



English Word Formation in Indonesian Film Titles

Rifina Fithrotunnisa¹, Sulistyowati²

^{1,2} Magister Linguistik, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta

Article Info	Abstract
<p>Received: 2026-04-17 Revised: 2026 04-22 Accepted: 2026 05-16</p> <p>Keywords: English word formation; morphology; film title</p> <p>DOI: 10.24256/ideasv14i1.10178</p> <p>Corresponding Author: Rifina Fithrotunnisa rifinafithrotunnisa1998@mail.ugm.ac.id Magister Linguistik, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta</p>	<p><i>This article aims to investigate English word-formation processes that found in Indonesian film titles. Although English is a foreign language in Indonesia, but it is widely used in daily communication. English is also used in naming of Indonesian film titles. Film titles are easily found in public spaces and social media, making them relevant for linguistic analysis. The analysis of word formation using the word-formation classification proposed by Bauer (1983). This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. The data are collected from the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) and FilmIndonesia.or.id. The researcher selects film titles that contain English elements and analyzes how the words are formed. The findings show several types of word-formation processes, including inflection, derivation, compounding, blending, acronym, and coinage. These processes indicate that English is used creatively in Indonesian film titles, especially in blending formation.</i></p>

1. Introduction

English nowadays has become one of the most dominant languages in global communication (Baram & Noori, 2019). In terms of word formation, English lexical items are widely used. They are used for various purposes and are often adapted to suit everyday needs. In Indonesian context, English is found everywhere, in naming of products, slogans, even the slang words. The popularity of English use is also found in film naming. Before year 2000, all the films that released in Indonesia were in Bahasa Indonesia. We can consider popular films in before 2000 such as *Tiga Dara* (1956), *Badai Pasti Berlalu* (1977), and *Maju Kena Mundur Kena* (1983). Most of the lexical items were in Bahasa Indonesia.

After 2000 until 2025, the Indonesian film industry has produced significant numbers of films. In only 25 years, the number of films released in commercial cinema is 2227. This is very different with before 2000 that from 1926 until 1999 only produces 1120 films in commercial cinemas (IMDb, n.d.). After 2000, there are various kinds of language appear. While most film title are still in Bahasa Indonesia, but lexical in English, Javanese, Japanese, or other languages also appear. The popular films that appeared in early 2000s is *Ada Apa dengan Cinta?* (2002), *Eiffel... I'm in Love* (2003) and *Heart* (2003). There are also popular films that went international such as *The Raid* (2011).

The most common foreign language that appears in film titles is English. Of the 2227 of films that released between 2000 until 2025, approximately 535 film titles contain English language. The titles are either fully in English or a combination of Bahasa Indonesia and English. Because English is still a foreign language in Indonesia and most consumers are Indonesian speakers, there are many adjustments to make the film titles acceptable to Indonesian audiences. One of these adjustments can be seen in the English word-formation processes that appear in film titles.

The study about word formation is under the field of morphology. Morphology is the study of the internal structure of words and how they are formed (Yule, 2006). According to Bauer (1983), English word formation includes several processes, such as inflection, derivation, compounding, conversion, clipping, clipping, back-formation, coinage, and acronym. Kortmann (2005) adds that word formation can be understood as a mechanism of vocabulary expansion within a language.

The first word formation is inflection, which is a morphological process that involves changes in the form of a word as a result of grammatical variation, such as tenses. The second is derivation, which is a process of forming a new word with the addition of bound morpheme. In contrast to inflection, derivation often changes the word class. Third, compounding is the combination of at least two words to create a single word. The example of compounding such as *cupboard*, *notebook*, and *textbook*. Fourth, blending, in other hand, is a process of combining two parts of two words to form a single word. Different from compounding that two words are full, blending only uses the part each word. A well-known example is *brunch*

(*breakfast + lunch*). Danks (2003) states that blending tends to be more creative but typically short-lived.

Fifth, borrowing is a process that words are taken from other languages to form new vocabularies in the receiving language. In Indonesia, many words are borrowed from Dutch, English, and even Korean. Coinage is inventing new words that has not been existed before, usually a brand name. The word like *googling*, *tweeting*, *ebaying*, come from brand names. Lastly, acronym is a word formation process when the initial letters of a group of words are taken to form a brand-new word.

