Word Formation of the Indonesian Covid-19 Special Terms

Taat Budiono  
Universitas Pamulang  
Pamulang, Indonesia  
dosen02143@unpam.ac.id

Yasir Mubarok*  
Universitas Pamulang  
Pamulang, Indonesia  
dosen02264@unpam.ac.id

Abstract

Purpose
This study was intended to describe the process of forming the Covid-19 outbreak-related special terms in Indonesian sourcing from English.

Method
The research employed a qualitative approach which a descriptive case study design. Its primary data consisted of words and phrases associated with Covid-19 taken from news articles on the Kompas.com page during March–July 2020 using a note-taking technique. The data were then analyzed qualitatively by considering the concepts of word formation in Indonesian.

Results/Findings
The research revealed that the forming of the Covid-19 related special terms were through absorption (49%), translation (32%), and through the creation of new concepts (19%). This indicates that the absorption of English terms into Indonesian was the most dominant process. English a global language was widely absorbed by other languages, including Indonesian.

Conclusion
The research shows that Covid-19 outbreak-related special terms was classified into English terms and Indonesian terms. The terms experienced three formation processes, namely the absorption, translation, and the creation of new concepts.

Keywords
covid-19, Kompas.com page, outbreaks, special terms

*) Corresponding Author
Abstrak

Tujuan
Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan proses pembentukan istilah khusus terkait wabah Covid-19 dalam bahasa Indonesia yang bersumber dari bahasa Inggris.

Metode

Hasil/Temuan
Penelitian tersebut mengungkapkan bahwa pembentukan istilah khusus terkait Covid-19 melalui penyerapan (49%), penerjemahan (32%), dan melalui penciptaan konsep baru (19%). Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa penyerapan istilah bahasa Inggris ke dalam bahasa Indonesia merupakan proses yang paling dominan. Bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa global banyak diserap oleh bahasa lain, termasuk bahasa Indonesia.

Kesimpulan

Kata Kunci
covid-19, laman Kompas.com, wabah, istilah khusus
INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 (Coronavirus Outbreak 2019) is a continuing issue in more than 200 nations (Setiati, & Azwar, 2020). The Covid-19 outbreak has also changed the face of the world, including Indonesia. The impact of the epidemic can be seen in almost all lines of people's lives (Syafrida, & Hartati, 2020). Many sectors of daily life have been paralyzed by this terrible epidemic, such as the economic, tourism, education, services, cultural, and social sectors that are directly affected. All social activities of the community become commonly done at home. Work, study, and worship are all done at home.

Since the government announced the first positive case in the country on Monday, March 2, 2020, the number of patients who have tested positive for this virus has continued to grow. Based on data that we reported from the official website of the Covid-19 Response Acceleration Task Force as of May 30, 2020, the number of patients who were positive for this virus in Indonesia reached 25,216 patients. The government has implemented several measures to suppress the transmission of Covid-19 in Indonesia. They are the implementation of social distancing in the community, closing schools, offices and places of worship, closing shopping places, bans ongoing home for Eid, the enactment of large-scale social restrictions in several areas. However, the policies that have been rolled out do not seem to have reduced the number of transmissions of this virus in Indonesia. The number of victims who are positively infected is increasing.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Covid-19 outbreak a pandemic. This determination is because this virus is spreading more and more widely throughout the world in a relatively short time. Since the government announced the first case in Indonesia, various special terms related to this outbreak have emerged. Terms such as regional quarantine, lockdown, and other terms are often used in our language life. Furthermore, Zaim (2015) says that language progress is not free from social transformations that exist in society. Social change will affect the forms of language used as in the case above. The existence of new terms can enrich Indonesian vocabulary. Many loanwords have been absorbed from foreign languages (Assapari, 2014), one of which is rapid tests, lockdowns, panic buying, and physical distancing.

