Word Formation Processes in Mobile Legends: Bang Bang

A Final Project

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The writer states honestly that this project entitled, "Word Formation Process in Mobile Legends: Bang Bang" is compiled by himself without taking any results from other research in any university, whether from S-1, S-2, S-3, and diploma degree. In addition, the writer also ascertains that he does not take any material from other publications or someone else's work except for the references that are mentioned.

Semarang, 22nd July 2018

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

"It's the job that's never started as takes longest to finish."

-J.R.R Tolkien, The Lord of The Rings

This final project is dedicated

to my beloved papa and mama.

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I realize that this project is still far from perfect. Therefore, I will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and suggestion to make this project better. I expect that this project will be useful for the readers.

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Ilham Ryan

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ABSTRACT

Mobile Legends: Bang Bang is a Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA) game developed and published by Moonton. The language used in this game is English. However, the English used in this game has a different meaning from it's literal meaning. The aims of this research are to provide general overview of word formation process in Mobile Legends: Bang Bang and to reveal the reason behind it's use. The writer uses note taking technique to collect the data, and descriptive qualitative method to present the data. The result shows that the word formation processes used in this game are clipping, compounding, initialism, acronym, borrowing, back-formation, conversion, and blending. The writer also reveals that the game developer of Mobile Legends: Bang Bang uses word formation process to maintain the balance between texts and pictures in the game display.

Keywords; Morphology, word formation, online games, mobile legends

ABSTRAK

Mobile Legends: Bang Bang adalah sebuah game Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA) yang dikembangkan dan diterbitkan oleh Moonton. Bahasa yang digunakan dalam game ini adalah bahasa Inggris. Namun, bahasa Inggris yang digunakan dalam game ini memiliki arti yang berbeda dari makna harfiahnya. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk memberikan gambaran umum tentang proses pembentukan kata dalam Mobile Legends: Bang Bang dan untuk mengungkapkan alasan di balik penggunaannya. Penulis menggunakan teknik pencatatan untuk mengumpulkan data, dan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menyajikan data. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa proses pembentukan kata yang digunakan dalam game ini adalah clipping, compounding, initialism, acronym, borrowing, back-formation, conversion, and blending. *Penulis juga mengungkapkan bahwa pengembang game Mobile Legend: Bang Bang menggunakan proses pembentukan kata untuk menjaga keseimbangan antara teks dan gambar dalam tampilan permainan.*

Kata kunci; Morfologi, pembentukan kata, permainan daring, mobile legends

1. Introduction

Mobile Legends or *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* is a Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA) game designed for mobile phone. This game is an online role-playing video game that played by a very large number of people. Since the player come from various countries, English is the language used in this game. However, the English language used in this game has a different meaning from it's literal meaning, even when compared to other similar MOBA game.

Apart from the language aspect, Mobile Legends game also have a unique gameplay since MOBA games are generally played in a larger form of console such as PC (Personal Desktop), Xbox 360, Playstation, or laptop. The gameplay of Mobile Legends game is simpler and easier to understand when compared to other MOBA games that played in a larger console. In matters of communication, Mobile Legends game developer provides voice chat feature that would ease the player to communicate. However, this feature requires a high speed internet connection. Therefore, Mobile Legends game players are mostly prefer written communication rather than spoken one. The problem is, it is very hard and inefficient for the player to type a sentence in an ongoing match. Thus, Mobile Legends game developer provides quick chat feature although some players still use sentences to convey more complex intentions.

The communication of the player in Mobile Legends game is strongly influenced by the game text menu both written and spoken, because there are a lot of new word formed in there. Mobile Legends game players are sometimes do not understand the true meaning of the new word in the game text menu, since it has a

different meaning from it's literal meaning. Hence, the writer is interested to conduct a research related to the word formation process on Mobile Legends. The aims of this research are to provide general overview of word formation process in Mobile Legends: Bang Bang and to reveal the reason behind it's use.

There are two previous studies related to this study. The first is "A Study of Word-Formation Process in Jargons Used on Chatting in *DotA*" by Setiawan in 2015. Setiawan, an English Department student of Brawijaya University, used qualitative approach on his study. By actively participating in several matches to collect the data, he found seven word formation processes; acronym. Clipping, coinage, blending, borrowing, multiple processes, and conversion.

