Nonce Words-Formation in Indonesian Online Newspapers

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Abstract: The present study attempts to analyze the word-formation of nonce words usually used by the youth and the function of its usage in online newspapers in Indonesia. This research used a descriptive qualitative approach. Research objects were nonce words in the form of basic words and phrases in various texts in online newspapers between March to September 2020 as many as 15 samples. The result of the study shows that the usage of nonce words in online newspapers in Indonesia can still be said to be marginal and nonce words appear mostly in headlines and less in body text because the language of the newspaper has its characteristics and is tied to the rules of the language of the mass media. The function of nonce words in online newspapers corresponds to the criteria of Heyne and Vollmer (2016) which are textual, stylistic, and reference. Nonce words in the form, and meaning, or both with novel values, are created from different needs and are used in various areas of communication. The formation of nonce words reflects the social conditions that are determined by developments in a country.

Keywords: Nonce words; language of newspapers; word-formation; Indonesian.

Introduction

Nonce words are new words or lexical innovations that we perceive as new and therefore often conspicuous to language society in a particular language at a particular time. They are an expression of new things, ideas, phenomena in all spheres of life of a society. Accordingly, they are to be understood as lexical equivalents of changed or customized communicative conditions. That we are generally aware that new words are created every day which is indicative of the dynamism of languages and the changes taking place in a given society. Nonce words are usually created through existing word combinations or from loan words and even from translations from other languages (Cañete González). They usually thrive in countries with dynamic and rapidly developing languages like Indonesia. In general, both nonce formations and neologisms are considered innovations of a language. Specifically, a “nonce formation” is “a new complex word coined by a speaker or writer on the spur of the moment to cover some immediate need” (Mattiello).

Every day, newspapers discuss events in politics, issues in culture and society, as well as they respond to these developments with new terminology or new words. The naming of new facts, the textual design, and the stylistic presentation of topical themes foster the use of nonce words in print media. Nonce...
words simply occur in all areas of the press language. In texts with an increasingly informative function such as news or reports, the new words should convey facts. In opinion-based texts such as comments or editorials, they express opinions and evaluations of the writer. Languages and texts are often considered in terms of language economics. This applies in particular to newspaper texts. The press is an extraordinary observatory that provides abundant data for the compilation and dissemination of lexical innovations. Having said that, languages in various newspaper articles are certainly different depending on the journalistic style chosen, the type of discourse, the aspects reviewed, and the target audience. Besides, each journalist also has his personal writing style and vocabulary. This makes newspapers so diverse, lively, and interesting (Gerdinger et al.).

The value of neologism study with mass media as a source by arguing that studying lexical neology in the press is an evident need, especially because newspaper publications naturally portray a culture, a society, and people’s idiosyncrasy, all of which affect education (Gerdinger et al.). In general, it can be said that the language of newspapers is required to be easily understood by readers, where aspects of candor, conciseness, cohesiveness, simplicity, and clarity play an important role and are characterized by the simplest structure of the sentence. Another proof of this simplicity and scarcity of language is the fact that journalists always work for a certain amount of time due to their job and that the scope of the articles is usually limited. Elsen speaks of “an economic consolidation of information”, meaning “the mediation of the appearance of a compressed news offer” (Heyne and Vollmer). Accordingly, the use of nonce words in the press should be examined under diverse, closely related aspects. The structure, function, and effect of nonce words should become equivalent categories of lexical investigations in the field of lexical innovation. Moreover, new words appearing in newspapers tend to be coined by professionals or prestigious persons. Many newspapers and media broadcasters have special experts that invent new words for new concepts and supervise the use of these in the publications. Whenever such a word appears, the authority or prestige of the coiner and/or user appeals to the reader-speaker and enhances its adoption into the lexicon of the individuals. It is fascinating to observe how society evolves and changes, and how a dynamic language like Indonesian has to keep pace with linguistic changes. Along with times and technological advances, many new technologies and new phenomena or new inventions require accurate naming. In this point of view, nonce words play an important role in naming new objects or new ideas. These new, (non)-lexicalized words - the nonce words in Indonesian online newspapers - are the subject of this study.

