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## Forming New Words: Compounds in Devayan

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### Abstract

*As a part of word formation in the morphological process, compounding generally covers the types of words to be combined. This present study seeks the morphological process in forming words through compounding in the Devayan language spoken in Simeulue, Aceh, Indonesia. This study is also to analyze the meaning that occurs from the result of the compounding process. In collecting the data, this research uses the elicitation technique which is constructed by Bown (2015). The informants of this research are the native Devayan who live in La'ayon, Angkeo, Naibos and Maudil, Teupah Barat sub-district, Simeulue. The research finds that the compounding process in Devayan consists of compounding of two nouns, compounding of noun and verb, compounding of noun and adjective, compounding of verb and adjective, compounding of verb and noun, and compounding of adjective and noun and compounding of two verbs. The result of the process produces some meanings, namely about (1) the product, (2) specific use, (3) time, and (4) condition. This study indicates that Devayan uses various compound words with different morphological processes. It is hoped that this study is beneficial for its natives as documentation and non-native as a reference to compounding formation in the language.*

**Keywords:** Morphological process, compounding, meaning change, Devayan.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Simeulue, one of the small islands in the Indian Ocean, has a very rich language diversity. There are at least six languages spoken on the island: Indonesian, Acehese, Jamee, Devayan, Sigulai, and Leukon. Devayan is one of the indigenous languages in Simeulue, Indonesia, and it is used in the areas of Teluk Dalam, Simeulue Timur, Simeuleu Tengah and others in the south of the district, and it has the most speakers (possibly 30,000 or more) (Aziz & Amery, 2016). Other languages spoken in the island are Sigulai and Leukon. Devayan is one of subgroup language of Batak as stated by Blust (2013).

There have been not so many research conducted on the Devayan language especially in the area of word forms and morphological process. Faridan et al. (1980) carried out a study on the morphology and syntax of Devayan, but they focus only on the kinds of morphemes, the function of morphemes and their meanings, and the sentence structure. Faridan et al. (1991) then continued to work on the verbal morphological systems in the Simeulue language, focusing on types, forms, the meaning of verbs and distinguishing the types of verbs based on its form which deals with affixations, reduplications, and compound.

Morphological process refers to the whole morphological variation in the constitution of words (Crystal, 2008). Crystal (2008) divides the morphological processes into affixation, reduplication, compound, conversion, modification, abbreviation, back-formation, and suppletion. Morphology is an important component in a language because it is a component that forms words. Therefore, the process of words formation is concerned with the study of morphology which discusses the form of words and its construction. The word itself is classified into nouns, verbs, adjectives, numerals, pronouns, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and interjections. Consequently, morphology takes a role in forming these words. So that, in the perspective of morphology, the formation of words can be classified into the form of base words, affixes to the word, reduplicated words and composition words.

Language research in the field of morphology is important to do to maintain the language. Therefore, since the Devayan language is a remote language that does not have many native speakers. It could be that the productivity of this language will decrease. Besides that, there are still no written forms of the language that really help people of other languages to understand how to speak that language correctly. It is important to conduct research on the process of word formation from this language, especially in the process of compounding. This study, therefore, is trying to look at the process of compounding in Devayan and the meaning which occurs from the result of the morphological processes in the language.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

It is very crucial to comprehend the process of word formation in understanding language usage. The process of word formations is different from one language and the others. However, it can be seen the patterns that the language apply in order to form new words from other words. Plag (2000) divides word formation into four kinds such as compounding, abbreviation, blending, and affixation. Delahunty and

Garvey (2010) also propose that the word formation process may occur in the forms of conversion, coinage, acronym, and borrowing.

Morphology concerns with words, their internal structure and meaningful parts (Bauer, 2007). Allan (2015) argues that it is a morphological form which combines two or more lexemes into a complex word, as in the example 'songbook' which composes nouns of 'song' and 'book'. Hippisley and Stump (2016, p. 27) say that "compounding introduces additional types of lexical relatedness" as lexemes 'house' and 'boat' become 'houseboat and boathouse'".