The second study is entitled "Word Formation on Kaskus" by Florencia in 2016. Florencia, an English Department student of Diponegoro University. She reveals initialization, compounding, borrowing, and reduplication are the most used word formation process on Kaskus.

2. Theoretical Framework

According to Yule (2014:26-27), word formation strategies are classified into acronym, back-formation, blending, borrowing, clipping, coinage, compounding, conversion, initialism.

2.1 Word Formation Process

1. Acronym and Initialism
   Acronym is a word formation process that happened by using the first letter of words to create a new word. Acronym is quite similar to Initialism. The difference is the word formed through acronym process

is pronounced as a word. For example, *SCUBA* stands for *Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus* (Lieber, 2009:53). Initialism is a word formation process composed from the first letter of a word which is quite similar as acronym process. The difference between initialism and acronym is the word formed through initialism process pronounced as a series of a letter. For example *UK* for 'United Kingdom' (Lieber, 2009:53).

2. Back-Formation and Clipping

Back-formation is a process of reducing a word to form a new word. Usually, the reducing process forms a new word. For example, *burglar(n)* reduced to *burg(v)* (Yule, 2014:26). Clipping is the process of creating a new word by shortening the word that already exists. For example, *info* which mean *information* (Lieber, 2009:53).

3. Blending and Compounding

Delahunty and Garvey mentioned in their book that blending involves taking two or more words. The two modified words are combined together to create a new word that form and meaning are taken from each word taken. For example, *brunch* taken from breakfast + lunch, and *webinar* which is *world wide web seminar* (Delahunty, 2010:137). As it is mentioned by Lieber (2009:43) compounding is a word formation process by composing two or more composed roots, stems, or bases such as *white house* and *greenhouse.*

4. Borrowing

Borrowing is a process that borrows a word from another language. For instance, *taco* and *burrito* are borrowed term from Mexican cuisine. (Delahunty, 2010:137).

5. Coinage

Coinage is the creation or invention of totally new terms. Without employing any other word or word parts that already exist. Coinage words are mostly originated from invented trade names (Lieber, 2009:51). Coinage is from the word to coin (verb) that means to create. It is the creation or invention of totally new terms. For example *Google* and *Kleenex*.

6. Conversion

Conversion is a process of shifting the category or part of speech of an already existing word without adding an affix. For example. Fish (n) turn into to fish (v) (Lieber, 2009:49).

3. Research Method

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. The data that are analyzed in this research are 100 words from Mobile Legends game text menu. The population of this study are all words from the game text menu in Mobile Legends game. Meanwhile, the sample of this study are the words containing word formation process from Mobile Legends game text menu which is selected by applying purposive random sampling technique.

To collect the data, the writer uses observation method which is a method of collecting data by analyzing an object systematically. The selected data are ones
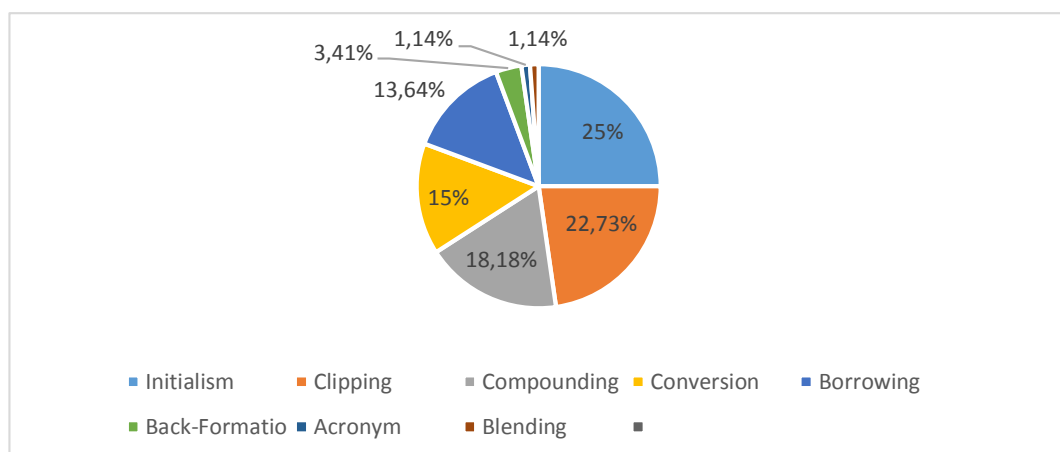
which are indicated using word formation process. In addition, the writer uses note taking technique from Sudaryanto (1993:33).

