

WORD FORMATION PROCESSES IN THE I-MATELAND K-POP COMMUNITY POSTS ON X

Ni Made Listya Ayu Pratiwi¹, Ni Luh Sutjiati Beratha², & Ni Made Suwari Antari³
^{1,2,3}Udayana University

Corresponding e-mail: listyaayup1@gmail.com

Copyright © 2025 The Author



This is an open access article

Under the Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 4.0 International License

DOI: [10.53866/jimi.v5i3.861](https://doi.org/10.53866/jimi.v5i3.861)

Abstract

New words are essential to a language since they help the speakers to express new concepts or ideas. These words can be created through word-formation processes. Words formed by word formation can be encountered everywhere, including in K-pop fan communities on social media. This study aims to identify the types and explain the process of word formation in the I-MATELAND community posts on X. The theory applied in this research is the theory of word formation by Yule. This research was conducted using a qualitative methodology. The data was collected using the documentation method, analyzed using the descriptive qualitative method, and presented using both formal and informal methods. This research revealed that the I-MATELAND community posts contained 70 K-pop jargons formed through word-formation processes. Nine out of the ten types of word formation processes were identified. These types were borrowing (11), compounding (11), blending (4), clipping (5), backformation (1), conversion (8), acronym (13), derivation (8), and multiple processes (9). By being found in 19% of the total data, the results showed that the acronym was the most common word formation process in the I-MATELAND community posts. However, coinage was not found in this study.

Keywords: *word, word formation, jargon, K-pop*

Abstrak

Kata-kata baru memiliki peran penting dalam suatu bahasa karena perannya yang dapat membantu penutur bahasa untuk mengekspresikan konsep-konsep atau ide-ide baru. Kata-kata baru tersebut dapat terbentuk dari proses pembentukan kata. Kata-kata yang terbentuk melalui proses pembentukan kata dapat dijumpai di mana pun, termasuk pada komunitas penggemar K-pop di media sosial. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi tipe-tipe dan menjelaskan proses pembentukan kata yang ditemukan pada postingan komunitas I-MATELAND di media sosial X. Teori yang diaplikasikan pada penelitian ini adalah teori pembentukan kata oleh Yule. Penelitian ini diadakan dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan dengan metode dokumentasi, dianalisis dengan metode deskriptif kualitatif, dan disajikan dengan metode formal dan informal. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 70 jargon K-pop pada postingan komunitas I-MATELAND yang terbentuk dari proses pembentukan kata. Sembilan dari sepuluh tipe proses pembentukan kata berhasil diidentifikasi, di antaranya *borrowing* (11), *compounding* (11), *blending* (4), *clipping* (5), *backformation* (1), *conversion* (8), *acronym* (13), *derivation* (8), dan *multiple processes* (9). Hasil menunjukkan *acronym* merupakan proses pembentukan kata yang paling umum dijumpai di postingan komunitas I-MATELAND, yaitu sejumlah 19% dari total data. Akan tetapi, *coinage* tidak ditemukan di penelitian ini.

Kata Kunci: kata, pembentukan kata, jargon, K-pop

1. Introduction

Words are a crucial element of a language. According to Booij (2012), one of the reasons why new words are essential is that language users require new expressions for new things or concepts (Booij, 2012). New words are not formed on their own. They are created through processes known as word formation. It is a topic covered in morphology. Lieber (2016) defines morphology as the study of word formation, which covers how new words are formed in the world's languages and how word forms can vary depending on how they are used in sentences (Lieber, 2016). Word formation processes mark the birth of new vocabulary in a language. Each process creates different kinds of word forms. Yule (2020) categorizes word formation processes into 10 types, which are acronym, backformation, blending, borrowing, clipping, coinage, compounding, conversion, derivation, and multiple processes (Yule, 2020).

Words created through word-formation can be encountered everywhere, including in the K-pop fan communities. K-pop, Korean Pop Music, is distinguished by its incredibly catchy tunes, lively beats, entertaining dance movements, gorgeous and attractive idols with outstanding physiques, and vibrant music videos with fantastic production quality (Kong, 2016). K-pop has captured the attention of millions of people worldwide and has become a worldwide hit. Because of its huge popularity, a significant number of K-pop communities have grown. In these K-pop fan communities, fans frequently communicate using particular words that are well understood by fellow fans. However, they may seem unfamiliar and strange to those outside the community. Those words are referred to as jargon. It is a specialized technical vocabulary associated with a particular field of work or interest (Yule, 2020). Many of these jargons are created through word-formation processes. These words contribute to enriching a language's vocabulary. Hence, learning how K-pop jargons is formed helps language users comprehend the ideas and meanings behind them.

