

Analysis of Morphological and Semantic Transformations of English Words with Indonesian Affixes in Digital Communication

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, the increasing use of English words combined with Indonesian affixes in digital communication has given rise to a unique form of linguistic innovation that reflects the interaction between the local and global language. This research aims to analyze how Indonesian affixes influence the morphological structure and semantic meaning of English words which are used in digital communication. This research uses qualitative descriptive to analyze 45 lexical items found from Instagram and YouTube comment sections. The data selected from real online interactions containing English words attached to Indonesian affixes. Data were analyzed by following four stages, such as data reduction, classification, interpretation, and conclusion. The findings show that the Indonesian suffix *-nya* is the most frequently used representing 66.67% of the collected data, followed by the prefixes *di-*, *ke-*, *nge-*, *ter-*, *se-*, and the suffix *-an*. These affixes modify English words by adapting them to Indonesian grammatical structures while preserving or extending their meanings. Unlike previous studies that primarily examined English-Indonesian lexical borrowing through corpus data or magazine texts, this study contributes new insights by examining the morphological and semantic adaptation of English lexical items in spontaneous digital interactions on Instagram and YouTube. The research determines that Indonesian-English hybrid expressions showcase linguistic innovation, facilitate efficient digital interaction, and exemplify the active development of bilingual language usage in modern Indonesian online conversations.

Keywords: *affixation; code-mixing; digital communication; Indonesian-English hybrid words; morphology; semantics*

INTRODUCTION

English has become the most widely used language in global communication as a result of globalization. It is widely used in commerce, technology, media, education, and diplomacy, including in Indonesia. In the technology sector, many applications, software, and digital platforms such as Google, Instagram, and YouTube use English as their primary language. Consequently, English words such as login, download, upload, and software have become familiar to Indonesian speakers and are frequently used in everyday communication. This widespread use of English reflects not only its role as an international language but also its influence on the vocabulary used by Indonesian speakers in digital environments.

The increasing use of English in Indonesia has encouraged language contact between English and Indonesian. As a result, many English words are borrowed and integrated into Indonesian communication. According to Haspelmath (2009), lexical borrowing occurs when a language adopts words from another language to meet communicative needs. In digital communication, borrowed English words are often combined with Indonesian affixes rather than being used in their original forms. Expressions such as *flagshipnya*, *dicover*, *keinstall*, *feelnya*, and *updatean* illustrate how English lexical roots are adapted to Indonesian grammatical patterns while remaining understandable to Indonesian speakers. These hybrid forms have become increasingly common, particularly in social media interactions where language use is more flexible and informal.

This phenomenon is closely related to code-mixing, which refers to the use of linguistic elements from two or more languages within the same utterance. Unlike code-switching, which involves shifting from one language to another, code-mixing involves the insertion of linguistic elements from another language into the main language being used. Code-mixing is usually done without completely replacing the language used, but rather mixing words, phrases, or grammatical structures from another language into the main language (Suwito, 2020). In online communication, English lexical items are not only inserted into Indonesian sentences but are also modified through Indonesian affixation. As a result, English words function according to Indonesian grammatical rules while preserving most of their original meanings. This process demonstrates that language users actively adapt borrowed words to fit the linguistic system of Indonesian rather than simply transferring them from one language to another.

This language use is particularly observable on social media platforms such as Instagram and YouTube, where users engage in frequent and interactive communication. The user-generated content and comment sections on these platforms provide rich contexts for examining how English lexical items are incorporated into Indonesian and adapted through Indonesian affixation in everyday digital communication.

From a morphological perspective, affixation is one of the most productive word-formation processes in Indonesian. Katamba (1993) defines morphology as the study of the internal structure of words and the processes through which words are formed. Similarly, Booij (2012) explains that morphology plays a crucial role in word formation across different languages, influencing both the structure and meaning of words.

In addition to morphological structure, the semantic aspect is also important in examining how the meanings of words may be affected by linguistic processes such as affixation. Lyons (1995) explains that semantics is fundamental to understanding how meaning changes through linguistic processes, while Kreidler (1998) defines semantics as “the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings.” Therefore, the analysis of English lexical items combined with Indonesian affixes requires consideration of both their morphological structure and semantic meaning. This morphological and semantic interaction is particularly relevant in the context of Indonesian affixation.

