

The Contribution of Word Formation Process in Slang Words for Teaching English

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Abstract.

This study has the aims to find the kind of word formation process that used in new appeared slang words, the most frequent type of word formation process that used in new appeared slang word, and the contribution learning word formation process to English teaching. This thesis methodology was the qualitative method which was relying on verbal data and the data had been explained descriptively. The researcher took the data randomly from websites DailyMail, Thony Thorne, and Dictionary.com until got enough data. This thesis was using word formation process theory by George Yule in analyzing how the slang words were created. The researcher also used an online dictionary named Urban Dictionary to translate it and social media Twitter to find the example of slang word that were used. There were 6 types of word formation processes found such as blending, compounding, clipping, hypocorism, initialization, and multiple processes. Blending was a type of word formation process which was most common used in forming slang words. Next, learning word formation process can give the contribution to English teaching because it's good for vocabulary mastery. Hence, it helps to increase learner's writing and reading ability.

Keywords: Word formation process, slang word, covid-19 pandemic

Introduction

Covid-19 pandemic has made new slang words. According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, slang is non-standard vocabulary and it is an informal vocabulary which is composed by arbitrarily changing the words, coinage and extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech. Currently on the internet, especially on social media Twitter, we can encounter words that we have never heard or read before. The words such as covidiot, covidient, and coronacation, are the examples of new appeared slang words which are related with Covid-19 pandemic. Covidiot is a slang word that is defined to mention the people who do not obey the Covid-19 safety protocol like not wearing a mask, no social distancing, and etc., covidient is a slang word to mention people who obey the Covid-19 protocol, and coronacation is a situation when someone can't go anywhere or has nothing to do, and also gets paid to be off of work. That are appeared slang words which currently popular and are used by many people on the internet especially on social media Twitter.

This case is evidence that language always develops in every time which is influenced by certain conditions that make humans need to make new words or terms in communication in

order that communication becomes easier. According to Hock and Joseph (2009:3), the language keeps changing and it's not limited to slang language too.

In addition, how the formation of a new slang word actually can be learned in the branch of linguistics, namely morphology. Linguistics is the study of language, while morphology is a branch of Linguistics. In morphology, it explains the ways in forming new terms or words named the Word Formation Process. According to Yule (2017), there are 11 ways in forming new words including borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, coinage, acronym and initialization, hypocorisms, derivation, and multiple processes.

From the discovery of new terms, especially new slang words that appear during Covid-19 Pandemic, researcher is interested in examining how these new appeared slang words are formed using George Yule's morphology theory, especially the word formation proses in his sixth edition book entitled *The Study of Language*.

Literature Review

1. Slang

According to the Werriam Webster dictionary, slang is non-standard vocabulary and it is an informal vocabulary which is composed by arbitrarily changing the words, coinage and extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech. According to Katamba (2005:114), slang is a variety of language which is described as an informal, faddy, and non-standard vocabulary. In addition, slang is a major source of new words. The description about slang is also stated by Patridge (in Katamba, 2005:114), he says that there are some good reasons for using slang, and the good reasons are desire to be expressive, desire to use language 'poetically' or creatively, for pleasure, and etc. According to Pei and Gaynor (1954:199), slang is a kind of language's variety which is commonly used by us, and it is coined by popular adaption and meaning extension of existing word and forming the word without following the linguistic and scholastic rules in the creation of a new word. For example, the word *gimme* is created by existing words *give* and *me*, and it is a formation of word by blending process.

2. Morphology

According to Hamawand (2011:2), morphology is a term that is formed by two words, *morph* and *-ology*, while *morph* means 'form' and *-ology* means 'study'. The term of Morphology is actually just only used in biology, but since the mid nineteenth century, that term has also been used in linguistics to describe language. Morphology is the one of several branches of linguistics that studies about how words are constructed by morphemes. According to Yule (2017:214), Morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit of a language which is divided into two categories, there are free morphemes and bound morphemes.

3. Free Morpheme

Free Morphemes are morphemes that can stand alone as individual words in a language. So, the words *cat*, *vital*, *love*, *run*, *the*, *a*, *an*, etc. of course, they all are morphemes that can stand alone as an individual word. Free morphemes can be divided into two categories namely Lexical Morpheme and Functional Morpheme. Lexical Morphemes are free morphemes that carry the content of our utterances and that can be called as nouns (home, glass), verbs (run, walk), adjective (red, small), and adverb (never). These morphemes are described as an "open" class of word. Functional Morphemes are free morphemes that serve a more

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grammatical role, connecting words together within an across sentences. Functional morphemes include; preposition (*in, of*), conjunctions (*or, and*), articles (*the, an, a*) and pronoun (*me, it, these*). These morphemes are described as a “closed” class of word.

