

## Word Formation Process in Adele's "30" Song Album: A Comprehensive Morphological Analysis

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**Abstract** - 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. Descriptive qualitative method was applied since the data were in the form of words, phrases, and sentences. The theory proposed by Yule (2017) was used in analyzing the word formation process. The data of this research were 12 songs contained in song album "30" by Adele. Based on the analysis, it 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. **Conclusion:** Prefixes and suffixes were concluded as the most dominant type of word formation process that was found in song album "30" by Adele.

**Keywords:** Word Formation; Morphology; Adele's "30" Song Album; Comprehensive Analysis

## I. INTRODUCTION

Song lyrics are someone's expressions from within about something that has been seen, heard or experienced. According to Neisya, Aprilia, Darlius, and Lestiana (2023) the lyrics of the songs usually use catchy words arranged in such a way in order to deliver esthetic effect to the audience. In song lyrics, singers or songwriters usually tend to convey messages through song lyrics in a unique and interesting way. Rahman and Anto (2015) described that song lyric is a work that uses written language which is usually a series of words with beautiful diction and also uses the same language style as

poetry. When writing songs, the songwriters usually use the right words and matches the tone of the song that is made and does not rule out the possibility that the songwriters use new words that are unique and meaningful so that listeners can feel the emotions in each the lyrics of the song. As mentioned by Kristiyanti (2012) Song lyrics are also someone's expression about something that has been seen, heard or experienced. In expressing his experience, songwriters play puns and language to create power the attraction and peculiarity of the lyrics or poetry. Firdaus (2013) said that lyrics to give listeners deep understanding of message

contained in the song. In other words, the lyrics make it clear message contained in the song. From the definition above, it can be concluded that song lyrics are a series of words with beautiful diction about an expression that has been seen, heard or experienced by someone and can provide a deep understanding of the message contained in the lyrics of the song. A discourse can be expressed through language written as song lyrics (Aprilia & Neisya, 2022). Many songs with song lyrics that tell stories about the real life of a person so that when someone listens to the song, that person will feel emotions in each of the lyrics because the lyrics have a deep meaning and sometimes relate to the personal life. In using song lyrics, a songwriter must be really good at word processing. For instance, a songwriter named Adele that her song's is currently trending and often played on various platforms such as TikTok entitled "Easy on Me".

Adele Laurie Blue Adkins born on May 5th 1988 is an English singer and songwriter. Graduated from BRIT School in 2006, Adele was first awarded a recording contract by XL Recordings after a friend uploaded a demo of her song on MySpace in same year. In 2007, she received the Critics' Choice award at the Brit Awards and won the BBC Sound of 2008 poll. Her debut album "19" that released in 2008 was a critical and commercial success. The album was certified seven times platinum in the UK and double platinum in the United States. Her appearance on the Saturday Night Live program in late 2008 further boosted her career in the United States. At the 51st Annual Grammy Awards, in 2009, Adele received the awards for Best Newcomer and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance (Editors, 2021).

Recently, on October 15, 2021, Adele released her newest single entitled "Easy on Me" which immediately caught the attention of her fans and directly became trending topic. She also received a positive response, breaking Spotify and Amazon Music records for the most song many plays in a day. The song debuted at number one on the UK Singles Chart and the highest first week sales for a single since 2017. A top spot on the Billboard Hot 100, "Easy on Me" is Adele's fifth song. "Easy on Me" which has been watched by 223 million viewers on YouTube. Easy on me is a biographical song about her divorce from Simon Konecki. Adele and Simon got married in 2018. Unfortunately, in the same year as their wedding, Adele and Simon decided to divorce

when Adele was 30 years old. Therefore, Adele released her latest album, entitled "30" and Easy on Me song is the first single in her fourth album, entitled "30". Previously, Adele had released three albums, they are: "19", "21", "25". (Afiani, 2021)

"30" is the fourth studio album by British singer-songwriter Adele, released on 19 November 2021 by Melted Stone and Columbia Records. Adele wrote "30" from 2018 to 2021, with producers Greg Kurstin, Max Martin, Shellback, and Tobias Jesso Jr., all four of whom have worked on the production of 25 (2015), as well as two new collaborators; Ludwig Göransson and Inflo, from the British band Sault. 30 tells about self-redemption, which is a singer's introspective journey into mistakes, mental health, and desires. 30 centered on divorce, motherhood, and Adele's anxiety about fame, with themes of heartache, hope, and acceptance. 30 is dedicated to his son, Angelo. Adele said that the songs on album 30 will hopefully help her clarify to Angelo about Adele's decision to divorce her husband (Barry, 2021).