Do not make a difference between nonce words and neologisms. They understand nonce words and neologisms as the same linguistic phenomenon. Furthermore, they outlined the functions of the new words as follows: (1) Reference function. A neologism has a reference function when no textual context is needed to understand the new word and the new word has a naming function. (2) Textual function. In this case, the neologism function is determined by the context of the text. Neologism is used in the communications sector as it is a more economical language expression that helps to facilitate reading. (3) Stylistic or language style functions. Neologism is used not to name something or to compress textual content, but to attract the reader and realized in the form of the use of ironic, creative, or meaningful connotative words. (4) Further functions arise when expressive neologism is intended to influence readers in the form of persuasive texts and thereby have an influence on the formation of the reader's opinion of a new thing (Heyne and Vollmer).

Study about nonce words has also drawn the attention of many researchers. There are monographs as well as individual studies in the form of scientific papers published in journals. Studies about nonce words are usually done in various approaches with various perspectives such as the word-formation process of nonce words (Beliaeva; Mattiello; Poix; Heyne and Vollmer; Steffens and Nikitina; Velykoroda and Liabyga; Kerremans, Andries, and Temmerman; Kerremans; Paul and Ma; Rets) investigate nonce words in Sheng. The title is Neologism: A Narrowing or a Broadening Process, a Case of Sheng. This study is aiming at exploring different views on nonce words as handled within lexical pragmatics namely narrowing and broadening. According to the authors, nonce words in Sheng is a narrowing process and not an aspect of broadening.

Based on the problems described above, this research was guided by the following research questions: (1) How is the word-formation of nonce words used in online newspapers? (2) What is the function of the nonce words usage in online newspapers? (3) To what extent are the new compositions stylistically conditioned, or are they perhaps more likely to result in an increased need for denotation?
Method

The method and technique of collecting data for language inquiry synchronically are done by studying the use of nonce words in written form. Researchers only act as observers of language use but are not involved in it directly. The first step is to collect nonce words in various text genres in online newspapers in the form of words and phrases. This research will describe the use of nonce words in online newspapers in Indonesia by focusing on the word-formations and their function in the text. Furthermore, the neologic function in the text environment is interpreted by a qualitative descriptive detail analysis. The material for the study consists of 15 data extracted from the online newspapers in Indonesia from March to September 2020.

Data validity technique

Validation activities can be interpreted as a documentation work which is an ordinance or method of proof that must be carried out in a way that is in accordance with applicable research procedures, methods, and even procedures. In it, there is an object in which each material, process, and procedure has been arranged. To test the credibility of the data in this study, it was carried out by checking the data that had been obtained through several sources. The founding is then sought in the online version of the Indonesian Standard Dictionary (KBBI) to make sure whether those nonce words are already in the dictionary or not. If that is the case, then they were sorted out because they are considered already as neologisms.

Result and Discussions

In the disciplines of linguistic lexicology, studies and descriptions of words and vocabulary, lexeme and reinterpretation of texts still play a subordinate role as compared to the presentation and investigation of already-classified words, which are the words in the standard dictionary.

Result

We found 15 nonce words in several online newspapers, there are: "ciyus", "jeger", "santuy", "kuy", "gabut", "mantul", "mager", "gercep", "curcol", "oplas", "nobar", "miapah", "pede", "pewe", and "PHP". Those nonce words are used in headlines and body text. The word-formation of studied nonce words is roots or basic words, blending, acronym, and shortening. They have not succeeded in becoming part of the Indonesian register even though they have been used in various newspapers and have become the language of the youth. If these nonce words are used continuously by the public, then they can find a way to be registered in the standard dictionary to enrich Indonesian vocabulary. The function of the nonce words’ usage in online newspapers in the frequency of occurrence is stylistic, textual, and reference.

