

A COMPARATIVE MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WORD FORMATION IN THE ARCHIPELAGO WITH POLITICS SECTION OF THE JAKARTA POST

Rara Silvany Aulia, Ayu Melati Ningsih, Vera Kristiana, Risnawaty
Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Muslim Nusantara Al-Washliyah
rarsilvanyaulia@umnaw.ac.id

Abstract

This study aims to identify and compare the word formation processes found in the Archipelago and Politics sections of The Jakarta Post based on George Yule's (2010) theory. A qualitative descriptive method was applied to analyze data collected from six online news articles published in 2025, consisting of three articles from each section. The findings show that several word formation processes were used in both sections, including borrowing, compounding, blending, conversion, acronym, derivation, and multiple processes. A total of 118 word formation items were found in the Politics section and 116 items in the Archipelago section. Among all types, derivation was the most dominant process, accounting for 46.61% of the data in Politics articles and 79.31% in Archipelago articles. The Politics section contained more acronyms, compounds, and conversions, while the Archipelago section relied more heavily on derivational forms. The study concludes that different news sections tend to use different linguistic patterns depending on their topics and communicative purposes. These findings contribute to the understanding of morphology, particularly the use of word formation processes in media texts.

Keywords: Morphology, Word Formation, Politics Articles, Archipelago Article, The Jakarta Post

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan membandingkan proses pembentukan kata yang ditemukan dalam rubrik Archipelago dan Politics pada The Jakarta Post berdasarkan teori pembentukan kata George Yule (2010). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis data yang diperoleh dari enam artikel berita daring yang diterbitkan pada tahun 2025, yang terdiri atas tiga artikel dari masing-masing rubrik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa beberapa proses pembentukan kata digunakan dalam kedua rubrik, yaitu borrowing, compounding, blending, conversion, acronym, derivation, dan multiple processes. Sebanyak 118 data pembentukan kata ditemukan pada rubrik Politics dan 116 data pada rubrik Archipelago. Di antara seluruh jenis yang ditemukan, derivation merupakan proses yang paling dominan, yaitu sebesar 46,61% pada artikel Politics dan 79,31% pada artikel Archipelago. Rubrik Politics menunjukkan penggunaan acronym, compounding, dan conversion yang lebih tinggi, sedangkan rubrik Archipelago lebih banyak menggunakan bentuk derivation. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa setiap rubrik berita memiliki pola kebahasaan yang berbeda sesuai dengan topik dan tujuan komunikasinya. Temuan ini memberikan kontribusi terhadap kajian morfologi, khususnya dalam memahami penggunaan proses pembentukan kata dalam teks media massa.

Kata kunci: Morfologi, Pembentukan Kata, Artikel Politik, Artikel Archipelago, The JakartaPost.

1. INTRODUCTION

This study adopts Yule (2010) theory of word formation as the primary theoretical framework in analyzing morphological processes found in media texts. Linguistic morphology refers to the mental system involved in word formation or the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011). Morphology concerns the principles and processes by which words are constructed from smaller meaningful units called morphemes (Booij, 2005). Similarly, (Kridalaksana, 2011) defines morphology as the study of word forms and the grammatical processes that modify meaning or function. These perspectives show that morphology is a core branch of linguistics that explains how smaller meaningful units interact, combine, and transform to generate new lexical items.

In addition to morphology, the term morphological is used to refer specifically to the structural characteristics and processes involved in word formation. Plag (2003) states that morphological processes are mechanisms that produce complex words, while (Bauer, 2001) emphasizes that morphological features determine how morphemes function within the grammatical system. In Indonesian linguistics, (Pangaribuan, 2024) explain that morphological processes occur through affixation and verbalization, where nouns can be transformed into verbs through several morphological patterns. This indicates that morphology contributes to vocabulary development. These explanations highlight that morphological aspects focus on observable patterns and structural processes within word formation.

Word formation itself refers to the processes through which new words are created in a language. According to Yule (2010:72) word formation includes various mechanisms such as coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, back-formation, conversion, acronyms, and derivation (prefix, infix, suffix). (Plag, 2003) also describes word formation as a branch of morphology that studies how new vocabulary items emerge, thereby enabling languages to adapt to new cultural and technological realities. In the Indonesian context, (Chaer, 2012) states that word formation is crucial for understanding how new lexical items are produced through derivation, reduplication, and compounding.

These definitions collectively show that word formation is a dynamic linguistic phenomenon that reflects social and cultural development. This phenomenon can be observed in everyday communication, digital platforms, and media language. For example, the acronym *NDTF* (Notice and Diffusion Task Force), pronounced letter by letter, represents the acronym process. Another instance is compounding, such as *pur*

(noun) + *pose* (noun) = *purpose* (noun). However, many language users do not recognize the differences among word formation processes. They often assume that all processes are the same, while in reality, each process has distinct structural and semantic functions. Therefore, analyzing word formation is essential for understanding how language develops, especially in media texts that frequently introduce new terms and linguistic constructions.

The Jakarta Post, as an English-language print and digital media outlet, provides rich data for linguistic research. It offers national and international news for Indonesian and global audiences and is widely used in studies related to language structure, media style, and linguistic phenomena such as word formation, code-switching, and discourse. Its Archipelago section reports regional issues, local culture, government, and social developments across Indonesia's islands. Meanwhile, the Politics section discusses political events, policymaking, governance, and political figures at national and international levels. Both sections employ a variety of word formation processes due to their dynamic and context-specific content.