Because of the tremendous technological advancement, K-pop fan communities can now be found on social media. X, formerly known as Twitter, is one of the most popular social media platforms used by K-pop fans. With its feature called "X Communities", they can have a dedicated platform to engage, share, and discuss a particular topic they care about most with other X users who share the same interest (X Help Center, 2023). Through this feature, K-pop fans worldwide can connect, exchange thoughts and opinions, upload posts, interact with others, and stay informed about their favorite idols' latest updates.

One of the K-pop fan communities on X is called I-MATELAND. This community was created on April 10, 2024, by an X account named @iznaglobals. This community serves as a discussion space for fans of Mnet's survival show series "I-Land 2: N/a". It is a show held to create a new girl group to debut under WakeOne and be produced by The Black Label producer, Teddy (Lee, 2023). This research analyzes the posts of the I-MATELAND community as the data source to examine how word formation processes contribute to the formation of K-pop jargon in this community. The data source is chosen since K-pop jargons formed through word-formation processes can be found in this X community. The analysis is based on the word formation theory put forth by Yule (2020).

This topic is interesting to explore because there are many different ways to form words, each producing different word forms. Several studies have been conducted to examine the word formation processes (Dewati & Kepirianto, 2021; Irhana et al., 2017; Larasati & Pariyanto, 2022; Mutiah et al., 2021; Nindyakirana, 2022; Triatmiko, 2020). These previous studies address the same topic about word formation processes. Five of the six previous studies applied Yule's (2010) theory of word formation. Meanwhile, Triatmiko's (2020) study used word formation theory proposed by Delahunty and Garvey (2010). The present research employs the updated version of word formation theory, which is the theory of word formation developed by Yule (2020). These previous studies are used as references and comparisons in applying the theory to the analysis of this research. These studies examined different data sources, resulting in a variety of findings. Research by Mutiah et al. (2021) demonstrated that Rich Brian's YouTube music video comments contain all ten types of word formation processes. Triatmiko (2020) revealed that coinage could not be identified in the Google Play Store application. The study conducted by Irhana et al. (2017) could only identify five processes of word formation in Allkpop news articles, which are blending, compounding, derivation, conversion, and initialism. Conversion, backformation, and coinage were not discovered in any of the five articles of The Jakarta Post analyzed by Dewati & Kepirianto (2021). Nindyakirana (2022) could not identify the data of acronyms and blends in the Coco movie script. The data formed by backformation was not found in the research by Larasati & Pariyanto (2022) in the product descriptions of the beauty brands of US celebrities. Nevertheless, no study

has specifically examined the word formation processes of K-pop jargon in a K-pop community of survival show fans. Since word-formation processes can be found in various objects and have different results, this study aims to address this topic to fill the knowledge gap left by previous research and provide more explanation for word-formation processes.

As a result, this study entitled “Word Formation Processes in the I-MATELAND K-pop Community Posts on X” thoroughly identifies the types and analyzes the process of word formation that occurs in the I-MATELAND community posts. It is conducted to expand readers’ vocabulary and understanding of how jargon is formed in the K-pop community on social media.

2. Research Method

This research applied the qualitative research methodology. Qualitative research is a methodology employed in the humanities, social sciences, and many other fields and subfields to examine and understand the fundamental meanings, patterns, and nuances of human behaviors, experiences, and occurrences (Alam & Asmawi, 2024). It involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data, for example, texts, audio, or videos (Ugwu & Eze Val, 2023).

2.1. Data Source

In this research, the data were collected from the posts of a K-pop community named I-MATELAND on X as the data source. This community was created on April 10, 2024, by @iznaglobals as an online platform for the fans of a K-pop survival show program, “I-Land 2: N/a”. The data was considered non-numerical because it is in the form of words. Thus, the qualitative method was suitable for this research. The primary data were words formed through word-formation processes usually used by the K-pop fan community. Based on the data collection types by Creswell and Creswell (2018), this data source can be classified as digital material because the posts were from social media. It was selected because many K-pop jargons created through word-formation processes were found in this community and because a survival show fan community was rarely used as an object of research.