Discussions

Nonce words in the form, meaning, or both of which have the value of innovation, are created from different needs and used in various areas of communication. The formation of nonce words reflects the social conditions that are determined by developments in a country because language development is known to be closely related to community development.

1. Roots or basic words
   a. Ciyus
      "Mari Bercakap dengan Bahasa Indonesia, "Ciyus"? ("Let's Have a Conversation in Indonesian, are you serious?) (Edukasi.kompas.com)
      The word "ciyus" comes from the word serious and is used generally as a spoken language among youth. However, online newspapers also use these nonce words in their headlines. This is in linewhit Heyne's opinion who affirms that the language of newspapers is well suited as a source of nonce words because newspaper texts are always dealing with new and current topics (Heyne and Vollmer).
   b. Jeger
      Wakapolri Komjen Gatot Eddy Pramono menjelaskan pernyataannya terkait pelibatan "jeger" atau preman dalam mengawasi penerapan protokol kesehatan di pasar. (Deputy Chief of Police Commissioner General Gatot Eddy Pramono explained his statement regarding involvement of "jeger" or thugs in overseeing the implementation of health protocols in the market.
The word "jeger" doesn't mean thug as in the sentence above, but it means someone who looks like the rocker Mike Jager. Thus, this word is an analogy for someone who looks like a rocker. However, in its development, this word has become synonymous with the word "preman" or someone who usually looks scary as in the example sentence above. So, this word undergoes a shift in meaning.

c. Santuy

Para pedagang kopi keliling kerap muncul di tengah keramaian Jakarta, termasuk saat ada demonstrasi. Berbagai foto dan video yang viral di media sosial menampilkan mereka yang tampak santuy alias santai, saat berdagang di tengah keramaian demonstrasi. (Mobile coffee traders often appear in the crowd in Jakarta, including at times of a demonstration. Various photos and videos that are viral on social media displays those who look santuy or relaxed, when trading in a crowd of a demonstration). (Travel.kompas.com)

The word "santuy" comes from the word santai, means relax by replacing two letters at the end of the word. Like other nonce words, this word in written form is usually only used on social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, and so on. However, online newspapers are now also not spared from the use of this nonce word.

d. Kuy

Salim Group Punya Dompet Digital, Kuy Lihat Dalamnya. (Salim Group has a Digital wallet, let see it). (Republika.co.id, “Salim Group Punya Dompet Digital, Kuy Lihat Dalamnya”) Apart from cutting, abbreviating, or replacing letters, Indonesian nonce words are synonymous with turning words back and forth. The nonce word "kuy" which is very popular whether used in written conversations or chats is formed from the word 'yuk' which is read backward from right to left. With the usage in online newspapers, this word has an expanded usage.

2. Blending

Blending is the combination of clipping and compounding in which new words are created by the overlap of words or fragments of existing words. A blending is also meant as a word made up of parts of two or more other words to get a new word with a new meaning and a new form. Abbreviation and blending have become prominent characteristics of modern language usage in Indonesian, especially among the young generation.

e. Gabut

"Perjalanan Perpustakaan Jalanan Karawang, dari "Gabut" hingga Terbitkan Buletin Sastra". (Karawang Street Library Journey, from "Gabut" to Publishing a Literature Bulletin) (Regional.kompas.com)

The word "gabut" is a blending of "gaji buta" (blind wages) which is meant initially as a person who receives something without doing anything. But now there is a shift in the meaning of the word "gabut", namely people who do not have permanent jobs or people who have a lot of free time.

f. Mantul

Menurut Ace, Jokowi mantul karena selama 4 tahun ini sudah meletakan fondasi bagi reformasi di bidang hukum, penegakan HAM, dan pemberantasan korupsi. (According to Ace, Jokowi was good because for the past 4 years he has laid the foundation for reformation in the field of law, upholding human rights, and eradicating corruption (Mediaindonesia.com). The word "mantul" (bounce) is a blending of "mantap" (steady) and "betul" (correct) which means something reslly great. This word is analogous to an existing word, which is "mantul" in the sense of something that bounces.