Numerous studies have examined English word-formation processes across a wide range of contexts. Previous research has identified word formation in informal and digital domains, such as slang expressions (Husnul Khotimah et al., 2025), naming of skincare products (Mulia et al., 2024), mobile games (Cresswell, 2009; Indrian, 2022; Prihandini & Muhammad, 2023), online advertisements (Panggabean et al., 2023), e-commerce live streaming (Antika et al., 2023), and Instagram posts (Kalukar et al., 2023).

More specifically, blending has been observed as a prominent process in everyday language use. Research by Moehkardi (2019) shows that many blends are context-dependent and creatively formed for specific communicative purposes. In addition, English word formation continues to expand through the emergence of new entries in the Oxford English Dictionary (Ratih & Gusdian, 2018), as well as through lexical innovations related to global phenomena such as the COVID-19 pandemic and environmental issues (Dewati & Kepirianto, 2021). These findings highlight the responsiveness of word formation processes to social change and evolving communicative needs.

In the context of film studies, several studies have analyzed word formation in movie scripts, such as those examining *Wonder* (Nur'aini et al., 2021), *Ford v Ferrari* (Dani Agung Arrizal et al., 2023), and *Camp Rock* (Sopiah & Yulianisha, 2023). However, these studies primarily focus on dialogue rather than film titles. Research specifically addressing word formation in film titles remains limited. Moreover, this research aims to fill this gap by investigating English word formation in Indonesian film titles. Theoretically, it will enrich the study of morphology. Practically, the it can serve as tool for students to study English through film titles and for people working in the film industry to better understand film titling in Indonesia.

2. Method

This research employs a descriptive qualitative method within the framework of descriptive linguistics. A qualitative method is a research approach used to explore and gain a deeper understanding of a central phenomenon (Cresswell, 2009). This research focuses on analyzing words by breaking them down into their constituent morphemes in order to identify the processes of word-formation. This

approach allows for a systematic examination of how English lexical items are structured and utilized in Indonesian film titles.

The data are collected from websites Internet Movie Database (IMDb) and FilmIndonesia.or.id, covering film titles released between 2000 and 2025. There are 535 titles in English formed as nouns, noun phrases, verb phrase, prepositional phrase, and clauses. To delimit the scope of the study, the researcher selects only titles that contain English word-formation processes at the word level. Phrases and clauses are excluded to maintain analytical focus. In presenting the analysis, all film titles are written in italics to distinguish them from the surrounding text.

3. Result & Discussion

Several types of English word-formation processes are found in the data. These include inflection, derivation, compounding, coinage, conversion, acronym, blending, and back-formation. The analysis is explained as follow.

a. Inflection

Inflection is a morphological process that involves changes in the form of a word as a result of grammatical variation, such as tense. However, inflection is not limited to tense marking alone; it also reflects other grammatical categories, including person, case, and number (Bauer, 1983). In this process, the form of a word is modified without changing its word class.

Two film titles are identified as instances of inflection, namely *Dreams* and *Teachers*. In both cases, the word-formation process involves the addition of the suffix -s. The suffix -s commonly functions as a plural marker in English nouns. The word *teachers* is derived from the base form *teacher*, with the suffix -s indicating that the noun refers to more than one individual. Similarly, *dreams* originates from the singular noun *dream*, and the addition of -s to signal plurality. In these examples, the grammatical number changes from singular to plural, while the word class remains unchanged as a noun.

b. Derivation

Derivation is a morphological process that results in the formation of a new word through the addition of an affix. According to (O'Grady & Guzman, 2010), this process involves affixation that creates a new lexical item with a different meaning. In contrast to inflection, derivation may change the word class of the base form. Therefore, it has the potential to alter the grammatical category of a word, for instance, from a verb into a noun.

Several derivational forms can be found in Indonesian film titles that use English. A common pattern is the transformation of verbs into nouns. For example in the film title *Liar*. The word *liar* is derived from the verb *lie* with the addition of the suffix -ar, which functions as an agentive marker, referring to a person who performs the action. As a result, the word class shifts from a verb (*lie*) to a noun

(*liar*), meaning “a person who lies.” A similar pattern can be observed in the film title *Killers*. This form undergoes two morphological processes: derivation and inflection. It originates from the verb *kill*, which first takes the derivational suffix -er to form *killer*, a noun meaning “a person who kills.” The inflectional suffix -s is added to indicate plurality, resulting in *killers*, which refers to more than one individual performing the action..

