy' by the Holy Ghost. The last gerund **learning [15.1]** is placed after the pronoun *our*, a possession, therefore the 'learning' that one belongs to. The last word with the suffix *–ing* in this chapter is the preposition **according [15.9]**.

Table 14. The suffix *-ing* in chapter 16

No.	Excerpt	Function

1.	25 "Now to him that is of … you **according [16.1]** to my gospel…"	Prep
2.	25 "...and the **preaching [16.2]** of Jesus Christ…"	N
3.	25 "...**according [16.3]** to the revelation of the mystery…"	Prep
4.	26 "...**according [16.4]** to the commandment of … God…"	Prep
5.	26 "...according to the commandment of the **everlasting [16.5]** God…"	Adj

In the last chapter of The Book of Romans, the researchers found one gerund, one adjective, and three prepositions. The gerund in this chapter is **preaching [16.2]** in verse 25 has the definite article *the* before it, automatically making it a noun. Meanwhile, the adjective in this chapter is located in verse 26. The word **everlasting [16.5]** becomes an adjective, modifying the noun *God*. *Everlasting*, acquired from OLD (2022), means "continuing forever or never changing". Consequently, 'everlasting God' means God that has a long and/or never-ending life. Finally, the preposition that the author found is the word **according [16.3]** and **[16.4]**. Both are followed by the preposition *to*, making it a prepositional phrase.
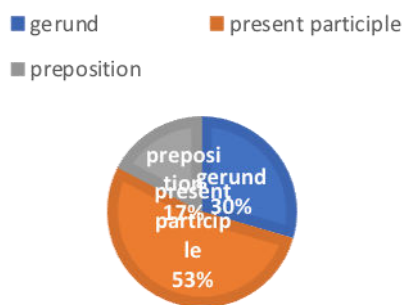

Figure 1. The suffix *–ing* percentage

Based on the findings above, the researchers found 115 words. In figure 1, 17% of the suffix *–ing* form are prepositions, 30% of them are gerunds acting as nouns, and 53% with the most percentage belong to the present participle. The suffixes *–ing* in The Book of Romans in The Holy Bible contains 41 nouns

of gerund, 40 verbs, 3 adverbs, 7 adjectives, and 24 prepositions.

As stated before, learning and distinguishing gerunds from present participle can be challenging for students ranging from high school through university. However, Mustaq and Zehra (2021) found a more stimulating way for students. In their study, they opted to resolve this problem through audio-visual media, specifically through the animated movie *Tangled*. Using the gerunds and present participles in the dialogues and the songs, students were able to separate both amidst enjoying the pleasurable teaching mode. This might be a possibility for teachers to teach rather than using books.

CONCLUSION

The researchers drew two conclusions from this research. Firstly, the researchers encountered three types of the suffix *–ing* in The Book of Romans (AKJV) of The Holy Bible, namely: gerund, present participle, and preposition. Gerunds serve as nouns, while present participles have functions as verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. Secondly, in a total of 115 words that the researchers found, 41 or 30% of them are gerunds acting like nouns, 74 or 53% are present participles with 40 verbs, 3 adverbs, and 7 adjectives, as well as 24 or 17% prepositions. This study implies that students from high school to university level should be able to distinguish the various functions of the suffix *-ing*. The researchers also recommend that future researchers opting to use this topic can analyse other Books from the New Testament or Old Testament. The researchers also suggest future researchers compare data from different versions of The Holy Bible.

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