"Easy on Me" received positive responses from the public, especially music critics, who praised the touching lyrics and Adele's emotional vocal performance in it. There are many things that make the lyrics of the song have a meaningful and emotionally draining message, like the lyrics and melody blend into a unit, proper use of diction, word formation process, etc.

The important thing in song lyrics is the process of word formation. The concept of the word formation process is to create new words based on the word itself, existing words or in other words. So, new words can be created by shortening the word itself, combining it with other words, or adding affixes to existing words to provide information from the grammar.

According to Kusuma and Mardijono (2013) a new word can be created, borrowed from another language or discovered by known or unknown people and can also be made from existing words. When creating new words, there are several processes in forming a word. This process is called word formation process. Ratih and Gurdian (2018) stated that a way to make new words from existing words based on some rules is word formation. Supported by Savira and Fitriawati (2019) word formation is a process of creating new words based on the word itself, or using other words. In the process of word

formation, new words can be created by shortening the words themselves, combining them with other words, or adding affixes to provide grammatical information, etc. So, the researchers can conclude that the process of word formation is to generate new words based on the word itself, existing words, or a combination of these words based on some rules. As a result, new words can be made by reducing existing words, merging them with other words, or adding affixes to existing words to convey grammar information.

The field related to analyzing the process of word formation is morphology. Following Lieber (2021) morphology is the study that focuses on words and word formation. Another definition from Badawi (2019) elaborates that morphology focuses on the internal structure and meaning of words. Oz (2014) describes that morphology is a study of the internal word structure and the rules governing word formation in a language. So, it can be concluded that morphology is a field of linguistic that studies the internal structure of words and the rules that govern word formation to create new words in a language.

Several morphological analyses have been carried out previously. First, *The Word Formation Processes of Indonesia Slang Words Used in Cosmo Girl! Indonesian Teenage Magazine* by Kusuma and Mardijono (2013) that discussed about the process of word formation of indonesia slang words used in *Cosmo Girl! Indonesian Teenage Magazine* by using Yule's theory (2006). Second, *The Process of Word Formation and Phrase Structure of Android Application Names* by Handayani (2013) that discussed about the word formation process of android application names by using Hatch & Brown's theory (1995) and Yule's theory (2006). Third, *Types of Word Formation Used in the 16th Chapter of Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone Novel Written by J. K. Rowling* by Savira and Fitrawati (2019) that discussed about the types of word formation used in novel by J.K Rowling by using O'Grady & Archibald's theory (2016).

In this research, the researchers used theory from Yule (2017) since this theory is the latest theory from Yule and also this theory is suitable to be used to conduct this research because the theory is more complete and in accordance with what has been researched in this research. Based on Yule (2017) the word formation process consists of 14 types, they were: borrowing, loan-

translation, compounding, blending, clipping, hypocorisms, backformation, conversion, coinage, acronyms, derivation, prefixes and suffixes, infixes, and multiple processes.

Based on the background above, the researchers analyzed the process of word formation on song album "30" by Adele. The researchers conducted this research because the researchers wanted to comprehend and analyze how the word formation in song lyrics so that the lyrics of those songs have very deep meanings and make people touched by the lyrics, especially in the album entitled "30". The objectives of this research were to find out how many words formation appear in song album "30" by Adele, the types of word formation and the description of each word formation appear in song album "30" by Adele.

