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**Compound and Blending Words found on Twitter Related to Covid-19: a Morphological Study**

Ni Komang Ayu Wulandari<sup>1</sup>, Ni Luh Sutjiati Beratha<sup>2</sup>, I Made Rajeg<sup>3</sup>

<sup>[123]</sup>Faculty of Arts, Udayana University, Indonesia

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**Abstract**

Word-formation in English is quite extensive, and it has become a productive language. Many new words occur related to a particular event, such as COVID-19. Twitter is a social networking service that allows users to send and read text-based messages. New words usually occur on Twitter because people express their opinion and story regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. It is essential to research the words formed, especially compounds and blending related to COVID-19, since many new words occur. This study aimed to identify the compound and blending words related to COVID-19 found on Twitter. This study is qualitative. The data was collected by note-taking and observation methods. The data of this study were analyzed using the qualitative method. The theories used in this study were the theory of word-formation proposed by Yule (2010) and the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981). The results showed some compounds and blending words related to COVID-19 found on Twitter. The formed words mostly combine “corona” and “mask” because people will quickly understand that the new term is related to COVID-19. In term of meaning, these words mainly contain a connotative meaning. However, some of these words still use their conceptual meaning.

**Keywords:** Word-Formation, Compounds, Blending, COVID-19, Twitter

**Introduction**

Language can be developing along with the development of the current situation. It means that language is changing, evolving, and adapting to users' needs. Words are an essential part of the language since language cannot stand without a word. If people are rich with vocabulary, they will speak fluently. Vocabulary can define as the word of language that can be a single item and phrase. New words can always occur every time something new happens, and

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people will make new terms related to these events. It causes language never to die because language can enrich its vocabulary. Words occur through the process called the word-formation process.

A word can form by a morpheme or a combination of morphemes. People might only know if the smallest unit in a language is a word, yet, the smallest meaningful unit of a language is a morpheme. A word formation is one of the morphological domains that studies how the word forms from the combination of morphemes or attaches with affixes. Booij, (2007: 8) defines morphology as a set of principles in combining morphemes into a word. He represents morphemes as the minimal linguistics units with grammatical or lexical meaning. Each morpheme has a meaning, and some morphemes have different meanings with different words (Dixon, 2005: 6). Morphemes can divide into two, namely free morpheme and bound morpheme. A free morpheme is a morpheme that occurs as an independent word, while a bound morpheme is an affix that cannot stand alone as a complete word. Thus, a bound morpheme requires another morpheme to appear before or after it, forming a word. Embick (2015: 6) defines an essential component of a morpheme as the idea that the grammar contains representations of the sound and meaning aspects of language, which representations of sound and meaning in terms of features. Thus, a morpheme is not only about meaning but also contains a sound. The field study of a morpheme is called morphology. Morphology studies word formation and changes in word form, word types, and word meanings. Morphology deals with the internal structure of words and how a word forms through morphological processes. English has several word-formation processes. Yule (2010: 53-60) divides word-formation processes into ten types: compounding, blending, clipping, borrowing, backformation, conversion, coinage, acronym, derivation, and multiple processes. Word formation in English is quite extensive because English is a productive language. Therefore, word formation phenomena related to the COVID-19 pandemic must also occur in English. Thus, it needs to analyze the word-formation phenomena in the English language.

Many new words occur related to a particular event through a word-formation process. (Mustafa et. al (2015: 261) describe the word-formation in everyday communication on social media, Facebook. Young generations' use of new word formations on Facebook is more colorful, forceful, and original than their equivalents in a complete spelling. It means that new words on social media are dynamic and continuously developing. Social media delivers any information, ideas, and issues related to COVID-19. Another social media that people usually use is Twitter. Many new words occur on Twitter, and it becomes trending in it. It also happens to words related to COVID-19. For example, the word “*Ronacut*” comes from the word “*Corona*” and “*Cut*”. It means a haircut during the COVID-19 pandemic. This word-formation belongs to the blending

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process because the words combine by simply taking the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of another word.