Another example is the film title *Affliction*. The word *affliction* is derived from the verb *afflict* through the addition of the suffix -tion, which functions as a nominalizer. This process changes the verb into a noun that denotes a condition.

c. Compounding

Compounding is a word-formation process when two or more lexical items are combined to produce a new word with a distinct meaning that may differ from the meanings of its base forms. There are eight film titles that found in the form of compounding, as presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Compound Word Formation in Indonesian Film Titles

Film Title	Base Forms	Compound Structure
<i>Headshot</i>	<i>head + shot</i>	<i>noun + noun</i>
<i>Notebook</i>	<i>note + book</i>	<i>noun + noun</i>
<i>Backstage</i>	<i>back + stage</i>	<i>noun + noun</i>
<i>Mayflies</i>	<i>may + fly</i>	<i>noun + noun</i>
<i>Honeymoon</i>	<i>honey + moon</i>	<i>noun + noun</i>
<i>Bluebell</i>	<i>blue + bell</i>	<i>adjective + noun</i>
<i>Sweetheart</i>	<i>sweet + heart</i>	<i>adjective + noun</i>
<i>Midnight</i>	<i>mid + night</i>	<i>adjective + noun</i>
<i>Hitmen</i>	<i>hit + men</i>	<i>verb + noun</i>

Categorically, compounds can be classified into compound nouns, compound verbs, and compound adjectives. In the context of Indonesian film titles that employ English, the data predominantly exhibit compound nouns. These compound nouns are generally formed through three structural patterns: noun + noun, adjective + noun, and verb + noun.

The most common structure is noun + noun. The structure noun + noun found in film titles such as *Headshot*, *Notebook*, *Backstage*, *Mayflies*, and *Honeymoon*. The word *headshot* is derived from the nouns *head* and *shot*, forming a word headshot that means shot to the head. The word *notebook* originates from the nouns *note* and *book*, forming a compound that refers to a book used for writing notes. Meanwhile, the word *backstage* is formed from *back* and *stage*, and it denotes the area behind the stage in a performance setting. *Mayflies* also a compound word from *May* that means fifth month in a year, and flies that means insect. *Mayflies* then

refer to one of a kind of insect. Lastly, the film title *Honeymoon* comes from the word *honey* and *moon*. When the two words are combined, they refer to the time when a newly married couple takes a holiday.

The adjective + noun structure can be observed in film titles such as *Sweetheart* and *Bluebell*. The word *sweetheart* is formed from the adjective *sweet* and the noun *heart*. When combined, the resulting compound does not merely denote a “sweet heart” in a literal sense, but instead functions as a term of endearment used to refer to a loved one. Similarly, *bluebell* is derived from the adjective *blue* and the noun *bell*. As a compound, it refers to a specific type of flower characterized by its bell-like shape and blue color. There is only one verb + noun structure, found in the film *Hitmen*. The word *hitmen* are come from the verb *hit* and the noun *men*. The combined word creates a new meaning, referring to a professional assassin who work for crime.

From the data above, it can be concluded that compound nouns are possible to create very different meaning from the base words.

d. Blending

Blending is a word-formation process that involves the combination of two distinct lexical items to produce a single new form. Unlike compounding, blending typically operates through the fusion of partial segments. Most commonly, by combining the initial part of one word with the final part of another (Yule, 2006). There are ten film titles in which English blending are found. Unlike the other word formation processes, blending occurs not only in English words. Blending in film titles also combines with the words from Bahasa Indonesia. Blending that is purely in English is found in film titles such as *Metamorfoblus*, *Bridezilla*, *Melodate*, *Dealova*, *Eggnoïd*, *Relationshit*, *Vidkill*, and *Dubsmash*. Blending with Indonesian word is found in film title *Cintappuccino*.

Table 2. Blending Word Formation in Indonesian Film Titles

Film Title	Constituents	Blending Process
<i>Metamorfoblus</i>	metamorphosis + blues	noun + noun
<i>Cintappuccino</i>	cinta + cappuccino	noun + noun
<i>MeloDylan</i>	melody + Dylan	noun + noun
<i>Bridezilla</i>	bride + zilla	noun + noun
<i>Melodate</i>	melody + date	noun + noun
<i>Dealova</i>	idea + love	noun + noun
<i>Eggnoïd</i>	egg + humanoid	noun + noun
<i>Relationshit</i>	relationship + shit	noun + noun
<i>Vidkill</i>	video + kill	noun + verb
<i>Dubsmash</i>	dubbing + smash	verb + noun

The most common blending process is noun + noun. As a result, all of the blending words are in form of nouns. The blends that appear are not listed in dictionaries, in dictionary English or Indonesia.

