

## Characteristics and Shifts in Meaning of Affixed Words in Short Messages on WhatsApp

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Received: April 2022; Revised: May 2022; Published: July 2022

### Abstrak

The use of language or words when chatting on the WhatsApp application tends to use new terms or abbreviations, thus obscuring the characteristics of words and shifting the meaning of words. This study aims to describe the characteristics and shifting meanings of affixed words in short messages on WhatsApp. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. Based on the results of the research carried out, 22 affixed words and 22 random conversations were found, including affixed words that occurred in short messages on WhatsApp. The results of the study show that the interference of using affixed words in WhatsApp short messages is a shifting of the meaning of a word or having a new meaning. The words that underwent a shift in meaning experienced expansion (generalization), narrowing (specialization), deterioration (pejoration), improvement (amelioration), exchange of meaning (synesthesia), and meaning equivalence (association). To use words well, correctly, and correctly, we need to pay attention to affixes and word classes that have a role in forming a sentence. This results in a shift in the meaning of affixed words in the affixation of the basic form or also the process of forming words by affixing, adding, or attaching affixes in front of the basic form. The results of this study can be used as an additional reference and knowledge to be more accurate in using words and sentences without losing the meaning contained in it.

**Keywords:** Characteristics, shifts in meaning, affixed words, word meanings

**How to Cite:** Ali, A., Firgyawan, Z., Tahir, M., Krida, S., & Palliwi, E. D. (2022). Characteristics and Shifts in Meaning of Affixed Words in Short Messages on WhatsApp. *Journal of Authentic Research*, 1(2), 98–106. <https://doi.org/10.36312/jar.v1i2.1775>



<https://doi.org/10.36312/jar.v1i2.1775>

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is a means of communication between people in the form of sound symbols produced by human speech organs that contain meaning (Blasi et al., 2016). The emergence of a sound that is vibrated by the human speech organ stimulates, gives motivation to the listener to reveal the contents or meaning contained both expressly and impliedly. Therefore, language is very important in human life, which cannot be abandoned (Fishman, 2017). The importance of a language is based on the following criteria: 1) the number of speakers, 2) the extent of its distribution, and 3) its role as a means of knowledge, literature and other cultural expressions that are considered valuable (Bonvillain, 2020).

Currently, the phenomena and symptoms that arise in our society are related to the language gap experienced by the elderly towards the language of the young (Goziyah & Yusuf, 2019). In line with that, the rapid development of technology can provide various types of information that can be reached in a few seconds with the touch of a finger, ranging from business, entertainment, politics, economics, culture, social, and others (Mefolere, 2016). One of the media on the internet that is currently rampant in Indonesia (in particular) is the social networking site *WhatsApp*. *WhatsApp*

is a messenger application which is currently very popular all over the world. With simple and easy usage, it allows people to exchange messages instantly in a very intuitive and fluid way. The app also allows people to interact using group chats, sharing messages, videos, audio and images (Resende et al., 2019).

The use of language or words when chatting on the WhatsApp application *tends to* use new terms or abbreviations, thus obscuring the characteristics of the words and shifting the meaning of the words used (Supartini & Solihah, 2022). Meanwhile, the use of appropriate language and words is very important because it allows the reader to better understand the meaning to be conveyed (Purwanti, 2020). The results of this research Romadhianti (2019) explain that the social language of today's teenagers is the non-formal dialect of Indonesian used by certain communities. This can be found in writing such as messages on WhatsApp, Instagram, or on other social networking sites to update status or just chat with friends. Furthermore, Izwatiningsih et al. (2021) it also emphasizes that the millennial generation as a community utilizes language as a function of expressing themselves as well as a social identity, and it is easy to create language into a trendy style of language and will be proud if other users follow it.