2.2. Technique of Collecting Data

The data for this research were collected through purposive sampling and criterion sampling. Criterion sampling chooses the sample based on predetermined criteria, whereas purposive sampling chooses the sample depending on the researcher’s reasoning for being the most informative (Oranga & Matere, 2023). The criteria for the criterion sampling consist of four characteristics: (1) user criteria: international X users who have uploaded a post on the I-MATELAND community; (2) post content: uses English in their posts and contains K-pop jargon; (3) post selection time frame: posted from April to November 2024; and (4) post view number: minimum 1,000 views for each post. These criteria were set to ensure the data was manageable to be analyzed and relevant to the research objectives. The data was collected using the documentation method, which includes recording and note-taking techniques. There were several steps in collecting the data: (1) searching the data from the posts of the I-MATELAND community on X, (2) collecting posts that meet the determined criteria, (3) recording the data and taking digital notes by listing all K-pop jargons from the collected posts, (4) selecting the data to be analyzed, and (5) coding the data with the following format: [type]/[number]/[date]-[month]-[year].

2.3. Technique of Analyzing Data

A descriptive qualitative method was employed to analyze the data, specifically document analysis. The steps involved in analyzing the data were (1) identifying and classifying the selected data based on the types of word formation processes, (2) analyzing and explaining the data by using the word formation theory by Yule (2020), (3) verifying the analyzed data using the triangulation technique by checking, rechecking, and cross-checking the analysis with the theory and dictionaries, and (4) concluding the results and discussion.

2.4. Technique of Presenting Analysis

The analysis was presented using informal and formal methods. The informal method means the data analysis is presented and described using words, whereas the formal method involves the use of symbols and signs (Sudaryanto, 2015). The results were presented in a table, and the analysis was presented descriptively. The description thoroughly explains how the data was analyzed in each type of word formation process.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Results

One of the objectives of this research is to identify the types of word formation processes found in the posts of the I-MATELAND community on X. Table 1 below presents the results of this research.

Table 1. Types of Word Formation Processes in the I-MATELAND Community Posts on X

No	Types	Data	Quantity	Percentage
1.	Borrowing	debut, nugu, center, bias, maknae, unnie, encore, ace, daesang, album, idol	11	16%
2.	Compounding	fanmade, fansite, stage presence, line distribution, dance machine, lightstick, fanbase, music show, variety show, dance break, screen time	11	16%
3.	Blending	selca, fancam, knetz, stan	4	6%
4.	Clipping	demo, choreo, ult, dorm, collab	5	7%
5.	Backformation	choreograph	1	1%
6.	Conversion	comeback, anti, stream, lineup, vote, visual, cover, live	8	11%
7.	Coinage	-	0	0%
8.	Acronym	PC, PAK, FOTG, OP, NGG, MV, ROTY, OT, GG, SOTY, AOTY, RAK, PD	13	19%
9.	Derivation	trainee, pre-recording, fandom, disbandment, leader, vocalist, dancer, rapper, teaser	8	11%
10.	Multiple Processes	rookie, all-rounder, bias wrecker, predebut, songwriter, solo stan, ending fairy, survival show, evil editing	9	13%
Total			70	100%

Based on the table presented above, the total data collected was 70 words. There were nine out of ten word formation processes identified. These included borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, acronym, derivation, and multiple processes. Acronym was the most dominant type, as there were 13 acronyms out of 70 words, constituting 19% of the total data. The second common types were borrowing and compounding, which were 16% of the data, followed by multiple processes at 13%, conversion and derivation at 11%, clipping at 7%, blending at 6%, and backformation at 1%. However, in this research, words created through coinage were not found.

3.2. Discussion

Each word formation process creates different word forms. The creation of K-pop jargon involves merging words, adding affixes, shortening the words, or only making internal changes by shifting the word classes. The word formation processes of K-pop jargons found in the posts of the I-MATELAND community on X are discussed and explained further below.

a. Acronym

Acronym is the most prevalent type found in the I-MATELAND community posts. An acronym is a word created from the first letters of a set of other words. According to Yule (2020), some acronyms can be pronounced as single words, while others have each letter pronounced separately (Yule, 2020, p. 64). There are 13 acronyms discovered in this research. The following is one of the acronyms found in the posts.

Data 1

“what about FACE OF THE GROUP (FOTG) who do you think was born for that?”

