

**Word Formation Processes of Techno Babble Words
In *Computer Active Magazine***

A Thesis

*Submitted in Partial Fulfillment to the Requirements
for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra*

WIKE AZFIANI
04985028



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT-FACULTY OF LETTERS
ANDALAS UNIVERSITY
PADANG
2008**

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang pembentukan kata dan istilah teknis di bidang komputer yang terdapat pada *computer active magazine* edisi Januari - Mei 2008. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan tipe dan proses pembentukan kata yang digunakan pada kata dan istilah komputer di majalah tersebut. Dalam penelitian data dianalisis dengan metode agih (*distributional method*) dan teknik catat (*note-taking*). Selanjutnya data disajikan dengan metode formal dan informal. Dari hasil penelitian, diperoleh delapan tipe proses pembentukan kata yang digunakan dalam kata dan istilah teknis di bidang komputer, yaitu; *acronymy*, *compounding*, *derivation*, *antonomasia*, *invention*, *blending*, *folk etymology*, dan *clipping*. Dari keseluruhan data, *acronymy* adalah bentuk yang paling banyak diperoleh. Dalam pembentukan kata majemuk (*compound*) khususnya yang menggunakan morfem *web* sebagai elemen dasar (*base element*), elemen dasar dari kata majemuk ini terletak di kiri, tidak seperti kata majemuk dalam bahasa Inggris lainnya, dimana elemen dasar terletak di kanan. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa unsur kesederhanaan (*simplicity*), penggunaan istilah dan kata yang diambil dari cerita dan peristiwa terkenal (*familiarity*), dan kemampuan dari sebuah akar kata untuk berkembang menjadi kata lain (*productivity*) adalah unsur-unsur yang menjadi ciri khusus dalam proses pembentukan kata dan istilah teknis dibidang komputer.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In communication, people need language to express and to show what they feel. Language is also needed for socialization in a community or in a group of people. Some professional groups like; doctor, lawyer, linguist, etc tend to use their own language in communication. They use secret language that is full of terms and codes to display their knowledge or to obscure what they have to say. So, language which is used by professional groups cannot be understood easily by everyone.

This phenomenon also occurs in computer field. Computer scientist, programmers, hackers, and computer enthusiasts have their own language that use many sophisticated words, and terms to communicate each other. For common people, sometimes language used by computer scientist, programmers, hackers, and computer enthusiast has a 'strange', so, it can be a gap when they want to communicate and join them. There are some examples of words in their language, like; web (from World Wide Web), URL (from Uniform Resource Locator), modem (from modulator-demodulator), e-mail (from electronic-mail), etc.

Language used by people in computer field itself is a kind of language varieties. It is identified as techno babble. Techno babble is also called as jargon. Jargon is a language, written or spoken, peculiar to a trade, profession, or other

group (Allan, 2001; Jackson & Amvela, 2000). This language is categorized as standard language since it is polite and acceptable.

Jargon becomes new vocabulary and may become a Standard English in the future because people accept it and frequently use it. For example, word 'hamburger'. The word is originated from a name, the city of Hamburg, Germany. The word hamburger began to be falsely interpreted as a compound, with burger acquiring its own status as a morpheme. Then, this word is led to the development of a number of new words today, such as fish burger, bacon burger, and cheeseburger. (Stageberg & Oaks, 2000, p.126).

In addition, common people are not familiar and understandable with some techno babble words. Techno babble words are used to keep laymen at a respectful, or at least uncomprehending, distance and so enhance the majesty. So, it can be concluded that techno babble words, existing in computer are difficult or impossible for ordinary people to understand because techno babble are full of words known only to specialists. That is the reason why this language is used.

When we talk about techno babble words, we also talk about the process of creating a word. In creating a word, there are processes like; combining two words into a single one, using the initial letters of some words to form the new one, adding affixes into the root of a word, and so on. Those processes linguistically are called word-formation. Word-formation is a process which contributed to make the English word-stock rich and full. There are many advantages of using word-formation processes in our daily life, for example, the naming of specific brand

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the writer finds 8 types of word-formation process relating to techno babble words found in *Computer Active* magazine. They are compounding, acronym, clipping, blending, antonomasia, derivation, invention, and folk etymology. From 67 data, the writer finds 28 *acronyms* (41,79%), 20 *compounding* (29,85%), 5 *derivations* (7,46%), 5 *blending* (7,46%), 4 *antonomasia* (5,97%), 3 *clipping* (4,47%), one *invention* (1,5%), and one *folk etymology* (1,5%). So, the majority is acronym.

