MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WORD FORMATION FOUND IN DEUTSCHE WELLE NEWS ARTICLES

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze the types and processes of word formation in English articles on Deutsche Welle News. It uses a descriptive qualitative method, with data collected from news articles related to politics, health, and technology. Data containing word formation were identified, categorized, and analyzed based on morphological processes. The study found six types of word formation: derivation, compound, inflection, acronym, initialism, and conversion. The most frequent type was compounding. This research contributes to morphological studies by providing insights into how new words are formed in authentic news texts. It also serves as a practical tool for English morphology students.

Keywords: Morphology, Word Formation, Deutsche Welle, Morphological Analysis

INTRODUCTION

Morphology, a fundamental branch of linguistics, investigates the internal structure of words and the rules governing word formation across languages. As defined by Iseni and Ibrahimi (2008), morphology is the study of how words are constructed from smaller units of meaning known as morphemes. Morphemes serve as the smallest semantic units in a language, forming the basis for understanding how new words are created. This aspect of linguistics is crucial for analyzing language evolution and for developing linguistic competence, particularly in the context of second language learning.

The morphological process involves the combination of morphemes to form new words. A word, in linguistic terms, is the smallest unit that can be uttered independently with meaning. Words may be simple (monomorphemic) or complex (polymorphemic), and understanding the process by which they are formed such as through derivation, compounding, or affixation allows linguists and language learners to decipher patterns of language use and development. According to Plag (2003), the study of word formation examines the ways in which new lexical items are systematically built from existing morphemes, making it a cornerstone of lexical and morphological analysis.

In English, several processes of word formation are widely recognized, including affixation, compounding, conversion, clipping, blending, acronym, and initialism. Affixation involves the addition of prefixes and suffixes to base words, often changing the grammatical category or meaning of the word. Compounding merges two or more free morphemes into a new lexical item, while conversion changes the function of a word without altering its form. These processes contribute significantly to the enrichment of

vocabulary, especially in dynamic contexts such as news media, literature, and digital communication.

News articles, in particular are fertile ground for the study of morphology. As platforms that continuously produce and adapt language for mass communication, news outlets often serve as repositories of linguistic innovation. They introduce new terms, recycle older words in new contexts, and reflect evolving sociopolitical and cultural realities. Deutsche Welle (DW), Germany's international broadcaster, publishes English-language articles that address global issues including politics, health, technology, and education. These articles often contain rich examples of word formation processes, making them suitable for linguistic research.

Previous studies have explored word formation in various media contexts. For instance, Annisa (2020) analyzed word formation in VOA News articles and identified several processes such as derivation, compounding, clipping, and conversion. Similarly, Zuhri et al. (2022) examined morphological patterns in student writings, while Fitri et al. (2023) investigated word formation in song lyrics. These studies highlight the diversity and prevalence of morphological processes across different text types and reinforce the importance of context in word formation analysis.

Building upon these prior works, this research aims to analyze the types and processes of word formation found in Deutsche Welle news articles. The study focuses on identifying morphological patterns in authentic texts to gain insights into how lexical innovation occurs in real-world communication. By doing so, it seeks to contribute to the field of morphology by offering a practical example of morphological processes in journalistic texts. Furthermore, this research is expected to serve as a useful reference for English morphology learners, especially those studying at the tertiary level, as it connects theoretical understanding with practical linguistic data.

From the explanation, the researcher intended to do this research in order to find out the types of word formation found in Deutsche Welle news articles on politics, health, and technology how the words are formed which related to the process of word formation such as derivation, compounding, acronym, initialism, inflection, and conversion. The findings are expected to enhance our understanding of contemporary word formation in English and provide pedagogical value for language learners and educators alike.

METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research design to analyze the morphological processes of word formation in English articles published by Deutsche Welle. According to David (2004), qualitative research emphasizes understanding meaning in context rather than verifying empirical generalizations. It explores human actions and interpretations within their meaningful environments, aiming to generate insights rather than statistical conclusions. Hence, this study is interpretive in nature and focuses on exploring and describing linguistic phenomena in authentic texts.

Data Source

The data for this study were obtained from Deutsche Welle (DW) news articles, specifically selected from three categories: politics, health, and technology. Deutsche Welle is Germany's international broadcasting service that provides news, information, and

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cultural programming in multiple languages to audiences worldwide. These categories were chosen due to their relevance in representing current societal issues and their linguistic richness, which offers a fertile ground for analyzing various morphological processes, including the introduction and usage of new terms. One of the articles used as a reference in this study is titled "Britain's NHS Strike: Doctors Want More Pay", published on April 1, 2024. The article can be accessed at the following link: https://www.dw.com/en/britains-nhs-strike-doctors-want-more-pay/a-67892875.

