

CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF JAPANESE AND INDONESIAN COMPOUND WORDS

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Abstract

This study analyzes the similarities and differences between Japanese and Indonesian compound words based on their construction and meanings. The data was collected from Japanese and Indonesian official news websites like Asahi Shinbun and Kompas through observation and note-taking techniques. The data were analyzed using the distribution method. The theory was used to analyze the contrastivities by using the morphology theory by Chaer (2008), Katamba (1993), and Kageyama (2016). This study's results show that 10 compound words formed in Japanese and Indonesian have similar meanings. Based on the construction, both have different types of combinations including compound nouns, adjectives, and verbs. The difference in construction is the Japanese compound can have a phonetical change called *rendaku*. Based on the meaning, both in Japanese and Indonesian compound it can be divided into two categories: endocentric and exocentric compound. However, there are some compound that does not have similar idiomatical meaning even though its constructed using the same lexeme in both languages.

Keywords: *construction, meaning, compound, contrastive*

Introduction

The most crucial thing when learning the meaning of a word requires an understanding of context. This is because each word can have different meanings according to how the word is used in sentences or various situations. There are several ways to find out the context of a word, namely paying attention to the text around the word, looking for definitions or information from literature, looking for other meanings of the word, and so on. A word can also change meaning if it undergoes a morphological process, which involves the manipulation or combination of morphemes to modify existing words. By systematically expanding words, the morphological process of word formation can generate new words (Booij, 2007).

Morphologically, each language has a different kind of word-formation process. The most popular method for generating additional words is by combining lexemes or compounding. It is made up of lexemes that are combined to form larger words, in which one word modifies the meaning of the other. In English there are words generated by combining the word “sun” and “rise” became “sunrise”, another example is the word “blackboard” was originated from combining “black” and “board”. In Japanese, compound words are called *fukugougo*, which is a word that results from combining two or more lexemes, in which the speech sound of the back syllable (*gobi*) can change. The process of compounding in Japanese is quite productive and varied. These compounds are combined to form a single construction

and can be nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs in sentences (Kageyama, 2016). The same type of word formation in Indonesian is called *kata majemuk* which are words that are formed from the process of combining two or more morphemes, words, phrases, or clauses that are combined to form a single construction (Kridalaksana, 2009: 184).

The combination of lexemes often creates a new word with a specific meaning that may not be immediately obvious from the individual constituent. While understanding which parts contribute to the overall meaning of the compound is important, some compound words may have different meanings based on the context. There are three types of compounds: endocentric compounds, exocentric compounds, and copulative compounds (Katamba, 1993:311). The endocentric compound has both of its constituent meanings for the whole construction. Exocentric compounds are headless compounds that are modified by the non-head element. Copulative compounds are compounds that have two words which are a couple or conjoined. Syntactically, copulative compounds are headed. But semantically the combined elements are equal in status, with neither dominating the entire word.

When comparing Japanese and Indonesian compound words, several similarities could be found based on their construction and meanings. In Japanese, there is a compound word *ishiatama* that is constructed by combining the lexeme *ishi* 'stone' and *atama* 'head', while in Indonesian the compound *kepala batu* has a similar constituent of *kepala* 'head' and *batu* 'stone'. Both compound *ishiatama* and *kepala batu* also have the meanings of 'inflexible person'. Understanding compound words is an important aspect of learning vocabulary. It allows language learners to grasp the meanings of a wide range of words by breaking them down into their constituent parts. Additionally, each constituent conveys specific nuances, which can add depth and precision to the meaning of compound words. This study compares the construction and meanings of Japanese and Indonesian compound words.

Various studies on contrastive analysis have been carried out in the past. One of them is Putri, et al (2022) who in her research titled "*The Contrastive Analysis of Katai in Japanese and Keras in Indonesian Language*" researched the meanings of the Japanese word *katai* and the Indonesian word *keras* and then compared both the words in certain contexts. The theory used is based on the meaning classification theory by Kunihiro (1989) and the equivalent technique by Konayagi (2006). The data was collected from corpus data as well as certain online news sources. Based on the results, there are 9 data showing the similarities and differences between Japanese *katai* and Indonesian *keras*. The meaning similarities of both words are found in the context of the sense of sight (awkward), the sense of hearing (loud), the sense of touch (tight), and not willing to obey.

Utami (2021) in her research titled "Contrastive Analysis of The Meanings of Japanese and Indonesian *Kanyouku* Using Body Names" has researched the comparison between Japanese and Indonesian idioms using the same body-part names. The data was taken from YouTube videos uploaded on the *Gakushuu DVD Ni Nikku Eizou* channel, Indonesian phrasebooks, and Instagram. The researcher collected the idioms in both Japanese and Indonesian and categorized the data based on their similarities. The theory used to analyze the data is the idiom theory by Inoue (2011) and word-forming theory by Miharu (2014). The results show that there are two types of similarity found between Japanese and Indonesian idioms, which are: 1) same meaning and structure, and 2) same meaning, different structure. Idiom that has the same meaning and structure for example the Japanese idiom *kuchi ga karui*

and the Indonesian idiom *rapuh mulut*. Idiom that has the same meaning but a different structure is *koshi ga nukeru* and *jantung copot*.