There were two benefits of this research. Theoretically, the results of this research will be useful for contributing to linguistic research especially to a greater understanding of morphology in terms of word formation process. Practically, there were some benefits to some participant, such as this research will be useful to help English learners gain a better understanding of the word formation process. This research is also expected to be used as a reference and evidence to other researchers to guide them in conducting additional research related to morphological analysis, especially word formation process. Besides, this research will be useful as a reference for teachers and lecturers to facilitate learning in teaching methods. Finally, this research is also expected to help increase students' vocabulary and recognize the meaning easily, especially in a song lyric.

## **II. METHODS**

In conducting this research, the researchers used descriptive qualitative research method. According to Lambert and Lambert (2012) qualitative descriptive research is something in its natural state in line with the context of the research area. The purpose of qualitative descriptive is to describe a comprehensive summary, in everyday terms, and special events experienced by individuals or groups. According to Auli (2020) descriptive research is a research that is used to describe something systematically, factually and accurately in research without leaving important points in the research. It can be concluded that qualitative descriptive will be

useful if the researchers need to know about an event, who was involved, and where it happened. So, it can be interpreted that research on the analysis of the word formation process in the song album "30" by Adele was relevant to use descriptive qualitative research since this research was carried out systematically and scientifically using data in the form of text or words that will be useful for answering problems in this research.

In this research, the procedures that the researchers used in collecting the data were (1) The researchers listened to the song. (2) The researchers read the lyrics of the song while understanding the content or meaning of the song. (3) The researchers selected the words which related to the word formation process appear in song lyrics and underlined the lyrics. (4) The researchers collected all the data of song lyrics that have been underlined. After all the data were collected, the researchers analyzed the data based on the questions asked by the researchers. The analysis that was carried out by the researchers would be useful for making conclusions. The procedures to analyze the data were (1) The researchers analyzed the data of the word formation process which have been found and underlined in the song lyrics. (2) The researchers categorized and analyzed the song lyrics in song album by Adele into the 14 types of word formation proposed by Yule

(2017). (3) The researchers explained the description of each word formation in song lyrics and analyzed the meaning of word formation. (4) The researchers made the result based on research findings. The object of this research was song album "30" by Adele. There were twelve songs contained in her album "30", they were: Stranger by Nature, Easy On Me, My Little Love, Cry Your Heart Out, Oh My God, Can I Get It, I Drink Wine, All Night Parking, Woman Like Me, Hold On, To Be Loved, Love Is a Game. The data source for the 12 songs taken from the genius.com website.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the findings, the researchers were found that there were six types of word formation in song album "30" by Adele, they were: Compounding, Clipping, Backformation, Acronyms, Derivation, Prefixes and Suffixes. According to Yule's (2017) theory in conducting word formation process, there are 14 types of word formation process, they were: borrowing, loan-translation, compounding, blending, clipping, hypocorisms, backformation, conversion, coinage, acronyms, derivation, prefixes and suffixes, infixes, and multiple processes. The result findings of this research can be seen in the following table below.

**Table 1:** Types of word formation process contained in song album "30" by Adele

No	Type	Data	Word Formation
1.	Compounding	Daylight Hangover Paper-thin Self-inflict Breakthrough Heartache	Day + light = Daylight Hang + over = Hangover Paper + thin = Paper-thin Self + inflict = Self-inflict Break + through = Breakthrough Heart + ache = Heartache
2.	Clipping	Anniversary	Anniv - Anniversary
3.	Backformation	Emotion	Emote - Emotion
4.	Acronyms	TV	Television - TV
5.	Derivation	Unbelievable Overcompensating	Un + Believe + Able – Unbelievable Over + Compensate + ing – Overcompensating
6.	Prefixes and Suffixes	<b>Prefixes ( Im- )</b> Impossible <b>Prefixes ( In- )</b> Invisible	Im + posible – Impossible In + visible - Invisible