Data Collection

The data collection process involved several steps:
1. Searching for relevant English-language articles on the Deutsche Welle website within the selected themes (politics, health, and technology).
2. Identifying words that exhibited morphological processes such as derivation, compounding, acronym, initialism, inflection, and conversion.
3. Classifying the identified words into their respective word formation categories based on linguistic criteria.

This process was supported by the participation of English Education students, who were guided by the researcher in identifying and categorizing the data.

Data Analysis

After classification, the data were analyzed descriptively. The analysis focused on:
1. Determining the type of word formation (e.g., derivation, compound, acronym, etc.)
2. Describing the morphological process involved in each example (e.g., prefixation, suffixation, combination of free morphemes, etc.)
3. Providing examples and interpretations of how these word formations occur in context

The analysis was conducted with reference to established morphological theories from scholars such as Yule (2010), Katamba (1993), Booij (2007), and Plag (2003), among others.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the types of word formation found in Deutsche Welle news articles and discusses how those words were formed based on morphological principles. The analysis covers six major types of word formation processes: derivation, compounding, inflection, acronym, initialism, and conversion. A total of 213 instances of word formation were identified and categorized accordingly. The data can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Word Formation found in Deustsche Welle News Articles

No	Types of Word Formation	Total of Data
1.	Derivation	79
2.	Compound	27
3.	Inflection	98
4.	Acronym	4
5.	Initialism	4
6.	Conversion	1
	Total	**213**

Here are some explanations of the table above related to the types of word formation and the processess of how they are formed.

Derivation

Derivation is the process of creating new words by adding affixes to base forms. It often changes the grammatical category of the word. The analysis of the derivational process in Assamese shows that the language uses both prefixes and suffixes to derive a new category or maintain the same category. According to Plag (2003), derivation is a central mechanism for lexical expansion in English. The analysis also revealed that suffixation (e.g., -ly, -ment, -ion) occurs more frequently than prefixation. Suffixes like -ly and -ment often change the grammatical category of the base word. Prefixes such as un- usually alter the meaning but may or may not change the word class. Derivation plays a key role in word formation and lexical expansion. Here are the samples of the analysis.

1. Largely is derived from two morphemes: large + -ly = largely. The base word large is an adjective, and the addition of the suffix -ly changes its grammatical category to an adverb.
2. Appointment is formed by adding the suffix -ment to the base verb appoint [appoint + -ment = appointment]. Here, the word class changes from a verb to a noun.
3. Government is derived from the verb govern and the suffix -ment [govern + -ment = government]. The suffix -ment changes the word class from verb to noun, which also alters its meaning. This shows how derivation affects both form and meaning.
4. (Note: There is a missing Data 4 — numbering should be adjusted or added.)
5. Unusual consists of the prefix un- and the base word usual [un- + usual = unusual]. The word usual is typically an adjective, not a noun as previously stated. The prefix un- adds a negative meaning but does not change the word class—it remains an adjective. This contradicts the claim that the word class changes in this case.
6. Eventually is derived from the adjective eventual by adding the suffix -ly [eventual + -ly = eventually]. The suffix -ly changes the word from an adjective to an adverb, typically indicating manner.

Compounding

Compounding is the process of combining two or more free morphemes to form a new word. Compound words are important for students to learn in the English learning process. In journalistic writing, compounding is often preferred because it allows for concise expression of complex ideas. According to O'Grady (1996), compound words are effective in forming terms that describe complex realities by using familiar lexical items. The writer found several examples of compound words in Deutsche Welle news articles. Below are some samples of the analysis:

1. Hometown is a compound word formed from two free morphemes: home (noun) + town (noun). Both morphemes can stand alone and have their own meanings, but when combined, they form a new word with a new meaning. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, hometown means the town where a person is from, especially where they were born and raised.
2. Newspaper is another compound word consisting of news (noun) + paper (noun). Each part has its own meaning, but together they form a new word that refers to printed or digital publications containing news, advertisements, and other information.

3. One-quarter is formed from one (noun) + quarter (noun). This compound word typically refers to one part of something that has been divided into four equal parts.
4. Walkout is a compound of walk (verb) + out (adverb). This word refers to an act of leaving a meeting or workplace as a form of protest or strike. Walkouts can involve various groups such as workers, students, or professionals.