The results of the research above show that the current use of words in chatting on WhatsApp, errors often occur in the use of affixes and suffixes. In Indonesian, there are four kinds of affixes that are used, namely: prefixes, suffixes, confixes, and infixes which are not so productive anymore (Ningtias & Kisayani, 2022). Prefixes are often also called prefixes, are affixes that are placed in front of the base. Suffixes which are also called suffixes are placed behind the root. Confexes are a combination of prefixes and suffixes that surround the word base and form a single unit. Infix which is also called inset is a form of affix that is placed in the middle of the base of the word. The integration between prefixes and suffixes is absolute, meaning that the two affixes are simultaneously attached to the base of the word (Natalia & Wulandari, 2017).

The part of grammar that deals with word forms is called morphology (Pardayeva, 2022). The definition of form is not clear if we do not know more about its form and what will be its characteristics. The definition of morphology is a science of language that studies the ins and outs of word forms, while the definition of morphological processes is the process of forming an existing word into another form (Brezina & Pallotti, 2019). The kinds of morphological processes are affixation processes, reduplication processes, and compound processes, unique morphemes (Urbanczyk, 2017). The affixation process is a word formation process that occurs after the words are repeated. The process of composition is the process of word formation that occurs after these words are combined with other words, so that they can create new meanings and meaning morphemes as long as they are not combined with other words and function to express a place.

Here, the researcher will not discuss all morphological processes but will only discuss the affixation process. The discussion in this section is only concerned with word formation, especially *pe-*, *pe-an*, and *per-an*. The emphasis in word formation in Indonesian is that the affixes form a system that causes word occurrences in Indonesian. However, the formation of words with the affixes *pe-*, *pe-an*, and *per-an*, sometimes leads to different interpretations. Here, the author wants to analyze the contents of WhatsApp short messages about the forms and meanings of affixed words, so the purpose of this study is to describe the characteristics and shifts in the meaning of affixed words in WhatsApp short messages.

## METHOD

The research method can be interpreted as a way of seeking the truth and principles of natural phenomena, society or humanity based on the scientific discipline concerned (Neuman, 2014). This type of research is descriptive qualitative research which is a method that emphasizes the process of analysis and tends to use words rather than numbers (Pietkiewicz & Smith, 2014). Furthermore, Petty et al. (2012) explaining the qualitative research method is a research method used in natural research conditions and the researcher as the key instrument. In this study, the use of qualitative methods is based on searching for the meaning of affixed words in the form of text or writing on *WhatsApp short messages*.

The research object is the main target in the research conducted, related to this research, the main object is the form and meaning of affixed words contained in short messages on *WhatsApp*. Furthermore, Sutton and Austin (2015) explaining the main data sources in qualitative research are words and actions, the rest is additional data such as documents and others. That is, in this study, researchers examine the forms of words that occur in dialogues carried out on *WhatsApp* short messages. The type of data studied is a type of primary data sourced from the *WhatsApp application* that researchers watched on cell phones. The data is sourced from utterances taken in each dialogue in *WhatsApp* short messages. It was chosen as the data source in this study because in it, apart from dialogue, there is also knowledge that is discussed directly, which occurs in online meetings to discuss a problem, as well as material to increase knowledge for its users.

The technique of collecting data in this study is to use the method of watching and recording screens, so that the data collection is done by reading and listening (Malterud, 2012). As explained by Graham et al. (2011), the listening method is a method used to obtain data, namely by listening to the use of language, so that the researcher listens and records the utterances that are included in this study. The reading technique is done by reading the data, which is immediately followed by classification or grouping. In the process of collecting data regarding the form and meaning of affixed words, the researcher read while paying close attention to the dialogue in *WhatsApp* message. Data is collected and stored or screen recorded, which can be done directly during the dialog (Sutton & Austin, 2015). Furthermore, the instruments in the research are the tools used by researchers to collect research data. The instruments in this study were cellphones used by researchers to retrieve data in *WhatsApp* message dialogs and laptops as a tool to record dialogs that occur in *WhatsApp* short messages and input the research data obtained.

