



ANALYZING ENGLISH WORD FORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA: A LINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE OF INSTAGRAM POSTS

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Abstract

This research aims to explore the most common types of word formation used in English Instagram posts, specifically targeting 60 posts from specific public holders: “@wordologyofficial and @ 3am.thoughts.official” and done analysis to get valid outcomes. The quantitative method has been used to figure out the types of word formation from the samples of the data from the taken posts. In word formation process derivational, compound, and inflectional are constantly used terms in English on Instagram posts. Instagram had over 30.7 million users. This research paper particularly target Pakistan’s Instagram users specifically because this platform finds its largest audience among 25 to 34 years old youth in this country. The purpose of this research is to figure out linguistic features in Instagram posts focusing on word formation pattern and their role in shaping online identities.

Keywords: *Word Formations, Instagram Posts, Morphological Analysis.*

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1.Introduction

In this modern era, social media platform become a crucial tool for sharing information and assert opinions on ongoing problems. Social networking sites have also been criticized for their impact on mental health and face to face communication. Social media platform specifically targeted young adults in Pakistan. Morphology analyzes the essential elements of word structure used in a language (Yule, 2014). This platform introduces more new features with the passage of time but reduced the creativity of young adults and they become mentally sick. In early 2025, Instagram had an estimated 18.6 million (<https://napoleoncat.com/stats/instagram-users-in-pakistan/2025/02/>) and the ratio Pakistani users is about 1.48% (<https://gs.statcounter.com/social-media-stats/all/pakista>). Nowadays many users preferred to visual speak for themselves; they are not relying on text based explanation. Instagram is prime information source and it uses to update the information for different purposes. To illustrate, challenge updates such as those posted by “@wordologyofficial account and @3am.thoughts.official” account, can be accessed by anyone, anywhere and reach a global audience instantly in just one click. Convincing posts should be motivated, passionate, vibrant and dynamic to engage the audience and give a hope to live happily. It should be eye-catching, elegant and artful. Examples of such language term like PIE, don’t, didn’t, cliché, yellow-red; everyone may not be familiar with these terms like abbreviated, compounding, borrowing words. Instead of relying on structured vocabulary this research try to attempt to capture language rhythm. Posts must contain persuasive language to make the viewers interested, including concise, clear, and attractive (Kosasih, 2017). Over time, words are evolved in new category by passing some effective process which helps to create new word and also break the traditional rhythm and introduce a new direction to language. These process falls under the analysis of word formation which is the key aspect of linguistics.

The researchers formulated the purpose of the study as follows:

1. To identify the types of word formation used in English posts on Instagram
2. To determine the most frequently used word-formation types in English posts on Instagram
3. To explore the trend through which new words are formed in English posts

2. Literature Review

2.1.Introduction to word formation

Morphology originates from the Greek word morphe, which means shape or form (McCharty, 2002). According to Bauer, morphology is the branch of linguistics concerning the internal structure of word forms (Bauer, 1983). Based on McCharty (2002), words are the primary unit to compose phrases and sentences and have the predictable meaning as

meaningful building-block of language. Morphology deals with the formation of words. It involves in some processes like clipping (e.g. Gym), borrowing (e.g. cafe) and acronyms (e.g. NASA) which play a vital role in evaluation of language. These are highly productive process in English language. These processes reflect the versatility and progressive nature of language.

2.2.Theoretical foundation of word formation

It explores the fundamentals of new words like how they are created in language. In this field there are some linguistic theories to understand the processes clearly, such as morphology and lexical semantics. There are some scholars who contribute in word formation and make it easy to understand like Laurie Bauer and Rochelle Lieber. Bauer is famous for his book of “English word formation” in which he explains the relationship between word formation and different sectors of linguistics, for instance morphemes and allomorphs.