Incapable	In + capable + Incapable
Inevitable	In + evitable - Inevitable
<b>Suffixes ( -ly )</b>	
Deeply	Deep + ly - Deeply
Probably	Probable + ly - Probably
Sincerely	Sincere + ly - Sincerely
Completely	Complete + ly - Completely
Barely	Bare + ly - Barely
Recently	Recent + ly - Recently
Lonely	Alone + ly - Lonely
Really	Real + ly - Really
Truly	True + ly - Truly
Easily	Easy + ly - Easily
Usually	Usual + ly - Usually
Surely	Sure + ly - Surely
Actually	Actual + ly - Actually
<b>Suffixes ( -ness )</b>	
Coldness	Cold + ness - Coldness
Loneliness	Lonely + ness - Loneliness
Emptiness	Empty + ness - Emptiness
Forgiveness	Forgive + ness - Forgiveness
<b>Suffixes ( -less )</b>	
Useless	Use + less - Useless
<b>Suffixes ( -en )</b>	
Widen	Wide + en - Widen
<b>Suffixes ( -er )</b>	
Higher	High + er - Higher
Harder	Hard + er - Harder
Wiser	Wise + er - Wiser
<b>Suffixes ( -est )</b>	
Highest	High + est - Highest
Easiest	Easy + est - Easiest
<b>Suffixes ( -ion )</b>	
Intention	Intent + ion - Intention
Projection	Project + ion - Projection
Rejection	Reject + ion - Rejection
<b>Suffixes ( -hood )</b>	
Likelihood	Likely + hood - Likelihood
<b>Suffixes ( -ous )</b>	
Dangerous	Danger + ous - Dangerous

The table showed that from 14 types of word formation process theory proposed by Yule (2017), only 6 of them were found in song album

"30" by Adele, they were: Compounding, Clipping, Backformation, Acronyms, Derivation, Prefixes and Suffixes. The total of the results in the research can be seen in the following table.

Table 2: Total of word formation process contained in song album "30" by Adele.

No	Types Of Word Formation Process	Total
1.	Compounding	6
2.	Clipping	1
3.	Backformation	1
4.	Acronyms	1
5.	Derivation	2
6.	Prefixes and Suffixes	33

## 1. Compounding

Compounding is a process of combining two separate words to produce one-word form. This process of compounding is very common in languages like German and English, but less common in languages like French and Spanish. To clarify the meaning, the research showed the data to be examined in the following section below. There were 6 data of compounding process in total.

### 1. Daylight

The word "Daylight" is classified as a compound noun from noun word "day" means a period of twenty-four hours as a unit of time; the time between sunrise and sunset and the noun word "light" means the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible. When two words were combined become a single word, which was "Daylight" means the natural light of the day.

### 2. Hangover

The word "hangover" is classified as a compound noun from verb word "hang" means suspend from above with the bottom part dangling freely and preposition word "over" means a higher lever or layer than something else. When two words were combined become a single word, which was "hangover" means a severe headache or other after effects caused by drinking an excess of alcohol.

### 3. Paper-thin

The word "paper-thin" is categorized as an adjective compound from noun word "paper" means material manufactured in thin sheets from the pulp of wood or other fibrous substances, used for writing, drawing, or printing on, or as wrapping material and the adjective word "thin" means having opposite surfaces or sides close together; of little thickness or depth. When two words were combined become a single word, which was "paper-thin" means extremely thin.

### 4. Self-inflict

The word "self-inflict" is categorized as an adjective compound from noun word "self" means a person's essential being that distinguishes them from others, especially considered as the object of introspection or reflexive action and the verb word "inflict" means cause (something unpleasant or painful) to be suffered by someone or something. When two words were combined become a single word, which was "self-inflict" means (of a wound or other harm) inflicted on oneself.

### 5. Breakthrough

The word "breakthrough" is categorized as a compound noun from noun word "break" means to separate or cause to separate into pieces as a result of a blow, shock, or strain and the preposition word "through" means move on one side and out of the other (opening, channel, or location). When two words were combined become a single word, which was "breakthrough" means a surprising, dramatic, and critical discovery or improvement.

### 6. Heartache

The word "heartache" is categorized as a compound noun from noun word "heart" means a hollow muscular organ that pumps the blood via the circulatory system through rhythmic contraction and dilation and noun word "ache" means a non-stop or prolonged dull ache in a part of one's body. When two words were combined become a single word, which was "heartache" means emotional agony or grief, usually as a result of the loss or absence of a person cherished.

## 2. Clipping

Clipping is a method that made new

words by shortening and removing one or more syllables. To clarify the meaning, the research showed the data to be examined in the following section below. There was 1 data of clipping process in total.