The film title *Eggnoid* also is a blend from the words *egg* and *humanoid*. This blending is used to refer to the main character of the film who is born from an egg. In Indonesia, the word *Dealova* is widely known as name of song and film. It is come from the word *idea* and *love*, then blends to be *dealova* referring to the story about love. Blending can also form a noun expression as seen in the film title *Relationshipit*. It comes from the word *relationship* and *shit*, and also a stylistic deviation from the word *relationship*.

The blending construction can also be formed from noun + verb. For example, in the film titled *Vidkill*. The word *vidkill* comes from the words *video* and *kill*. It is term created by the filmmaker to refer the story plot that talks about video that causes the characters' deaths. Lastly, the construction of verb + noun is found in the film title *Dubsmash*. The word *Dubsmash* comes from the base words *dubbing* + *smash*. *Dubsmash* also refers to the application named *Dubsmash* that the user able to perform lip-syncing. The movie *Dubsmash* tells the story about a main character who is famous in *Dubsmash* app.

Blending is the most common word-formation process in the naming of Indonesian film titles in word level. Through blending, the filmmakers are able to express their ideas freely using creative word form. However, blending can only be used for limited purposes, such as in film titling. Blended forms in film titles are not yet listed in dictionaries.

e. Acronym

Acronym is a word-formation process in which a new lexical item is created from the initial letters of a word or phrase. It can be pronounced as individual letters (Yule, 2006) or as a single word (O'Grady & Guzman, 2010). There are six English acronyms that appear in Indonesian film titles:

Table 3. Acronym Word Formation in Indonesian Film Titles

Film Title	Full Form
LDR	Long Distance Relationship
ILY from 38000ft	I Love You
D.P.O.	Detachment Police Operation
BFF	Best Friend Forever
D.O.	Drop Out
MBA	Married by Accident

Several acronyms are found in Indonesian film titles, including *LDR* (*Long Distance Relationship*), *ILY from 38000 ft* (*I Love You*), *D.P.O.* (*Detachment Police Operation*), *BFF* (*Best Friends Forever*), *D.O.* (*Drop Out*), and *MBA* (*Married by*

Accident). Each of these forms is derived from the initial letters of multi-word expressions. The acronyms are pronounced letter by letter. The acronyms that appear are very familiar in society. Those acronyms are commonly found in social media. Therefore, the filmmakers use these acronyms to name their films in order to make them more familiar to the audiences.

f. Coinage

Coinage is a word-formation process in which new lexical items are created, often derived from brand names or the names of inventors, and subsequently generalized in everyday language to refer to similar products or concepts. In Indonesian film titles, coinage can be observed in film title *Youtubers*. The word *Youtubers* originates from YouTube, a video-sharing platform based in the United States. Due to its global popularity and widespread use, the term has been lexicalized to refer broadly to individuals who create video content. This phenomenon is also used to in film titling, as seen in film *Youtubers*.

4. Conclusion

English is widely used in naming of film title. Various types of English word formation are found in Indonesian film titles. The types that appear including inflection, derivation, compounding, blending, acronym, and coinage. The most common word formation process that appear are compounding and blending. Compounding involves the combination of two words. Compound nouns are possible to create meaning that are very different from their base words.

Blending in film titles is slightly more creative and expressive comparing to other word formation processes. When creating blended words, there are unusual expressions that only use in the film or refer specifically to the film. Blending tends to be more creative but typically short-lived.

