



An Analysis of New Word Found on Twitter Using the Process of Word-Formation

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Abstract. *This paper concerns the analysis of New Word Found on Twitter Using the Process of Word-Formation. The aim of this study is to analyze word-formation on words that have just appeared on social media, especially Twitter. The research used in this analysis is a qualitative research method. Source of research data in the study came from the Twitter app found in captions, comment fields, and retweet quotes. When collecting the data, the researchers used several steps, first searched the data in the Twitter app from captions, comment fields, and retweet quotes. Then, collect data containing word formation and classify the data by type. The data is collected and researchers analyze the type and process of word-formation. The results of this study indicate that there are 5 types of word-formation processes found on Twitter. They were derivation, abbreviation, blending, acronyms, and clipping. Of these types, abbreviations were the most common word-formation on Twitter.*

Keywords: *Morphology, New world, Twitter, Word formation*

1. BACKGROUND

Humans are inherently social beings who rely on communication to interact and achieve their goals. Language serves as a primary means of communication, structured through units like words, phrases, and sentences, whether spoken or written. In the digital age, social media platforms such as Twitter have revolutionized human interaction by providing a space for rapid communication and exchange of ideas. While social media bridges gaps and fosters connectivity, it also facilitates the emergence of new slang and vocabulary, reflecting evolving cultural dynamics.

Twitter, widely used in Indonesia, often becomes a benchmark for trending topics and public discourse, ranging from politics to entertainment. Data in 2024 shows that more than 57% of Indonesian Internet users use Twitter. The creation of new words on social media involves various word-formation processes, as highlighted in studies by McCarthy (2002) and others. These processes, including compounding, derivation, and clipping, are part of morphological studies that examine how new words develop and adapt. Recent research has analyzed word-formation in different contexts, emphasizing the rich linguistic innovation occurring on platforms like Twitter (Herina, 2018; Hanif, 2015; Dyuli & Dania, 2020).

2. THEORETICAL STUDIES

Morphology, derived from the Greek word "morph" meaning "form," is the branch of linguistics that studies the structure and formation of words. It explores how words are formed and their grammatical and semantic functions, such as the meaning of words in context or based on their dictionary definitions. According to Rochelle Lieber (2009), morphology is the study of word formation, including the ways new words are coined in the languages of the world, and the ways word forms are varied depending on how they are used in sentences.

Words can be modified by adding affixes, including prefixes (at the beginning), infixes (in the middle), suffixes (at the end), and even circumfixes (a combination of prefix and suffix). This field, formerly known as morphemics, has evolved into what is now called morphology, emphasizing word formation processes such as compounding, derivation, and blending, among others (Mulyana, 2007; McCarthy, 2002).

Various word-formation processes contribute to the development of new words in English. Derivation, the most common process, involves adding affixes to create new words (Yule, 2006). Compounding merges two or more words to form a new term, while blending combines parts of words to create a new lexeme, such as "spork" from "spoon" and "fork" (Haspelmath, 2002). Acronyms are formed from the initials of words, and abbreviations are pronounced letter by letter (Yule, 2006). Inflection changes a word form without altering its meaning, and borrowing involves adopting words from other languages. Coinage creates words from product names, conversion shifts a word's grammatical category, clipping shortens words, and back-formation reduces words to a simpler form. Lastly, onomatopoeia creates words that phonetically imitate sounds (Yule, 2006; Haspelmath, 2002).

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research used in this analysis is a qualitative research method. According to David Williams (1995), qualitative research is an effort by researchers to collect data based on a natural background. Of course, because it is done naturally or naturally, the results of the research are also scientific and can be accounted for. Qualitative research is research on research that is descriptive and tends to use analysis. Processes and meanings (perspectives of the subject) are highlighted more in qualitative research. Therefore, the aspects described in this study are the result of an analysis of the type of word formation and process found in the Twitter application.

The source of the data in the study came from the Twitter app found in captions, comment fields, and retweet quotes. Meanwhile, the data from this study is the formation of words found in the Twitter application. In this study, researchers used non-human or non-

participation observations, because the researchers were not directly involved. When collecting the data, the researchers used several steps, first searched the data in the Twitter app from captions, comment fields, and retweet quotes. Then, collect data containing word formation and classify the data by type. The data is collected and researchers analyze the type and process of word-formation.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

1. Menfess (Mention confess)

The word 'Menfess' comes from a combination of words between Mention and Confess. The word 'Menfess' removes the original part from each word, then merged it into one word. So the process used in this word is the blending process. The meaning of the word 'menfess' is an anonymous message.

2. BUB (Blockir Unblockir)

In data number 2, BUB is an acronym for Block unblocks. It's called an acronym because it is pronounced in one word. BUB is an Action so that Twitter users who are friends don't follow each other anymore.

