A contrastive analysis between English and Indonesian Prefixes

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A B S T R A C T

Prefixes are bound morphemes that precede the root. The study aims to analyze the processes between English and Indonesian prefixes. In this regard, a contrastive analysis is used to compare them. The analysis results reveal the differences and similarities in terms of prefix processes. The differences between English and Indonesian prefix processes exist in categorization. In English, prefixes are categorized into Negative and Positive Prefixes, Prefixes of Size, Prefixes of Location, Prefixes of Time and Order, and Prefixes of Number. Meanwhile, Indonesian prefixes are not categorized. The results also show that Indonesian prefix constructions are complicated because some prefixes change into several variation spellings in certain environments while English prefixes do not. The similarities appear in the prefix processes that precede the root, and some prefixes can alter the word class after undergoing a prefix process. The findings of this study may help language learners and teachers understand the differences and similarities between English and Indonesian.

R E S U M O

Os prefixos são morfemas vinculados que precedem a raiz. O estudo tem como objetivo analisar os processos entre os prefixos ingleses e indonésios. Nesse sentido, uma análise contrastiva é utilizada para compará-los. Os resultados da análise revelam as diferenças e semelhanças em termos de processos de prefixo. As diferenças entre os processos de prefixo inglês e indonésio existem na categorização. Em inglês, os prefixos são categorizados em prefixos negativos e positivos, prefixos de tamanho, prefixos de localização, prefixos de tempo e ordem e prefixos de número. Enquanto isso, os prefixos indonésios não são categorizados. Os resultados também mostram que as construções de prefixos indonésios são complicadas porque alguns prefixos mudam para diversas variações de grafia em certos ambientes, enquanto os prefixos ingleses não. As semelhanças aparecem nos processos de prefixo que precedem a raiz, e alguns prefixos podem alterar a classe da palavra após passarem por um processo de prefixo. As conclusões deste estudo podem ajudar alunos e professores de línguas a compreender as diferenças e semelhanças entre o inglês e o indonésio.

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Introduction

Language is a vital tool for communication and understanding among people (Shashkevich, 2019). With thousands of languages existing in the world, each has its own unique characteristics. However, language is not fixed or absolute. It can change word formulation, pronunciation, and even grammar. These changes can occur for various reasons, such as influences from other languages or intentional modifications by language experts. Linguists research to study and compare the changes that occur in languages over time, known as diachronic studies. They also compare different aspects of two languages simultaneously, known as synchronic studies (Pillai, 2021). English is widely recognized as an international language that is often used as a benchmark for comparison with other languages. However, a language called Indonesian or Bahasa has gained popularity among international users worldwide. Indonesian and English share some similarities, such as consisting of 26 letters in their alphabets and using similar methods to classify words into nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, pronouns, etc. Both languages form correct and understandable words by attaching prefixes or suffixes to root words.

In this case, the writer uses contrastive analysis, which involves comparing two languages, either in terms of all their features or just a few. Contrastive analysis is an activity that aims to compare the structure of L1 and L2 (Tarigan, 1988: 23 cited in Puspitasari, 2010: 7). From this, we can infer that contrastive analysis involves comparing two languages to identify their differences and similarities. The specific comparison that will be made in this study is the construction of words, as it forms the basis of sentence formulation, and the types of prefixes and their meanings. Carstairs-McCarthy (2002: 4) defines words as the building blocks of language, while Pauzan (2016: 1) states that a word is a distinct meaningful element used in speech or writing to construct a sentence. Words are an essential part of linguistic knowledge and are a component of grammar. In the context of morphology, which deals with the study of words, their internal structure, and their meanings, Wiśniewski (2007) reaffirms this (Pauzan, 2016: 1).

Several studies have been conducted that used contrastive analysis such as on Indonesian and English Idioms (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020), contrastive analysis of English and Indonesian prefixes and suffixes in the descriptive texts of student's textbooks (Mena & Saputri, 2018), and between English and Indonesian general sentence (Uktolseja et al., 2019). However, a more in-depth analysis of Indonesian prefixes in general has not been conducted.

Words can be quite complex for language learners who do not understand how they are formed. Morphemes, which are the smaller parts of words (Carstairs-McCarthy, 2002: 16), can be divided into bound and free morphemes, where free morphemes can stand alone, while

bound morphemes cannot. To construct words with different meanings, there are basic rules that involve the use of prefixes and suffixes.