The terms related to the Covid-19 outbreak in Indonesia are new. Because of its novelty, it often makes people confused with the concepts in the terms. In addition, the terms used are mostly foreign languages, so that it is increasingly difficult for the public to understand. A language teacher in Flores NTT, Maksimus Masan Kian, in his writings in Kompas said “the outbreak of the corona virus has made people anxious. Various information that developed a lot of using foreign terms. It is not impossible, the low level of public compliance with various appeals regarding the corona virus because of the lack of understanding of the various terms used.

The new term appears sometimes still not understood by the public, because the term comes from the health world which is usually in a foreign language and is used only in the medical world and the new terms that appear create variations language (Novela & Laksono, 2022). Word formation refers to a variety of strategies that combine preexisting elements to create brand-new words. Specific word kinds will emerge from each word production phase (Fitria, 2021). Kridalaksana (2008, p. 97) points out that terms can be as words or also combinations of words that carefully express concepts, circumstances, processes, or characteristics in certain fields. In contrast to the naming process which takes place arbitrarily, the terminology is more procedural. The meaning of the term is more fixed, definite, and precise. In addition, the term is only used in certain fields of activity (Chaer, 2009, p. 52).

Many studies were conducted on the formation of terms, such as that conducted by (Okavia & Hayati, 2020). It indicated that there were four types of language terms found. They were various forms of terms in English, terms in synonyms, terms in abbreviations, and terms in acronyms. Complementarily, research conducted by (Budianto, 2020) showed that the diversity of the use of terms during the pandemic had opened up the mil-
lennial generation's insight about health terms. Another study which also discussed the term Covid-19 was carried out by (Mizkat & Sari, 2020). It tried to examine how students understand Indonesian language in social media-based video streaming. Its result indicated that language users were more familiar with terms derived from English than their equivalents in Indonesian.

However, there has been no study that specifically discussed the term Covid-19 focusing on forming terms. Therefore, the research on word formation became necessary to conduct to fill the void of previous researchers. The study focused on answering how the special terms of Covid-19 was made; and if the word formation had an impact on changing the meaning of the formed-special terms?

METHOD

This study was qualitative research that examined the formation of special terms for the Covid-19 outbreak on the kompas.com page during the March-July 2020 period. The research used the Simak Bebas Libat Cakap (SLBC) technique (Mahsun, 2007). The researchers examined the use of language in a speech or utterances without being involved in the speech event. They examined documented terms containing specific terms and online texts on the Kompas.com page during March-July 2020 searched using the Google search engine. There are many distinctive terms in Kompas.com. The research data comprised Indonesian and English words and phrases that contained the term Covid-19 on the Kompas.com website.

In analyzing the term formation process, the researchers carried out several stages of analysis including finding the Indonesian and English words and phrases for the term Covid-19 in Indonesia, and grouping them based on the term formation process using guidelines issued by the Language Center of the Ministry of National Education in 2007. The results of data analysis were presented via both informal and formal ways. Formal and informal presentation methods are combination techniques that use words (descriptive) and signs, symbols, or tables (Sudaryanto in Nafisah, S., & Budiarso, 2020).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on data analysis results, the Covid-19 outbreak was mentioned at least 47 data on the Kompas.com page between March and July 2020. These terms can be grouped into two types based on the language used, namely English and Indonesian terms. Forming special terms in the Covid-19 outbreak occurred into 3 processes. They are 23 (49%) terms formed through absorption, 15 (32%) terms formed through the translation process, and nine (19%) terms formed through the creation of new concepts.

Term Formation Through Absorption

Forming terms through absorption is the most dominant way. It can be seen from 47 data, 23 data are term formation through absorption. In this study, only nine data on the formation process through absorption will be shown. The following are examples of 01, 09, 012, and 014 data.

Data 01
“Masyarakat pun sempat dihebohkan oleh isu tentang virus corona yang berpotensi menular lewat airborne dan mampu bertahan selama 8 jam di udara” (Ratriani, 2020).