Meanwhile, the compounding word process combines two words into one new word. Other words like “*Covidslide*” come from the word “*Covid*” and “*Slide*”, which means PowerPoint slides for educational purposes related to COVID-19 issues, and “*Covididiot*” comes from the word “*Covid*” and “*Idiot*”. It means a group of people who ignore health protocols and do not believe in the existence of COVID-19. These words combine two separate words into one form to describe something new, which is a compound word. Thus, it needs to analyze the compounding and blending word process phenomena related to COVID-19 found on Twitter since as a social media platform with many new words occur in it.

Based on the discussion above, further studies are needed on the compounding and blending word-formation process described to COVID-19 in social media Twitter. Thus, this study aims to analyze the word-formation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially compounding. In addition, this study also analyzes the meaning contained in these words. Therefore, this study is expected to provide information and help people know the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on language and new words related.

**Research Method**

The research method is a procedure used in scientific writing. The methodology used in analyzing the data in this research includes several points. First, this research was qualitative, which is a method that focuses on in-depth observation. In addition, researchers are also the primary tool or human instrument that is critical, open, and equipped with the adequate theory needed during the research(Nugrahani, 2014: 97). This research used written data in English words related to the COVID-19 issues. The data source of this study was Twitter. The data was collected by using the observation method. The observation method collects information by observing the behavior and activities of individuals at the research site (Creswell, 2009). This research identified the language phenomena related to COVID-19 found on Twitter. Furthermore, this research used a note-taking technique to record the data. After data collection, the step continues with data analysis. The data were analyzed by using the descriptive qualitative method. It means that the data was described descriptively based on theories proposed in this research. This method was used to reveal the linguistic phenomena related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the formal and informal method were used to present the results. This

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study used a table to present the data analysis results formally related to word-formation. In contrast, the informal method describes the analysis results in a description and paragraph.

**Theoretical Framework**

As the analysis guidelines, two theories are used, namely the theory of word-formation proposed by Yule (2010) and supported by McCarthy (2002) McCarthy (2002) theory, and the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981). The first theory used to analyze the word-formation process was the theory of Yule (2010) describes several word-formation processes. However, this research only focused on two types of word-formation; compounding and blending.

1. Compounding

Compounding is forming words by combining two separate ones into one form to describe something new (Yule, 2010: 53). This form of word formation is very productive in English because it is often used in everyday sentences. Compounding is formed by combining two morphemes, both free morpheme, and free morpheme or free morpheme and bound morpheme. McCarthy (2002: 59) describes three types of compounding, namely compound verbs, compound nouns, and compound adjectives.

2. Blending

Blending is the process of combining words by simply taking the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of another. Blending combines two separate forms to produce a new term (Yule, 2010: 53). It is also defined as combining two or more words that make overlapping sound patterns. The use of this word-formation can see in the word “*Maskne*” (N), which is a combination of the words “*mask*” (N) and “*acne*” (N). It means that acne appears due to irritation due to wearing a mask during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This research used the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981) to analyze the meaning of formed words found on Twitter. Leech (1981) proposed seven meanings. However, this study only used two meanings. These are conceptual and connotative meanings. Conceptual meaning is logical and actual meaning written in the dictionary. In contrast, connotative meaning is beyond its literal or conceptual meaning.

**Result and Discussion**

The discussion is divided into two. First, it discusses the compounding word-formation process related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its meaning. Second, it discusses the blending word-formation process and its meaning. The word-formation process was analyzed using the theory proposed by Yule (2010). In contrast, the meaning is analyzed based on the theory proposed by Leech (1981). The results and discussion can see as follows.

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**The Compounding Process**

Compounding is a word-formation by combining two separate words into one form to describe something new (Yule, 2010: 53). This form of word formation is very productive in English because it is often used in everyday sentences. Compounding is formed by combining two morphemes, both free morpheme, and free morpheme or free morpheme and bound morpheme. For example, the word “ballroom” comes from the word “ball” (N) and “room” (N). There are ten compound words found related to COVID-19. However, this study only discusses five words for each process. Furthermore, the compounding words related to COVID-19 can see in Table 1 bellows.