Both Putri and Utami's research analyzes contrastivities in the Japanese and Indonesia. There are several differences between previous research with this study. Putri only studies the similarities and differences of one variation of a word which is *katai*. This study conduct analyzes a wider range of word types that construct compound words. Utami analyzes the similarity of meanings between Japanese and Indonesian idioms. This study conducts a comparison between the Japanese and Indonesian compound words both in literal and idiomatical meanings.

Methods

The method used to collect the data is the observation method with note-taking techniques (Sudaryanto, 2015). The objects of the research are compound words appearing in Japanese and Indonesian official news websites like Asahi Shinbun and Kompas. Both of them are the largest national newspaper website that is still published today. In newspaper articles, compound words are beneficial because they convey much information in a compact expression (Hisamitsu, 2003: 550). The data of this research are in the form of sentences containing the usage of the compound word that has similarity with each other. By using this method, sentences using compound words are observed and then recorded for further analysis.

Data that has been collected is then analyzed using the distribution method, which is a method that refers to the language in question (Sudaryanto, 2015: 18). This method is with expansion techniques, namely expanding the lingual unit using certain elements. In this case, the lexeme was expanded by adding another lexeme to construct a compound. After the data is analyzed, next is presenting the results using the formal method (Sudaryanto, 2015). Formal methods are used in order to create a more effective and efficient presentation of this study's results. This is because this study directly compares the word formation and meanings between Japanese and Indonesian compound words.

Finding and Discussion

Based on the results, there are 10 different compound words that can be compared in Japanese and Indonesian. Both Japanese and Indonesian compounds have three types of construction: noun compound, adjective compound, and verb compound. Based on their meanings, both languages have endocentric and exocentric meanings. The following are the results of the analysis:

Table 1. Result of Analysis

Japanese Compound	Indonesian Compound	Meaning
<i>Atamakin</i>	<i>Uang muka</i>	Down payment
<i>Ishiatama</i>	<i>Kepala batu</i>	Inflexible person.
<i>Atamadekkachi</i>	<i>Besar kepala</i>	Big-headed
<i>Kuchigitanai</i>	<i>Mulut kotor</i>	Foul-mouthed
<i>Amakuchi</i>	<i>Mulut manis</i>	Flattery
<i>Kuchinaoshi</i>	<i>Pencuci mulut</i>	Dessert
<i>Tenaga</i>	<i>Panjang tangan</i>	Cleptomania
<i>Migite</i>	<i>Tangan kanan</i>	Right hand
<i>Teashi</i>	<i>Kaki tangan</i>	One's hands and feet
<i>Ashimoto</i>	<i>Telapak kaki</i>	At one's feet

Data (1)

Japanese	Indonesian
<p>車に100万円も頭金を用意するとは思えない。</p> <p><i>kuruma ni 100 man-en mo atama-kin o yōi suru to wa omoenai.</i></p> <p>‘I don't think I'd be willing to put a down payment of 1 million dollars for a car.’</p> <p>(The Asahi Shinbun Company, 2023)</p>	<p><i>Sejak layanan kredit HP tanpa uang muka dari platform financial technology online merebak, membeli handphone idaman kini bisa dilakukan dengan mudah.</i></p> <p>‘Since the rise of mobile phone loans without down payment from online financial technology platforms, buying the phone of your dreams has never been easier.’</p> <p>(Kompas Gramedia Digital Group, 2023)</p>

Based on the data (1), both Japanese and Indonesian have a similar compound with the meaning ‘down payment’. In Japanese the word *atama-kin* is formed from two elements *atama* (noun) and *kin* (noun). *Kin* can be translated into ‘money’ and combined with *atama* which can be translated into ‘head’. The compound word *atama-kin* can be classified as a compound noun. It has the meaning ‘money that should be paid in advance of contract’. Similarly in Indonesian, the compound *uang muka* is formed by both the noun *uang* ‘money’ and *muka* ‘front’. There is a slight difference in Japanese the element used to modify the meaning is *atama* ‘head’, while in Indonesian uses *muka* ‘front’. The use of the word *atama* in Japanese signifies something that is done at the beginning. This is because the head is at the very top of the body of living things. While in Indonesian use the word *muka* because it is something that is first seen.