Prefixes are bound morphemes that precede the root (like "en-" in "enlarge"), while suffixes are bound morphemes that follow the root (like "-ance" in "performance," "-ness" in "whiteness," and "-able" in "readable"). The term "affix" is used as an umbrella term for both prefixes and suffixes and any morpheme that is not a root (Carstairs-McCarthy, 2002: 20). According to Pauzan (2016: 1), an affix is considered a bound morpheme because it cannot stand independently and must be attached to a root. This definition applies to both prefixes and suffixes, as they are types of affixes. Sosy (2012) in Pauzan (2016: 1) defines a prefix as a group of letters that comes at the beginning of a word, while a suffix is a group of letters that comes at the end of a word.

In summary, prefixes are bound morphemes added before the root word, and suffixes are bound morphemes added after the root word. Both prefixes and suffixes are processes of affixation, which is the process of deriving words. There are 7 types of affixes, including prefix (e.g., "re-" in "recreate"), suffix (e.g., "-ness" in "sadness"), infix (e.g., "bloody" in "fanbloodytastic," "fuckin" in "absofuckinlutely"), circumfix (e.g., "en-" and "-en" in "enlighten"), interfix ("-o-" in "speedometer"), simulfix (which refers to internal changes, usually in past and past participle forms, e.g., "sing" becomes "sang" and "sung"), and transfix (which occurs only in Arabic, e.g., "*katab*" means "wrote," "*kattab*" means "caused to write," "*kaatab*" means "corresponded," "*ktatab*" means "wrote and copied," "*kutib*" means "was written") (Lieber, 2009: 35). This research will focus specifically on prefixes in Indonesian and English.

According to Akhgari (2007), prefixes can be categorized into negative and positive, size, location, time, order, and number. Negative and positive prefixes are prefix types that are used to change the meaning of the stem negatively or positively.

Indonesian morphemes are identically placed at the beginning and end of root words. Affixes are studied in word construction, but Indonesians call them "imbuhan," "awalan," and "akhiran." Indonesian prefixes and suffixes include me-, ber-, and ke-. These are Indonesian prefixes. Suffixes include -an (kucuran, jumlahan), -iah (amaliah, naluriah), and -if (komulatif, asumtif) (Pauzan, 2016).

Previous studies have shown that English and Indonesian suffixes and prefixes are similar (Pauzan, 2016). Their suffixes and prefixes can affect word meaning, word classes, and word root function, and the meaning can differ from the root. \ Plag (2002) in Pauzan (2016: 1) classify prefixes as quantified, locative, temporal, and negation. He adds that suffixes can be nominal, verbal, adjectival, or adverbial.

According to Paujiyanti (2014: 135), prefixes are classified into 8 kinds. They will be shown in the table below.

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a. Prefix *se-*

Prefix *se-* + all vowels and consonants but they do not change the form word their sound. For example:

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Se-	*se + kantor = sekantor* *se + agama = seagama*

b. Prefix *me-*

There are 7 kinds of prefix *me-*. They will be explained below.

1. Prefix *me-* + vowels (***a,i,u,e,o***) become nasal or sound *"meng"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Me-	*me + injak = menginjak,* *me + usir = mengusir*

2. Prefix *me-* + consonant ***b*** becomes *"mem"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Me-	*me + beli = membeli* *me + bakar = membakar*

3. Prefix *me-* + consonants ***c, d*** and ***j*** become *"men"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Me-	*me + coba = mencoba* *me + cuci = mencuci* *me + dorong = mendorong* *me + dukung = mendukung* *me + jauh = menjauh*

4. Prefix *me-* + consonants ***g, h*** *and* ***k*** become *"meng"*. But for consonant ***k*** is assimilated.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Me-	*me + gambar = menggambar* *me +hapus = menghapus* *me + kalah = mengalah* *me + kirim = mengirim*

5. Prefix *me-* + *consonant* ***p*** becomes *"mem"*. But consonant ***p*** is reduced.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Me-	*Me + pasang = memasang* *Me + megang = memegang*

6. Prefix *me-* + consonant ***s*** becomes *"men"*. But consonant sound ***s*** becomes assimilated, so that in pronunciation and writing are *"meny"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Me-	*me + sikat = menyikat* *me + sobek = menyobek* *me + siram = menyiram*

7. Prefix *me-* + consonant ***t*** becomes *"men"*. But consonant sound ***t*** is assimilated.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Me-	*me + tambah = menambah* *me + tarik = menarik* *me + tolak = menolak*