**Table 1. Compound Words**

No.	Words	Splinters	Meaning
1.	Coronabuddy	Corona (N) + Buddy (N)	A friend who accompanies during the COVID-19 pandemic
2.	Coronacut	Corona (N) + Cut (V)	Hairstyling during the COVID-19 pandemic
3.	Covidslide	Corona (N) + Slide (V)	Children fall behind academically due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4.	Coronameal	Corona (N) + Meal (N)	Dishes made at home due to restrictions on lockdown activities.
5.	Covidvacation	Covid (N) + Vacation (N)	A vacation that cannot be made due to activity restrictions of COVID-19.

Table 1 shows the compounding words related to COVID-19 found on Twitter. It is a word formed by combining two separated words. As a result, many word formations combine “corona” with other nouns or verbs. The explanation can see as follows.

**Data 1. Coronabuddy**

“So who wants to be my **coronabuddy**?” (Twitter, 19 March 2020)

Based on the data above, it can be seen that the word “*coronabuddy*” belongs to the compound noun. Lexically, **corona** means an infection or disease caused by a coronavirus. In contrast, the word **buddy** means a close friend (Oxford Dictionary). These two words undergo a compounding process and form one word with meaning. The word **coronabuddy** implies that a friend who accompanies during the COVID-19 pandemic. The sentence “So who wants to be my **coronabuddy**?” is about asking who would like to be his friend during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, this word has connotative meaning because it is over its conceptual concept.

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This word does not mean having a friend with a coronavirus, but being a friend with someone who is faced with this pandemic to relieve boredom due to isolation since this word occurs at the beginning of lockdown.

**Data 2. Coronacut**

“Got my **coronacut** & it feels so good.” (Twitter, 8 July 2020)

Based on the data above, it can be seen that the word “**coronacut**” belongs to compound noun. The word above comes from **corona** (N) and **cut** (V). Lexically, **corona** means an infection or disease caused by a [coronavirus](#). At the same time, the word **cut** means to make something shorter by cutting (Oxford Dictionary). Thus, this word indicates cutting hair during the COVID-19 pandemic in this context. It proves from the sentence “Got my **coronacut** & it feels so good.”, which refers to hairstyling during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on these explanations, this word has a connotative meaning because it does not literally mean “cut the corona”. However, this word means having a haircut during the COVID-19 pandemic by some people.

**Data 3. Covidslide**

“Should schools be open during summer to help with [CovidSlide](#)?” (Twitter, 3 August 2020)

The word above comes from two separated words; **covid** (N) and **slide** (V). This word belongs to a compound noun. According to the Oxford Dictionary, the word **slide** means move smoothly or quietly. While, the word **covid** has a similar meaning to the word **corona**, which is a disease caused by a coronavirus. Thereby, **coronaslide** means Children fall behind academically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This term appears in the United States, where the case is more severe than the term summer slide. The summer slide is students being left behind academically after not attending class due to summer vacation. Thus, the term **covidslide** appears to refer to students' academic lag due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which limits students' learning activities at schools. In terms of meaning, this word has a connotative meaning since it implies beyond its literal meaning.

**Data 4. Coronameal**

“Yes, at the new restaurant chain: **Coronameal** Nineteen.” (Twitter, 19 September 2020)

The data above belongs to noun compounding since it is formed by two nouns; **corona** (N) and **meal** (N). In literal, **corona** means a diseases caused by coronavirus, while, **meal** means a food eaten on regular occasions (Oxford Dictionary). In this context, the word **coronameal** can defines as dishes made when you feel bored with activities at home due to restrictions on lockdown activities. Some people on social media named their dishes with **coronameal** since it cooks during the COVID-19 pandemic. As in the sentence “Yes, at the new restaurant chain:

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Coronameal Nineteen.”, where the phrase “Coronameal Nineteen” is used as slang for “Coronavirus Nineteen”. It assumes that some people have tired of this current situation, where COVID-19 still exists until now and many restrictions made due to this disease. Therefore, this word has a connotative meaning since it does not conceptually means a dish made of corona virus.

