



# Word Formation Process Found in Strings on Wattpad

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**Abstract.** This research examines the types of word formation processes found in “Strings” on Wattpad and the most dominant type of word formation processes used in “Strings” on Wattpad. The research aims to examine the different word formation processes utilized in the narrative, particularly focusing on the characters' dialogues. The method of this research used is the qualitative method. The data were obtained using the AntConc application to analyze occurrences of word formation from the text. The main theory of this research is from Yule's (2017) theory about the types of word formation processes from his book “The Study of Language” and supported by other type by Katamba's (1993) theory from his book “Morphology”, the analysis uncovers multiple word formation types, including borrowing, compounding, clipping, conversion, coinage, acronyms, derivation, back formation, multiple processes, and reduplication. The findings reveal that derivation emerges as the most dominant word formation process present in the text. This study contributes to the understanding of linguistic creativity in digital storytelling and morphological variations in contemporary language usage.

**Keywords:** morphology; wattpad; word formation

## 1. Introduction

Morphology as a sub-branch of linguistics, is the study of the internal structure of word-form. The basic units of analysis recognized in morphology are morphemes (Bauer, 1983: 13). The area of grammar concerned with the structure of words and with relationships between words involving the morphemes that compose them is technically called morphology (Carstairs-Mccarthy, 2002: 16) The type of exercise we have just performed is an example of investigating basic forms in language, known as morphology (Yule, 2017). Morphemes are the smallest units of meaning (Katamba, 1993: 19). Morphology explores not only the internal structure of words but also how they relate to other words within a language, providing a foundational understanding that leads us to the concept of word formation. Word formation refers to the methods by which new words are generated in a language. These processes involve using existing words to understand how words and morphemes are constructed, and they are considered the rules for creating new terms. It has been recognized that there are different types of word formation processes, including etymology, coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, acronyms, derivation, and various combinations of these methods (Yule, 2006). According to Bauer (1983: 9), word formation is a conventional label that proves useful, yet it does not encompass all the various methods of creating what we refer to as “word”. Specifically, the concept of word formation holds significance and offers insight into the processes involved, even if it doesn't fully capture every possible way to generate words when the rules for the formation of words are not identical to the rules for the formation of sentences. The term 'word' refers to a particular physical realization of that lexeme in speech or writing, i.e., a particular word form. Thus, we can refer to see, sees, seeing, saw, and seen as five different words. In this sense, three different occurrences of any one

of these word forms would count as three words. We can also say that the word-form see has three letters and the word-form seeing has six. And, if we were counting the number of words in a passage, we would gladly count see, sees, seeing, saw, and seen as five different word forms. (Katamba, 1993).

Several researchers have researched the word formation process: Herina (2018) conducted a research entitled "Morphological Analysis on the Word Formation Found in the Jakarta Post Newspaper". She found kinds of word formation process, there are five kinds of word formation namely 23 data of affixation, 16 data of borrowing, 5 data of compounding, 3 data of acronym, and 1 data of multiple process. Natanael et al. (2022) also conducted a research entitled "Word Formation Analysis in Elon Musk's Tweets and Replies: Morphological Approach". This qualitative research collected data through observation, focusing on tweets and replies from May 15 to June 21, 2022. It utilized Yule's (2010) theory to categorize various word formation processes, supplemented by two additional types proposed by O'Grady and Archibald (2015). The study identified a total of 218 words derived from these processes in Elon Musk's tweets and replies, including 18 acronyms, 2 borrowed words, 11 coinages, 7 blends, 4 clipped forms, 3 backformations, 34 compounds, 1 onomatopoeia, 9 cliticizations, 11 conversions, and 123 derived forms. Annisa & A. Aziz (2019) also searched about word formation process entitled "An Analysis of Word Formation Processes Found in Instagram". In this research, she used descriptive qualitative. She used the theory of Delahunty and Garvey (2010) and Plag (2003) about the word formation process. She discovered that among the total of 78 data points, there were 38 acronyms, 17 borrowed words, 15 abbreviations, 5 instances of blending and coinage, and 1 word formed through affixation. Luthfiyati et al. (2017) conducted a research entitled "The Analysis of Word Formation Processes in Jakarta Post Website". They used the qualitative method. In this research, they found 17 adjective derivation words, 26 noun derivation words, and 9 verb derivation words, and a total of the derivation are 52 words. Asvini (2022) conducted a research entitled "An Analysis of Word Formation Used in I Am Malala Novel by Malala Yousafzai". In this research, she used the qualitative method. She applied the theory by Yule (2006), and she established that 633 words in I Am Malala involve word formation processes. The researcher identified 5 words of coinage, 34 words of suppletion, 130 words of compound, 5 words of clipping, 14 words of backformation, 53 words of acronym, and 392 words of derivational.