#### 1. Anniversary

The word Anniversary in the lyrics can be shortened through the clipping process become "Anniv" means the date on which an occasion took place in a previous 12 months.

### 3. Backformation

Backformation is a process of removing the basic affix from a word to form another type of word to produce a new word. To clarify the meaning, the research showed the data to be examined in the following section below. There was 1 data of backformation process in total.

#### 1. Emotion

The word "Emotion" in the lyrics is type of verb, it can be reduced from a noun word through backformation process become "Emote" means describing emotion in a theatrical manner.

### 4. Acronyms

Acronyms is a process of generating new words by taking the initial letters of several words or phrases and collecting them into one so that the results can be used as a word. To clarify the meaning, the research showed the data to be examined in the following section below. There was 1 data of acronyms process in total.

#### 1. TV

The word "TV" in the lyrics is came from the original word "Television" means a system for transmitting visual photographs and sound which are reproduced on screens, chiefly used to broadcast applications for enjoyment, information, and education.

### 5. Derivation

Derivation is defined as a large number of small bits of English languages which were not given a separator list in dictionaries. The small 'bits' are generally explained as affixes. To clarify the meaning, the research showed the data to be examined in the following section below. There were 2 data of

derivation process in total.

#### 1. Unbelievable

The word Unbelievable in the lyrics is derived from the word "Believe" that has been to be adding through the derivation process. The affixes process adds in the beginning 'Un' and add in the end 'able' from Believe which turns into Unbelievable. The derivation process Un + believe + able. So, Unbelievable means not able to be believed; not going to be authentic.

#### 2. Overcompensating

The word Overcompensating in the lyrics is derived from "Compensate" that has been to be adding through the derivation process. The affixes process adds in the beginning 'Over' and add in the end 'ing' from Compensate which turns into Overcompensating. The derivation process Over + compensate + ing. So, overcompensating means the taking of immoderate measures in trying to correct or make amends for an error, weakness, or trouble.

### 6. Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefixes are the affixes have to be added to the beginning of the word (un-) and suffixes are other affixes must be added at the end of the word (-ish). To clarify the meaning, the research showed the data to be examined in the following section below. There were 33 data of prefixes and suffixes process in total. 5 of which were explained below as the examples.

#### 1. Impossible (Prefixes (Im-))

The word Impossible in the lyrics that came from the word "Possible" that has been to be adding through the prefixes process. The prefixes process adds in the beginning 'Im-' from Possible become Impossible. The prefixes process Im + possible. So, impossible means not capable of arise, exist, or be accomplished.

#### 2. Invisible (Prefixes (In-))

The word Invisible came from the word Visible which has been to be adding through the prefixes process. The prefixes process adds in the beginning 'In-' form visible become Invisible. The prefixes process In + visible. So, invisible means not able to be visible; not seen to the eye.

#### 3. Deeply (Suffixes (-ly))

The word Deeply came from the word Deep which has been to be adding through the suffixes process. The suffixes process adds in the end '-ly' form Deep become Deeply. The suffixes process Deep + ly. So, deeply means a long way down or in.

#### 4. Forgiveness (Suffixes (-ness))

The word Forgiveness came from the word Forgive which has been to be adding through the suffixes process. The suffixes process adds in the end '-ness' form Forgive become Forgiveness. The suffixes process Forgive + ness. So, forgiveness means the movement or technique of forgiving or being forgiven.

#### 5. Useless (Suffixes (-less))

The word Useless came from the word "Use" which has been to be adding through the suffixes process. The suffixes process adds in the end '-less' form Use become Useless. The suffixes process Use + less. So, useless means not fulfilling or not anticipated to acquire the supposed motive or desired outcome.

To summarize the findings, Prefixes and Suffixes were found as the most dominant type of word formation process. From 44 data of word formation process in song album "30" by Adele, Prefixes and Suffixes have 33 data. Meanwhile, Compounding was the second type of the most dominant type of word formation process found in song album "30" by Adele. There were 6 data found in Compounding process. Meanwhile, Derivation process has 2 data. Finally, there was only 1 data for Clipping, Backformation, and Acronyms. Based on the findings, it can be seen that there were (8) eight-word formation processes that were not found in song album "30" by Adele, which were: borrowing, loan-translation, blending, hypocorisms, conversion, coinage, infixes, and multiple processes.