g. Mager

Teknologi informasi dan model bisnis daring di era ini memfasilitasi kecenderungan kita untuk mager. (Information technology and online business models in this era facilitate our trend for mager) (mediaindonesia.com). The word "mager" is a blending of word "malas" (being lazy) and "gerak" (motion) which means people who spend their daily lives mostly just sitting.

h. Gercep
“Studi Ungkap Pria Lebih “Gercep” Saat Jatuh Cinta”. (Studies Reveal Men Are "Faster" When In Love). (lifestyle.kompas.com).

The word "gercep" is a blending of the word "gerak" (motion) and "cepat" (fast) which means something that is done nimbly. This word is usually used only in oral form. Its use in online newspapers is limited to non-serious sections such as lifestyle, not in news.

i. Curcol

"Saat Menteri Edhy "Curcol" soal Anggaran KKP yang Menyusut". (When Minister Edhy "Curcol" about the KKP's Shrinking Budget"). (money.kompas.com)

The word "curcol" is a blending of "curahan hati" (confide) dan "colongan" (stolen) which means someone who pours out his heart not in its place, but just takes the available opportunity. This word originally comes from the word "curhat" (confide) which is also a blending of the words "curahan hati". In this case, we create a nonce word out of an existing nonce word with the same word-formation.

j. Oplas

"Influencer Habis Rp 2 Miliar untuk 60 Kali Oplas, Wajahnya jadi Mirip Boneka" (An Influencers run out of Rp. 2 Billion for 60 plastic surgery, her face looks like a doll, (kompas.com).

The word "oplas" is a blending of the word "operasi" (surgery) and "plastik" (plastic). Online newspapers use this word-formation option because it is concise, easy to remember, and attract attention.

k. Nobar

Polri tidak akan Keluarkan Izin Nobar Film G30S/PKI. (Polri will not issue G30S/PKI Movie Nobar Permit). (republika.co.id).

The word "nobar" comes from the words "nonton" (watching) and "bareng" (together) which were originally used to refer to watching football together using a big screen outdoors. This word is then widely used for watching movies together, both indoors and outdoors.

l. Miapah


The word "miapah" is a blending of "demi apa" (for the sake of?). This word is very often used in social media. The pronunciation of this word makes the speaker sound spoiled and speak contrived like a child who is still experiencing slurred. Actually, there are several nonce words like that, but only the words "Ciyus" and "Miapah" have been found in online newspapers.

3. Acronym

An acronym is an abbreviation in the form of a combination of letters or syllables, or other parts that are written and pronounced as normal words.

m. Pede

Salam Group meluncurkan produk dompet digital yang diberi nama Pede (Ponsel Duit), beroperasi di bawah perusahaan PT IndoAlliz Perkasa Sukses. (Salam Group launched a digital wallet product called Pede (Ponsel Duit), operates under the company PT IndoAlliz Perkasa Sukses (Republika.co.id, “Salam Group Punya Dompet Digital, Kuy Lihat Dalannya”).

The word "pede" (money cellphone) is an analogy to the existing acronym with a different meaning, namely "percaya diri" (self-confidence). The most common type of word-creation is by far re-combination and reshuffling of the existing patterns. The subconscious or sometimes conscious penchant of native speakers for the latter type of word-creation is down to the fact that it provides recognizability of the pertinent elements and allows for the speaker’s ability to infer the probable meaning of the newly coined word. The subconscious tendency of conscious or sometimes conscious native speakers for the type of creation of the last word is the fact that it gives the introduction of the appropriate elements and enables the speaker's ability to infer the possible meaning of a newly created word (Lavrova).

n. Pewe

Another example of an acronym is the word: “pewe”. “Jadi tren fashion nya lebih kepada yang pewe (nyaman) dan bisa dipakai tanpa harus tahan nafas,” ucapnya. (So, the fashion trend is
more comfortable and can be worn without having to hold your breath, "he said). (Lifestyle.kompas.com).