Data analysis in this study was carried out after the data was collected, the data was recorded in a data card and was arranged systematically according to research interests. At this stage, the data is analyzed according to the problems studied. The analysis used in this study uses the Miles et al. (2014), in which it is stated that the activities in qualitative data analysis are carried out continuously until complete so that the data is saturated. The analysis carried out in this study is to identify the types of performative speech acts in speech fragments so that the activities in analyzing the data are data reduction, data presentation and data verification. The next step after analyzing the data is to present the results of the data analysis. The presentation of the results of this data analysis is an explanation of the forms of affixed words that are in dialogue. The presentation of the results of this analysis uses an informal method, namely the formulation of data in the form of speech and not data in the form of

numbers. The choice of this informal method is adapted to the character of the data which does not require signs or symbols. By using the informal method, the explanation of the rules becomes more detailed and decomposed, so that the formulation presented is relatively long.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the research presents by summarizing and quoting several forms of affixed words in short messages on *WhatsApp*. For example, the word "*menulis*" is formed from the affixation process with its root form of *tulis*, which is prefixed *me-*. After being given the prefix *me-*, the written morpheme has the grammatical meaning of doing (basic) writing because it has meaning (+ action) and (+ goals) components. So that the words we use are good, precise, and correct, we need to pay attention to affixes and word classes. Affixes and word classes have a role in the formation of a sentence. In Indonesian, affixes (prefixes, suffixes and infixes) are very important because they determine the grammatical meaning of a word. There are a number of verbs usually delimited by words denoting actions or actions. However, this definition is still blurry because it does not include words such as "*tidur*" and "*meninggal*" which are known as verbs, but do not express actions or actions, so that verbs are perfected by adding words that express movement or the occurrence of something and those limits. Be verbs are words that express actions, actions, processes, movements, circumstances and the occurrence of something. Following are the results of the analysis of affixed words in *WhatsApp* short messages.

### Forms of Words Affixing *WhatsApp* Short Messages

In the affixation process, an affix is added to the base form resulting in a word. For example, in my *WhatsApp* message, the base word *ikut* is added with the affix *me-* resulting in the word *mengikut*. Regarding the type of affix, affixation is usually divided into prefixation, which is the process of adding a prefix. In this case, it is also necessary to consider claffixation, which is a group of affixes whose affixation process is done gradually. For example, in forming the word *menangisi*, first, the suffix *-i* is added to the base word *tangis*, then the prefix *me-* is added. The prefixation is carried out by prefixes *ber-*, *me-*, *di-*, *ter-*, *ke-*, and *se-*, infixation is carried out by infixes *-el-*, *-em-*, and *-er-*, and suffixation is carried out by suffixes *pe-an*, *per-an*, *ke-an*, *se-nya*, and *ber-an* (some of which are not suffixes). However, it should be noted that there are highly productive affixes such as prefixes *ber-*, and *me-*. Some are fairly productive, such as prefix *ter-*, suffix *-kan*, suffix *-i*, and suffix *-an*, and some are no longer productive, such as infixes *-el-*, *-em-*, and *-er-*.

The formation of words generally follows a paradigm that forms language rules (Booij, 2010). Thus, to test the correctness of a word, the formation can be done by placing the word in a paradigm. However, in some cases, there is also the case that a formation does not have a paradigm, but is considered correct because it has become a common practice and itself is considered a rule. The physical manifestation of the result of the affixation process is an affixed word, also called an affixed word, a derivative word, or a formed word (Ningtias & Kisayani, 2022). The physical manifestation of the process of reduplication is a repeated word, also called a repeated form (Urbanczyk, 2017). The physical manifestation of the result of the composition process is a combination word, also called a word combination, word group, or compound word (Dalrymple & Mofu, 2012).