Data 09
“Apabila droplet itu jatuh ke permukaan benda-benda di sekitarnya, lalu ada orang menyentuh benda tersebut tanpa mencuci tangan setelahnya, maka potensi penularan bisa terjadi” (Nugraheny, 2020).
Data 012
“Sebagai salah satu upaya antisipasi menghindari tertularnya virus corona, banyak anggota masyarakat yang mulai menggunakan face shield atau pelindung wajah transparan” (Aida, 2020).

Data 014

In the data 01, 09, 012, and 014, we can find the use of special terms related to Covid-19 on the Kompas.com page. The words airborne, droplet, face shield, and imported case are terms that come from English. These terms are fully absorbed into the Indonesian language. This absorption process is carried out without spelling and pronunciation adjustments. From the form of the lingual unit, the words airborne and droplet have the status of words, while face shield and imported case are included in phrases. Besides the three data above, we can also see several other data terms formed by the absorption process on the following data 034 and 036.

Data 034
“Sebanyak 770.600 spesimen yang diperiksa berasal dari 456.636 orang. Ini berarti satu orang bisa diambil spesimennya lebih dari sekali” (Hakim, 2020).

Data 036
“Ia menerangkan, ada beberapa puskesmas di Jakarta yang menyediakan pelayanan swab test secara gratis. Namun, ia mengaku tak tahu seperti apa keadaan puskesmas terkait swab test di luar Jakarta” (Aditya, 2020).

The terms spesimen and swab test are also included in the special terms of Covid-19 which are formed through the absorption process. The term swab test in data 036 comes from English and is completely absorbed into Indonesian without examining a spelling or pronunciation adjustment process. In contrast to the swab test term in data 036, which did not undergo a spelling and pronunciation adjustment process, the term in data 034 underwent a spelling and pronunciation adjustment process. The term spesimen in data 034 comes from the English specimen. Spelling adjustments in the two data occurred in the letter c which was changed to the letter s following the Indonesian spelling rules. The terms in the following data 010, 026, and 035 are also included in the type of terms whose formation process is through absorption with spelling adjustments. Here are the following data.

Data 010
“Epidemi adalah wabah yang menyebar di area geografis yang lebih luas” (Wibawa, 2020).

Data 026
“Dalam pengertian yang paling klasik, ketika sebuah epidemi menyebar ke beberapa negara atau wilayah di dunia, ia sudah dianggap pandemic” (Wibawa, 2020).

Data 035
“Tenaga medis sedang menguji sampel swab tenggorokan pasien suspek virus corona di Labkesda Lampung” (Jaya, 2020).
The data for the term Covid-19 above are suspek, pandemi, and epidemi. The term data is formed through an absorption process with spelling and pronunciation adjustments. The terms above are sourced from English. The term suspek in data 035 undergoes a spelling and pronunciation adjustment process as changing the consonant group ct in the word suspect to consonant k in the word suspek. The terms in data 026 and 010 are also the same, undergoing a spelling and pronunciation adjustment process. The two data above undergo deleting the final consonant c, which was originally a pandemic and epidemic into a pandemi and epidemi.

Almost half of the results of the analysis' forming special terms the Covid-19 is the type of formation of term through absorption. This indicates that absorption in English dominates. Crystal (2003) stated that it happens British colonialism led to the success of English as the most dominant language. In addition, Jenkins (2009) argues the factor of British colonialism has pushed English to become a medium of communication in most areas of the world as a mother or second language. Likewise, with Covid-19, many terms have emerged from the English language. This proves that English has dominated including in the virtual space. Toh (2016) shows that more and more schools are using English as a medium of teaching, including in Indonesia. According to Juriana (2017), English is an international language that is crucial in all interdisciplinary sectors. English also is a compulsory subject at the junior high school to university level (Mubarok, 2020). In addition, lexical or phrases in Indonesian are very poor, especially in Covid-19 terms. This can be proven by the absence of proper equivalents for the English word or phrase Covid-19 in Indonesian, so the type of formation of the term through absorption is the choice. Molina and Albir (2002) claim to group these terms into a translation technique called pure borrowing, for example, the English word 'lobby' was borrowed directly by Spanish to become 'lobby'. It can be seen in the terms airborne and droplet (Hartono, 2017).