Lieber (2009, p. 43) states that compound is divided into four forms: 1) compounds of two nouns: e.g. windmill, dog bed, book store, 2) compounds of two adjectives: e.g. icy cold, blue-green, red hot, 3) compounds of an adjective and a noun: e.g. greenhouse, blackboard, hard hat, and 4) compounds of a noun and adjective: e.g. sky blue, cherry red, rock hard. Briefly, compounding means the process of combining two base morphemes to be one word with new meaning.

The division above makes the word formation in compounding processes becomes distinct. Whereas, there are many words that are formed from the combination of two base words to become one meaning. However, in English, many researchers mention that the compounding process is distinctive at four types as mentioned above. In Bahasa Indonesia, it can be found that there are many words formed from compounding process. In Bahasa Indonesia, Mulyono (2013, pp. 137-143) classifies it into three classifications, namely *kata majemuk senyawa* 'complex compound word', *kata majemuk semi-senyawa* 'semi-compound word' and *kata majemuk tidak senyawa* 'uncomplex compound word', and each classification is divided into some other subcategories.

### 3. METHODS

The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative, in which this method attempts to describe the existing phenomenon of Devayan morphology. Yin (2016) says that qualitative research can serve to understand the people in a real-world setting. In research of a language, generally, the researcher uses a qualitative research method. In this case, Nasution 1988 (as cited in Sugiyono, 2015) mentions that qualitative research method is truthfully to study people's lives, to interact with them, to understand their language, and interpretation of their world. Thus, descriptive qualitative is an appropriate method used in this research.

#### 3.1 Setting and Informants

The main setting areas of this study were in the villages of La'ayon, Angkeo, Naibos and Maudil, Teupah Barat sub-district, Simeulue. The four villages were chosen since the people of those villages are native Devayan and they have mastery and proficiency of that language. Thus, it guaranteed the refinement of the data collected. The informants of this research are four natives Devayan taken from each village, making a total of 12 informants. They are personage in their village who know the language well and do not have much contact with people from outside of the sub-district. The informants' ages are also around 60-65 years old, where the words that they use are still pure and clear to listen.

### 3.2 Research Instrument

The instrument used in this research is an interview guide based on Bower's elicitation model which is a common tool used in language research. Even though it is not the only means used to collect the data, but there are some aspects of language that can be only found by using elicitation (Bower, 2015). It aims to capture and obtain answers or linguistic information about the data needed.

The items listed can be from individual lexical, simple phrases to complex phrases (Bower, 2015). It means that before starting the research, the object which is investigated is required set up. In investigating the morphological aspect of the language, a number of words which represent all aspects needed were prepared beforehand. They consist of base morpheme, phrases and complex words used in the language of Devayan.

### 3.3 Procedure

The researchers used one of the methods which support the elicitation model. The methods can be a free conversation, narratives and interviewing (Bower, 2015). Therefore, in this research, the interview was used in collecting the data. After the data obtained and collected, they were analyzed descriptively. For instance, the data analyzed are in the form of description, which are words (single or complex). The descriptively-analyzed data are words containing the morphological process of Devayan. Then, the abstraction to the phenomenon of record result gained from the participants is done. After that, the researchers did the following further steps that are guided by Yin (2016). They are compiling, disassembling or coding, reassembling, interpreting and concluding.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As stated above, this research was aimed to investigate the process of compounding in Devayan. The method used in collecting the data is the descriptive qualitative method. Based on the data analysis, it was found that the word formation of compounding in Devayan can occur in the form of noun and noun combination. Such compounding process can be seen in the following descriptions.