A morpheme is the minimal significant unit that forms words (Lieber, 2009). Bauer, word formation is the possible rule for forming a word, while Lieber, word formation is the principle of existing new words. Meyer stated that word formation is identifying the composition of a new word by a certain general series process (Meyer, 2009). Furthermore, Susilo defines word formation as new words that can be made using affixes (Susilo, 2015).

2.3.Challenges in analyzing word formation in online content

Online communication often applies informal language, slang and idiomatic phrases which create difficulties to determine and classify the traditional word formation processes. The presence of abbreviation and acronyms in online content make audience confused. It may be not follow standard principle of morphological process. New words and slang emerge quickly and make complex word formation.

2.4.Future directions on word formation

In this modern era, technologies play a crucial role in different field and also in word formation process. Online tools also help to analyze the word formation all over the platforms like how do word formation distinct social media platform like TikTok, Snapchat and visual elements engage audience more quickly and make it easy to understand the word formation process clearly.

3.Research Method

The samples that are used in this research paper are taken from different posts that are analyzed through Instagram handles “@wordologyofficial and @3am.thoughts.official”, which are official accounts. These Posts containing motivational content and linguistics facts content which are posted from January 6, 2025 to March 20,

2025. This research deals with the descriptive study and target the process of new word formation mention in English posts on Instagram. The key principle of this study is to mark and analyze the formation of new words.

3.1.Data collection technique

To collect the data, this research followed the three step process to get the outcomes for the research. First, this paper identifies 60 English posts posted on the “@wordologyofficial and @3am.thoughts.official”. Secondly, selected those posts which are related to our research topic. Third, take posts and do analysis which is the primary part of Data collection process.

3.2.Data analysis technique

After collecting the data from posts, this research do analysis to find out the new word formations from the selected data according to our research. According to Ling, distributional analysis is the language method to discover the elements by breaking phonetic sequences into morphemes by looking at their distribution in a collection of sentences or phrases (Lockhart, 2019). Halle and Marantz (1993) stated that distributed morphology adopts the primary organization of principles and parameters of grammar. The distributional analysis aims to separate recurring patterns and try to correlate these regular patterns with some units of meaning (Lockhart, 2019). This study is a linguistic method which involves word formation process including derivational, clipping, coinage, blending, conversion etc.

This research paper implements four - stage process to figure out different types and frequency of word formation in the post.

1. Each post has a number of word formations as an example and these posts are selected from specific accounts of Instagram.
2. The new words figured out in the post are recorded in a table.
3. Then figured out the types of word formation which are present in the posts.
4. The frequency of each process shows how much they are common in posting.

To ensure the accuracy of results, this paper mentioned the valid referencing data which is collected from posts who are experts in this sector.

4. Findings

This research basically aims to find the most often used word formation types from 60 English Instagram posts from the Pakistan region. These posts are taken from January 6, 2025 to March 20, 2025. From these posts, this study found many word formation terms which are given below:

4.1. Derivation

Derivational is the which is created by adding prefix and suffix with root word or affix to create a new word and also change the class or affix. This study find the derivation is the term which is mostly used in Instagram posts in Pakistan region. As shown below:

Table 1: Some Data Of Derivation Words Found On English Posts Are

No.	Words	Process
1.	Disrespect	Dis + respect
2.	Unwind	Un + wind
3.	Betrayed	Betray + ed
4.	Controlling	Control + ing
5.	Perfection	Perfect + ion
6.	Submissive	Submit + ive
7.	Uncomfortable	Un + comfort + able
8.	Meaningful	Meaning + ful

4.2. Inflection

Inflectional is a term through which we can create a new word by adding grammatical rules or tenses and this process cannot change the class of the world. Inflectional became the key instrument of morphological analysis (Itmeizeh, 2018). This study found many inflectional words that are used in English Instagram posts.