Similar to previous research, the word formation process will be analyzed in this research. The data in this study and those used in previous studies are different. The previous research used data such as morphemes in Newspapers, Instagram, Twitter, and Movies. Meanwhile, this research will focus on morphemes in a fictional story on Wattpad entitled "Strings" because it contains many examples of how new words are created. Wattpad is online platform that allow the users to publish and read stories. The uniqueness of this research lies in the choice of the study object. Based on the previous research, there are no researchers who have studied morphemes and formations in fictional stories on Wattpad. The data found in "String" on Wattpad is based on Yule's (2017) theory about the types of word formation processes from his book "The Study of Language" and supported by other type by Katamba's (1993) theory from his book "Morphology".

Based on the explanation above, it is very interesting to analyze word formation because word formation is very important in learning English, currently, there are a lot of words due to the morphological process that forms these words into new word classes. Some words are not listed in the dictionary, so people predict them using word formation rules and explaining the word formation process. Two problems will be discussed in this research, they are what types of word formation processes are used in Strings on Wattpad? And what is the most dominant type of word formation process used in Strings on Wattpad?

## 2. Method

The method of research is very important in the research. It can be determined in the success of a research. In every scientist's work, research methods have the purpose of finding out the results of a

problem given to a certain thing, which is also referred to as a research problem. The research method in this study is separated into three parts: data source, data collection, and data analysis. The data in this research will be taken from a fictional story on Wattpad entitled "Strings". This story was written by Shockstruck and was released in 2020. "Strings" is a romance drama story that consists of many utterances that contain a word formation process performed by each character. The data of this research were taken from the character's utterances in dialogues that contain the word formation process.

The data in this research will be collected using qualitative data, which consists of using the AntConc application. This method is used to answer research questions that are demanded to provide a depth of understanding of word formation processes used in the story on Wattpad. This method also becomes an effective way to analyze the written text through a linguistics approach. There are a few steps to collect the data in this research. The first step is the research used the AntConc application as the instrument and it was used to get the word-contained of word formation processed by copying a fictional story "Strings" on Wattpad to the AntConc application. The second step is listing the result of the types of word formation processes from the AntConc application. The last step is identifying the dominant type of word formation process. In this research, the data will be analyzed through several steps; first, explain the word formation process using Yule's (2017) theory and combine it with Katamba's (1993) theory. Second, analyze the types of word formation processes used in "Strings" on Wattpad based on data collected from the AntConc application and then find the dominant type of word formation process.

### 3. Discussion

The story of Strings is about Avery Marshall, a young woman who suddenly finds herself engaged to Hayden Knight, a young billionaire and leader of Knight Enterprises, to help save her family's business. Shocked and feeling betrayed by her family, Avery is stuck in a marriage contract with a man she thinks is cold and distant. As time goes by, she starts to see a different side of Hayden, while secrets about her family begin to come out, including her sister Olivia's betrayal. With family drama, business challenges, and emotional struggles, Avery and Hayden must figure out if their arranged marriage is just a contract or something deeper. This discussion is done based on the data taken from the source of the data, which is analyzed based on the theory of Yule (2017) and combined with the theory of Katamba (1994). There are types of word formation processes found in "String" on Wattpad, such as borrowing, compounding, clipping, conversion, acronyms, derivation, and multiple processes.

#### Borrowing

Borrowing is the taking over of words from other languages. Throughout its history, the English language has adopted a vast number of words from other languages. Examples of borrowing:

- 1) "You are marrying me off to a complete stranger because Marshall & Co. will **benefit** greatly from it?" (chapter 2)
- 2) "A swarm of reporters and **paparazzi** is waiting outside for us right now, the second we exit the building" (chapter 7)

In data (1), the word "benefit" comes from the Latin word "beneficium," which means a favor, kindness, or advantage. The English word "benefit" keeps the same meaning of gaining something positive or useful. In the sentence "Marshall & Co. will benefit greatly from it," the word "benefit" means to receive an advantage or improvement. The spelling and meaning have remained very close to the original Latin form, making it a clear example of borrowing.

In data (2), the word "paparazzi" comes from Italian and was borrowed from the 1960 film *La Dolce Vita*. In the movie, a photographer named "Paparazzo" followed celebrities, and the plural form "paparazzi" later became a word in English for photographers who take pictures of famous people. In the sentence "A swarm of reporters and paparazzi is waiting outside," the word "paparazzi" refers to these photographers. English adopted the word directly from Italian without changing its spelling or meaning.

