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ELT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD: THE BOUNDARIES AND BEYOND

A Morphological Analysis of Slang Words Used by Characters in "Ralph Breaks the Internet" Movie Tubagus, N.B.E.N ^a, Suharsih, S ^b, Hakim, R^c

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Abstract

The purpose of the current study, entitled "A Morphological Analysis of Slang Words Used by Characters in Ralph Breaks the Internet," is to discover the morphological processes of constructing slang words and the meaning of the found slang words used by the movie characters. A descriptive qualitative approach with a content analysis strategy was utilized in this study. The data was gathered by the researcher using movie transcript and categorizing the slang words based on documentation guidelines. The data was obtained from the animated movie "Ralph Breaks the Internet" which has been released on November 23, 2018. The research has revealed 42 slang words that were classified into different morphological processes, included *compound* (14,28%), clipping (11,90%), (16,66%), *blending*(14,28%), affixations reduplicative (7,14%), *backformation*(2,4%), conversion(4,76%), alternation (14,28%), extension(4,76%) and word abbreviation(2,4%), manufacture (7, 14%). The findings showed that the meaning of some slang words has been changed by a specific morphological process to alter their original meaning. some slang terms have preserved the original meaning despite the changes in their spelling, although, some slang words had been reduced or abbreviated but they retained their original meaning. also, certain slang words have derived their word category, which results on modifying their meaning. However, many slang words had different meanings depending on its contexts.

Keywords: morphological process, slang words, ralph breaks the internet

Introduction

Language is a structed system for communication that depends on the social factors or the situation between the speakers. While it is a symbol of each social group that defines their identity, imaginative expression, and emotional release. Mattiello (2008, p.19), Fishman (as cited in Muhammad Ismail, 2014) mentioned that language has many varieties as Cant, Dialect, Jargon, Slang, Vernacular, and Accent. The language variety could be used as a tool in expressing ideas, or to avoid the misunderstanding, or to simplify a complicated word or utterance, or even could be a cool way in uttering some unusual words. In addition, Holmes (2013, p.6) claimed that language variety is a sociolinguistic term used to define a linguistic set formed under a specific social circumstances or situations. Therefore, the researcher attempts to explore English slang words since its used by all the ages in daily conversation and in different contexts. Slang language is an informal or nonstandard vocabulary complexation that was created by the society to send an alternative social meaning. These words have a specific word formation system called morphology.

Slang words seem to appear frequently as new meanings for existing words, or new words, or a short form of a word. For example, *Bae*, which means "before anyone else" this expression is usually used to describe someone's lover. The previous slang word has been through a morphological process called "abbreviation" since the word are being shortened and retained the first letter of each word. Another example of morphological process called "blending" as in the word *workaholic* which means "work addicted"; this word is a combination of two words "work" and "alcoholic". There are many other English slang words as *TBH*, *tea*, *sus*, *crashy*, *ghost*, *butthurt* and *hangry* which been through many word processes such as *compound*, *clipping*, *backformations* and *etc*. These words emerged from a society in need of some new words to express themselves in a new, creative, unique, and humours way that allows the individuals to be different, startling, and friendly.

Moreover, these words appear frequently in today's movies that involve slang words into its roles, and help to spread and publish the words to others by the society and be known worldwide in just few months, or several days only. Therefore, the movie "Ralph Breaks the Internet" movie would be a suitable role to investigate its words due to the high rate on box office and has received generally positive reviews by critics. Also, the movie contains a positive message for children and adults which make it a suitable movie to be watched by several ages since it does not contain any bad words.

Moreover, previous studies contributed on the same field yet with different object and theory, for instance a research from Elsa Lisanul (2018) Entitled "Word Formation and Meaning of Slang Words on "Meme" Picture of Group "Shitpostbot 5000" on Social Media "Facebook". She mentioned that slang words is nonstandard language which should not be used in communicating with older people because it shows impolite behaviour toward people in formal situation. Also, she confirmed that slang words are important to be learned since teenagers tend to use and develop it by the ages. Elsa found out 30 memes that appears in a specific group on facebook called "shitpostbot 5000" and categorized them into coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, back formation, conversion, acronym, derivation, and multiple process then find out its real meaning. Another previous related research about slang word formations in song lyrics by Siti Nia Mahnunik (2015). The researcher's study with the title "An Analysis of Slang Language in Song Lyrics Used By "Justin Bieber" demonstrates the result of the morphological processes in constructing slang words in Justin Bieber's song lyrics. The researcher has classified the found slang words using Gorge Yule's (2006) theory. She categorized twenty four slang words into its morphological type whether its coinage, clipping, borrowing, compounding, backformation, acronyms, multiple processes, affixation, or blending. The similarities occur with this research is in the morphological processes. Meanwhile it differs only in the theories that has been used in analysing slang words and the used object.