The word "pewe" comes from the word "posisi" (position) and "uwenak" (good, in Javanese) which can mean the comfortable position of a person, whether sitting or standing. In the example sentence above, the word pewe means a comfortable dress position on the body.

O. PHP

"Curhat Mahfud MD yang Kena PHP sejak Era SBY hingga Jokowi...", (Confide of Mahfud MD who got PHP from the SBY era to Jokowi). (Nasional.kompas.com, “Curhat Mahfud MD Yang Kena PHP Sejak Era SBY Hingga Jokowi...”).

The word "PHP" is read "pehape" which means false hope giver. This term is widely used in daily communication even among state officials. Initially, the word "PHP" was used in the context of a relationship between lovers or friends among young people. Eventually, the word is also growing in usage like other nonce words and has expanded its meaning.

The Function of nonce words usage in online newspapers

The primary function of nonce words usage in our studied newspapers is stylistic, for example: "ciyus", "santuy", "kuy", "oplas", "nobar", "miapah", and "pewe". Those nonce words are used to make the text more attractive and show language creativity, this is especially evident in headlines.

Other nonce words have the textual function, i.e. the function of the word is determined by the context of the text. Words with textual function are commonly used in the communications sector of the newspaper and it is very much needed for economical and smooth reading, for example: "jeger", "mantul", "mager", "gercep", "curcol", and "php". Bahasa Indonesia has not another word for those expressions with the same meaning. The language of newspapers has always encapsulated what would sell to audiences and how information could best be packaged and presented to achieve this commercial end at any particular time. Newspapers have therefore always attempted to fit into the tastes of their readerships and sought ways to echo these within their idiom, thereby reconstructing the ‘original’ audience in the process (Conboy).

The last function which is identified in our newspapers is the reference function. Motivation for using neologism to name new facts, especially in the language of the press is very clear, as newspapers use everyday language to discuss changes in society, politics, business and science. Nonce words such as "gabut", "curcol" and "pede" are examples for the reference function. Through the targeted use of neological lexemes, journalists can contribute to emotionalising the recipient, promoting acceptance and (indirect) evaluation of the facts presented without the reader being even aware of it. Taboo topics can also be subjected to a kind of reader-friendly processing by using neologisms, in particular in the form of neological euphemisms that are intended to obscure or soften undesired aspects of a situation (Heyne and Vollmer 26).

Conclusions

The results of this research indicate that the usage of nonce words in studied newspapers is not yet widespread and constitutes only occasional use. Of the many nonce words circulating on social media, only a few have found their way into online newspapers. When social conditions change, so is the content of communication and thought, and consequently affects the language use. Nonce words express itself from the need of denotation or to produce syntactically well-balanced texts. But it is also used to adhere to the entertaining-style effects up to a function that is affecting or persuasive.

Nonce words in newspapers are coined and used to direct readers interest. The lexical innovations contribute as the elevator to create expressiveness of the text and thus promoting further reading. This stylistic function of nonce words is in this respect can be justified, if there is only a little or no need for designation at all. If there are already other, simpler known word forms, the usage of nonce words can then be tendentious, expressive, or even connotative.

National Agency for Language Development and Cultivation Republic of Indonesia (Badan Bahasa) creates as well as updates nonce words by registering them in the standard dictionary (KBBI) twice a year. This government institution also tries to introduce and popularize new words through events for public such as seminars, colloquiums, language congress etc.

Finally, we hope that this research can shed some lights concerning nonce words in Indonesia and inspire other researchers to investigate this field further from different perspectives such as the field of...
teaching nonce words, translation, or advancing language planning. The results of this study are expected to benefit the language planning, language education in a broad sense or lexicography practice.

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