**Data 5. Covidvacation**

“This is how Mr. Hueston’s kids are spending Day #1 of the **covidvacation.**” (Twitter, 7 March 2020)

The data above belongs to noun compounding since two nouns form it; **covid** (N) and **vacation** (N). According to the Oxford Dictionary, covid means a disease caused by a coronavirus, while vacation is a period spent traveling or resting away from home. However, the government has made regulations not to travel outside the region, especially abroad. Some countries also have not opened flights to their territory. Significantly, the government’s recommendation is to stay at home during this pandemic, so there is a term of ‘work from home’ to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Some people who cannot travel far or abroad only can do it around their residence area while still adhering to health protocols. Thus, some people call the term vacation as covidvacation. Based on this context, the word covidvacation can define as a vacation that cannot be made due to activity restrictions of COVID-19. This word has a connotative meaning because it does not mean that coronavirus has a vacation. However, it means that vacation during the COVID-19 pandemic at home

**The Blending Process**

In addition to combining two words as in the compounding process, there is also a process of combining words by simply taking the beginning of one word and combining it to the end of another word. It is called as blending process. Blending combines two separate forms to produce a new term (Yule, 2010: 53). It can define as a combination of two or more words that produce overlapping sound patterns. The use of this type of word formation can see in the word “brunch” (N), which is a combination of the words “**breakfast**” (N) and “**lunch**” (N). The word brunch means food eaten in the morning as a combination of breakfast (breakfast) and lunch (lunch). It can be seen that the initial part is taken from the word breakfast and is combined with the last part of the word lunch to form the word brunch. Furthermore, the blending words related to COVID-19 can see in Table 2 bellows.

**Table 2. Blending Words**

No.	Words	Splinters	Meaning
1.	Maskne	Mask (N) + Acne (N)	Acne pimples that occur on your

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			face due to irritation of using masks for too long.
2.	Maskducation	Mask (N) + Education (N)	Education about the use of masks.
3.	Ronavid	Corona (N) + Covid (N)	A disease caused by coronavirus.
4.	Covidiot	Covid (N) + Idiot (N)	A group of people who ignore health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic
5.	Fluvid	Flu (N) + Covid (N)	A disease that inflicts human's lungs caused by coronavirus.

Table 2 shows the blending words related to COVID-19 found on Twitter. Blending is a word formation by combining two clipped words. Thereby, the discussion can be seen as follows.

**Data 1. Maskne**

“Your sign to invest in skincare!! Almost forgot how bad my **maskne** breakouts were.” (Twitter, 22 Desember 2021)

The data above shows that the word “**maskne**” comes from two clipped words; **mask** (N) and **acne** (N). This formed word belongs to the blending process because it combines two words that produce overlapping sound patterns. **Mask** is something that people wear over part of their face to protect it from dust and other things. While, **acne** is a skin condition where hair follicles become plugged with oil and dead skin cells, producing pimples (Oxford Dictionary). In this context, **maskne** means acne pimples that occur on your face due to irritation of using masks for too long. Since people are obligated to wear masks to prevent the spread of coronavirus thus, it irritates the skin face and causes acne. This word does not mean a mask to cover your acne literally, but it is a term for skin irritation due to wearing a mask for too long. The sentence “Your sign to invest in skincare!! Almost forgot how bad my **maskne** breakouts were”, shows that the word **maskne** refers to acne breakout due to wearing masks. Thus, the word **maskne** has a connotative meaning because it is beyond its literal meaning.

