

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter is an introduction. It presents an overview of the research being conducted. It begins with the presentation of the research background which highlighting the research problem followed by the formulation of research questions. This chapter also contains the research purposes, the significance of research, and the definition of key terms.

### **1.1 Research Background**

A word is considered as the smallest element of communication in both spoken and written language (Auli, 2020). Cited in O'Grady & Archibald (2016) that linguists define a word as the smallest free form found in language. Meanwhile, Savira & Fitrawati (2019) stated that a word is not the smallest linguistic unit since it can be divided into smaller components known as morphemes. Therefore, it can be defined that a word is a form that can be either independent or a combination of morphemes, which has meaning and subsequently becomes the smallest unit in both oral and written communication. A morpheme that can function as an independent word is referred to as a free morpheme, whereas a morpheme that needs to be attached to another morpheme is known as a bound morpheme (Hamawand, 2011). This combination of morphemes can then produce new words.

Moreover, words are divided into simple and complex based on the number of morphemes. Simple word means a word that only contains one morpheme, while complex word means a word that contains more than one morpheme (O'Grady & Archibald, 2016). This is in line with what Plag (2018) stated that complex words can be defined as words composed of the smallest units called morphemes. Furthermore, Booij (2012) defined the complex word as a word containing an internal morphological structure. Therefore, to find out how complex words are created, it is essential to examine the morphological structure of those complex words along with its word formation process which according to Plag (2018) could be defined as the process of how new complex words are constructed based on other

words or morphemes. This definition is also supported by Yule (2017) who stated that word formation process involves the creation process of new words.

Regarding the emergence of new complex words, it is possible that social media could be a place to discover new complex words considering the large number of users which definitely causes a lot of interaction to occur in it. One of the most widely accessed social media is Instagram. Now Instagram is not only a place where people interact across countries or continents, but can also be a place for the latest news developments. This is proven by the rise of news accounts that present news via Instagram. This news account then has the potential to become a source for the emergence of new complex words because it is often a distributor of the latest and relevant information. One of the latest news topics that is currently becoming highlighted is the Israel-Hamas conflict. Content related to Israel-Hamas posted on social media, specifically Instagram, may develop or introduce new complex words.

Furthermore, one of Instagram's features is captions which the form can be words or sentences, it is usually used to add aesthetic value or a deeper message to uploaded photos or videos. Not infrequently Instagram users also compete to make captions as interesting as possible, so it's not surprising that many new complex words appear. Unfortunately, not many people are aware and care about word formation, especially in Instagram captions. A similar problem regarding people's unawareness of the existence of the word formation process was also stated by Tahaineh (2012) in his journal that the role of the word formation process is often ignored by new communicative trends. It prioritizes the arrangement of words into sentences and the selection of words without paying attention to how new words are formed through a mechanism which is called the word formation process.

Based on the matter above, conducting research on word formation becomes necessary in order to increase readers' awareness of how words are formed, especially if the new words come out of a news account captions which in fact is really necessary to attract public attention in presenting information so that readers are also interested in reading. Learning how words are formed is something that

needs to be done considering the many benefits obtained, especially in language learning. In fact, in a study that discusses the role of word formation conducted by Shchuklina et al., (2016) mentioned that learning how a word is formed can help develop logical thinking and enhance the ability for analysis and synthesis.

In addition, Enesi (2017) emphasizes the importance of word formation theory through teaching and learning process. It started when the theory of word-formation in English course books is often underestimated and therefore not widely discussed. In fact, the development of teaching about word formation plays a significant role in vocabulary learning where vocabulary itself is crucial for various aspects of English language learning. The role of word formation teaching on vocabulary acquisition was also stated by Tahaineh (2012). He also added that accidental or natural vocabulary acquisition such as from reading is very small. Eventually, the importance of teaching and learning word formation theory has been realized by many researchers and lecturers.

The previous research about word formation process that the researcher first read from Luthfiyati et al., (2017) entitled "*The Analysis of Word Formation Process in the Jakarta Post Website*". This research focuses on the predominant types of derivational words utilized within the headline of ten educational articles on the "Jakarta Post Website" between October 2015 and April 2016. Unfortunately, this theory is not clear in stating whose theory is used as a reference. However, the result from this research indicates that the most common type of derivational words utilized in the headline of ten educational articles on the "Jakarta Post Website" from October 2015 to April 2016 are noun derivations.

The second is Faradisa et al., (2019) who analyzed "*An Analysis of Word Formation Processes Found in Instagram*". This research aims to find the process of word formation in Instagram based on Plag (2003) and Delahunty and Garvey (2010) theory. Data was gathered through document analysis. From the 78 data analyzed, the researchers found 38 acronyms, 17 borrowed words, 15 abbreviations, five blends, two coinages, and one affixation.