Data (2)

Japanese	Indonesian
<p>子どもじみた悪質な嫌がらせをアントワーヌに仕掛け、口汚いことを言う。 <i>Kodomo jimita akushitsu na iyagarase o antowānu ni shikake, kuchigitanai koto o iu.</i></p> <p>‘He harasses Antoine in a vicious, childish manner and says foul-mouthed things to him.’ (The Asahi Shinbun Company, 2023)</p>	<p><i>Di dalam pekerjaan, lingkungan keluarga, maupun lingkungan pergaulan, kamu pasti sering menemukan orang-orang yang memiliki mulut kotor dan suka berbicara kasar.</i></p> <p>‘In the workplace, family, and social circles, you will often find people who have foul-mouths and like to speak harshly.’ (Kompas Gramedia Digital Group, 2023)</p>

In data (2) both compound *kuchigitanai* and *mulut kotor* have the similar meaning ‘foul-mouth’. Based on its construction, *kuchigitanai* is a combination of the noun *kuchi* ‘mouth’ and adjective *kitanai* ‘dirty’. When combined into a compound, the later constituent can also undergo phonological changes. There is a change in the voiceless consonant sound /k/ in *kitanai* into the voiced consonant [g] *-gitanai* after being combined into the compound. This phenomenon is called *rendaku*, which is the phenomenon that when combining two words, the word located at the front is influenced by the back sound, while the front sound of the word located at the back changes its sound (Vance, et al., 2016). In Indonesian, the compound that has a similar meaning is *mulut kotor* which is a combination of the noun *mulut* ‘mouth’ and the adjective *kotor* ‘dirty’. Although both compounds have nouns as the former constituent, it resulted in a word class change to a compound adjective. This is because the word class of the compound word is affected by the word class attached to the end (Akimoto, 2002:85).

Data (3)

Japanese	Indonesian
<p>コーラはカルダモンやシナモンがほのかに香り、口直しにぴったりだ。 <i>Kōra wa karudamon ya shinamon ga honoka ni kaori, kuchinaoshi ni pittarida.</i></p> <p>‘The cola has a faint scent of cardamom and cinnamon, making it perfect for dessert.’ (The Asahi Shinbun Company, 2023)</p>	<p><i>Pisang goreng dari Indonesia dinobatkan sebagai hidangan pencuci mulut yang digoreng terlezat di dunia versi TasteAtlas.</i></p> <p>‘Pisang goreng from Indonesia has been named the most delicious deep-fried dessert in the world by TasteAtlas.’ (Kompas Gramedia Digital Group, 2023)</p>

In data (3) there is a similarity in meaning between the Japanese compound *kuchinaoshi* and Indonesian *pencuci mulut*. Both compounds indicate the meaning of ‘dessert’ or ‘palate cleanser’. In the Japanese compound *kuchinaoshi* is formed by combining the noun *kuchi*

‘mouth’ and the verb *naosu* ‘fix’. The Indonesian compound word *pencuci mulut* is the combination of the verb *cuci* ‘wash’ and the noun *mulut* ‘mouth’. While both compounds use the similar word “mouth”, the constituent that functions as a modifier uses a different word instead. In Japanese the word attached to “mouth” is *naosu* which has the meaning ‘return to the original good condition’. In Indonesian use the word *cuci* which has the meaning of ‘cleaning with water or liquid items’.

Data (4)

Japanese	Indonesian
<p>手足の動きがバラバラ で自転車にも乗れない。</p> <p><i>Teashi no ugoki ga barabara de jitensha ni mo norenai.</i></p> <p>‘The movements of his arms and legs are disjointed, and he cannot even ride a bicycle.’</p> <p>(The Asahi Shinbun Company, 2023)</p>	<p><i>Menurut Mukti, kedua buron inisial FA dan PN itu berperan sebagai kaki tangan Fredy yang mengurus soal keuangan</i></p> <p>‘According to Mukti, the two fugitives, initials FA and PN, acted as Fredy’s accomplices who took care of financial matters.’</p> <p>(Kompas Gramedia Digital Group, 2023)</p>

In the opposite of the previous analysis, there is some compound in both Japanese and Indonesian that combine two of the same words, but the results have different meaning. This comparison can be seen in data (4), both the Japanese compound *teashi* and the Indonesian compound *kaki tangan* have different meanings. Compound *teashi* can be translated into ‘arms and legs’ and consists of the noun *te* ‘hand’ and *ashi* ‘leg’. The similarity with the Indonesian compound word *kaki tangan* is also consisted of nouns *kaki* ‘leg’ and *tangan* ‘hand’. Based on this data, the similar constituent in Japanese and Indonesian compound words does not result in the same meaning. The usage of the compound *kaki tangan* to show the meaning of ‘accomplice’ is only found in Indonesian culture.

Conclusion

According to analysis, there are 10 different compound words in Japanese and Indonesia that have similar meanings. Based on their types, Japanese compound words consists of compound nouns (with the combination of noun+noun), compound verbs (with the combination of noun+verb), and compound adjectives (with the combination of noun+adjectives), while Indonesian compound only consists of a compound noun and compound adjective. Japanese compounds also can undergo phonemic change called *rendaku*. Based on the meanings, both Japanese and Indonesian consist of the endocentric and exocentric

compound. However, there are some compound that does not have similar idiomatical meaning even though its constructed using the same lexeme in both languages.

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