Inflection

Inflection involves the addition of grammatical morphemes that do not change the core meaning or word class. It includes tense, aspect, pluralization, and comparative forms. This part is inflection process which changes the words without changing the word class based on grammatical functions. Here, the writer found the inflection process. The writer found several words of inflectional processes below:

1. Seeing

The word seeing is formed by adding the suffix -ing to the base verb see. This is an example of the present participle, which is used to indicate progressive aspect. While the form of the word changes, its category remains a verb.

2. Beds

The word beds is formed by adding the plural suffix -s to the noun bed. This is an example of pluralization, which is a common inflectional process in English nouns. The suffix -s indicates that the noun is plural, but it does not change the word class—it remains a noun.

3. Walks

The word walks is formed by adding the suffix -s to the base verb walk. This is an example of third person singular present tense inflection. The suffix -s is used when the subject is in the third person singular (e.g., he, she, it). The word remains a verb.

4. Stressed

The word stressed is formed by adding the suffix -ed to the verb stress. This is an example of the past tense or past participle form. The suffix -ed indicates that the action happened in the past. The word class remains a verb.

5. Explained

Similarly, explained is the past tense or past participle form of the verb explain. It is formed by adding the suffix -ed. This inflectional change shows past tense or perfect aspect depending on context, without altering the word class. Newspaper is another compound word consisting of news (noun) + paper (noun). Each part has its own meaning, but together they form a new word that refers to printed or digital publications containing news, advertisements, and other information.

Acronyms

Acronyms are abbreviations formed from the initial letters (or sometimes syllables) of several words, creating a new term that is typically pronounced as a single word. However, when the abbreviation is pronounced letter by letter, it is more accurately called an initialism. Here an example of acronyms like COVID is an acronym for Corona Virus Disease. It is pronounced as a single word, which qualifies it as an acronym. This virus became globally significant due to its rapid spread and major impact on public health worldwide.

Initialism

Initialism is an abbreviation formed from the first letters of a series of words, where each letter is pronounced separately, not as a single word. Below are some examples of initialisms found in various contexts:

1. UK

UK stands for United Kingdom. It is an initialism because it is pronounced letter by letter (*U-K*), rather than as a single word. The United Kingdom is a country made up of four constituent nations: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

2. DW

DW is the initialism for Deutsche Welle, which is Germany's international broadcasting service. It offers news, cultural programs, and information in many languages worldwide. Since it is pronounced *D-W*, it qualifies as an initialism.

3. IT

IT stands for Information Technology. It is pronounced *I-T*, making it an initialism. IT refers to the use, development, and management of computer systems and telecommunications to store, retrieve, and transmit information.

4. GDP

GDP stands for Gross Domestic Product. It is also pronounced *G-D-P*, which classifies it as an initialism. GDP is an important economic indicator used to measure the total market value of all goods and services produced within a country over a specific time period, usually annually.

5. NHS

NHS stands for National Health Service. Although often labeled as an acronym, NHS is more accurately an initialism because it is pronounced letter by letter (N-H-S). It is the publicly funded healthcare system of the United Kingdom, offering a wide range of services to citizens.

6. ITV

ITV is the abbreviation of Independent Television. Like NHS, it is also an initialism because it is pronounced letter by letter. ITV is a major television network in the UK that provides commercial broadcasting services.

7. HVAC

HVAC is an acronym for Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning. HVAC systems are commonly used in buildings to regulate air quality and temperature.

8. BMA

BMA stands for British Medical Association. This is an initialism, as it is pronounced letter by letter. The BMA is a professional association and trade union for doctors in the UK, working to support the interests of medical professionals and improve public healthcare.

Conversion

Conversion is a type of derivational process that involves a change in word class without the addition of any affixes. It is also known as zero derivation, because no visible morphological change occurs. One common example is when a noun becomes a verb or vice versa. This process can raise a challenge known as the directionality problem—deciding which form is the original and which is derived.

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In the data found from a Deutsche Welle news article, the word "work" illustrates this process. In the first sentence, work functions as a verb, meaning "to perform an activity or task," as in: "Aditya Nambiar knew he wanted to work in that field." Here, work indicates an action or activity that someone wants to engage in.

In the second sentence, the word work is used as a noun, referring to the place or type of activity, as in: "I'd rather be at work right now.
Although both uses share the same form, the grammatical function changes from verb to noun, or vice versa depending on the context. This shift, without any affixation, is a clear example of conversion.