8. Prefix *me-* + consonants ***l, m, n, r, w***, the prefix keeps *"me"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples

Me-	*me + lihat = melihat* *me + masak = memasak* *me + noda + (i) = menodai* *me + rapi + (kan) = merapikan* *me + waspada + (i) = mewaspadai*

c. Prefix *ke-*

Prefix *ke-* + all consonants and vowels so the prefix keeps *"ke"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Ke-	*ke + adil + (an)= keadilan* *ke + ikhlas + (an) = keikhlasan* *ke + nakal + (an) = kenakalan* *ke + baik + (an) = kebaikan*

d. Prefix *di-*

Prefix *di-* + all consonants and vowels, so prefix keeps *"di"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Di-	*di + dapat = didapat* *di + rusak = dirusak* *di + cabut = dicabut*

e. Prefix *ber-*

There are 4 kinds of prefix *ber-* such as:

1. Prefix *ber-* + all consonants and vowels except **r**, so prefix keeps *"ber"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Ber-	*ber + korban = berkorban* *ber + nyanyi = bernyanyi* *ber + janji = berjanji* *ber + akhir = berakhir*

2. Prefix *ber-* + consonant *r*, so one of the *r* is deleted so that it will change both spelling and pronunciation.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Ber-	*ber + racun = beracun* *ber + renang = berenang* *ber + ragam = beragam*

3. Prefix *ber-* + basic word has syllable **"er"** so the form of prefix ("*ber*") change into *"be"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Ber-	*ber + serta = beserta* *ber + ternak = beternak* *ber + kerja = bekerja*

4. Besides several forms above, the prefix *"ber"* will also change the form of it becomes *"bel"* if the root word is *ajar*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Ber-	*ber + ajar = belajar*

f. Prefix *ter-*

There are 2 kinds of prefix *ter-*. They are:

1. Prefix *ter-* + all consonants and vowels except consonant *r,* so the prefix keeps *"ter"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Ter-	*ter + jatuh = terjatuh* *ter + indah = terindah* *ter + pandai = terpandai* *ter + lambat = terlambat*

2. Prefix *ter-* + consonant *r*, so one of the *r* is assimilated so that it will change in spelling and pronunciation.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Ter-	ter + ramai = teramai ter + rasa = terasa ter + rawat = terawat ter + rangkai = terangkai

g. Prefix *pe-*

There are 7 kinds of prefix *pe-,* they are:

1. Prefix *pe-* + all vowels (***a,i,u,e,o***) and consonants ***g*** and ***h***, so the prefix changes its form becomes *"peng"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Pe-	pe + usaha = pengusaha pe + uji = penguji pe + obat + (an) = pengobatan pe + harum = pengharum pe + hubung = penghubung pe + garis = penggaris pe + gosok = penggosok

2. Prefix *pe-* + consonant ***k***, so the prefix changes its form becomes *"peng",* but consonant ***k*** will be removed.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Pe-	pe + khianat = penghianat pe + keras = pengeras pe + kencang = pengencang pe + kental = pengental

3. Prefix *pe-* + consonants ***t, j, d, c,*** so the prefix changes its form becomes *"pen",* and in certain consonant (***t***), the consonant will be assimilated.

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Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Pe-	*pe + jual = penjual* *pe + jahit = penjahit* *pe + takut = penakut* *pe + curi = pencuri*

4. Prefix *pe-* + consonants **b** so the prefix changes its form becomes *"pem"*.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Pe-	*pe + bawa = pembawa* *pe + bohong = pembohong*

5. Prefix *pe-* + consonant **p**, so the prefix changes its form becomes *"pem"*. But the consonant (**p**) is removed.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Pe-	*pe + pentas = pementasan* *pe + pikir = pemikiran*

6. Prefix *pe-* + consonant **s**, so the prefix changes its form becomes *"peny"*. But the consonant **s** is deleted.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Pe-	*pe + sombong = penyombong* *pe + suka = penyuka* *pe + sayang = penyayang* *pe + sabar = penyabar*

7. Prefix *pe-* + consonants **l, m, n, r, z**, so the prefix does not change.

Kind of Prefixes	Examples

Pe-	*pe + layar = pelayar*
	pe + muda = pemuda
	pe + nonton = penonton
	pe + rawat = perawat
	pe + ziarah = peziarah

h. Prefix *per-*

Prefix *per-* + all consonants and vowels, so form of the prefix does not change. But if the prefix *per-* meets with consonant **r,** one of **r** is assimilated,