## Compounding

Compounding is a joining of two separate words to produce a single form. On the other hand, compounding is a very important way of adding to the word stock of English. Examples of compounding:

- 1) “I go through all the **headlines**, all in praise of the notorious Mr. Knight who is not only the youngest billionaire, but also the Forbes richest man under 30.” (chapter 3)
- 2) “I sat on one of the abandoned swings in this abandoned playground where Dad used to take Olivia and I every **weekend**” (chapter 20)

Data (3) shows that the word head[noun] combined with the word line[noun] becomes the word headline[noun]. In this case, the word head ("top" or "leading") combines with line (a row of words or text), together they create a new meaning: a line of text at the top of an article that serves as the title or summary, usually drawing readers' attention to important news. This compound word now refers specifically to titles in news articles or announcements.

In data (4), the word “weekend” is the combination of the word “week” and the word “end”. The word week represents a period of seven days and the word end which means the final part of something. When these words are joined, they create a new noun “weekend” which specifically refers to the last part of the week, typically Saturday and Sunday. It is now a common term used to describe rest or free time at the end of the workweek.

## Clipping

Clipping is the term for the formation of a new word form, with the same meaning as the original lexical term, by lopping off a portion and reducing it to a monosyllabic or disyllabic rump. Clipping is divided into two parts, first **Fore-clipping**, where the front of the word is trimmed. Second is **Back-clipping**, where the end of the word is trimmed. Conversely, the aspect of reduction that is evident in blending is even more pronounced in the process known as clipping.

Examples of clipping:

- 1) “It's been slightly chilly lately, but since I was already all **comfy** in my blue shorts and slightly oversized grey tee.” (Chapter 10)
- 2) “My dad barely looks up from his **cell**” (chapter 1)

In data (5), the word “comfy” is a clipped form of the word “comfortable.” People often shorten words in casual conversations to make them easier and quicker to say. Instead of using the word comfortable, which has four syllables, people prefer the word comfy, which is shorter and feels more natural in casual conversation. In the sentence “It's been slightly chilly lately, but since I was already all comfy in my blue shorts and slightly oversized grey tee,” the word “comfy” means feeling relaxed and at ease. This kind of clipping is often used in informal conversations, especially when describing feelings or personal experiences.

In data (6), the word “cell” is a shortened form (clipping) of “cellular phone”. The word “cell” is commonly used in casual speech because people often prefer shorter words in everyday conversations to make speaking easier and faster. Instead of saying “cellular phone”, many people simply say “cell”, while still maintaining the same meaning. In the sentence “My dad barely looks up from his cell,” the word “cell” clearly refers to a mobile phone.

## Conversion

Conversion is a change in the function of a word, for example when a noun comes to be used as a verb (without any reduction).

Examples of conversion:

- 1) “I resisted the urge to **google** about him again” (chapter 19)
- 2) “I close the door and **text** Derek that Skye's here” (chapter 14)

In data (7), the word “Google” in this sentence is an example of conversion because it changes the function from a noun (the name of a search engine) to a verb (the action of searching online) without changing its form. It retains its original spelling while changing from a noun to a verb. In the sentence “I resisted the urge to google about him again,” the word “google” is used as a verb, meaning “to look up information on the internet.” Even though it still looks the same as the original company name, its function has changed. This kind of conversion is common in English, especially with technology-related words, as new inventions often lead to new ways of using words. In data (8), the word “text” is a change of function, originally, it functioned as a noun (referring to a written message, like an SMS). In the sentence “I close the door and text Derek that Skye’s here,” the word “text” is used as a verb, meaning “to send a text message.” This change in function makes communication easier because instead of saying “send a text message,” people can simply say “text” as a verb. This kind of word change is common with new technology, where nouns turn into verbs to describe actions related to them.

## Acronyms

Acronyms are words that are formed by using the first letters of a collection of other words. They can exist in different forms where the pronunciation consists of saying each separate letter. Examples of acronyms:

- 1) “But, the Knight’s enterprises is still literally at its peak and seems to only go higher under the influence of the young **CEO**.” (chapter 19)
- 2) “**OLIVIA OMG** I practically yell and grab her for a bone crushing hug.” (chapter 3)

In data (9), the word “CEO” is an acronym. “CEO” represent for “Chief Executive Officer,” which is the top executive in a company. In the sentence “But, the Knight’s enterprises is still literally at its peak and seems to only go higher under the influence of the young CEO,” the word “CEO” is used to refer to the young leader running the Knight’s enterprises. This acronym is commonly used in business and professional settings because it is shorter and easier to say than the full title. Instead of saying “Chief Executive Officer” every time, people simply say “CEO” to save time while still referring to the same position. In data (10), the word “OMG” stands for “Oh My God”, which is commonly used in informal speech and writing to express surprise, excitement, or disbelief. In the sentence “**OLIVIA OMG** I practically yell and grab her for a bone-crushing hug.” The acronym “OMG” is used to show excitement upon seeing Olivia. This type of acronym is especially popular in casual conversations, texting, and social media, where people want to express their emotions quickly. Unlike more formal business acronyms, “OMG” is informal and mostly used in everyday speech or writing.