Table 2: Some Data Of Inflectional Words Found On English Posts Are

No.	Words	Process
1.	Loved	Love + ed
2.	Fights	Fight + s
3.	Jokes	Joke + s
4.	Destroyed	Destroy + ed
5.	Feels	Feel + s

4.3. Conversion

Yule states (2014) that conversion is frequently productive in modern English. Conversion change or convert verb into noun or noun into word and create a new word class without the addition of any affix but by adding suffix and prefix and for this process conversion is also known as "functional shift". This study also found many conversion words from English Instagram posts.

Table 3: Some Data On Conversion Words Found On English Posts Are

No.	Words	Process
1.	Running	Noun (run) to verb
2.	Painting	Verb (painting) to noun

4.4. Compounding

Compound words are those words which are formed by the combination of two or more free morphemes. This study analyze that some compound words can be made in many ways other separately, conjoined or hyphen (table 4) which shows the result of compound words found in previous study (Christiantio, 2019; Evans, 2015; Moehkardi, 2016).

Table 4: Some Data On Compounding Words Found On English Posts Are

No.	Words	Process
1.	Good-morning	Good + morning
2.	Self-esteem	Self + esteem
3.	Good-night	Good + night
4.	Hypervigilance	Hyper + vigilance
5.	Toolbox	Tool + box

4.5. Blending

Blending is the type of word formation which is formed by the combination of first letters of two different morphemes and by cutting the last letters of these morphemes. This study finds out that blending is less commonly used in the Pakistan region in English Instagram posts.

TABLE 5

THE DATA FOR BLENDING WORDS FOUND ON ENGLISH POSTS ARE

No.	Words	Process
1.	Fucklust	Fuck + Lust
2.	Emoticon	Emotion + Icon

4.6. Abbreviation

Abbreviation is the process of creating a new word by taking the first letter from each word of a sentence or phrase and pronouncing them letter by letter. Meyer stated that abbreviations and acronyms are similar but abbreviations must be pronounced as individual letters. Abbreviation words are created to shorten the sentence word name of event or phrase.

Table 6: Some Data On Abbreviation Words Found On English Posts Are

No.	Words	Process
1.	Pros	Professional (but here mean advantage)
2.	Cons	Contra (but here mean disadvantage)
3.	Rn	Right now

4.7. Acronym

An acronym is a word formed from the initial letters of a phrase, name, or title. It's typically pronounced as a word, rather than individual letters. Examples include NASA, SCUBA, and UNESCO. Yule stated that many acronyms become everyday terms such as laser. Acronym words were made to shorten a group of phrase and names of organization (Yule, 2014).

Table 7: Some Data Of Acronym Words Found On English Posts Are

No.	Words	Process
1.	ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
2.	Rn	Right now
3.	TBH	To Be Honest

4.8.Clipping

Clipping is a term of word formation in which we shorten or cut some parts of a word to make it shorter and it does not change the meaning of word or word class. The word clipping is mostly used to shorten the month's name.

Table 8: Some Data On Clipping Words Found On English Posts Are

No.	Words	Process
1.	Gyno	Gynecologist
2.	Pro	Professional
3.	Con(s)	Contra
4.	Memes	Mimeme
5.	TV	Television