Similarly, Kridalaksana (2010) states that Indonesian affixation changes the grammatical function and grammatical category of base words through the addition of prefixes, suffixes, infixes, or confixes. When Indonesian affixes are attached to English lexical roots, the resulting forms demonstrate a productive interaction between English vocabulary and Indonesian morphology. These hybrid lexical items show that borrowed English words can function naturally within Indonesian sentence structures through the application of native affixation patterns. Phrases such as “trending,” “viral,” and “influencer” have entered the Indonesian vocabulary through global media consumption (Rahmawati, 2019).

Besides affecting morphological structure, Indonesian affixes may also influence the semantic meaning of English words. According to Leech (1981), meaning is not limited to conceptual meaning but also includes associative meaning that develops through language use and context. In digital communication, many English words retain their core meanings after receiving Indonesian affixes, while others develop more specific or context-dependent meanings. Therefore, both morphological and semantic perspectives are necessary to explain how these hybrid lexical items function in Indonesian digital communication.

Several studies have examined the use of English words in Indonesian from different perspectives. Purnama (2022) investigated Indonesian affixation in Indonesian–English code-mixing using a corpus-based approach. The study showed that Indonesian affixes are productively attached to English words in everyday communication. Razizka (2022) analyzed English words combined with Indonesian affixes in *Aneka Yess!* magazine and found that English lexical items were adapted to Indonesian grammatical patterns through affixation. Khotimah also examined Indonesian affixes attached to English words in *Mobile Guide* magazine and reported that English words could function naturally in Indonesian after receiving Indonesian affixes.

Although these studies have contributed to the discussion of English borrowing and Indonesian affixation, most of them focus on identifying word-formation patterns or describing the occurrence of Indonesian affixes attached to English words. Limited attention has been given to how Indonesian affixes influence both the morphological structure and the semantic meaning of English lexical items used in authentic digital communication. In addition, previous studies generally used printed media, magazines, or corpus data, whereas social media comments provide more spontaneous and natural language use.

Digital communication offers a distinct linguistic environment in which language users interact informally and generate new lexical forms more rapidly than in conventional written texts. Social media platforms such as Instagram and YouTube have become productive spaces where Indonesian speakers combine English lexical items with Indonesian affixes. Words such as *diedit*, *filenya*, and *ke-spoiler* demonstrate how English lexical roots can be integrated into Indonesian grammatical structures while remaining meaningful in communication. In addition, English words such as *login*, *download*, *upload*, and *software* have become common in everyday communication among

Indonesian speakers (Setyowati & Hamzah, 2020). These forms represent productive morphological processes that deserve further investigation from both morphological and semantic perspectives.

Based on this linguistic practice, this study analyzes English lexical items combined with Indonesian affixes in Instagram and YouTube comment sections. The analysis focuses on identifying the types of Indonesian affixes attached to English lexical roots, explaining how the affixation process changes their morphological structure, and examining the semantic changes that occur after affixation. The findings are expected to contribute to the discussion of word formation, lexical borrowing, and semantic change in Indonesian digital communication.

Accordingly, this study addresses the following research question: (1). How do Indonesian affixes alter the morphological structure of English lexical items in digital communication, and what grammatical changes result from this process? (2). How do Indonesian affixes influence the semantic meaning of English lexical items in digital communication, and what semantic nuances result from this process?

This study contributes to the discussion of English-Indonesian language contact by explaining how Indonesian affixes are attached to English lexical items in digital communication. It also provides evidence that Indonesian affixation not only changes the morphological structure of English lexical items but may also influence their semantic interpretation depending on the context of use. The findings are expected to contribute to studies on morphology, semantics, lexical borrowing, and digital communication.

METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach with a corpus-based method. A qualitative descriptive approach was used because this study focuses on describing how Indonesian affixes influence the morphological structure and semantic meaning of English lexical items in digital communication. The corpus-based method was applied to analyze authentic language data collected from social media interactions. According to McEnery and Hardie (2012), a corpus-based approach allows researchers to investigate language patterns through naturally occurring linguistic data. By employing this approach, the study can uncover patterns of language use and transformation in their natural context, providing an in-depth understanding of the interplay between English words and Indonesian morphemes in digital spaces (Sandelowski, 2000).