(A/41/11-05-24)

The acronym **FOTG** stands for the noun phrase “Face of the Group”. It is formed by taking the first letters of each word. It is pronounced separately, letter by letter. This acronym is a common jargon used by the K-pop fan community to refer to the role of a K-pop group member who represents and draws the public’s attention to the group. This role is commonly taken by the most popular member of the group. The original post contains a voting with a question that asks the other members of the I-MATELAND community about

which one among four I-Land 2 contestants in the options they think would be the most suitable for the role of “Face of the Group”.

Other acronyms identified in this K-pop community are **PC** (Photocard), **PAK** (Perfect All-Kill), **OP** (Original Poster), **NGG** (New Girl Group), **MV** (Music Video), **ROTY** (Rookie of the Year), **OT** (One True), **GG** (Girl Group), **SOTY** (Song of the Year), **AOTY** (Artist of the Year), **RAK** (Real-time All Kill), and **PD** (Producer-Director). All of these acronyms are a type of initialism wherein they are created from the initial letters of a set of words, and each letter is pronounced independently. Acronyms are considered complex words as they are composed of more than one morpheme.

b. Borrowing

The second most common type of word formation in the I-MATELAND community posts is borrowing. It involves adopting words from different languages. This process is also one of the most common sources of new words in English (Yule, 2020, p. 60). An example of borrowed K-pop jargon is provided below.

Data 2

“I thought her **debut** was secured”

(BR/9/05-07-24)

The jargon **debut** is derived from the French word *début*, which means beginning or start. This word is a simple word because it only consists of one morpheme, which is the free morpheme **debut**. The borrowing process rarely changes the word class, and it can be seen from the word **debut** that maintains the word class of the source word, which is a noun. The spelling of the word in English and French is slightly different. The English word **debut** omits the acute accent, which marks the vowel pronunciation in French. Some possible reasons why this diacritical mark is omitted are that the word has become more familiar in English, and also, the symbol can be difficult to find on an English-language keyboard; hence, people, especially on social media, do not use it (Crystal, 2021, p. 82).

In K-pop, this jargon refers to the first official public appearance of a K-pop idol or group that is signified by the release of music, either a single or an album. From the original post, it can be inferred that the person who wrote this post initially believed that the first appearance of an I-Land 2 contestant as a K-pop idol was guaranteed, but it turned out otherwise.

The borrowed words of these K-pop jargons are not only derived from French, but also from Latin and Korean. K-pop jargons that solely borrowed from French are **debut** (*début*), **bias** (*biais*), **encore** (*encore*), and **ace** (*as*). The word **encore** is the only one that is written identically to the original word from the source language. Nonetheless, the other words have different spellings to conform to English language norms, either in spelling or pronunciation. The word **album** is solely borrowed from the Latin word *album*. On the other hand, some K-pop jargons can also have multiple origins, such as the word **center** and **idol**, which are partially borrowed from Latin and French. K-pop jargons adopted from Korean are **nugu** (누구), **maknae** (막내), **unnie** (언니), and **daesang** (대상). These jargons are Korean words written in Hangeul, the Korean alphabet, that have been romanized. Borrowed words usually create simple words as they are made up of a single free morpheme.

c. Compounding

Compounding involves joining the complete components of different words to generate a single word form (Yule, 2020, p. 61). The findings show that 13 compound words are found in the community posts. The example of a compound word is explained further as follows.

Data 3

“Oh my goddd a jiyoon **fansite**....”

(CP/13/30-05-24)

The word **fansite** is a combination of two free morphemes, *fan* (N) and *site* (N). Both words can stand alone as single words, but they create a new word form when joined. This compounding process produces the noun-noun (NN) compound since both source words are nouns. The compound noun **fansite** is classified as a closed compound as it has no space or hyphen between the words.

A **fansite** can be interpreted as a website created and run by a fan of someone or something. However, nowadays, K-pop **fansites** are not only in the form of websites, but also social media accounts, such as X accounts. Hence, it can be defined as an online platform created and managed by a fan, also known as a fansite master, to post content about somebody or something they like or admire. In K-pop culture, these

fansites frequently post photos or videos of K-pop idols when they are performing on stage or attending events. The original post shows that the writer felt touched seeing an X account dedicated to posting content of Jiyoona, an I-Land 2 contestant.