One-step formation occurs when the basic form is root or basic morpheme (both free and bound). In the process of affixation, for example, the addition of the prefix *me-* to the basic form "*beli*" becomes the word "*membeli*," and the addition of the prefix *se-* to the basic form "*kelas*" becomes the word "*sekelas*." The affixed sentences that occur in WhatsApp messages are the words "Telah meninggal dunia", *me-* + *tinggal* = *meninggal*; "Semoga kita terhindar dari hukuman", *ter-* + *hindar* = *terhindar*; and "Sepanjang masa", *se-* + *panjang* = *sepanjang*. Next, one-step formation in the process of composition, for example, the base *sate* + the base *ayam* becomes *sate ayam*; the base *terjun* + the base *bebas* becomes *terjun bebas*; and the base *merah* + the base *jambu* becomes *merah jambu*. For example, the results of the composition process analysis are as follows: "Pergi makan sate ayam kita", *sate* + *ayam* = *sate ayam*; "Lihat orang terjun payung", *tejun* + *payung* = *terjun payung*; and "Yang baju warna merah jambu", *merah* + *jambu* = *merah jambu*.

Stepwise formation occurs if the base undergoing morphological process is a polymorphic form that has already become a word (either an inflectional word, a repeating word, or a compound word). This means that this stepwise formation occurs on the base that is already the result of a previous formation process. For example, the word "*berpakaian*" (dressed) is formed with the prefix *ber-* on the base "*pakaian*" (which was previously formed from the suffix *-an* added to the base "*pakai*"). For example, the sentence "Tetap berpakaian sopan", *ber-* + (*pakai* + *an*) = *berpakaian*. The interpretation of the word "*berpakaian*" above is supported by the grammatical meaning of the word "*berpakaian*," which means "to wear clothing." So, it is clear that the prefix *ber-* is added after the suffix *-an* is added to the root *pakai*. Another example, stepwise formation occurs in the word "*memberlakukan*" (to enforce). First, the root "*laku*" is given the prefix *ber-* to become the base "*berlaku*," then the suffix *kan-* is added to the base "*berlaku*" in the second stage of formation to become the base "*berlaku*," and finally, the inflective prefix *me-* is added to the base "*berlaku*" to become "*memberlakukan*." The interpretation of the word "*memberlakukan*" is supported by its grammatical meaning, which means "to become enforceable (will be)." Thus, what is referred to as clofixes are affixes that play a role in stepwise affixation (Natalia & Wulandari, 2017).

### Shift in Meaning of Affixes

The meaning of the affixation or inflection process relates to the semantic function of a complex form. This can be seen in the following examples of complex inflection meanings: (1) The meanings of the prefix *me-*: Containing the meaning of performing an action, such as "*Pemerintah memberikan listrik gratis*: *memberikan* (means moving something owned by oneself to the recipient)", "*Bila mau menjual belajarlah sedikitnya lima tahun, menjual* means performing the act of selling)", "*Tapi jika sudah mulai rontok maka libido sudah mulai menurun*, *menurun* (means becoming lower)", and "*Siapkan alat mendaki, mendaki* (means climbing)"; ((2) The meanings of the prefix *ber-*: Containing the meaning of releasing and using, such as "*Ayo berkabar, berkabar* (means releasing news)", "*Saya tidak tau mau berkata apa, berkata* (means releasing words)", "*Laki-laki berbaju hitam, berbaju* (means using a shirt)", "*Lalu berselimut dan membaca ayat yang di atas, berselimut* (using a blanket)"; (3) The meanings of the prefix *ter-*: Containing the meaning of accidental and able, such as "*Jiwa bodohnya terpanggil, terpanggil* (means already summoned)", "*Saya mau kamu terbuka sama saya, terbuka* (accidentally opened)", "*Sedangkan baunya ini belum tercium, tercium* (means can be smelled)", "*Obat virus covid 19 sudah tercapai, tercapai* (means can be reached)"; (4) The