Word formation in The Jakarta Post have been limited and tend to focus only on the Politics section, such as (Herlambang & Nurmala, 2022) and (Handayani 2018). These studies describe the types of word formation used in political news but do not compare linguistic patterns across different sections of the newspaper. Research on the Archipelago section, in particular, remains scarce, even though this section contains diverse sociocultural and regional terms that potentially reflect different morphological patterns.

Therefore, there is a clear research gap regarding how word formation processes differ between the Archipelago and Politics sections. This study aims to fill that gap by conducting a comparative morphological analysis of word formation in both sections of The Jakarta Post. The comparative approach is important to understand how linguistic choices vary across topics, genres, and communicative goals. Moreover, analyzing morphological processes in media texts is urgent because media language influences public understanding, vocabulary acquisition, and linguistic innovation.\

2. METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative descriptive method. According to Creswell (2017), qualitative research is used to explore and understand social and human phenomena through the interpretation of descriptive data. This method was considered appropriate because the study focused on identifying and describing word formation processes found in online news articles rather than measuring numerical data.

The data of this study consisted of English words and lexical items that exhibit word formation processes in *The Jakarta Post*. The data were collected from six online news articles published in 2025, comprising three articles from the Politics section and three articles from the Archipelago section. All articles were obtained from the official website of *The Jakarta Post*. To ensure linguistic diversity and capture different contexts of news reporting, the selected articles were taken from different publication periods.

The data were collected using documentation techniques. First, the researcher selected relevant articles from the Politics and Archipelago sections. Second, the articles were read carefully to identify words containing word formation processes. Third, the identified words were classified according to George Yule's (2010) theory of word formation, which includes coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, back-formation, conversion, acronym, derivation, and multiple processes.

The data analysis was conducted through several stages. The researcher read the selected articles, identified words that reflected word formation processes, classified the data based on their types, and described the characteristics of each process. Furthermore, the frequency and percentage of each type were calculated to determine the dominant word formation process. According to Sudijono (2018), percentage calculation can be used to determine the proportion of data occurrences within a dataset. Therefore, the following formula was applied:

$$P = (F/N) \times 100\%$$

Where:

P = Percentage of each word formation type

F = Frequency of a particular word formation type

N = Total number of word formation items

The percentage results were used to identify the dominant type of word formation process in the Politics and Archipelago sections of *The Jakarta Post*. Finally, the findings from both sections were compared to reveal similarities and differences in the use of word formation processes in contemporary news discourse.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The analysis revealed that several types of word formation processes were found in both the Politics and Archipelago sections of *The Jakarta Post*. The classification was based on George Yule's (2010) theory of word formation. A total of 118 word formation items were identified in the Politics articles, while 116 items were found in the Archipelago articles.

Table 1. Comparison of Word Formation Processes in Politics and Archipelago Articles

Type of word formation	Politics	Archipelago	Comparison Result
Coinage	0%	0%	Not found in both
Borrowing	7,62%	4,31%	Higher in politics
Compounding	11,01%	1,72%	Higher in politics
Blending	0,84%	0,86%	Higher in archipelago
Clipping	0%	7,62%	Higher in archipelago
Backformation	0%	0%	Not found in both
Conversion	12,71%	6,89%	Higher in politics
Acronym	14,40%	3,44%	Higher in politics
Derivation	46,61%	79,31%	Higher in archipelago
Multiple Process	0	3,44%	Only archipelago

Table 1 shows that both sections exhibit various word formation processes, although their frequencies differ. In the Politics section, derivation was the most dominant type, accounting for 46.61% of the data. Other frequently occurring processes were acronym (14.40%), conversion (12.71%), and compounding (11.01%). These findings indicate that political news articles tend to employ formal and institutional vocabulary, including abbreviated forms and complex lexical constructions.

Similarly, derivation was the dominant process in the Archipelago section, reaching 79.31% of the total data. This result suggests that words formed through the addition of prefixes and suffixes are widely used to describe social, cultural, and regional issues. Conversion (6.89%), borrowing (4.31%), acronym (3.44%), and multiple processes (3.44%) were also identified, although with lower frequencies.

The comparison demonstrates that the Politics section contains a higher proportion of acronyms, compounding, clipping, and conversion than the Archipelago section. This

pattern reflects the nature of political reporting, which frequently involves government institutions, organizations, and official terminology. In contrast, the Archipelago section relies more heavily on derivational forms to provide detailed descriptions of events and conditions occurring across different regions of Indonesia.

The findings indicate that derivation is the most productive word formation process in both sections of The Jakarta Post. This result supports previous studies that identified derivation as a dominant morphological process in news discourse. The frequent use of derivation allows journalists to create precise, informative, and contextually appropriate vocabulary, making it an essential feature of contemporary journalistic writing.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This study examined the word formation processes found in the Politics and Archipelago sections of The Jakarta Post based on George Yule's (2010) theory. The findings revealed that both sections employ various types of word formation processes, including borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, conversion, acronym, derivation, and multiple processes. A total of 118 word formation items were identified in the Politics articles, while 116 items were found in the Archipelago articles.

Among all types, derivation was the most dominant word formation process in both sections, accounting for 46.61% of the data in the Politics section and 79.31% in the Archipelago section. The Politics section showed a higher use of acronyms, compounding, clipping, and conversion, whereas the Archipelago section relied more heavily on derivational forms. These differences indicate that vocabulary choices in news articles are influenced by the topic and communicative purpose of each section.

In conclusion, derivation plays a significant role in contemporary news writing and is the most productive word formation process in The Jakarta Post. The findings contribute to the study of morphology and provide insights into the use of word formation processes in media discourse.

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