In order to figure out and understand the meaning of each slang words, language learner needs to know the morphological slang word formation processes as *affixation, conversion, compounding, clipping, reduplication, abbreviation, and variation* to distinguish the meaning of each slang word.

As in line with the prior description, the identifications of the problem are as follow, 1. The primary problem with English slang that people do not know about the real meaning of English slang words. 2. There is a further problem with constructing slang words morphologically due to its confusing varieties. The last problem is the difficulties in determining the right event for the slang words. Based on the found problems, the researcher has analysed the morphological processes of the slang words that used by the characters in the animation movie "Ralph Breaks the Internet" In order to figure out and understand the meaning of each slang words and how it has been constructed morphologically.

Research Methodology

In line with the problem and research objectives, the researcher used descriptive qualitative research with a content analysis approach in investigating the research. Ary et al (2010, pp.424-425) claims that descriptive research is a comprehensive summarization that designed to obtain information in a form of words, audio, video, or pictures concerning current phenomenon to get desired data. Regarding to that, this research has been analysed descriptively to gain an amount of valid data.

The researcher used several instruments to obtain and collect data in order to get an accurate and valid result during the analysing process (Arikunto, 2017). The researcher used two instruments in this research, they are human instrument and observation sheet with a documentation guideline. In addition, the researcher used an interactive model by Miles and Huberman which stated that qualitative analysis consists of three concurrent flows activity. They are data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification. (Miles and Huberman, 1994, pp.10-11).

	Table 1. The mustification of Documentation Outdemics					
No.	Duration	Slang word	Meaning	Word formation process		
			(Based on dictionaries)	(Based on theories)		
1.	•••					
2.						

Table 1. The Illustration of Documentation Guidelines

In data reduction the researcher omitted any unnecessary data from the movie transcript that does not match the documentation guidelines qualifications. While in data display, the data are being categorised, organised and summarised based on the used theory whether its *clipping, coinage, reduplicative, blending, borrowing* or etc. Finally, at the conclusion stage, the researcher verifies the real meaning of each obtained slang words using variety of slang dictionaries, and consults the slang formation process of each slang word to a morphology expert. At the last stage of the investigation, the researcher used a Trustworthiness data, which is a set of standards that demonstrates the conducted study quality to prove its ethical and competence. Lincoln and Guba (as cited in Heigham and Croker, 2009, p. 264) that a trustworthy study is a type of studies that deserves to be paid attention to. Regarding to the previous definition, the researcher validated and confirmed the data to a linguistics expert.

Findings and Interpretation

The objectives of this research were to find out the possible meaning of each slang words in "Ralph Breaks the internet" movie and to classify its morphological processes. The researcher has found 42 slang words with different morphological processes which proposed by Mattillo (2008) theoris in constructing these words as it shown in the following table:

No.	Slang word	Meaning	Morphological proces	
1	Stink brain	A person with unpleasnt smell		
2	Mouth breathing	Stupid person	-	
3	Tapped out	Run out of money	-	
4	Dad joke	Silly joke	Compound	
5	Holycow	An expression of surprice	-	
6	Pied pipers	Convying person	-	
7	Butt	Buttoks		
8	Gee-whiz	Jesus	-	
9	Tech	Technician	Clipping	
10	Chum	Chamber	-	
11	Fella	Fellow	-	
12	Pigloo	Pillow and igloo		
13	Hobo	Poor worker	-	
14	Doohickey	Small forgetten named item	-	
15	Chumbo	Fat friend	Blending	
16	Buttload	A large amount of something	-	
17	Grandma	Grand mother	-	
18	Weirdos	Weird person		
19	Bonkers	Crazy	-	
20	Youngstes	Group of children	Affixation	
21	Dummy	Stupid person	-	
22	Buster	Disrespectful expression for	-	
		addresing a man		
23	Bellyaching	Complaining	-	
24	Darn tootin'	3Strongly agree	-	
25	Get got	get killed		
26	Looky looky	Asking for attention	Reduplicative	
27	Humpty dumpty	Fat person	-	

Table 2. The Finding of Slang Words from the Movie

28	Scamps	A person with a likable	Back formation
		misbehavior	
29	BFF	Best frinds forever	Abbriviation
30	Hand it	Asking	
31	spice things	Add some excitment to a thing	Conversion
32	Pal	Friend	
33	Folks	A friendly form to address	
		people	
34	Sassy	Stylish and slightly arrogant	
35	Buddy	Friend	Variation
36	Peeps	People	(alternation)
37	Dope	Excellent	
38	Thingamabobs	Used as a term for something the	
		name of which is unknown,	Vriation
		forgotten or not important.	(extension)
39	Nope	No	
40	Moolah	Money	
41	Bingo	Winning	Word manufacture
42	Galoot	a clumsy or oafish person	