meanings of the infix *er-*: Expressing work or having the meaning of a professional person, such as "*Hiya pengawas ente, pengawas* (means person who supervises)", "*Tetap diatas pengacara, pengacara* (means a person who performs or gives advice and defense for others in a legal case)"; (5) The meanings of the confix *se-an*: Containing the meaning of together, such as "*Kita kan sehati, sehati* (means united in heart)", "*Yang terhormat teman-teman seperjuangan, seperjuangan* (means together struggling)"; (6) The meanings of the suffix *an-*: Containing the meaning of way and result, such as "*Sukses adalah kalau didikan kita terhadap anak membuatkan hasil, didikan* (means the way of educating)", "*Saya tidak boleh menjawab ketika ditanya oleh pimpinan* *pimpinan* (means the way of leading)", "*Hukuman 1 sampai 12 tahun penjara, hukuman* (means the result of the law)", "*Masih menunggu balasan dari bapak, balasan* (means the result of reply)"; (7) The Prefix Inflected Word *me- di- pe*: "*Maaf saya masih mengajar*, the base word *ajar* is changed to the active verb *me- + ajar = mengajar*", "*Dilempar kita hanya bisa bersabar*, the base word *lempar* changes its meaning to passive *di- + lempar = dilempar*".

Based on the analysis of data of the characteristics and shift of word meaning, all units of form before becoming a word, namely morphemes with all forms and types (Booij, 2010). Regarding the components or elements of word formation, both basic morphemes and affix morphemes, the formation of words has undergone the process of affixation, duplication, or repetition (Dalrymple & Mofu, 2012; Urbanczyk, 2017). The added affixes are done by adding or attaching affixes at the end of the base form, so the affix is called a suffix or ending. An affix (including suffixes), is categorized as a family of Indonesian affixes if it can stick to the original Indonesian base form, so only pronunciation and / or writing adjustments considered necessary are made (Mustadi et al., 2021). In the combination of prefix and suffix that supports a certain meaning, it is considered as a suffix that stands alone, but considered as a unitary form that cannot be separated (Ansori, 2021). The combination of affixes is not the same because the naming of the affix and affix views are different. Verbs in the form of *ber-* like in the words *bermunculan* and *berpakaian* have two types of formation processes. First is a confix, meaning the prefix *ber-* and suffix *-an* are added together to a base. In this case, the new suffix is added to the base form first, then the prefix *ber-* is added. *Ber-an* as a confix has its own meaning, so the prefix *ber-* has its own meaning.

## CONCLUSION

The results of the data analysis research show that the meaning of affixed words that undergo word formation by adding affixes to the base form, can strengthen the reader's understanding of the written words or sentences. Affixed words consist of more than one morpheme and one of the morphemes is an affix. The base form or the process of forming words is done by adding or attaching the affix in front of the base form. Examples of prefixes or beginnings are *di-, ter-, ke-, se-, men-, pen-, pra-, pre-, ber-*, and so on. Language users who use words and sentences must be able to understand the context when adding, reducing, or changing words or sentences. In this case, development covers all aspects of changes in meaning, whether it expands, narrows, or shifts its meaning. Language changes are felt by everyone, and one aspect of meaning development (change in meaning) is the object of historical semantic analysis (Levin & Hovav, 2017). The development of language is in line with the development of its users as language users, it is known that the use of language must be embodied in words and sentences that are easy to understand and do not shift or lose the meaning of words.

## RECOMMENDATION

Based on the results of this research, some suggestions are put forward: 1) for WhatsApp users to be more clever in forming or uttering affixed sentences on WhatsApp so as not to destroy the rules in the Indonesian language; 2) this research can be developed into a survey study, this is intended so that researchers get a comparison of the results obtained, thus providing useful input; 3) for the readers of this writing, hopefully what is in this writing can provide theoretical and empirical benefits; 4) it is already appropriate that the discussion in this writing is not just a scientific critique for the writer and reader, but can provide a scientific perspective and can be valuable lessons in dealing with problems in life; and 5) the results of this research are expected to motivate readers to study other aspects in the form of short messages on social media that are developing.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A heartfelt thank you is primarily directed to the research funding or donors, particularly the University of Tadulako. Gratitude of the greatest magnitude is also extended to those who have assisted in the implementation of the research.

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