The findings of this research showed that only (6) six types of word formation process were found in song album "30" by Adele, they were: Compounding, Clipping, Backformation, Acronyms, Derivation, Prefixes and Suffixes. This is possible because songwriters usually use informal

language or words commonly used in everyday language which will make a song easy to pronounce and the lyrics easy to remember. According to Harnia (2021) Writing song lyrics is packaged using language that is light, beautiful, and easy to remember. In song album "30" by Adele, Adele uses a lot of abbreviated words which make the lyrics of the song simple and the words are not too long to pronounce. Therefore, these six types of word formation appear in the process of forming words on song album "30" by Adele.

The findings of this research also showed that there were eight types of word formation process that were not found in song album "30" by Adele, which were: borrowing, loan-translation, blending, hypocorisms, conversion, coinage, infixes, and multiple processes.

The reason of the eight types of word formation processes were not found in Adele's album "30" is probably because the songwriter uses language style in simple song lyrics instead of formal language in order to create public interest through distinctive song lyrics. Supported by Nurdiansyah (2018) in expressing experience, poet or songwriter play word and language games to create appeal and distinctiveness to the lyrics or the verse. For example, multiple processes are possible for a word to undergo more than one processes that works in making certain words. multiple processes were not found in the song lyrics because the songwriter usually creates song lyrics simple and easy to remember. Therefore, multiple processes were not found in this research. Another example, infixes are process by inserting a morpheme into another morpheme to produce a new word. Infixes was not found in the song lyrics because it was so complicated if inserting words that are too long. Therefore, infixes were not found in this research.

Based on the findings, the researchers compared the findings with Handayani's research (2013) entitled "The Process of Word Formation and Phrase Structure of Android Application Names". In her research, she found the most dominant type of word formation was compounding in Android Application Names. Compounding is the word formation process that most often forms android application names because most android application names are in the form of noun phrases. Therefore, it is easier to make compounding. The researchers



also compare the findings with Rizki and Marlina (2018) entitled " Word Formation Process in Novel Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll and Movie Alice in Wonderland by Walt Disney". In their research, it was found that the most dominant used of word formation types in Alice's adventures in Wonderland novels with a percentage of 49% was affixation. Meanwhile, the most dominant used of this type of word formation in film scripts was cliticization with a percentage of 33.3%. From these findings, almost half of the words in this novel are affixation processes which is the most common type of word formation in English words. Meanwhile, the most frequently used type of word formation in the film is Clitic. This is because clitic words are used to create effectiveness during conversation. In addition, the genre of this film is fantasy adventure animation involving young actors where young people tend to use short terms rather than full ones. The last, the researchers compared the findings with Auli's (2020) research entitled " An Analysis of Word Formation in English Translation of Holy Qur'an by Maulawi Sher'Ali". In her findings, she found that derivation was the most dominant type of word formation that in this research because the object of the study used the formal language. Those researchers used different theories from this research, Handayani (2013) used Hatch & Brown's theory (1995) and Yule's theory (2006), Rizki & Marlina (2018)

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This research used theory proposed by Yule (2017) in analyzing word formation process in song album "30" by Adele. Based on the theory, there were 6 types out of 14 types of word formation processes in song album "30" by Adele which were Compounding, Clipping, Backformation, Acronyms, Derivation, Prefixes and Suffixes. Based on the findings, there were 44 data of word formation processes found in song album "30" by Adele, which were 6 data compounding, 1 data of clipping, 1 data of backformation, 1 data of acronym, 2 data of derivation, and 33 data of prefixes and suffixes. Prefixes and suffixes were the most dominant type of word formation process that appeared in song album "30" by Adele. There were 33 data of prefixes and suffixes process

from the total of 44 data. This is possible because the songwriters usually use informal language or words commonly used in everyday language which will make a song easy to pronounce and the lyrics easy to remember.

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