**Data 2. Maskducation**

“**Maskducation** still needed though. I see folk removing the mask so they can speak louder.” (Twitter, 14 November 2020)

The data above is formed through the blending process. The word “**maskducation**” comes from the word **mask** and **education**. These words are combined through the blending process and it formed the word **maskducation**. As explained before, **mask** is something that people wear over part of their face to protect it from dust and other things. While education is a



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process of teaching and learning to gain knowledge (Oxford Dictionary). Based on the sentence above, maskducation can define as education about the use of masks; it can be the type, procedure, and duration of using masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this word indicated has a conceptual meaning since it delivers the actual meaning of using proper masks.

**Data 3. Ronavid**

“Protection against ‘**Ronavid** 19’.” (Twitter, 20 March 2020)

Based on the data above, it can be seen that the word **ronavid** formed by two clipped words; **corona** (N) and **covid** (N). The clipped word **vid** indicates as the word **covid** since it is followed by the number “19”. In this case, the number “19” refers to COVID-19 or the emergence year of this virus. The sentence was found on Twitter on 20 March 2020. It was the beginning of the spread of the coronavirus around the world to result in social restrictions. This word used to slang the term “COVID-19” becomes “Ronavid 19”. In its meaning, it still has the same meaning as the word COVID-19. Therefore, the word **ronavid** means a disease caused by coronavirus. It has a conceptual meaning since it delivers the conceptual meaning as in the dictionary.

**Data 4. Covidiot**

“Politisasi Covid + **Covidiot** + Anti-vac = Public Enemy.” (Twitter, 27 December 2021)

The bold word above belongs to the blending type since it combines two clipped words; **covid** (N) and **idiot** (N). The word **covid** means a disease caused by a coronavirus, while, an **idiot** is a person with deficient intelligence who cannot behave normally (Oxford Dictionary). This word has become a trend on social media and other news platforms. Many people do not believe in this virus, making fun of it, and sometimes ignoring health protocols. These people also create fake news related to COVID-19. For example, the **covidiot** cheered if the number of positive cases increases. Then, they used their social media accounts and acted like ‘heroes’ defending the citizens by criticizing (making fun of) the government’s incompetence in handling COVID-19. The **covidiot** not only disbelieve with COVID-19 but also make fake news to criticize the government. Thus, **covidiot** can defines as a group of people who ignore health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic. This word has connotative meaning since it does not imply the literal meaning “COVID is idiot”, yet it refers to people who disbelieved with this virus.

**Data 5. Fluvid**

“Got my **fluvid** booster.” (Twitter, 21 November 2021)

The data above is formed through the blending process which comes from the word **flu** (N) and **covid** (N). The clipped word “vid” indicates the word “covid” because it correlates with the word “booster”. Therefore, it usually refers to a vaccine. Flu is a disease

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caused by a virus that infects the nose, throat, and lungs (Oxford Dictionary). Covid is a disease caused by coronavirus. This word has a similar meaning to ronavid, but this word used flu instead of rona. As people know, COVID-19 has identical symptoms with flu. However, it is caused by a different virus. Regardless, fluvid can be defined as a disease that inflects humans' lungs caused by coronavirus. Therefore, this word has conceptual meaning because it implies literal meaning.

**Conclusion**

Based on the discussion above, it can conclude that the COVID-19 pandemic impacts health, economy, and society, but it also has a significant impact on the linguistic or language level. The data source in this study was from Twitter, a social media widely used by the community and a place to express opinions on something. Many new words occur related to a particular event through a word-formation process on Twitter.

These words are formed through the compounding and blending process by combining two or clipped words. The compound words mostly combine “corona” with other nouns or verbs. It shows that people want to make new terms while still containing corona or covid. Using the word corona, people will quickly understand that the new term is related to COVID-19. In addition, people also use the word “mask” while blending new words. It indicates that masks are one of the essential points in preventing COVID-19, and the word is widely used, both to form new words or not. In term of meaning, these words mostly have connotative meaning since it is used to express their opinion related to COVID-19. However, some of these words still use their conceptual meaning.

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