5. References

- Antika, R., Prihatin Pujiastuti, & Ade Fitria Deswita. (2023). Word Formation Processes Found on Shopee Live Streaming. *Jurnal Onoma: Pendidikan, Bahasa, Dan Sastra*, 9(1), 300–312. <https://doi.org/10.30605/onoma.v9i1.2177>
- Baram, L. O., & Noori, A. K. (2019). Blend Words and Their Influence on the Lexicon and Future of English Language. *Journal of University of Human Development*, 5(3), 43. <https://doi.org/10.21928/juhd.v5n3y2019.pp43-48>
- Bauer, L. (1983). *English word-formation*. Cambridge University Press.
- Cresswell, John. W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Sage Publications.
- Dani Agung Arrizal, Wageyono, & Sutami Dwi Lestari. (2023). AN ANALYSIS OF WORD FORMATION IN FORD V FERRARI MOVIE SCRIPT. *LUNAR*, 7(2), 57–67. <https://doi.org/10.36526/ln.v7i2.3141>
- Danks, D. (2003). *Separating blends: A formal investigation of the blending process*

- in english and its relationship to associated word formation processes. University of Liverpool.
- Dewati, W. R., & Kepirianto, C. (2021). Word Formation Processes of the Terms Related to Covid-19 and Environmental Issues in The Jakarta Post. *E3S Web of Conferences*, 317, 05005. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202131705005>
- Husnul Khotimah, S., Sariyati, I., & Muhammad Fauzi, E. (2025). Slang Words in Comments From People on Elon Musk's X Account. *IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature*, 12(2), 2925–2935. <https://doi.org/10.24256/ideas.v12i2.5606>
- IMDb. (n.d.). Indonesian films.
- Indrian, R. D. (2022). A Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Process Used in Mobile Application Names. *Indonesian Journal of English Language Studies (IJELS)*, 8(2), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.24071/ijels.v8i2.3692>
- Kalukar, V. J., Erliza, N., & Yahya, M. (2023). A Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Processes in English Posters on Instagram. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, 14(6), 1551–1558. <https://doi.org/10.17507/jltr.1406.13>
- Kortmann, B. (2005). *English linguistics: Essentials*. Cornelsen.
- Masruddin, M., Amir, F., Langaji, A., & Rusdiansyah, R. (2023). Conceptualizing linguistic politeness in light of age. *International Journal of Society, Culture & Language*, 11(3), 41-55.
- Masruddin, M., & Nasriandi, N. (2022). Lexical and Syntactical Errors Performed by Junior High School Student in Writing Descriptive Text. *IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature*, 10(1), 1094-1100.
- Moehkardi, R. R. D. (2019). English Blends in Indonesian Context: Their Formation Processes and Meanings. *Jurnal Humaniora*, 31(1), 21. <https://doi.org/10.22146/jh.v31i1.40374>
- Mulia, V. L. C., Annaningtyas, C., & May Cahyani Putri. (2024). The Requirement of Forming Words and Involving Attitudes in Naming Products: The Skincare of Wardah. *IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature*, 12(2), 1519–1532. <https://doi.org/10.24256/ideas.v12i2.5449>
- Nur'aini, A. B., Triana, J., & Fogli, L. (2021). The Analysis of Word Formation in Movie "Wonder" and Its Application in Teaching Vocabulary. *Scripta : English Department Journal*, 8(2), 20–27. <https://doi.org/10.37729/scripta.v8i2.702>
- O'Grady, W., & Guzman, D. V. (2010). *Morphology: The analysis of word structure*. Longman .
- Panggabean, F. O., Deliana, D., & Nasution, E. H. (2023). Analysis of Word Formation Process in Online Advertisements. *Radiant*, 4(1), 53–63.

<https://doi.org/10.52187/rdt.v4i1.136>

- Prihandini, A., & Muhammad, H. I. (2023). Word Formation of Indonesian and English Used by Indonesian Children in Playing Online Games. *Proceeding of International Conference on Business, Economics, Social Sciences, and Humanities*, 6, 294–301. <https://doi.org/10.34010/icobest.v4i.379>
- Ratih, E., & Gusdian, R. I. (2018). WORD FORMATION PROCESSES IN ENGLISH NEW WORDS OF OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY (OED) ONLINE. *Celtic: A Journal of Culture, English Language Teaching, Literature and Linguistics*, 5(2), 24–35. <https://doi.org/10.22219/celtic.v5i2.7617>
- Sopiah, S., & Yulianisha, D. (2023). An Analysis of Word Formation Process of English Slang Used in Camp Rock Movie Script. *JiIP - Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Pendidikan*, 6(2), 1145–1151. <https://doi.org/10.54371/jiip.v6i2.1343>
- Yule, G. (2006). *The study of language*. Cambridge University Press.