Compound words that are also found in this research are **fanmade** (fan + made), **stage presence** (stage + presence), **line distribution** (line + distribution), **dance machine** (dance + machine), **lightstick** (light + stick), **fanbase** (fan + base), **music show** (music + show), **variety show** (variety + show), **dance break** (dance + break), and **screen time** (screen + time). Some compound words, such as **fansite**, **fanbase**, **fanmade**, and **lightstick**, are closed compounds. On the other hand, the words **stage presence**, **line distribution**, **dance machine**, **music show**, **variety show**, **dance break**, and **screen time** are open compounds that are written with spaces between the words. Most of these compound words are compound nouns since the nouns are the head of the compound words that determine the whole word's meaning. However, the word **fanmade** combines a noun and an adjective, which creates a compound adjective. Compounding creates complex words since it has to combine more than one morpheme to form a compound word.

d. Multiple Processes

Multiple processes mean that the words are created through more than one process. These multiple processes are found in nine words. One of the examples can be seen in Data 4 below.

Data 4

“who is this **rookie** gg? they look so good im going insane”

(MP/64/30-05-24)

The K-pop jargon **rookie** is formed through multiple processes, which are clipping and conversion. The base word is *recruit* (N), which is subsequently shortened into a one-syllable word through clipping. This process involves a sound change from the base word *recruit* (N) into the clipped word *rook* (N). After that, it involves a special clipping process known as hypocorism by adding the suffix *-ie* at the end of the word *rook*. This clipping process creates the noun **rookie**. Thereafter, the noun **rookie** experiences a conversion process by shifting from a noun to an adjective. This process does not change the word form, but only alters the word class. Therefore, the word becomes the adjective **rookie** that is used to describe a noun.

In K-pop culture, **rookie** refers to a K-pop idol or group that has just debuted. As an adjective, this word can be used to describe the characteristics of newly debuted K-pop idols. According to Data 4, it can be interpreted that the writer is amazed seeing a picture of a group of I-Land 2 contestants that looks good and confident, like a newly debuted girl group, not like a group of trainees.

The other eight words are **all-rounder**, **bias wrecker**, **predebut**, **songwriter**, **solo stan**, **ending fairy**, **survival show**, and **evil editing**. Several words are created by using two processes of word formation, such as **rookie** (clipping and conversion), **all-rounder** (compounding and derivation), **songwriter** (derivation and compounding), **solo stan** (blending and compounding), **ending fairy** (derivation and compounding), and **survival show** (derivation and compounding). The other words are formed through three processes, which are **bias wrecker** (borrowing, derivation, and compounding), **predebut** (borrowing, derivation, and conversion), and **evil editing** (backformation, derivation, and compounding). These examples demonstrate that words can be created through more than one process. By being formed through multiple processes, these words are classified as complex words.

e. Derivation

Derivation involves adding affixes to the base words to form new words. The affixes can be prefixes, infixes, or suffixes (Yule, 2020, p. 65). There are eight derivative words found in the I-MATELAND community posts. The explanation of how a K-pop jargon can be formed through derivation is shown below.

Data 5

“guys, who’s the **trainee** that made u watch I-Land2: n/a?”

(D/59/15-06-24)

The data above shows that **trainee** is an example of a noun formed through derivation. This word is made up of two morphemes, which are the free morpheme *train* and the bound morpheme *-ee*. The suffix *-ee* is attached to the base word *train* as an affix that cannot stand alone as a word, thus, it needs to be attached to a free morpheme to function as a word.

Adding the suffix *-ee* shifts the verb *train* to become a noun **trainee**, since this suffix typically creates a noun that refers to the person who achieves the action of the verb. In K-pop, the word **trainee** is used to refer to someone trained to become a K-pop idol. The **trainees** are trained under K-pop agencies, and the training involves vocal, dance, rap, language, and other lessons.