The researcher found some possible meaning for those slang words based on slang dictionaries and dialogue comprehenison. The result relieved that a few slang words have a closer or similar meaning to the original word before it gets derived into another term. Meanwhile, some slang words had a different meaning after being derived and changed its word class within morphology processes. In addition, the researcher also found some slang words that does not change its real meaning, but only gets abbreviated. Most of these slang words have different meaning with different usage.

Besides, the researcher found many slang words that categorized into different morphological processes with different terms based on the word class. Some slang words followed the basic processes of mropholgy which been used to form a word in standard English. Additionally, the researcher found some slang words has been constructed through an extra-grammatical processes that violated the basic morphological grammar properties which can be used only in forming slang words.

The following are the findings that showes the morphological processes of the found slang words and its meaning based on Mattiello theory (2008) and varity of slang dictionaries.

Compound

A type of morphological process or a mechanism in which two words being combined to produce one word with a different meaning (Mattiello, 2008, p.72). The researcher found 6 word combinations that belongs into different compound term based on their part of speech. The following is a sample of found data

Compound	Morphological process	Meaning
word		
Mouth	Synthetic Compound or Verbal-Deverbal Compound	A fool person
Breathing	Mouth (n) + Breathe (v) + ing (derivational suffix) \rightarrow <i>Mouth</i>	
	<i>breathing</i> (n)	
Tapped out	Compound Adjective	Broke, has no
	Tap (verb) + -ed (inf suffix) + out (preposition) \rightarrow tapped out (adj)	money
Dad Jokes	Compounding Noun-Noun	Silly jokes
	Dad (n) + joke (n) \rightarrow dad joke (adj)	
Pied piper	Synthetic Compound or Deverbal Noun	a person who
	Pied (adj) + pipe (n) + - er $(derivational suffix) \rightarrow$ Pied Pieper (adj)	speaks
		convincingly

Table 3.	A Morphological	Compound Process
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Clipping

A morphological process where words with more than one syllable reduced to a shorten form by dropping some of its part (Mattiello, 2008,p. 141). The researcher found 6 clipped slang words that been categorized into different terms depend on the clipped portion of the word whether it was clipped in front, middle or even at the end of the word. The following is a sample of found data.

Clipping	Morphological Process	Meaning
word		
Butt	Back Clipping	backside of
	Buttocks (n) + back clipping "oks" \rightarrow butt (n)	anything
Tech	Back Clipping	A technology
	Tech nician (n) + back-clipping $(nician) \rightarrow tech (n)$	expert
Chum	Back Clipping	A friend
	<i>Cham</i> ber (n) + back clipping (ber) \rightarrow <i>chum</i> (n)	
	a simple change that had happened within the word by changing the	
	vowel from / CHāmbər/ into / CHəm/ to simplify the utterance.	
Fella	Morphonological process	A male friend
	Fella has two processes of two different aspects combined into a	
	morphonological process.	
	<i>Fello</i> w (n) + back-clipping (w) \rightarrow <i>fello</i> (n)	

Table 4. A Morphological	Clipping	Process
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<i>Fell</i> ow (/ fel \bar{o} /)+ phonemic change (/ a /) \rightarrow <i>fella</i> (/ <i>fela</i> /)	
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Blending

A morphological process where the words being formed by merging parts of the words into one word (Mattiello, 2008, p. 138). The researcher has found 6 blended words that been classified based on the part of the words that been merged with, which could be a partial (part of the word retained), prototypical (parts of both word being merged), or overlap blends (same letters being overlapped). The following is a sample of found data.

Blending	Morphological Process	Meaning	
word			
Pigloo	Overlap Blending	A pillow igloo	
	Pi llow (n) + $igloo$ (n) \rightarrow pigloo (n)		
Hobo	Prototypical Blending	Homeless Boy	
	Two morphemes get shortened by merging the head of both		
	element's heads		
Chumbo	Prototypical or head-tail blends	A Chubby	
	Chubby (adj) + Ju <i>mbo</i> (adj) = Chumbo (adj)	friend	
	Chum (n) + Jumbo (adj) = $Chumbo$ (adj)		

Table. 5 A Morphological Blending Process

Affixation

Affixation or derivation is a morphological process that derives a word class by adding either prefixes, suffixes or infixes to construct a new word or lexeme (Mattiello, 2008, pp. 91-123). the researcher found 7 words affected by affixes which been categorized based on the affixes type. The following is some examples of found slang words that derived by affixations. **Table. 6 A Morphological Affixation Process**