### 4.1 Noun plus Noun

<i>bolong</i> /bolon/ + <i>dumbio</i> /dumbiə/	→	<i>bolongdumbio</i> /bolonɔdumbiə/	'sago palm leaves'
<i>bolong</i> /bolon/ + <i>odel</i> /odel/	→	<i>bolongodel</i> /bolonɔdel/	'turmeric leaves'
<i>awak</i> /awaʔ/ + <i>alaek</i> /alaeʔ/	→	<i>awakalaek</i> /awaʔalaeʔ/	'beach'
<i>talop</i> /talop/ + <i>bangkawan</i> /banɔkawan/	→	<i>talopbangkawan</i> /talopbanɔkawan/	'roof made of sago palm leaf'
<i>totok</i> /totoʔ/ + <i>anak</i> /anaʔ/	→	<i>totokanak</i> /totoʔanaʔ/	'breast'
<i>sot</i> /sɔt/ + <i>nae</i> /nae/	→	<i>sotnae</i> /sɔtnae/	'bone of fish'
<i>sunga</i> /suŋa/ + <i>alimao</i> /alimaɔ/	→	<i>sunganalimao</i> /suŋanalimaɔ/	'thorn of lime'
<i>mata</i> /mata/ + <i>balal</i> /balal/	→	<i>matanbalal</i> /matanbalal/	'the sun'
<i>awak</i> /awaʔ/ + <i>bonnol</i> /bɔnnɔl/	→	<i>awakbonnol</i> /awaʔbɔnnɔl/	'coconut tree'
<i>lamari</i> /lamari/ + <i>enen</i> /enen/	→	<i>lamarienen</i> /lamarienen/	'wardrobe'
<i>bebek</i> /bebeʔ/ + <i>kebao</i> /kəbaɔ/	→	<i>bebekkebao</i> /bebeʔkəbaɔ/	'buffalo skin'

From the example above, it was revealed that the process of word formation by combining these two nouns is very productive in the language of Devayan. The words above are a combination of two nouns. In Devayan language, nouns produced from compounding processes can give different meanings from the original words, even though there are some which do not change. For example, the word *totokanak* /totoʔanaʔ/ is a word that has a different meaning from the basic word. The original meaning of this word is ‘breasts’ which are refined to become *totokanak* /totoʔanaʔ/. The natives of Devayan use this word because ‘breasts’ produce milk for children or breastfeeding babies. So they combine the basic words of the breasts plus the word *anak* /anaʔ/ ‘child’. Then it will sound a little polite and not too vulgar in their hearing. In addition, the word *awakalaek* /awaʔalaekʔ/ has a different meaning from one of the basic words. Where *awak* /awaʔ/ ‘trunk’ is a word that describes plants combined with the word *alaek* /alaekʔ/ ‘beach’ so that it gives the meaning of ‘land area along of the sea’. The word *awak* /awaʔ/ which is attached to the basic word, namely *alaek* /alaekʔ/ is an indication of the shape of the beach. Because *awak* /awaʔ/ indicates ‘long’ so that it corresponds to *alaek* /alaekʔ/ that has a long and wide distance.

In the word *sunganalimao* /suŋanalimao/, the resultant meaning is no different, where *sunga* /suŋa/ ‘thorn’ and *alimao* /alimao/ ‘lime’ when they are put together, these words do not change his meaning; i.e. ‘lime thorn’. In this process, the end of the word *sunga* /suŋa/ is added with /n/ to become *sungan* /suŋan/. The addition of /n/ at the end of the word is because the last letter is a vocal and it meets the same vowel letters on the second word, thus they are separated by /n/. However, this does not apply to the whole compounding words, on the word *matanbalal* /matanbalal/, at the end of the word the *mata* /mata/ is added with /n/ while the first word of the last vocal /a/ meets with consonant /b/. Likewise with *kipeangen* /kipeaŋen/, where the last vocal /ɛ/ meets the vocal /a/, but there are no additions of letters. Thus, it is concluded that this process does not have a benchmark that can be used as a guide in forming compounding words. It is because the natives speak without using the appropriate structure.

In another example, there are many words added with /n/ at the end of the first word. In the *matanowek* /matanoweʔ/ ‘springs’ for example, the word is from the words *mata* /mata/ ‘eye’ and *owek* /oweʔ/ ‘water’. Then in the word *ulunkebao* /ulunkəbaʔ/ ‘head of buffalo’, where the basic word of the first word is *ulu* /ulu/ ‘head’. Likewise in the word *tetenluma* /tetenluma/ ‘back yard’, the basic word for this is *tete* /tete/ ‘back’ combined with *luma* /luma/ ‘house’. But for the words *sotnae* /sotnae/, *talopbangkawan* /talopbaŋkawan/, *bolongodel* /boloŋodel/, *bolongdumbio* /boloŋdumbio/, *awakbonnol* /awaʔbɔnnɔl/, *lamarienen* /lamarienen/, and *bebekkebao* /bebeʔkəbaʔ/ do not go through the addition of new letters.