Other K-pop jargons formed through derivation are **pre-recording**, **fandom**, **disbandment**, **leader**, **vocalist**, **dancer**, **rapper**, and **teaser**. Seven of them are created by adding one suffix at the end of the base words. They are **trainee** (train + *-ee*), **fandom** (fan + *-dom*), **disbandment** (disband + *-ment*), **leader** (lead + *-er*), **vocalist** (vocal + *-ist*), **dancer** (dance + *-er*), **rapper** (rap + *-er*), and **teaser** (tease + *-er*). The word **pre-recording**, on the other hand, is an example of a word that has both a prefix and a suffix, in which the base word *record* is attached with the suffix *-ing* at the end and the prefix *pre-* at the front. All of these derivative words found are nouns that are created by adding noun-forming suffixes *-ee*, *-dom*, *-ment*, *-er*, *-ist*, and *-ing* to base words, which can be verbs or nouns. These derivative words are complex words since they are made up of more than one morpheme, which are free morphemes and bound morphemes.

f. Conversion

Conversion is also known as zero derivation, category change, or functional shift. The word classes of the initial words are shifted without changing their forms. The category change may shift nouns into verbs, verbs into nouns, complex verbs into nouns, verbs into adjectives, compound nouns into verbs, or phrasal verbs into nouns (Yule, 2020, p. 63). Eight conversions are found in the community posts, and one of the examples is provided below.

Data 6

“...i really hope they won’t go down the once every 2 years **comeback** with the recycled under 3 minutes song route under him.”

(CV/39/08-07-24)

The word **comeback** is an example of a conversion that is shifted from a phrasal verb. A phrasal verb comprises a verb and a particle, in which the phrasal verb *come back* consists of the verb *come* and the adverbial particle *back*. Conversion modifies the word class of the source word, from a verb to a noun, without adding affixes or reducing the word. The phrasal noun **comeback** is created by omitting the space and joining the verb and the particle to form a single word.

Conversion also alters the meaning of the source word. It changes the meaning from an action to an event or situation. **Comeback** in the K-pop culture is portrayed as a situation when K-pop idols return to release new music, either singles or albums, which are often accompanied by promotional activities, such as music show performances. The period between a **comeback** and its debut (first release), or between comebacks, can take a few months or even years. It is clear from the post in Data 6 that the writer does not want *izna*, the K-pop group formed through the *I-Land 2* survival show, to release new music once every two years with songs under three minutes. It can be implied that they expect the **comeback** to be more frequent and not take years, and the duration of the songs to be three minutes or longer.

Other examples of conversion found in this research are **anti**, **stream**, **lineup**, **vote**, **visual**, **cover**, and **live**. The word **lineup** is also originally a phrasal verb, *line up*, shifted into a phrasal noun. The word **anti** is shifted from the prefix *anti-* into a noun. The words **stream** and **vote** are examples of nouns converted into verbs. On the other hand, the words **cover** and **live** are verbs converted into nouns. The K-pop jargon **visual** is an example of a conversion from an adjective into a noun. Some conversions create simple words as they are only made up of one morpheme, such as **anti**, **stream**, **vote**, **visual**, **cover**, and **live**. Conversions that create complex words are the ones that are shifted from phrasal verbs, as they consist of two morphemes.

g. Clipping

Clipping is a process of reducing words with more than one syllable into a shorter form. It usually keeps the beginning part of the word (Yule, 2020, p. 62). There are five clipped words, and an example of clipping is explained below.

Data 7

“jo yuri sang the **demo** of drip???”

(CL/30/12-09-24)

Demo is formed through clipping because it shortens the word *demonstration* from having a four-syllable word into a two-syllable word. This word undergoes back-clipping, which is a clipping process that involves

omitting the final portion and retaining the beginning part of the word (Mattiolo, 2013). To form the word **demo**, the end part, *-nstration*, is deleted, and the initial part, **demo**, is retained. This jargon is also considered clipping as it does not change the word class of the original word, which is a noun.

This clipped word also keeps the meaning of the word *demonstration*. It is defined as a recording of an example of somebody's music. Since K-pop is a part of the music industry, this jargon is frequently used to refer to the recording made as an example of a song for K-pop idols. Data 7 depicts the surprise of the original poster realizing that Jo Yuri, a K-pop solo singer, sang the example recording of Drip, a song in which the full version would be performed by the I-Land 2 finalists.

There are other examples of clipping found in the I-MATELAND community posts, which are **choreo** (choreography), **ult** (ultimate), **dorm** (dormitory), and **collab** (collaboration). All these clippings maintain the word class of the original words. They also undergo a back-clipping process as the final portions of the words are omitted, and only the beginning parts are retained. The clipped versions have fewer syllables than the original words.

h. Blending

A blend is formed by merging different words to create a single word form. What makes blending different from compounding is that blending usually involves taking parts or elements of the words (Yule, 2020, p. 61). It is found in four words in the posts of the I-MATELAND community. The following is an example of a blend found in this community.