Affixation	Morphological Process	Meaning
word		
Weirdo	Derivational suffixes	A person who
	Weird $(adj) + O (deriv suffix) = Weirdo (n)$	acts weird
Bonkers	Suffixation:	Crazy
	Bonk (n) + -er (deriv suffix) + -s (deriv suffix) \rightarrow Bonkers (adj)	
Dummy	Deadjectival formative	A naive
	Dum b (adj) + -y (derivational suffix) \rightarrow <i>dummy</i> (<i>n</i>)	person
Bellyaching	Suffixation	Complaining
	<i>bellyache</i> (n) + <i>ing</i> (deriv suffix) \rightarrow <i>bellyaching</i> (verbal n)	

Reduplicative

Reduplicative is a common morphological process whereas word or part of it being repeated on a specific rhyming (Mattiello, 2008, p.131). The researcher found 3 slang words which belong into a different specification as ablaut, rhyming compound, rhyming reduplicative, and copy reduplicative which is frequently used in constructing slang words.

Affixation	Morphological Process	Meaning
word		
Get got	Ablaut or Apophonic Reduplicative	Hostile act
	Get (verb) + got (past verb) \rightarrow get got (verb)	
Looky-	Copy Reduplicative	Calling for
looky	<i>Looky</i> (verb) + copy reduplicative \rightarrow <i>Looky-looky</i> (exclamation)	attention
Humpty	Rhyming Reduplicative	short, fat, or
dumpty	Hump (n) + - ty (inflectional suffix) + $dumpty$ (rhyming the first	naive person
	base) → humpty dumpty	
Bellyaching	Suffixation	Complaining
	<i>bellyache</i> (n) + <i>ing</i> (deriv suffix) \rightarrow <i>bellyaching</i> (verbal n)	

Table. 7	A Mor	phological	Reduplicative	Process
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Backformation

The process backformation derives a word class by dropping the last actual suffix of a word to construct a new meaning of new lexeme. (Mattiello, 2008, p. 129). The researcher has found one slang word that belongs to backformation process.

Affixation	Morphological Process	Meaning
word		
Scamper	Backformation	Mischievous
	Scamper(v) + clipped $-er$ (inf suffix) + -s (inf suffix) \rightarrow Scamps (n)	child in a
		likable or
		amusing way

Table. 8 A Morphological Backformation Process

Abbreviation (Acronym and Initialism)

An abbreviation is a process in which a word is invented from a set of words by retaining the initial letters of the words. (Mattiello, 2008, p.135) the researcher found one abbreviated slang word which been categorized depends on its spelling whether its acronym or initialism.

Table.9 A Morphological Abbreviation Process

Affixation word	Morphological Process	Meaning
BFF	Initialism	Best Friend
	B est (n) + f riend (n) + f orever (n) $\rightarrow BFF(n)$	Forever

Conversion

Conversion or zero affixation process is where a word gets derived to a different word class without corresponding formal changes (Mattiello, 2008, p.124). the researcher has found two derived slang words in this movie that belongs to the conversion process.

Affixation	Morphological Process	Meaning
word		
Hand it	Zero-derivation	describes a
	<i>Hand</i> (n) + <i>it</i> (pronoun) \rightarrow <i>hand it</i> (v)	given thing to
		someone.
Spice	Zero-derivation	An utterance
things	<i>Spice</i> (n) + things (subject) \rightarrow <i>spice</i> things (v)	used to add
		excitement
Humpty	Rhyming reduplicative	short, fat, or
dumpty	Hump (n) + - ty (inflectional suffix) + $dumpty$ (rhyming the first	naive person
	base) → humpty dumpty	
Bellyaching	Suffixation	Complaining
	bellyache (n) + ing (deriv suffix) \rightarrow bellyaching (verbal n)	

Variation

Variation is one of the common way in forming a slang word which modifies a word base by varying its spelling or part of it. Although, it covers range of processes as morphology and phonology. The word variation has different processes such as analogy, malapropism, metathesis, letter pronounciation, alternation, and extension (Mattiello, 2008, p. 150). The researcher found 8 slang words that belongs only to alternation and extension. The following table exposes some of variation examples.