Acronyms which are used in *Computer Active* magazine consist of 3 data for *letter plus number combinations*, 7 data of *four letters acronym*, 14 data of *three letters acronym*, and 4 data of *two letters acronym*. In compounding, the writer discovers 6 types of noun used in compound words as base element. They are; *web*, *ware*, *pad*, *bar*, *load*, and *disk*. The pattern used in forming compound is compound noun. All compound nouns are generated by the standard rule N + N (noun-noun compound), adj. + N (adjective-noun compound), and V + N (verb-noun compound). Especially for *web*, the writer finds that this type of base element is located in the left. It can be concluded that compound in techno babble words are different from other

English compound which placed the base element in the right. Furthermore, the writer also find three types of compound; *endocentric*, *exocentric*, and *synthetic compound*. In derivation, the most commonly affixes used in techno babble words are suffix *-er* (2 data) and prefix *anti-* (3 data). Besides that, the writer also finds some finding in case of blending, clipping, antonomasia, invention, and folk etymology.

It can be concluded that computer magazine, as a helpful media used by people to understand computer, tends to use acronym. Acronym is used in order to simplify many sophisticated terms and to make words and terms in computer to be more compact. Its argument is also related with the purpose of the discovery of computer. In which a computer is designed for people to communicate quickly and effectively where common language would take much longer time.

In addition, according to the data, the process which is used in creating a techno babble words in *Computer Active* magazine is clearly seen. Techno babble words tend to use *simplicity*, *familiarity*, and *productivity* in forming a new word. *Simplicity* is used in order to save space effectively and accurately like in acronym, clipping, and blending. *Familiarity* is used to give a clue about the meaning of a word by using some famous terms and stories which familiar to common people like in antonomasia and folk etymology. Then, *Productivity* aims to develop vocabulary in computer like morpheme *web* which produce some new terms in computer like; *webcam*, *webpage*, *website*, etc. *Productivity* can be seen in the process of compounding and derivation.

REFERENCES

- Aronoff, Mark. (1975). *Word formation in generative grammar*. The MIT press.
- Bauer, Laurie. (2003). *Introducing linguistic morphology*. (2nd ed.). London: Edinburgh University Press.
- Coleman, Julie & Christian J. Kay. (2000). *Lexicology, semantics and lexicography* (pp. 19-32). John Benjamins Publishing Co.
- Comer, Douglas E. (2001). *Computer networks and internets with internet applications*. (3rd ed.). Prentice-Hall. Upper Saddle River. NJ.
- Computer Active, *Techno babble demystified*. Retrieved September 8, 2008. From <http://www.computeractive.co.uk/interactive/jargonbuster>
- Creswell, John W. (2002). *Research design: Qualitative & quantitative approaches*. (Chryshmanda & Hastobroto, Trans). Jakarta: KIK Press.
- Crystal, David. (2006). *Language and the internet*. (2nd ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Driscoll, Dana. (2002). *The ubercool morphology of internet gamers: a linguistic analysis*. *Undergraduate Research Journal for the Human Sciences*, 1. Retrieved Mei 28, 2008, from <http://www.kon.org/urc/driscoll.html>
- Fromkin, Victoria., et al. (2003). *An introduction to language*. (7th ed.). Massachusetts: Heinle & Thomson Cooperation.
- Hornby, A.S. (1995). *Oxford advanced learner's dictionary of current English*. (5th ed.). London: Oxford University Press.
- Jackson, Howard & Etienne Zè Amvela. (2000) *Words, meaning and vocabulary: An introduction to modern English lexicology*. New York: Cassell.
- Katamba, Francis. (1993). *Morphology*. London: Macmillan Press Ltd.
- Lee, Carmen K. M. (2002). *Literacy practices in computer-mediated communication in Hong Kong*. *The Reading Matrix* Vol. 2, No.2. Retrieved September 9, 2008, from www.readingmatrix.com/articles/lee/article.pdf.