Data 8

“now that izna is confirmed, i would love have izna **stan** oomfs”

(BL/25/05-07-24)

The word **stan** is an example of a blend of the initial and the final parts of the source words with an overlapping element. The beginning part of the word *stalker* (N), which is *sta-*, is merged with the ending part of the word *fan* (N), which is *-an*, to create the blend **stan**. Both source words are reduced into splinters which makes the word **stan** a total blend. The overlapping element in this blend is the vowel “a” in both source words, as can be seen in the following process: *stalker* + *fan* → *stan*. It only overlaps orthographically, but not phonologically, as the vowel “a” in both source words is pronounced differently, with /ɔ:/ in *stalker* and /æ/ in *fan*. This blend functions as a noun; thus, it does not change the word class of the source words.

Stan literally means a stalker fan. However, in the K-pop fan culture, its meaning has slightly changed. It is often used to refer to a devoted fan who deeply admires their idols, but their action does not have to be obsessive, like a stalker, to be called a **stan**. In Data 8, the post indicates that the person who posted it wants izna fans in the I-MATELAND community to be their mutual on X as the group's name and members have been confirmed.

The other blends identified are **selca** (*selfie* + *camera*), **fancam** (*fan* + *camera*), and **knetz** (*Korean* + *netizen*). For the jargon **selca**, the splinters are both the beginning parts with no overlapping elements. The word **knetz** is also a blend of the beginning parts of the source words. **Fancam** is an example of a partial blend as one source word is kept in its whole form, while the other source word is reduced into a splinter. Blending creates complex words by merging parts of two free morphemes to create new word forms.

i. Backformation

Backformation involves shortening a word and changing its word class. The word class typically shifts from a noun to a verb (Yule, 2020, p. 62). In this research, only one backformation is found. It can be seen in the data provided below.

Data 9

“Kim Sujung had to **choreograph** and teach this dance to everybody in one week please just give her praise once judges”

(BF/32/16-05-24)

The verb **choreograph** is shortened from the noun *choreography*, which appeared first before the verb form. It omitted the suffix *-y* to create a verb from a noun. Through this reduction process, there is a functional shift of the word from a noun to a verb. These two aspects, shortening the word and changing the word class, show that the word **choreograph** is an example of backformation.

This word is a common jargon typically used in dancing, as well as in the K-pop industry, as it is closely related to the dance industry. **Choreograph** is a verb that means to plan or create a sequence of steps or

movements to be performed or showcased in a dance. Therefore, the original post suggests that Kim Sujung, an I-Land 2 contestant, had to create a sequence of dance steps and teach them to her group members within a week; hence, she deserved to be praised by the judges for her hard work.

j. Coinage

Coinage is defined as the creation of an entirely new word. This process is quite uncommon in English. In this research, no coinage is found in the data source. This is because nearly all brand names used by community members in their posts have not become common terms.

3.3. Relations to the Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are to identify the types and analyze the word formation processes that occur in the I-MATELAND community posts on X. Table 1 shows that in the I-MATELAND community post, nine out of ten word formation processes were found based on the word formation theory by Yule (2020). These types include borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, acronym, derivation, and multiple processes.

All nine types of word formation processes demonstrate different processes to form the K-pop jargon. Acronyms are formed by combining the first letters of different sets of words and are pronounced separately, also known as initialisms. Borrowing involves adopting words from other languages, such as French, Latin, and Korean. Compound words are formed by combining two different words into one word form, which can be of the same word class (Noun-Noun) or different word classes (Adjective-Noun). Jargons formed through multiple processes may involve two or three different word formation processes to create them. These multiple processes produce new words that are different from the base words in terms of word form or word class. Derivation produces words by adding affixes, either prefixes or suffixes. Conversion maintains the word form, but changes its word class. Clipping changes the word form by shortening the word. In this research, all clipped words are formed through the back-clipping process. Blending combines two words by taking a piece of the word, such as the initial part + the final part or the initial part + the initial part. Backformation can change word form by shortening words and change word class from noun to verb.

From the explanation above, both research objectives have been successfully answered by identifying the type and analyzing the word formation processes. This study is also able to fill the gap of previous research by providing examples and explanations of several types of word formation processes that were not found in previous studies using the theory proposed by Yule (2020) in a different data source.