Table. 11 A Morphological Variation Process

Affixation	Morphological Process	Meaning
word		

Sassy	Alternation	Stylish, and
	Alternation of the word "saucy"	slightly
		arrogant perosn
Thingamabobs	Extension	An utterance
	Thing $(n) + amabob$ (meaningless sufixx) + -S (inf suffix) =	used to add
	thingamabobs.	excitement to
		something
Peeps	Alternation	People
	Alternation of the word "people"	

Word Manufacture and Fanciful Formation (Neologism)

The process of word manufacture happened when the word gets invented or formed by the society to indicates a specific thing which could be from a specific product, place, or even a person name with no morphological motivation. Meanwhile, fanciful formation denotes Some words that have unrecognized or unknown origin. (Mattiello, 2008,p. 154). The researcher found 2 words belongs to fanciful and 1 concerned as a word manufacture. The following is a table of some coined slang words.

Neologism	Morphological Process	Meaning
Word		
Moolah	Fanciful formation	Money
	Alternation of the word "Money"	
Bingo!	Word Manufacture	Correct
	adapted from an old lottery game where the players mark off	
	the numbers on their own cards as it announced by the caller	
	randomly, the winner of the game who marks off five	
	numbers in a row.	

 Table. 12 A Morphological Word Manufacture Process

However, the researcher has found many slang words that involved into another aspect of linguistic. For instance, as the words wanna, gonna, kinda, gotta, ain't and heyo which seems that belongs to morphology since it blends two diffrent word class but it generated more as a phonological term called *elision*. Besides, trimmed words as "*em*" from the word them, and the *n* sound in any word with suffix *–ing* that has appeared in the word *rollin' and lookin* are not involved to either morphological processes.

Thus, these words are allocated to phonolgy in which it studies about how the sounds being merged. Moreover, there are some slang words that inspired from a specific sound named onomatopeia or echoism to indicate something such as the word *kacing* that refers to money, *barf* to describe

something nasty and *boom* that expresses a win or success, which all are involved under phonology term.

In addition, the resaercher has omitted some idioms that has found in the movie sincs it belongs to different aspect, as the phrases *put on hours, sweet moter of monkey milk, old sun of gun* and *way to go*. These are classified as lexical phrases in semantics as Mattiello has mentioned in her book. Meanwhile the word *heck* and *gosh* are categorized as an euphemistic words in which the words are derivided into an apropriate word to replace the word with a bad meaning. Idioms and euohemistic words are generilaized as a semantics aspect. Therefore, the researcher has averted the idioms or any term related with semantics.

Accordingly with the meaning of the founded slang words, some words have a closer or similar meaning to the original words, and some has a different meaning within the changes that caused by morphology processes. Meanwhile, some slang words were only simplified or abbreviated the original words and retained its meaning.

Overall, the animation movie "Ralph Breaks The Internet" that take place in the modren world of the internet with a setting full of slang or colloquial words is still appropriate to be watched by anyone with different ages since these words does not hide any bad meaning or metaphor. The reasearcher found many slang words that used by the characters specifically between close friends as Ralph and Vanellope which is a senseable way to use these slang words regarded to their old friendship and even being used by the other characters because the internet or buzztube specifically are categorized as an informal setting or situations where all people communicates freely with no limits.

Conclusion and Suggestion

After conducting this research, it is concluded that the researcher found 42 slang words that categorized into 10 different morphological processes. Regarding to the meaning of slang words, the researcher found that some meaning of slang words got changed due to the morphological process that affects into the word class, some retained or has a similar meaning with the original word, and some slang words were only simplified or abbreviated the original word and retained its meaning. The meaning of the slang words has been searched and confirmed based on 6 different dictionaries and concerned through the concept of the dialogue.

In addition, the researcher found all the type of slang words processes in "Ralph Breaks The Internet" movie which is Compound (14,28%), Clipping (11,90%), Blending (14,28%), Affixation(16,66%), Reduplication(7,14%), Backformation (2,4%), Abbreviation (2,4%), Conversion (4,76%), Alternation (14,28%), Extension (4,76%) and word manufacture (7,14%) except three processes the researcher could not find it in this movie which is the extra grammatical processes including Acronym, Elliptic rhyming slang and reversed form. Among these morphological slang word-formation processes, affixation was the most frequent morphological process used in this movie than the others.

Based on the above conclusion, some suggestions can be stated for everyone who is interested in this field. 1. This research can be useful to enrich the learner's knowledge about constructing words morphologically which can enhance them to construct new slang words in the future for the next generation. 2. This can be used as an additional material in morphology classes yet as a source in developing the teaching design or strategies by providing examples from real life. 3. This research can be used as a reference in conducting research with the same or similar field. As for the object, the researcher suggests to do further studies on slangs found in songs, novels, YouTube, or even from real life spoken English. Hopefully, future researchers who have an interest in slangs and linguistics could have deeper studies to enhance the understanding about words and its forms.

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