## Derivation

Derivation is the most common word formation process in the production of new words. It is accomplished using many small “bits” of the English language that are not usually given separate listings in dictionaries. These small “bits” are generally described as affixes. Looking more closely at the preceding group of words, prefixes are affixes that are attached to the beginning of a word (e.g., un-, mis-), while suffixes are added to the end of a word (e.g., -less, -ish). In English, all words created through this derivational process include either prefixes, suffixes, or both. Examples of derivation:

- 1) “Swirls of green raging in them making them look **unreal**” (chapter 10)
- 2) “**I honestly** don’t know what she sees in that man” (chapter 14)

In data (11), the word “unreal” comes from the base word “real”, which is an adjective meaning something that truly exists or is genuine. By adding the prefix “un-”, the meaning changes to its opposite, referring to something that is not real, imaginary, or illusory. In the sentence “Swirls of green raging in them making them look unreal,” the word “unreal” suggests that the eyes look so striking and unusual that they seem not real or too amazing to be natural. Even though the meaning changes, the word remains an adjective, showing how prefixes can alter meaning while keeping the word class the same. In data (12), the word “honestly” is formed through derivation by adding the suffix “-ly” to the base word “honest.” The base word “honest” is an adjective that describes someone who tells the truth or acts with integrity. When the suffix “-ly” is added, the word “honestly” becomes an adverb that describes how

something is done. In the sentence “I honestly don't know what she sees in that man,” the word “honestly” means the speaker is honest about their thoughts. This shows how adding a suffix can change an adjective into an adverb, making it function differently in a sentence.

### Multiple processes

Multiple processes can reveal how several methods contribute to the formation of a particular word. Examples of multiple processes:

- 1) “She digs deeper into the **untouched** sections of my wardrobe and exclaims satisfactorily” (chapter 4)
- 2) “I was whining like an **ungrateful** little girl” (chapter 15)

In data (13), the word “untouched” is created through two processes: prefixation and past participle formation. First, the base word “touch” is a verb, which means “to make contact with something.” When the suffix “-ed” is added, it turns into “touched,” which is its past participle form, meaning that an action has already happened. However, to create the word “untouched,” the prefix “un-” is added to the beginning. The prefix “un-” typically means “not” or “opposite of”, so the word “untouched” now functions as an adjective meaning “not touched” or “left in its original state.” The formation of “untouched” is a clear example of how English allows multiple word formation processes to work together to create precise descriptions. This process shows how a word can go through more than one modification to form a new meaning while maintaining grammatical correctness in a sentence.

In data (14), the word “ungrateful” is formed by both a prefix (un-) and a suffix (-ful) being added to the root word “grate.” The root “grate” is connected to the idea of “gratitude” or “thankfulness.” When the suffix “-ful” is added, it forms the adjective “grateful,” which means “full of gratitude” or “thankful.” However, when the prefix “un-” is added before it, the meaning is reversed to form “ungrateful.” This new word means “lacking gratitude” or “not showing thankfulness.” This example demonstrates how the addition of a prefix and a suffix can significantly transform the meaning of a word. Instead of being thankful, an ungrateful person does not appreciate what they have. This process is a common way in English to create opposites or negative meanings by simply adding “un-” to a word.

## 4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the collected data, it can be concluded that the types of word formation process found in Strings Wattpad can be classified into derivation, compounding, multiple process, borrowing, clipping, acronyms, and conversion. According to Yule's theory, and supported by Katamba's theory, there are 14 types of word formation processes. However, in Strings on Wattpad, only 7 types were found, such as derivation (90 words), compounding (25 words), multiple processes (13 words), borrowing (7 words), acronyms (6 words), clipping (5 words), and conversion (2 words).

Based on the number of word formation processes, the three most common types of word formation process are derivation, compounding, and borrowing. This is because these three processes are the most productive in English word formation. Derivation expands vocabulary through affixation, compounding creates descriptive new terms, and multiple processes efficiently convey meaning, provide richer language expression, and offer flexibility in English. Other word formation processes, such as blending, conaige, back formation, and reduplication, appear less frequently because they are less relevant to the storytelling style commonly used in Wattpad fiction.

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