Thus, composition by combining two nouns can give a meaning that matches the basic word or can give a different meaning. Then each word generated from compounding can be added to the letter /n/ according to the compatibility of the pronunciation for the Devayan community.

## 4.2 Noun plus Verb

There are several words that are generated from the compound noun and verb forms, including:

<i>tukang</i> /tukaŋ/	+ <i>orot</i> /orot/	→	<i>tukangorot</i> /tukaŋorot/	‘massager’
<i>fatu</i> /fatu/	+ <i>heleng</i> /helen/	→	<i>fatuheleng</i> /fatuhelen/	‘millstone’
<i>tukang</i> /tukaŋ/	+ <i>hunteng</i> /hunten/	→	<i>tukanghunteng</i> /tukaŋhunten/	‘barber’

Not many words are generated from compounding nouns and verbs. In addition, the words above are loaned words from Bahasa Indonesia. The word *tukang* /tukaŋ/ is a loan word without changing its form. But for the words *hunteng* /hunten/, *fatu* /fatu/, *orot* /orot/ and *heleng* /helen/ have changed in some phoneme. The formation of compounding is caused by the activities of the work carried out. Because Devayan speakers have difficulty finding new words, so they combine the nouns they see with the activities carried out on the object. The words generated from this combination of nouns and verbs are not the native language of Devayan, because they were once colonized by Japan and many immigrants used Bahasa Indonesia. Therefore, they often hear new words that they have not heard. So for some words like the one above, they take it as their creole language.

### 4.3 Noun plus Adjectives

Other form of compounding in Devayan is combining between a noun and an adjective, as in the examples below:

<i>saloncung</i> /saloncuŋ/	+ <i>bontong</i> /bontuŋ/	→	<i>saloncungbontong</i> /saloncuŋbontuŋ/	‘shorts’
<i>bakdo</i> /baʔdo/	+ <i>tare</i> /tare/	→	<i>bakdotare</i> /baʔdotare/	‘long shirt’
<i>layap</i> /layap/	+ <i>repen</i> /rəpən/	→	<i>layapdepen</i> /layapdəpən/	‘cold rice’
<i>owek</i> /oweʔ/	+ <i>odeng</i> /odeŋ/	→	<i>owekodeng</i> /oweʔodeŋ/	‘water’
<i>enen</i> /enen/	+ <i>etem</i> /etəm/	→	<i>enenetem</i> /enenetəm/	‘black cloth’

In composing a combination of nouns and adjectives, the meaning produced is the nature of the object. In the example above, there is one that changes when the word is joined. The word *layapdepen* /layapdəpən/ means ‘rice that has been cooked for a long time until it is cold’. Where the basic word *layap* /layap/ ‘rice’ is combined with *repen* /rəpən/ ‘cold’ from the base *repen* /rəpən/ and changes the phonetic to *depen* /dəpən/, where /r/ is replaced by /d/. Thus, the native Devayan usually combine the thing and activity done on it. In the compounding of a noun with an adjective, they use the name of the noun with the characteristics of the things.

### 4.4 Verb plus Adjective

Combining a verb and adjective is also possible in the Devayan language. The example below shows this process.

<i>mangan</i> /maŋan/	+ <i>sebel</i> /sebəl/	→	<i>mangansebel</i> /maŋansebəl/	‘feast/get big luck’
<i>mangan</i> /maŋan/	+ <i>konok</i> /konoʔ/	→	<i>mangankonok</i> /maŋankonoʔ/	‘eat after eating’

This process, however, is not quite productive in Devayan, since there are not so many words produced from this compounding process. Natives of Devayan often use figurative words in expressing things, so they look for words that are appropriate in their context. Therefore, they use subtle words to express something to others. The words *mangansebel* /maŋansebəl/ and *mangankonok* /maŋankonoʔ/ are figurative words that are said to others. For example, *aya mangansebel balal ere* /aya

*maṅansebəl bala ɛɛ*/ ‘he gets much today’ and the word *mangankonok* /maṅankɔnɔʔ/ is to assert that someone who already eats, eats again in another place.