The third is Fitria (2021) who analyzed “*Word Formation Process of Terms in Covid-19 Pandemic*”. This research aims to know the type and provide examples of the word-formation process observed in terms related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Similar to the previous research, the data collection technique uses document analysis. However, it remains ambiguous as to which theoretical framework this research aligns with. Analysis of the findings reveals several types of word-formation processes including acronym, blending, borrowing, compounding, clipping and multiple processes.

The next, Natanael et al., (2023) analyzed “*Word Formation Analysis in Elon Musk’s Tweets and Replies: Morphological Approach*”. The study aims to examine various types of word formation process and their corresponding changes in part of speech changes within Elon Musk’s tweets from May 15 to June 21, 2022. This analysis was guided by Yule’s (2010) theory, supplemented by two more additional types introduced by O’Grady & Archibald (2015). Slightly different from previous studies, this research employs the observational method to collect data. The result of this research found a total of 218 words, comprising 123 derivations, 34 compound words, 13 acronyms, 12 borrowings, 11 coinages, 11 conversions, seven blends, four clippings, three backformations, and one onomatopoeia expression.

The last, Indrian (2022) analyzed “*A Morphological Analysis of Word Formation Process Used in Mobile Application Names*”. The objective of this research was to examine the word formation process found in the names of mobile applications across various categories on the Google Play Store based on Yule (2010) theory of word formation. The results presented that there are four word-formation processes occurring including compounding, derivation, blending, and multiple processes.

Although this research shares the same topic as the previous research, it differs significantly, particularly in terms of its focus on the object of research. This research uses the Reuters Instagram account’s caption as the object which is one of the largest international news organizations’ accounts. Research on word formation

on Instagram already exists, however, no one has researched news accounts. Furthermore, the researcher also realized that the word formation process is often represented through tree diagrams, while the representation through labelled bracketing is quite rarely used, especially in theses. Therefore, researchers will represent the process of word formation in the form of labelled bracketing.

In addition to the aforementioned, mostly previous research focused on the types of word formations found and their frequency of occurrence. Whereas, this research will only focus on the types of word formation and elaborate the process of word formation found in the context of Israel-Hamas conflict. The researcher utilized Plag's (2018) theory of word formation process to analyze the data.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the background outlined in this research, the researcher identifies two main questions that are the focal points of this research, including:

1. What types of complex word formation process are found in Reuters' Instagram captions on the Israel-Hamas conflict?
2. How are the morphological structures of complex words constructed in Reuters Instagram captions on the Israel-Hamas conflict?

## **1.3 Research Purposes**

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the researcher intends to:

1. To identify the types of complex word formation process on the topic of Israel-Hamas conflict found in Reuters Instagram captions.
2. To describe how the complex words on the topic of Israel-Hamas conflict found in Reuters Instagram captions are formed through unravelling their morphological structure.

#### **1.4 Research Significance**

In every research endeavor, it is crucial to acknowledge the significance of the topic being researched in order to make the reader aware of its importance in the broader context. In this case, the researcher expects that the result of this study can bring some benefits for the use of language both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to enrich the knowledge about the word formation process in complex words, also to enhance linguistic theories by introducing a new theoretical perspective on word formation.

Practically, this study is expected to help the readers especially among academic readers such as English literature students understand how the complex words are formed through the word formation process and how to break it down. Furthermore, this research is expected to help raise awareness of the importance of learning the word formation process. The researcher also expects that this kind of research will be studied more by those with an interest in linguistics, especially in word formation process, which can then be used as a reference for other researchers who are conducting research on the same topic.

#### **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

This subchapter provides the definition of some terms within the scope of this research in order to prevent potential misunderstandings. Through these key term definitions, the researcher tries to minimize any confusion and ambiguity that might arise from the terminology employed in this research. Those terms will be defined as below:

##### **1. Word Formation**

Based on Routledge Dictionary of Language and Linguistics, word formation can be defined as the processes of forming new complex words using pre-existing linguistic resources (Bussmann, 2006).

## 2. Complex Word

In accordance with many linguists' explanations, a complex word could be simply defined as a word that contains more than one morpheme and has internal structure.

## 3. Reuters

Reuters is a global news agency with journalists working across the world which is based in London. It was established by Paus Julius Reuters in 1851. Reuters has a Trust Principles, which states that Reuters must report the news with integrity, independence, and freedom from bias (Reuters, 2024).

## 4. Israel-Hamas Conflict

The Israel–Hamas conflict is a term that refers to the conflict between the state of Israel and Hamas which is Palestinian militant groups that have occurred since October 07, 2023.

## 5. Instagram

Instagram is one of the social medias for sharing photos and videos that was created in 2010. It has many other features besides captions such as reels, stories, messenger, shopping, search and explore (Instagram, 2024).

## 6. Instagram Caption

Instagram caption is one of the Instagram features in the form of words that can be added under the uploaded photos or videos with the aim of providing more information.