According to Nababan (2003) the translator must be able to find the equivalent in TL (Hartono, 2017). It will be difficult to do if an SL word turns out to have no equivalent in TL, which is caused by the different cultures of the users of the two languages. The words 'airborne ' and 'droplet' are still written in Indonesian. Then, the translator provides information in the form of footnotes about the meaning.

Term Formation through Translation

Another process of forming the term Covid-19 found on the Kompas.com page is the formation of terms through a translation process. Based on the data collecting results, it was found that at least 15 data terms were formed through this translation process. These data will only explain seven data which are considered to represent other data. The following are examples of 05, 023, and 045 data.

**Data 05**

“Peneliti bidang kimia Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (LIPI) Joddy Arya Laksmono menjelaskan aman tidaknya penggunaan bilik disinfektan tergantung pada 3 hal” (Shalihah, 2020).

**Data 023**

“Hal tersebut sebagai upaya untuk terus mendorong pembangunan infrastruktur dan perumahan untuk masyarakat menjelang era normal baru (new normal)” (Bahfein, 2020).

**Data 045**

The data 05, 023, and 045 include the special terms of Covid-19 formed through translation. The terms bekerja dari rumah, normal baru, and bilik disinfektan are direct translations of the English terms work from home, new normal, and disinfectant chamber. Forming terms in the data 05, 023, and 045 is carried out based on the criteria for conformity of form and meaning. For example, we can observe the criteria for the suitability of form and meaning in data 045 which matches the word work with bekerja, from with the word dari, and house as the equivalent of the word rumah. Likewise, data 023 also does the translation by matching the word new with baru and normal with normal. While in data 05 the word disinfectant is translated into disinfektan and the word chamber is translated into bilik. From these data, we can conclude that the translation process is carried out with the criteria of conformity of form and meaning. We can also observe data on other Covid-19 terms formed through the translation process in the following 015, 016, 028, and 040 data.

Data 015
“Alasan isolasi mandiri di rumah karena kondisinya fisik dan kesehatannya yang dinilai baik” (Azanella, 2020, 5 April).

Data 016
“Sebelumnya kita mengenal social distancing, yang kemudian frasa itu ... Physical distancing atau jaga jarak merupakan hal sederhana yang bisa kita lakukan untuk mencegah penyebaran virus corona” (Putri, 2020, 1 April).

Data 028

Data 040
“Di sejumlah daerah dilaporkan telah terjadi penularan atau transmisi lokal, meskipun belum meluas” (Arnani, 2020).

The terms jaga jarak, isolasi mandiri, transmisi lokal, and protokol kesehatan in the data 015, 016, 028, and 040 are included in the terms formed through the translation process. These terms come from English terms physical distancing, self-isolation, local transmission, and health protocol. In terms such as the normal baru (new normal) and transmisi lokal (local transmission), if it is seen in the translation process, the translator looks for the source language's grammatical structure (SL) which is commensurate with or close to the target language (TL). Typically, the translator begins by translating the source text word-for-word, but then changes the wording according to the grammar of the target language. As in the phrase ‘a new house’, for example, it is correctly translated according to the structure of the Indonesian phrase into the phrase ‘sebuah rumah baru’. Terms as in the data above, they really keep aspects of the format and form of the term so that the reader completely still sees fidelity in terms of its form in the target language, even though the translation results are unusual or unknown because it is used in the medical world (medical register). According to Newmark (1981) that deviations in translation can occur when sentence shifts in translation often cause semantic anomalies due to lexical translation with changes in word order (Haq, 2017). It can be seen in the term normal baru (new normal) and transmisi lokal terms. Deviations in translation can occur when there are words or phrases or sentences that are not translated like airborne and droplet terms.

The terms like normal baru (new normal) and transmisi lokal have been translated correctly by maintaining the form of the term, but the meaning is not so common and they seem to be not appropriate. However, it is a creative effort for translators to introduce new terms, so that these terms will gradually be known and used by many people (Hartono,
2017). Providing an Indonesian counterpart through paraphrase translation might be a useful communication method if Indonesians "don't know enough English terminology" (Foster & Welsh, 2017, p. 403).