4. Conclusion

Words created through word formation processes can be encountered in the K-pop fan communities. The fans commonly use various K-pop jargons to express particular concepts within the K-pop culture. Those jargons are also created through word-formation processes. This study discovered 70 K-pop jargons in the posts of the I-MATELAND community. With 13 data, the acronym was the most common method of forming K-pop jargon in these community posts. The findings additionally demonstrated that there were 11 words for borrowing and compounding, 9 for multiple processes, 8 for conversion and derivation, 5 for clipping, 4 for blending, and 1 for backformation. By analyzing the K-pop jargons, this study provides an explanation for the morphology field, specifically word formation processes, to the ones who are interested in morphology, who are part of the K-pop fan community, or who do not belong to the K-pop fan community, but are willing to know how these jargons formed. This study has a few limitations, such as the absence of words formed through coinage in the data source. This type was not found since brand names were rarely used to generate jargons that appeared in I-MATELAND community posts. In this K-pop community, most brand names are not yet well-known enough to be recognized as coinage. In order to fill the gap and expand the current study's findings, the researcher recommends that future researchers explore and examine the word formation process in other data sources. Future researchers can also apply different theories to determine how the results will vary.

Bibliography

- Alam, M. S., & Asmawi, A. (2024). Qualitative Research: Defining Features and Guiding Principles. *Forum for Education Studies*, 2024(2), 1262. <https://doi.org/10.59400/fes.v2i2.126>
- Booij, G. (2012). *The Grammar of Words: An Introduction to Linguistic Morphology* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (5th ed.). SAGE Publications.
- Crystal, D. (2021). *David Crystal's 50 Questions About English Usage* (1st ed.). Cambridge University Press.
- Dewati, W. R., & Kepirianto, C. (2021). Word Formation Processes of the Terms Related to Covid-19 and Environmental Issues in The Jakarta Post. *E3S Web of Conferences*, 317, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202131705005>
- Irhana, A., Arifin, B., & Ariani, S. (2017). English Registers in Allkpop News Articles. *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya*, 1(1), 19–28. www.allkpop.com.
- Kong, H. Y. (2016). *The Globalization of K-pop: The Interplay of External and Internal Forces* [Thesis]. Furtwangen University.
- Larasati, C. A., & Pariyanto. (2022). An Analysis of Word Formation Processes on Cosmetic Product Descriptions in U.S Celebrities' Beauty Brands. *Journal of English Teaching Adi Buana*, 07(02).
- Lee, C. (2023). Season 2 of "I-LAND" to Air in April Next Year to Find Members for New Girl Group. *Korea JoongAng Daily*. <https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/2023-11-29/entertainment/kpop/Season-2-of-ILAND-to-air-in-April-next-year-to-find-members-for-new-girl-group/1923995>
- Lieber, R. (2016). *Introducing Morphology* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.
- Mattiolo, E. (2013). *Extra-grammatical Morphology in English: Abbreviations, Blends, Reduplicatives, and Related Phenomena*. De Gruyter Mouton.
- Mutiah, S. D., Hidayat, D. N., & Alek, A. (2021). Exploring the Word Formation Process on Rich Brian's Official Music Video Comments. *EduLite: Journal of English Education, Literature and Culture*, 6(1), 198–212. <https://doi.org/10.30659/e.6.1.198-212>
- Nindyakirana, S. A. (2022). *An Analysis of Word Formation Process in Coco Movie* [Undergraduate Thesis]. Diponegoro University.
- Oranga, J., & Matere, A. (2023). Qualitative Research: Essence, Types and Advantages. *OALib*, 10(12), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.4236/oalib.1111001>
- Sudaryanto. (2015). *Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa: Pengantar Penelitian Wahana Kebudayaan secara Linguistik*. Sanata Dharma University Press.
- Triatmiko, D. A. (2020). *Process of English Word Formation in Google Play Store Application* [Undergraduate Thesis]. Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University.
- Ugwu, Chinyere. N., & Eze Val, H. U. (2023). Qualitative Research. *IDOSR Journal of Computer and Applied Sciences*, 8(1), 20–35. www.idosr.org
- X Help Center. (2023). *Communities on X*. X Help Center. <https://help.x.com/en/using-x/communities>
- Yule, G. (2020). *The Study of Language* (7th ed.). Cambridge University Press.