#### 4.5 Verbs plus Noun

Other formation of compounding in Devayan is a verb that is combined with a noun. This process can be seen in the following example:

*malongkop* /malɔngkɔp/ + *belek* /beleʔ/ → *malongkop belek* /malɔngkɔp beleʔ/ ‘to close the door’  
*mangadeen* /maṅadeʔen/ + *luma* /luma/ → *mangadeen luma* /maṅadeʔen luma/ ‘to build house’  
*merek* /mɛrɛʔ/ + *balal* /balal/ → *merek balal* /mɛrɛʔ balal/ ‘take a nap’  
*mangan* /maṅan/ + *bengi* /bɛŋi/ → *mangan bengi* /maṅan bɛŋi/ ‘dinner’

In the formation of this compounding, there is a verb that is already affiliated with a noun. This shows the activity carried out on the noun is why the words above appear. It is not much different from Bahasa Indonesia; the resulting word formation from this process is a verb with a noun

#### 4.6 Adjective plus Noun

Adjectives and nouns can also be combined to produce the compounding in this language. For example:

*bontong* /bontɔŋ/ + *iyok* /iyɔʔ/ → *bontong iyok* /bontɔŋ iyɔʔ/ ‘short tail’  
*rabon* /rabon/ + *mata* /mata/ → *rabon mata* /rabon mata/ ‘myopic’

This adjective and noun combination is also not very productive because not many words are produced. The examples above shows where the word *bontongiyok* /bontɔŋiyɔʔ/ is a word that indicates the state of something. In Devayan language, this word is usually used for animals, because most Devayan people have buffalo cattle. So to make it easier for them to mark their livestock, the buffalo is marked. The mark given is in the form of cutting on the ears or tail of the animal. Even *bontongiyok* /bontɔŋiyɔʔ/ is usually used as the name or designation of their livestock that has been cut off by their tails. However, the word *rabonmata* /rabonmata/ is a word borrowed from Bahasa Indonesia, a borrowing from *rabun* /rabun/ and *mata* /mata/. Thus, it is not the original word of Devayan language, but this word has become the word used in the Devayan language.

#### 4.7 Verb plus Verb

Finally, this study also found that the compounding in the Devayan language can appear in the form of a verb and verb formation. The example below reflects on the phenomenon.

*hawal* /hawel/ + *humodong* /humodɔŋ/ → *hawalhumodong* /hawelhumodɔŋ/ ‘elopement’

The word *hawalhumodong* /hawelhumodɔŋ/ is the same as the words *mangankonok* /maṅankɔnɔʔ/ and *mangansebel* /maṅansebəl/, which are figurative words. This word arises because of actions taken by the people who want to get married by running away to another place without their family knowing. The word

*hawelhumodong* /hawelhumodon/ means that both the groom and the bride marry without the blessing of parents and they marry without being known by their families. That is why this word appears as a figurative term in Devayan language. Then, in the compounding process of Devayan, there are similar words such as compounding process, but it is basically not, as in the word *alengaleng* /aleŋaleŋ/ 'waist'.

Furthermore, the meaning which is resulted by compounding process, namely (1) the product, in the word *talopbangkawan* /talopbaŋkawan/ 'roof made of sago palm leaf', (2) specific use, such as *lamarienen* /lamarienen/ 'wardrobe', and (3) time, such as *manganbalal* /məŋəʔbalal/ 'take a nap' and *manganbengi* /məŋənbəŋi/ 'dinner'. Next (4) it serves to mean of 'condition', such as on the word *bontongiyok* /bontonjiyoʔ/ 'short tail' and *rabonmata* /rabonmata/ 'myopic eye'.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The analysis in the compounding process of Devayan found that there are the compounding of two nouns, compounding of noun and verb, compounding of noun and adjective, compounding of verb and adjective, compounding of verb and noun, compounding of adjective and noun, and compounding of two verbs. In the formation of words from compounding processes there are also several meanings that appear.

This study has investigated the morphological processes of compounding words in the Devayan language, and it was mostly conducted in La'ayon, Angkeo, Naibos, and Maudil villages in Teupah Barat sub-district with 12 informants of native Devayan. Similar studies in the future may be needed to conduct in other villages in different sub-districts to find out the possibility of different word formation process in the form of compounding. Other forms of morphological processes such as affixation, reduplication, conversion, clipping, and onomatopoeia are also required in order to figure out the word formation in the language.

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