3. Uname (User name)

Uname is the result of the blending process. Blending is the formation of new words in which the process uses a combination of two or more words but before combining, they removed a part of the original word. Username is the name chosen to identify internet users.

4. OOMF (One of My Followers)

OOMF goes into the Abbreviation process. OOMF is a new word formed from the first letter of another word group, but pronounced letter by letter. The word OOMF is used to tweet something that refers to 1 person but does not want to mention the name of that person.

5. Header (Head + er)

As is well known, a derivation is a word-formation whose process uses adding affixes to words so that there is a change in speech and its meaning. In the word header, the word head is derived from head with the suffix (er) added, so this word has two morphemes. They are head + (er) = header. The meaning of the header on the Twitter application is a long picture on the profile, which is located above the profile picture.

6. DN (Display Name)

DN is the abbreviation of Display Name. It's called an abbreviation because it is pronounced letter by letter. DN is a name used on a Twitter account, without using '@'.

7. Nder (Sender)

As is well known, clipping is the result of the process of shortening a word that is done freely which produces a new word. The word 'nder' is the shortening of the word 'sender'. Everyone is known if the word 'nder' is from the word 'sender' Twitter users usually use this word to anonymities who send menfess.

8. Rep (Reply)

Rep comes from the shortened word 'reply'. The word 'reply' is included in the clipping process because this process is the process where a new word is created by shortening the previous word but the meaning is still understood. The meaning of reply is give some response or comment on a tweet.

9. OA (Official Account)

OA is an acronym for an official account. It's called an acronym because it is pronounced in one word. An official account is the account of an institution or organization, which usually provides information about its institutions.

10. WTS/WTB/WTA

These three words are the process of word-formation with the type of abbreviation. The three words are new words formed from the first letter of the other word group but pronounced letter by letter. 'WTS' means 'want to sell', 'WTB' means 'want to buy', while 'WTA' means 'want to ask'. This word is usually used by people who are buying and selling on Twitter. The word 'WTA' is often also used by people who ask questions, either through tweets or replies to the base.

Discussion

The study's findings illustrate the dynamic nature of language evolution on social media platforms like Twitter, where users employ various word-formation processes to create new terms that enhance communication efficiency and expressiveness. Among the most common processes observed are blending, clipping, acronyms, abbreviations, and derivation. Blending involves merging parts of words to create new forms, as seen in "menfess" (from "mention" + "confess") and "uname" (from "username"), which condense two concepts into a single, more manageable term. Similarly, clipping simplifies words by shortening them, as demonstrated by "nder" (from "sender") and "rep" (from "reply"), maintaining the original meanings while making the words quicker to type and easier to use in fast-paced digital conversations. These processes reflect the platform's need for brevity and speed, allowing users to convey their messages efficiently within the character constraints of tweets.

Acronyms and abbreviations further contribute to this linguistic economy, with examples like "BUB" (Block Unblock), "OOMF" (One of My Followers), and "OA" (Official Account) showcasing how entire phrases can be condensed into easily recognizable forms. Acronyms like "BUB" and "OA" are pronounced as single words, while abbreviations such as "DN" (Display Name) and "WTS/WTB/WTA" are articulated letter by letter, reflecting a diverse range of strategies to maximize space and minimize effort. The study also highlights the use of derivation, as in the word "header," which modifies "head" with the suffix "-er" to specify a particular feature on a Twitter profile. These linguistic innovations are not only practical but also culturally significant, illustrating how digital communities adapt language to their unique contexts and needs. The creative and adaptive use of word-formation processes on Twitter underscores the platform's role in driving linguistic change, fostering a vibrant, evolving lexicon that meets the communicative demands of its users.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The authors concluded that there were 10 new words discovered and used in the study. The author also analyzes and classifies word types such as combinations, acronyms, blending, etc. However, not all types of word formation occur in data analysis. Of the 11 types, there are 7 types that were not found in the study. Namely compounding, borrowing, inflection, conversion, back-formation, coinage, and onomatopoeia. From the process of forming the word, acronyms/abbreviations are the most common process found on Twitter. There are four steps in the structural form for analyzing the process of words. They identify morphemes, word formations, morphophonological processes & dictionaries. However, not all changes in the word-formation process need to go through all the steps.

Based on the research conclusions, future studies could explore a broader range of word-formation processes on social media platforms beyond Twitter to identify whether the types absent in this study—such as compounding, borrowing, inflection, conversion, back-formation, coinage, and onomatopoeia—are more prevalent in other contexts or platforms. Researchers should consider expanding the dataset to include more diverse linguistic inputs and contexts, potentially examining different social media channels or user demographics to uncover a wider variety of new words and word-formation processes. Additionally, investigating the socio-cultural factors influencing the preference for certain word-formation types, like acronyms and abbreviations, could provide deeper insights into how digital communication norms are shaped by the platform's technical constraints and user behaviors. By expanding the scope and methodology, future research can better understand the dynamics of language evolution in digital environments.

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