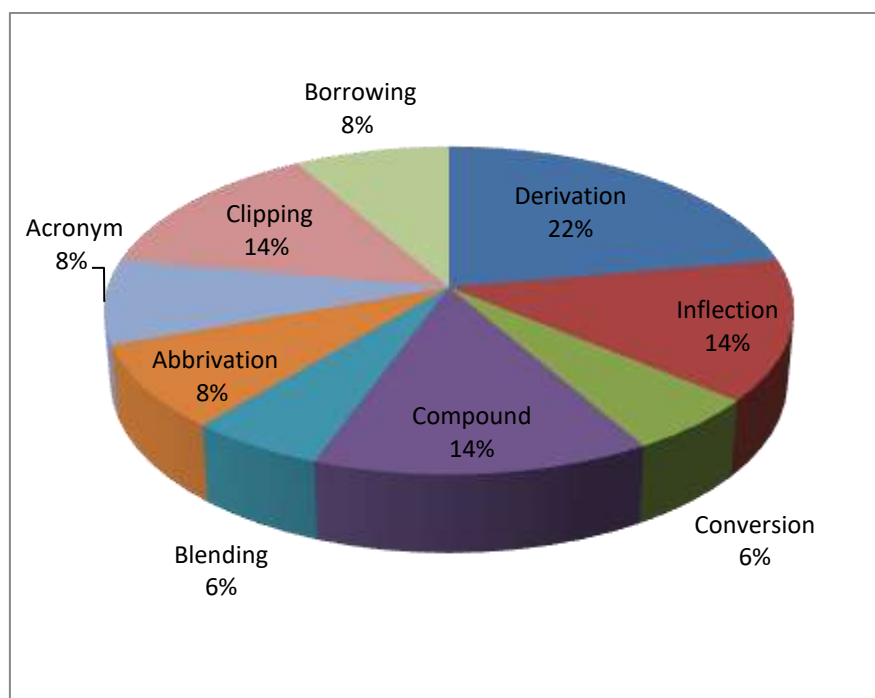
4.9.Borrowing

Borrowing refers to the method of creating or adopting phrases, words, or grammatical structures different one language into another language. This is a common phenomenon across languages, and it contributes to the evolution and diversity of languages. Yule stated that borrowing had become one of the most common sources of new words in English (Yule, 2014).

Table 9: The Data For Borrowing Words Found On English Posts Are

No.	Words	Process
1.	Gyno	Borrowed from Greek
2.	Tupac	Borrowed from South American Language
3.	ADHD	Borrowed from Latin/Greek

This study found new words, in English posts. It shows that the word-formation process in English posters had derivation, inflection, conversion, compounding, blending, abbreviation, acronym, clipping, borrowing.



5. Discussion

To identify the types of word formation used in English posts on Instagram, this research paper do analysis of the selected posts on Instagram to figure out the types of word formation which are used in English post on Instagram. The most common types which are used in post are Derivation, Inflectional, clipping and Compounding. This study also determines the most frequently used word permission types in English posts on Instagram. The most frequently used word formation types in English post on Instagram are Derivation, Inflectional, clipping, abbreviation and Compounding. To explore the new words those are formed in English Instagram post, after doing analysis of selected posts on Instagram, this research find out new words which are brunch witch is a compound word of breakfast and lunch and also found a new word like spork which is a combination of spoon and fork and also RN which is the abbreviation of right now. These are some kind of new words which are found in this research and mostly these words are compound words.

5.1. Pedagogical Limitations

Actually it is an assumption and practice of teaching and learning. This research paper do analysis of Instagram English posts to figure out how many word formation processes involved mostly in posting on Instagram. There are some suggestions for next

person who will further study word formation. It may be helpful for them. They can do work on them and enhance the validity of their study. This research also mentions the technique for analyzing the data. Suggestions are to explore the use of Instagram as a tool for language learning and teaching (context analysis), compare language used on Instagram across different cultures and languages (discourse analysis), investigate the effects of Instagram on mental health and wellbeing on youth's health. (Survey methodology), study the relationship between Instagram and use and social movements (social Network analysis). These are the options for the next researchers to explore their work in different ways and it may be valuable in near future. Another main point which should be focused is to prefer your own country and apply these analyses on its social media's users because it will enhance your knowledge about your country and also your research and addition to that it will also influence newbies.

6.Conclusion

On the basis of results of this research, this study concluded that different types of word formation are found in English post on Instagram. After analysis, this study explores the mostly used frequency of word formation in the posts from a sample of 60 posts from two specific accounts. This study, figure out the following word formation types: derivational, inflectional, compounding, conversion, abbreviation, clipping, borrowing, acronyms and blending. This study reports that derivational and inflectional words are mostly used in English posts, because derivational words add authenticity in the posts and also incorporates in the post of English language.

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