The data are collected in two steps. First, the data were collected from Mobile Legends game text menu. The writer uses note taking technique to take note of the words that indicated using word formation process. Next, the writer analyze the data by using word formation process theory and classify the data based on it's word formation process.

4. Discussion

4.1. Word Formation Process In Mobile Legends Game

In this research, the writer found 80 words taken as data source from Mobile Legends game menu that will be discussed in this section. From the word formation diagram below we can see the following details of word formation processes found are 25% initialism process, 22,73% clipping process, 18,18% compounding process, 15% conversion process, 13,64% borrowing process, 3,41% back-formation process, 1,14% acronym process, and 1,14% blending process.

Word Formation Diagram

More specific explanation related to the word formation process found in Mobile Legends game will be discussed in the next section.

4.1.1. Acronym and Initialism

Acronym and initialism is the process of creating a word by using the initial letter of a word to create new word. The difference between acronym and initialism process is the word formed through acronym process pronounced as a word while the word formed through initialism process is pronounced as a series of letter.

Acronym ➡ SCUBA (Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus)

Initialism ➡ UK (United Kingdom)

The acronym process found in Mobile Legends game is 'S.A.B.E.R' which stands for Savior, Automata, Breacher, Exploder, Regulator. S.A.B.E.R in Mobile Legends game is a squad name that consists of 5 characters.

S.A.B.E.R Illustration

Meanwhile, the initialism process found in Mobile Legends game is MVP and KDA. In Mobile Legends, MVP stands for Most Valuable Player. This term is generally used to describes the best player in a game or sport.

Most (Adverb) + Valuable(Adjective) + Player (Noun)

In games or sports match, Most Valuable Player can be equally interpreted to Man of The Match or Best Player. All of these commendation has the same meaning which is best player. However in order to obtain this commendation there

are several criteria that must be met. In sports usually the player who scores the most goals or points is more likely obtain this commendation. But in Mobile Legends game the player with best total score of kill, death, and assist is the one who gets the Most Valuable Player commendation. The term used in Mobile Legends game to sum up the total score is KDA. KDA stands for Kill Death Assist, this word is also formed through initialism process.

MVP Illustration

The yellow mark on the picture above is the illustration of MVP commendation of a player who has 9 kills, 1 death, and 11 assists.

4.1.2 Back-Formation and Clippimg

Back-formation is the process of creating a word by removing the supposed or actual affixes while clipping is the process of creating new word by shortening the word that already exists without changing the meaning. The difference between back-formation and clipping is clipping shortens a word without changing it's meaning, while back-formation is a shortened word that changes form and meaning, usually from noun to verb.

Back-formations are simply shortened words created from longer words. Therefore, it is considered as a sub-type of clipping. The example of back-formation process in Mobile Legends game is regen which mean regeneration. The literal meaning of regeneration is an action or progress of regenerating or being regenerated (noun). In Mobile Legends game regen is back-formation form of regeneration which mean an ability to heal a number of health and mana point over time (verb).

Regeneration (noun) ⟶ Regen (verb)

Regen Illustration

The examples of clipping process in this research are exp and crit. In Mobile Legends game, exp means experience. Experience has a literal meaning; it is something that we do or happens to us, especially something important that affects us. Meanwhile in Mobile Legends game, experience means a number of points needed by a player to level up, besides this number of points can only be obtained from a match.

Experience ⟶ experience = exp

Experience Illustration

The purple bar in the picture above is the experience bar, while the '+94' written in the picture is the amount of experience obtained by the player. This display is appears after a player finished a match.

Another example of clipping process in Mobile Legends game is crit. Crit means critical. Literally critical means a situation or problem that have the potential to become disastrous.

The floodwaters had not receded and the situation was still critical.

Another literal meaning of critical is expressing adverse or disapproving comments or judgements.

I was very critical of the previous regime.

In Mobile Legends game, critical has only one meaning; a successful attack that deals more damage than the normal hit. Critical hit is indicated by red numbers that appear when hitting an enemy while there is no numbers appear in normal hit.

Critical Hit

The red number of 4932 on the picture above is the sign of critical hit.