4. Bound Morphemes

Bound morphemes are morphemes that cannot stand alone, it means that bound morphemes are all affixes, and they can be divided into two categories, derivational morphemes and inflectional morphemes. Derivational Morphemes are bound morphemes that help to create new words and can change the lexical category of a word, for example, the word *impossible* contains the prefix *-im*. The addition of the prefix in the word *possible* into *impossible* has changed the meaning of that word, *impossible* means that not able to be done, and *possible* means that able to be done. The other example, the suffixes *-ment* changes the verb word *adjust* to the noun verb *adjustment*. All prefixes in English are derivational morphemes, but not all derivational morphemes in English are prefixes. In addition, not all bound morphemes are able to change the meaning and the lexical category of a word, because there are bound morphemes as the grammatical function of a word namely inflectional morphemes. Inflectional morphemes are used in grammatical rules to show if a word is past tense or not, plural or singular, and comparative or possessive form. Inflectional Morphemes are bound morphemes that serve a grammatical role in language. Inflectional morphemes in English are: *-s* (plural), *-’s* (possessive), *-s* (third person singular), *-ed* (past tense), *-ing* (present participle), *-en* (past participle), *-er* (comparative), and *-est* (superlative).

5. Word Formation Process

Word formation process is one of kind studies in morphology. Lieber (2010:2), he stated that word formation is the study about creations of new words with the variations way in forming words depending on how that words are used in the sentences. According to Yule (2017), the process of creation a new word is classified into 11 ways, there are borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, hypocorisms, backformation, conversion, coinage, acronyms and initialization, derivation and multiple processes. According to Akmajian (2010:25), our finite vocabulary can actually be extended through making new words with recombining of morphemes that already exist.

Table 1: kind of word formation process

No	Word Formation	Descriptions	Example Words
1	Borrowing	Adopting the words from the other languages.	<i>sofa</i> from Arabic, <i>zebra</i> from Bantu, <i>jewel</i> from French
2	Compounding	Combining or joining two separate words into a single form.	<i>wallpaper</i> from <i>wall</i> + <i>paper</i>
3	Blending	Joining two words into a single term with reducing the part of words.	<i>motel</i> from <i>motor</i> + <i>hotel</i>

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4	Clipping	Reduction of a word which has more than one syllable and becomes a shorter form.	<i>gasoline</i> → <i>gas</i> <i>brother</i> → <i>bro</i> <i>influenza</i> → <i>flu</i>
5	Hypocorisms	Reducing word into a single syllable, then adding with suffixes -y or -ie	<i>Television</i> → <i>telly</i>
6	Conversion	Changing the functional word without changing the form of word	Verb to Noun To <i>doubt</i> → I have <i>doubt</i> about my ability
7	Backformation	Reduction processes of the word by removing the derivational morpheme.	<i>Donation</i> → <i>Donate</i> <i>Babysitter</i> → <i>Babysit</i>
8	Coinage	Using a name of brand of product to call the other product or thing.	<i>Honda</i> , <i>Aqua</i> , <i>Aspirin</i> , <i>Sarimi</i>
9	Acronym and Initialization	Abbreviations formed by taking an initial letter	Acronym: <i>NASA</i> , <i>UNESCO</i> Initialization: <i>USA</i> , <i>FBI</i>
10	Derivation	Forming a new word using derivational morpheme	<i>Create</i> + (-ion) → <i>Creation</i>
11	Multiple Process	Process to make a new word which involves more than one process	<i>Waspish</i> acronym (<i>White Anglo-Saxon Protestant</i>) + Derivation (-ish)

Method

Methodology of this research uses a descriptive qualitative method to collect, analyze, classify, and draw the conclusion. Analyzing the data will be done after data have been collected. The researcher designs this research using descriptive-qualitative research based on the purpose of this research to describe social phenomena or human problems as the object of the research. According to Creswell (2014:4), states “qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to social or human problem.” Analyzing the data based on George Yule’s word formation process theory to identify the type of word formation that is used. Next, describing each slang word with giving the meaning by understanding the context through a dictionary and understanding the example of usage of slang words which are related with Covid-19 on social media Twitter.

The object of this study is new appeared slang words which are related with Covid-19 pandemic such as *coronacation*, *covidiot*, *coronacut*, *quaranteam*, *covideoparty*, *coronial*, *spendemic*, *zumped*, *drivecation*, and etc. It will be analyzed how these slang words are formed through the Yule’s word formation process theory.