**Term Formation through the Creation of Neologism**

The last type of term formation related to the term Covid-19 on the Kompas.com page is the type of term that is formed through the creation of neologism. This type of term formation is classified as unique and distinctive. These terms were deliberately created by stakeholders in Indonesia to accommodate the concept which was adapted to the social, cultural and economic conditions of the Indonesian people.

According to *Pedoman Umum Pembentukan Istilah*, term formation comprises formation through absorption, formation through translation, and formation through a combination of absorption and translation. While, the formation of terms through the creation of neologism does not seem to have been included in the guidelines. Based on the data collecting results, it was found that at least 8 terms were formed through the creation of neologism. Here are the 02 and 03 data.

**Data 02**

“Provinsi Jawa Barat (Jabar) menjadi salah satu provinsi yang tidak memperpanjang Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar (PSBB) dan memulai fase *Adaptasi Kebiasaan Baru (AKB)*, kecuali Bogor, Depok, dan Bekasi (Bodebek)” (Mulyawan, 2020).

**Data 03**


Data 02 is data on the term Covid-19 which was formed through the creation of neologism. The data in 02 is derived from the original English term ‘new normal’. The creation of this neologism does not change the original concept or meaning of the term. While in data 02, data 03 is a type of term whose concept changes and differs slightly from the concept of origin of the term. The term in data 03 comes from the English term hazmat suit. The creation of neologism of *APD* leads to change the original concept or meaning to become wider. The *APD* can be in any forms as long as it serves to protect oneself from exposure to the virus.

The uniqueness of the variation of terms through the creation of neologism, for example, is reflected in the mentioning of the status of Covid-19 patients which are divided into *ODP*, *PDP*, and *OTG*. Here are the examples 024, 026, and 028 data.

**Data 024**

“Yuri pun menyampaikan, data *orang dalam pemantauan (ODP)* di Tanah Air sebanyak 139.137 orang” (Putri, 2020, 15 April).

**Data 026**

“Sementara *pasien dalam pengawasan (PDP)* ada sebanyak 10.482 orang” (Putri, 2020, 15 April).

**Data 028**

The terms in the data above are actually derived from the English term suspect, but in their use these terms are distinguished from one another. Another interesting thing about the term Covid-19, for example, can be seen in the creation of a new term whose concept is slightly different from the term in the original language. It can be observed, for example, in the following data 029 to 031.

Data 029
“Gubernur DKI Jakarta Anies Baswedan memutuskan untuk kembali memperpanjang PSBB di Jakarta hingga akhir Juni mendatang” (Sumartiningtyas, 2020).

Data 030

Data 031

The terms in the data 029 to 030 come from the English term lockdown. The creation of the neologism of PSBB, PSBB Transisi, and PSKS leads to the addition of the expansion of the original term concept. If we compare the two terms (lockdown with PSBB, PSBB Transisi, and PSKS) we can find differences in the meaning's concept of the two terms. The term lockdown means more tightening and total restrictions, while other terms mean more loosely.

The data above is the formation of terms through the creation of neologism. There were found many terms formed through the neologism. The terms were deliberately created by stakeholders in Indonesia to accommodate the concept which was adapted to the social, cultural and economic conditions of the Indonesian people. The word “lockdown” in Indonesia has several variants such as PSBB (Pembatasan Sosial Bersekala Besar), PSBB Transisi, PSKS (Pembatasan Sosial Kampung Siaga) whose meaning is slightly different from the original meaning. In fact, the lockdown itself is ‘an emergency situation in which people are not allowed to freely enter, leave, or move around in a building or area because of danger’ (Cambridge, 2022) or ‘a temporary condition imposed by governmental authorities (as during the outbreak of an epidemic disease) in which people are required to stay in their homes and refrain from or limit activities outside the home involving public contact (such as dining out or attending large gatherings)’ (Merriam-Webster, 2022). In the view of the researchers, the change in meaning has political value. When “lockdown” is defined as above, in the Indonesian context, the government as the holder of the power authority has an obligation to its people, namely to provide basic health services according to medical needs, food needs, and other daily life needs during quarantine. It is contained in the Health Quarantine Act, Article 7. In the Health Quarantine Law, Article 7 states that everyone has the right to receive the same treatment in the implementation of health quarantine and to acquire basic health services based on medical needs, nutritional needs, and other necessities of daily living during quarantine (CNN Indonesia, 2020). However, with the change in the original term to PSBB (Pembatasan Sosial Bersekala Besar), PSBB Transisi, PSKS (Pembatasan Sosial Kampung Siaga), it exempts the government from providing essential health services based on medical needs, food preferences, and other daily necessities during quarantine.