The data consisted of 45 occurrences of English lexical items combined with Indonesian affixes collected from publicly available comments on Instagram and YouTube. These platforms were selected because they provide authentic examples of digital communication in which Indonesian speakers frequently combine English lexical items with Indonesian affixes. The Instagram data were taken from selected posts on the @gadgetins account, while the YouTube data were collected from comments on the RuangGuru AoC Episode 3 video. The comments were identified through manual browsing of the relevant posts and video comment sections.

Purposive sampling was used to select data relevant to the objectives of the study. Data were included when they contained an identifiable English lexical root combined with an Indonesian affix and occurred in a relevant public comment. Spam and irrelevant comments were excluded, while repeated occurrences of the same lexical form were retained for frequency analysis. The identified affixes consisted of the prefixes *di-*, *ke-*, *nge-*, *ter-*, and *se-*, as well as the suffixes *-nya* and *-an*. Each lexical item was analyzed to identify its morphological structure and semantic meaning.

The morphological analysis was conducted using Katamba's (1993) theory of morphology and Kridalaksana's (2010) theory of Indonesian affixation. The analysis focused on identifying the English lexical root, the Indonesian affix attached to it, the word-formation process, and the resulting grammatical changes after affixation. The semantic analysis was based on Leech's (1981) theory of meaning to examine whether the addition of Indonesian affixes influenced the original meaning of English lexical items and to identify the semantic nuances that emerged in digital communication.

The data analysis was carried out in four stages. First, the lexical items were identified and classified according to the type of Indonesian affix. Second, each lexical item was analyzed morphologically to explain the affixation process and the resulting grammatical structure. Third, the semantic meaning of each lexical item was examined by comparing the original English meaning with its meaning in the Indonesian digital communication context. Finally, the findings were interpreted to explain how Indonesian affixes adapt English lexical items into Indonesian grammatical structures while maintaining or modifying their semantic meanings.

Because the data were obtained from publicly available social media comments, usernames and other personally identifying information were not included in the analysis or reported in this study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study analyzed 45 occurrences of English lexical items combined with Indonesian affixes collected from Instagram and YouTube comments. The findings focus on two aspects: (1) the morphological changes resulting from Indonesian affixation and (2) the semantic changes that occur after English lexical items are integrated into Indonesian digital communication.

Table 1. Distribution of Indonesian Affixes

Affix	Example	Occurrence	Percentage
<i>-nya</i>	Feelnya, reviewnya	30	66.67%
<i>di-</i>	dicover, dishoot	4	8.89%
<i>ke-</i>	kespoiler	3	6.67%
<i>nge-</i>	ngecheat	3	6.67%
<i>-an</i>	updatean	3	6.67%
<i>ter-</i>	ternotice	1	2.22%

Affix	Example	Occurrence	Percentage
<i>se-</i>	schappy	1	2.21%
		45	100%

Based on the collected data, the suffix *-nya* is the most frequently used Indonesian affix, accounting for 66.67% of all occurrences. It is followed by the prefixes *di-*, *ke-*, *nge-*, the suffix *-an*, and finally the prefixes *ter-* and *se-*. These findings indicate that the suffix *-nya* is the most productive affix in adapting English lexical items into Indonesian digital communication. In contrast, the prefixes *ter-* and *se-* appear only once, suggesting that they are less frequently used in English-Indonesian hybrid lexical items. Overall, the findings show that Indonesian speakers tend to use affixes that make English lexical items function naturally within Indonesian grammatical structures.

The analysis further shows that Indonesian affixes are attached to different word classes, including nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Although the grammatical functions change after affixation, the English lexical roots remain unchanged. In addition, the semantic analysis indicates that most lexical items retain their original meanings, while Indonesian affixes add contextual meanings that make the expressions more natural in Indonesian digital communication.

After classifying the affixes, each lexical item was analyzed morphologically and semantically. The morphological analysis examined how Indonesian affixes modify the grammatical structure of English lexical roots, while the semantic analysis investigated how affixation influences meaning in digital communication. The analysis shows that English lexical roots generally remain unchanged, whereas Indonesian affixes modify their grammatical functions and contextual meanings.

Morphological Analysis

The morphological analysis demonstrates that Indonesian affixes productively modify the grammatical structure of English lexical items without changing their lexical roots. The findings show that English lexical items are adapted into Indonesian by attaching prefixes and suffixes according to Indonesian morphological rules.