The analysis showed that DW articles utilize word formation processes extensively to convey information in a concise, accurate, and impactful manner. Derivational affixes helped form new grammatical classes, while compounding and conversion reflected lexical creativity. Inflection, meanwhile, played a vital role in expressing grammatical relationships within the text. Acronyms and initialisms enhanced brevity and clarity in referring to well-known institutions or phenomena.

Comparison with Previous Studies

The findings of this research are consistent with several prior works:

This research has relation with some previous studies done by some researchers. First is the research done by Annisa & (2020) entitled "Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Found in VOA News Articles". In their research, they just focused on analyzing morphological process of word formation, they are derivation, compound, initialism, acronym, clipping and conversion. There were 28 data of derivation found in their research; they were 53 data for compound, 11 data for intialism, 5 data for acronym, 4 data for clipping and 18 data for comversion. Comparing with their research with this research, They only focused their research process of word formation and they chose VOA News Articles as the object of their research. While this research used VOA News articles as the object of the research related to the articles of education, health, science and technology.

Second, the research done by Zuhri, et.al., (2022) entitled "Morphological Process of Morphemes Through Word-Formation Process in Students' Writing". This study examines how morphemes are used by the students through wordformation processess, including acronym, blending, clipping, compounding, derivation, and inflection in students' writing. In their research, The data were collected through observation. The findings show that the students applied 599 processes which fall under five types of word-formations. While this research were collected through observation in Universitas Negeri Semarang attending Academic Writing class.

The third is the research done by Fitri, et.al.,(2023). In his research, they analyzed "Word Formation Process in Adele's "30" Song Album: A Comprehensive Morphological Analysis". This research aims to analyze comprehensively morphological process of word formation in song album "30" by Adele. Word formation focuses on the process of making or constructing new words based on other words or morphemes. Based on the result of his research, Based on the analysis, they was found that there were 6 types out of 14 types of word formation process in song album "30" by Adele. Specifically, this research found 44 data of word formation process. There were 6 data of compounding, 1 data of clipping,

1 data of backformation, 1 data of acronyms, 2 data of derivation and 33 data of prefixes and suffixes.

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Fourth, the research done by Maja Žarković (2023). Maja Žarković did a research entitled "The Analysis of Word Formation of Soccer Terms in the Jakarta Post's Articles". This paper studies the morphological productivity of nounforming suffixes at the level of word-formation rules in a corpus comprised of news, literary, academic, and TV registers. The productivity at the aforementioned level is the union of the productivity at the level of word-formation types and morphological types In his research morphological analysis shows the interaction of 37 different suffixes with simple or complex nouns, adjectives, and simple verbs. While this research found in news, literary, academic, and TV registers. Fifth, the research done by Indrian,D.R.(2022) entitled "A Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Process Used in Mobile Application Names". This study aimed to investigate the word formation process found in mobile application names in Google Play Store with several categories. The findings showed that the word formation process occurred in four processes, namely compounding, blending, derivation, and multiple processes. In the research, the compounding processes occurred in two applications, followed by the blending processes with two occurrences, and the other two appeared in the derivation process. Nevertheless, the clipping, acronym, coinage, and borrowing processes were not found in this study.

The involvement of English Education students in this research provided an additional pedagogical dimension. By participating in the collection and analysis of word formation data, students were able to apply their theoretical knowledge of morphology to real-life texts. This practical engagement not only reinforced their understanding but also demonstrated how morphological awareness can improve reading comprehension and vocabulary development.

Implications for Language Learning

From an educational perspective, the analysis shows how real-world texts serve as effective learning materials. By identifying morphological patterns in authentic news, learners can enhance their vocabulary acquisition, grammatical accuracy, and morphological awareness. The use of DW texts in class activities encourages critical thinking about word structure and usage.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion, this research is limited to the types of word formation and how the words are formed which are related to the process of word formation. Hence,there are six kinds of word formation found in Deutsche Welle News articles, they are derivation, compound, acronym, initialism, and conversion. In derivation process, there are 29 data found, in compound process there are 53 data. Besides, there are 4 data for acronym process, and 4 data for initialism process and 4 data for conversion process. From those word formation process, compound is the most common found in the Deutsche Welle News articles. Those word formation processes are included into morphological analysis. Hence, this idea can be a suggestion from the writer to other researchers, especially to the lecturers to use English articles or other written media as the object of their research by involving their students as the participants of their research in collecting and analyzing the data to increase their comprehension about word formation processes.

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