Findings and Discussion

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1. Kind of word formation process found

Table 2: Types of word formation processes found

No.	Slang Words	Word Formation	Types of Word Formation
1.	<i>ACV</i>	After Corona Virus → ACV	Initialization
2.	<i>BCV</i>	Before Corona Virus → BCV	Initialization
3.	<i>Coronacation</i>	Corona + Vacation	Blending
4.	<i>Covidiot</i>	Covid + Idiot	Multiple Process (acronym + blending)
5.	<i>Coronalusional</i>	Corona + Delusional	Blending
6.	<i>Coronabreak</i>	Corona + Break	Compounding
7.	<i>Coronaspeak</i>	Corona + Speak	Compounding
8.	<i>Coronacut</i>	Corona + Cut	Compounding
9.	<i>Coronacranky</i>	Corona + Cranky	Compounding
10.	<i>Coronasshole</i>	Corona + Asshole	Blending
11.	<i>Cornteen</i>	Corn + Teen	Compounding
12.	<i>Coronials</i>	Corona + Milenial + [-s]	Blending
13.	<i>Coronababbies</i>	Corona + Baby + [-s]	Compounding
14.	<i>Covidivorce</i>	Covid + Divorce	Multiple Process (acronym + blending)
15.	<i>Covidient</i>	Covid + Obedient	Multiple Process (acronym + blending)
16.	<i>Covideoparty</i>	Covid + Video + Party	Multiple Process (acronym + blending + compounding)
17.	<i>Drivecation</i>	Drive + Vacation	Blending
18.	<i>Iso</i>	Isolation	Clipping
19.	<i>Isobar</i>	Isolation + Bar	Blending
20.	<i>Isodesk</i>	Isolation + Desk	Blending
21.	<i>Morona</i>	Moron + Corona	Blending
22.	<i>Moronavirus</i>	Moron + Corona + Virus	Multiple Process (blending + compounding)
23.	<i>Post-rona</i>	Post + Rona	Blending
24.	<i>Quarandating</i>	Quarantine + Dating	Blending
25.	<i>Quarantanning</i>	Quarantine + Tan + [-ing]	Multiple Process (blending + derivation)
	<i>Quaranstream</i>	Quarantine + stream	Blending
	<i>Quaranteam</i>	Quarantine + team	Blending
	<i>Quarantini</i>	Quarantine + martini	Blending
	<i>Quaranteen</i>	Quarantine + teen	Blending
	<i>Ronavation</i>	Corona + renovation	Blending

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<i>Rona</i>	Corona → Rona	Clipping
<i>Sanny</i>	Sanitizer → Sanny	Hypocorisms
<i>Spendemic</i>	Spend + pandemic	Blending
<i>VHH</i>	Virtual Happy Hour	Initialization
<i>Zumped</i>	Zoom + dumped	Multiple Process (coinage + blending)
<i>Zombie</i>	Zoom + zombie	Multiple Process (coinage + blending)
<i>Zoom-boombing</i>	Zoom + boom + [-ing]	Multiple Process (coinage + compounding)
<i>Zoom mom</i>	Zoom + mom	Multiple Process (coinage + compounding)
Total types of word formation found		6

2. The Dominant Type of Word Formation

Blending process is a type of word formation process which is most used in forming new appeared slang words which are related with Covid-19 pandemic. There are 15 slang words which are formed by using blending process, 5 slang words which are formed by compounding, 12 slang words which are formed by multiple process, 2 slang words which are formed by clipping, 1 slang word which is formed by hypocorism, and 3 slang word which are formed by using initialization.

Table 3: List of Slang Words Based on Type of Word Formation

No.	Word Formation	Slang Words	Sub Total
1.	Compounding	<i>Cornteen, coronaspeak, coronacut, cornteen, coronababbies,</i>	5
2.	Blending	<i>Coronacation, coronalusalional, coronials, drivecation, isobar, isodesk, morona, post-rona, quarandating, quaranstream, quarantini, quaranteam, quaranteen, ronavation, spendemic</i>	15
3.	Clipping	<i>Iso, rona</i>	2

4.	Hypocorism	<i>Sanny</i>	1
5.	Initialization	<i>ACV, BCV, VHH</i>	3
6.	Multiple Process	<i>Covidiot, coronasshole, covidivorce, covidient, covideoparty, moronavirus, zoommom, zumped, zombie, zoom-bombing, quarantanning corona cranky</i>	12
Total of Slang Words			38

3. The Contribution of Learning Word Formation Process in English Teaching

Morphology is one of linguistics branches which must be learnt by English student department due to it's as the important part in teaching and learning English language. Learning Morphology especially word formation process can help the learners to comprehend the meaning of the word by viewing the word structure. Hence, learning word formation process is good for vocabulary mastery to increase learner's writing, reading, and speaking skill.

Conclusion

After analyzing the data has been conducted by researcher, making conclusions can be done to answer all research problems. Based on the research, it can be concluded that there are 6 types of word formation processes found in slang words during Covid-19 pandemic. The 6 types of word formation processes are blending, compounding, clipping, hypocorism, initialization, and multiple process, blending is a type of word formation process which is most used in forming new appeared slang words which are related with Covid-19 pandemic, and learning word formation process can give the contribution to English teaching because it's good for vocabulary mastery.

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