In addition, according to the findings of Nabila & Abdulrahman (2021), language can evolve through time. Language does not perish, but rather changes and evolves spontaneously over time and spaces. According to Harya (2016) there is an adaptation to the
growth and alteration of social life, such as the level of education, culture, society, and technology (Nabila, E. & Abdulrahman, 2021). Nordquist (2019) stated that changes in the natural language will affect all sectors of language use (Nabila, E. & Abdulrahman, 2021). This is reflected in the issue of Covid-19. Due to the interrelated nature of people as social organisms, these changes are brought about by language contact (Harya, 2016 as cited in Nabila, E. & Abdulrahman, 2021).

According to Nabila, E. & Abdulrahman (2021), these new terms were created due to the current world situation, namely the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, we live in a technologically advanced and convenient society. New terms are easier to create and spread so people use them as official words and can be understood by others. Kusumantiingsih et al. (2020) also stated Covid-19 has produced more derivatives, especially in terms or words.

It can be concluded that the formation of the term COVID-19 in Indonesia can be categorized into three processes, namely formation through the absorption process, formation through the translation process, and formation through the creation of new concepts. These three processes are only formation with the creation of a new concept that undergoes a change in meaning, while the other two terms formation (absorption and translation) do not change the meaning of the term.

Changes in the meaning of terms that occur in the process of creating new concepts are caused by two things. First, adjustments to the socio-political conditions of the community as seen in data 029 to data 031. For example, the term PSBB comes from the term 'lockdown'. The meaning of the terms PSBB and lockdown has a fairly clear difference in meaning. The term lockdown is more of a complete closure, while the PSBB closure is still a little easing. Second, there is an adjustment to the habit of abbreviating words in Indonesian, such as the use of the term 'suspect' which is then varied in Indonesian terms into three abbreviations, namely ODP, PDP, and OTG as seen in data 024, 026, and 028. The term 'suspect' is more general in meaning, while the terms ODP, PDP, and OTG are more specific. The term was probably coined to describe the specific symptoms of an infected patient.

In the formation of terms through the absorption and translation process, the meaning of these terms is the same as the meaning of the terms from the original language, for example, in data 01, 09, 012, 014. The same condition also occurs in the formation of terms through translation. This term also does not change its meaning and its meaning is the same as in the original language as in data 05, 015, 016, 023, 028, 040, and 045.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the process of forming terms, it was found that at least 23 data terms were formed through the absorption process, 16 data terms were formed through the translation process, and 8 data were formed through the process of creating neologism. In short, term formation by absorption accounted for 49 percent of the process of forming special terms in the Covid-19. This means that English is mostly used in other languages through absorption. Being a worldwide language, English is heavily incorporated into other languages. Additionally, it can be challenging to locate equivalent phrases or terms rapidly due to the rapid linguistic development in the virtual world. For further research, it is expected other researchers to conduct similar studies with different data sources, such as talk shows, podcasts, and others. In addition, the researchers also suggest other parties to use quantitative or mixed methods in their studies concerning with the word formation either taken from other languages or through neologism. It is hoped such various research can produce more comprehensive results that enriches previous research. This research is important to take into account in the future due to the dynamic nature of language.
REFERENCES