Kind of Prefixes	Examples
Per-	*per + baikan + (an) = perbaikan*
	per + rawat = perawat

The purpose of the study is to conduct a contrastive analysis of the construction of words, specifically focusing on prefixes, in English and Indonesian languages. The aim is to identify similarities and differences between the two languages in terms of the types, meanings, and usage of prefixes. By comparing and analyzing the prefix systems of English and Indonesian, the study seeks to provide insights into how words are formed in each language and how prefixes contribute to the meaning and function of words. Additionally, the study aims to classify prefixes based on semantic categories and linguistic properties, providing a comprehensive understanding of prefix usage in both languages.

Method of the Study

The study utilizes a qualitative approach to examine the differences and similarities between prefixes in English and Indonesian languages. This method involves a detailed exploration of linguistic data through qualitative description and analysis, specifically focusing on the formation of words by attaching prefixes. This type of analysis is conducted using spoken or written words to conclude, making it an appropriate approach for this study. By comparing and contrasting the prefix formation processes in each language, the study aims to provide a clear explanation of the differences and similarities between English and Indonesian

prefixes, serving as a reference for language learners and other researchers conducting similar studies.

Data collection involves primarily gathering written texts and spoken language samples in both English and Indonesian. These samples are carefully selected to ensure the representation of the languages. Once the language data was collected, a qualitative analysis was conducted to compare and contrast the prefix processes in English and Indonesian. This analysis involves identifying patterns, themes, and variations in using prefixes within each language.

Results

The comparison between English and Indonesian prefixes focuses on the processes of constructing them and finding the differences and similarities. First, the differences will be shown in the subsection below, and the similarities will be shown in the latter subsection.

1.1 Differences between English and Indonesian Prefixes

Based on the previous definitions, English has many categories, such as Negative and Positive Prefixes that show negative and positive meanings when attached to the front of a root word. Prefixes of Size show size, Prefixes of Location show location, and Prefixes of Time and Order can indicate time and order. Additionally, there are Prefixes of Numbers that indicate numbers, as well as Other Prefixes that cannot be categorized into any of the aforementioned categories, such as pro- (meaning: before, in advance, forward), auto- (meaning: self), and co-/con- (meaning: together, with). On the other hand, Indonesian prefixes do not have categories like English.

The prefixes in Indonesian are different when compared to English. The majority of prefixes change their spellings; they will change in certain environments depending on the adjacent letters that come after the prefix. The researchers classified Indonesian prefixes based on the result of the prefix processes. A brief explanation is shown in the table below.

Table 1.

Indonesian Prefix Processes

Kind of prefix	Root word				Prefix process				
	Noun	Basic Verb	Adverb	Adjective	Derivative Noun	Derivative Verb		Derivative Adverb	Derivative Adjective
		Active				Active	Passive		
Se-	-	-	*Kantor*	-	-	-	-	*Sekantor*	-

Me-	- - - - - - -	Injak, Beli, Coba, Gambar, Kirim, Sikat, Tambah, Lihat	- - - - - - -	- - - - - - -	- - - - - - -	Menginjak, Membeli, Mencuci, Menggambar, Mengirim, Menyikat, Menambah, melihat	- - - - - -	- - - - - -	- - - - - - -
Ke-	Adil	-	-	-	Keadilan	-	-	-	-
Di-	-	Rusak	-	-	-	-	Dirusak	-	-
Ber	Janji, Racun, Ternak, Ajar	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	Berjanji, -, Beternak, Belajar	- - - -	- - - -	Beracun, -, -
Ter-	- -	- -	- -	Pandai, Ramai	- -	- -	- -	- -	Terpandai, Teramai
Pe	- - - - - -	Uji, -, -, Jual, Main, Pikir	- - - - - -	Kental, -, -, -, -, Sabar	Penguji, -, Pengental, Penjual, Pemain, Pemikir, Penyabar	- - - - - -	- - - - - -	- - - - - -	- - - - - -
Per-	-	rawat	-	-	Perawat	-	-	-	-

Based on the table above, Indonesian prefixes are unique and a bit complicated because there are some rules that change the basic prefixes into different spellings after they are attached to a word. For example, in the prefix "me-", there are 5 variations of spelling depending on the following letters: "*meng-*", "*mem-*", "*men-*", "*meny-*", and "*me-*". Similarly, in the prefix "*ber-*", there are 3 variations: "*ber-*", "*be-*", and "*bel-*". Additionally, the prefix "pe"

has 5 variations: "*peng-*", "*pen-*", "*pem-*", "*peny-*", and "*pe-*". Not only do these variations in spelling exist, but Indonesian prefixes can also change the word class of the root word, just like in English.