4.1.3. Blending and Compounding

Both of blending and compounding process are using two or more words joined together to create new word. Blending is a process that merge a part of a word with a part of another word, while compounding process joined two complete words together.

Blending = Television (noun) + broadcast (verb) = Telecast (verb)

Compounding = Book (noun) + Case (noun) = Bookcase (noun)

The example of blending process in Mobile Legends game is Esport. Esport is formed by combining 'electronic' (Adjective) and 'sport' (noun). 'Esport' is a term to explain a form of competition using video games (electronic sport).

Electronic (Adjective) + Sport (Noun) = Esport

The next process is compounding. The example of compounding process in Mobile Legends game is starlight. This word is formed by joining star and light word together to make a new word.

Star (Noun) + Light (Noun) = Starlight (Noun)

The meaning of starlight word in Mobile Legends game is not the same as it's literal meaning. Starlight word in Mobile Legends game can be interpreted as VIP (Very Important Person). Starlight word is used in phrase 'starlight member' that means a special user who pays monthly for some kind of privileges granted by the game itself.

Starlight (Noun) ➡ Starlight (Adjective)

Starlight (Adjective) + Member (Noun) = Starlight member

4.1.4. Borrowing

Borrowing is a process that borrows a word from another language (Delahunty, 2010:137). The examples of borrowing process in Mobile Legends are *Gatotkaca* and *Lapu-Lapu*.

 Gatotkaca is a name of Mobile Legends game character. *Gatotkaca* word is actually borrowed from Sanskrit language. In Mobile Legends game *Gatotkaca's* appearance is mimicking *Ghatotkacha's,* a character from *Mahabharata,* a Sanskrit epic of India.

Ghatotkacha in *Mahabharata*

***Gatotkaca* in Mobile Legend**

Another example of borrowing process in Mobile Legends game is *Lapu-Lapu*. *Lapu-Lapu* is actually a chief name of Mactan island in Philippines while in Mobile Legends game *Lapu-Lapu* is a game character. *Lapu-Lapu* in Mobile Legends has a lot of similarity to the chieftain of Mactan Island.
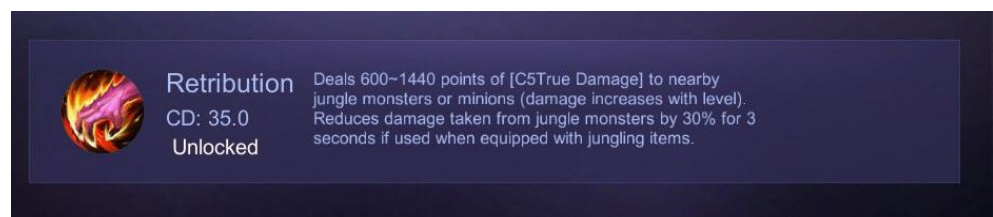

Chieftain of Mactan Island

Lapu-Lapu in Mobile Legends

4.1.5. Conversion

Conversion process also happens in Mobile Legends game. This process can be found in the battle spell menu. The example of conversion process is retribution. Retribution (noun) means the dispensing or receiving reward or punishment especially in the hereafter (Merriam Webster Dictionary). While in Cambridge dictionary retribution means "deserved and severe punishment'' (for example; the killer acted without fear of retribution).

In Mobile Legends game retribution word is formed through conversion process. Retribution in this game is an ability to inflict damage to nearby jungle monsters or minions.

Retribution (Noun)➡ Retribution (Verb)

Retribution Illustration

5. Conclusion

The writer has already stated some example of words that represent each word formation process in Mobile Legends game. There are 8 word formation process in Mobile Legends game.

The following details of word formation processes found by the writer are 25% initialism process, 22,73% clipping process, 18,18% compounding process, 15% conversion process, 13,64% borrowing process, 3,41% back-formation process, 1,14% acronym process, and 1,14% blending process

The most frequent word formation processes used are clipping, initialism and compounding. The writer concludes that Mobile Legends game creator uses these word formation processes to save some space in the game display. The game creator uses several loan words as a character name with the intention of making this game as a universal game since this game is played by people around the globe. The game creator is trying to maintain the balance between the display picture and the text menu of Mobile Legends game since this game is played in mobile device. The game creator assumes by using clipping, initialism and compounding process the player will easily understand the actual meaning of a word even it is a totally new term. Mobile Legends game also provides supporting picture to ease the player in understanding the meaning of a term.

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