For example, the lexical item *feelnya* consists of the English noun “feel” and the Indonesian suffix *-nya*.

Lexical item Morphological analysis

feelnya feel (English lexical root) + *-nya* (Indonesian suffix)

The suffix *-nya* functions as a grammatical marker indicating definiteness or specific reference. The English lexical root remains unchanged, while the suffix enables the lexical item to function naturally in Indonesian sentences.

Another example is *dishoot*.

Lexical item Morphological analysis

dishoot *di-* (Indonesian passive prefix) + shoot (English verb)

The prefix *di-* changes the grammatical function of the English verb into a passive form following Indonesian grammar. However, the lexical meaning of shoot remains unchanged.

A similar process is found in *ke-spoiler*.

Lexical item Morphological analysis

ke-spoiler *ke-* (Indonesian prefix) + spoiler (English noun)

The prefix *ke-* forms a lexical item that expresses an unintended event, following the function of the Indonesian prefix in everyday communication.

Overall, the findings indicate that Indonesian affixation mainly changes grammatical functions rather than lexical forms. English lexical roots remain recognizable after affixation, demonstrating that Indonesian speakers adapt foreign lexical items without modifying their original structures.

These findings are consistent with Kridalaksana (2010), who explains that affixation modifies the grammatical function of a base word. They also support Katamba (1993), who states that affixation is one of the most productive word-formation processes. Furthermore, the findings agree with Razizka (2022) and Purnama (2022), who reported that Indonesian affixes are productively attached to English lexical items. However, unlike those studies, the present research analyzes authentic data from Instagram and YouTube comments, showing that the same process actively occurs in contemporary digital communication.

Semantic Analysis

The semantic analysis shows that Indonesian affixes generally do not change the core meanings of English lexical items. Instead, they add contextual meanings that enable the lexical items to fit Indonesian communication.

For example, the lexical item *feelnya* retains the original meaning of feel. However, after receiving the suffix *-nya*, the expression refers to a specific feeling understood by both the speaker and the listener.

Similarly, *reviewnya* refers not to reviews in general but to a particular review. The suffix *-nya* therefore adds definiteness without changing the lexical meaning of the English root.

Different semantic changes occur in *ke-spoiler*. The English word spoiler originally refers to information that reveals important parts of a story. After receiving the Indonesian prefix *ke-*, the lexical item expresses an unintended experience of receiving spoilers. Thus, the prefix contributes additional contextual meaning while preserving the original lexical meaning.

Another example is *dishoot*. The prefix *di-* adds a passive meaning, allowing the English verb shoot to function according to Indonesian passive constructions.

Overall, the semantic findings indicate that Indonesian affixes contribute meanings such as definite reference, passive action, unintended events, and informal expression. Nevertheless, the English lexical roots maintain their original semantic content.

These findings support Leech (1981), who explains that contextual meaning may develop without changing the conceptual meaning of a lexical item. The findings also extend previous studies by showing that semantic adaptation occurs simultaneously with morphological adaptation in authentic digital communication.

CONCLUSION

This study analyzed how Indonesian affixes influence the morphological structure and semantic meaning of English lexical items in digital communication. Based on the analysis of lexical items collected from Instagram and YouTube comments, the findings show that Indonesian affixation productively modifies English lexical items in digital communication by adapting them to Indonesian morphological and semantic systems while preserving their lexical roots.

Morphologically, the findings indicate that the suffix *-nya* is the most frequently used affix, followed by the prefixes *di-*, *ke-*, *nge-*, *ter-*, and *se-*, and the suffix *-an*. These affixes modify the grammatical functions of English lexical items while preserving their original lexical roots. The English lexical items are adapted to Indonesian morphological patterns without changing their basic forms.

Semantically, Indonesian affixes generally do not change the conceptual meanings of English lexical items. Instead, they add contextual meanings, such as definite reference, passive meaning, and unintended events, making the lexical items more appropriate for Indonesian digital communication. These findings show that Indonesian speakers creatively integrate English lexical items into Indonesian while maintaining their original meanings.

This study supports previous studies on Indonesian affixation and English lexical borrowing by showing that the same morphological processes continue to occur in contemporary digital communication. However, unlike previous studies that mainly analyzed printed media or general code-mixing, this study focuses on authentic language used in Instagram and YouTube comments and examines both morphological and semantic aspects of English-Indonesian hybrid lexical items.

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