In conclusion, Indonesian prefixes have various spelling variations depending on the letters that follow them, while English prefixes do not have such variations..

3.1 Similarities between English and Indonesian Prefixes

English and Indonesian prefixes have similarities such as:

- The prefixes process between them are the same, their prefixes are attached before root words.

- Both of them have prefixes that can change the word class. For instance:

English	**Indonesian**
Danger (N) becomes Endanger (V)	*Racun* (N) becomes *Beracun* (Adj)

Moreover, both English and Indonesian languages use prefixes that are affixed to the root word before forming a complete word. This process involves attaching the prefix to the beginning of the root word to modify its meaning or function. For example, in English, the prefix "un-" is attached to the word "happy" to form "unhappy," while in Indonesian, the prefix "me-" is attached to "makan" to form "memakan." An expanded discussion on the similarities is presented below:

Word Class Alteration: Both languages have prefixes that can change the word class of the root word. In English, for example, the noun "danger" can be transformed into the verb "endanger" by adding the prefix "en-." Similarly, in Indonesian, the noun "racun" (poison) can be changed into the adjective "beracun" (poisonous) by affixing the prefix "ber-."

Semantic Modification: Prefixes in both languages contribute to semantic modification, allowing for changes in meaning or nuances of the root word. For example, in English, the prefix "un-" denotes negation or reversal, as seen in "unhappy" (not happy). Similarly, in Indonesian, the prefix "me-" often indicates action or process, as in "memasak" (to cook).

Productivity: Both English and Indonesian demonstrate productivity in prefixation, meaning that new words can be created by applying prefixes to existing root words. This productivity allows for the expansion of vocabulary and the creation of new words to express evolving concepts or ideas.

Grammatical Functions: Prefixes in both languages serve various grammatical functions, including indicating tense, aspect, mood, and causation. For example, in English, the prefix "re-" can indicate repetition or restoration, as in "recreate" (to create again). Similarly, in Indonesian, the prefix "me-" can denote an active voice or a transitive verb, as in "memasak" (to cook).

Overall, while the study offer valuable insights into the comparison of prefixes in English and Indonesian, is subject to several limitations that should be acknowledged. Firstly, the scope of the study is narrowed to the analysis of prefixes within these two languages, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. Additionally, the potential for bias in the selection of prefixes analyzed should be considered. The chosen prefixes may not accurately represent the full range of prefixes in English and Indonesian, which could affect the robustness of the study's findings. Another limitation is the proficiency of the researchers in both English and Indonesian languages.

Misinterpretations or misunderstandings of linguistic nuances due to varying levels of language proficiency could introduce errors in the analysis and interpretation of the data. Temporal and cultural variations in language usage are also important considerations. Lastly, the study may not account for changes in language conventions over time or variations in language use across different cultural contexts, which could limit the applicability of the findings.

Conclusion

This study conducted a comprehensive analysis of the similarities and differences between English and Indonesian about prefixation processes. The results yielded distinct patterns that govern the use of prefixes in each language. In English, prefixes are classified into various categories, such as Negative and Positive Prefixes, Prefixes of Size, Location, Time and Order, and Number. Conversely, Indonesian prefixes do not have such categorizations, resulting in a simpler structure. However, the complexity in Indonesian arises from the fact that the spelling of prefixes varies depending on the surrounding environment.

Despite these disparities, both languages share commonalities in their prefixation processes. They both adhere to the general principle of affixing prefixes to root words, resulting in changes in word class. These findings are crucial for learners of both languages, as they provide a clear understanding of the intricacies of prefixation.

Future studies should consider further exploring the productivity and semantic functions of prefixes in English and Indonesian, as well as conducting comparative analyses with other languages. Moreover, research focusing on the impact of prefix variations on language acquisition and processing could provide valuable insights for language learners and educators. Ultimately, continued investigation into prefixation processes will enhance our comprehension of linguistic diversity and contribute to effective language-learning strategies. Moreover, since the study lacks input from native speakers of English and Indonesian, whose insights could offer valuable perspectives on the use and interpretation of prefixes in their

respective languages. Incorporating native speaker input could enhance the validity and relevance of the study's findings, which can be done by future researchers.

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