A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN ENGLISH AND INDONESIAN PREFIXES

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Abstract

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 results of the analysis reveal that the differences and the similarities in terms of prefix processes. The differences between English and Indonesian prefix processes exist in the categorization. In English, prefixes are categorized into Negative and Positive Prefixes, Prefixes of Size, Prefixes of Location, Prefixes of Time and Order, Prefixes of Number. Meanwhile, Indonesian's prefixes are not categorized. The results also show that Indonesian prefixes constructions are complicated because there are some prefixes that change into several variation spellings in the certain environments while English prefixes do not exist. The similarities appear in the prefix processes that precede the root and there are some their prefixes which can alter the word class after undergoing prefix process. The finding of this study may help language learners and teachers in understanding the differences and similarities in English and Indonesian.

Keywords: English prefixes, Indonesian prefixes, differences, similarities, contrastive analysis

Introduction

Language is a tool for communicating and understanding one another. Thousands of languages are scattered in this world and they have their unique characteristics. Language is arbitrary or it is not absolute. A change may happen in word formulation, pronunciation, and even grammar. The reasons are varied. They can be because of influence from the other languages, or the changes are considered by language experts for certain purposes. Linguists always research to compare the changes in one language in different times. It is called as diachronic (the changes from one language in old, middle, and modern). They also try to compare several parts from two languages in the same time (synchronic). The result of those researches can provide useful information to all human beings, especially for those who are interested in the diversity of languages.

English is well known as an international language. It is the most highlighted language in the world and it is always compared to the other languages. Nowadays, there is language called Indonesian or Bahasa that has many international users all over the world. Indonesian and English have some similarities in term of the amount of letters alphabet (26 letters alphabet), use similar methods of classifying word types into noun, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, pronouns, etc. They form correct and understandable words by attaching prefixes or suffixes to root words.

In this case, the writer uses contrastive analysis, which is comparing between two languages, from all features or just a few features. Contrastive analysis is an activity that tries to compare the structure of L1 and L2 (Tarigan, 1988: 23 cited in Puspitasari, 2010: 7). It can be inferred that two languages compared by seeing the differences and similarities between two languages are called contrastive analysis. The comparison that will be taken is the construction of making word where it is the basis of formulating a sentence and the types of prefixes with meaning. Carstairs-McCarthy (2002: 4) defines words as the basic of language, and seem to be the building blocks of language while Pauzan (2016: 1) says that word is a single distinct meaningful element of speech or writing to compose a sentence. Word denotes an essential part of linguistic knowledge and make up a component of grammars, and the word in the context of morphology, so morphology here denotes part of linguistics that has correlation with the study of words, internal structure and partially meanings. It is in line with what Wiśniewski (2007) says in Pauzan (2016: 1) morphology can be defined that it is the part of linguistics that deals with the study of words, their internal structure and partially their meanings. The words are a bit complicated if language learners do not know the way to formulate words. Morphemes are smaller parts of words (Carstairs-McCarthy, 2002: 16). In the morpheme there are bound and free morpheme where free morpheme can stand alone while bound morpheme cannot stand alone. There are basic rules to build varied words with varied meaning such as prefix and suffix. Prefixes are bound morphemes that precede the root (like *en-* in *enlarge*), while those that follow the root are called suffixes (like *–ance* in *performance, -ness* in *whiteness,* and *–able* in *readable* and

an umbrella term for prefixes and suffixes), for all morphemes that are not roots is called affix (Carstairs-McCarthy, 2002: 20). Pauzan (2016: 1) reveals that affix here is grouped as bound morpheme because it cannot stand independently and should be attached to the root. It is also same as prefix and suffix, because they are the types of affix. According to Sosy (2012) in Pauzan (2016: 1) prefix is a group of letters that come at the beginning of a word. Whereas Suffix is a group of letters that come at the end of a word. It can conclude that prefixes are bound morpheme added before root word, and suffixes are bound morpheme added after root word. Both of them are process of affixation. Affixation is the process that derive word. There are 7 affixes such as prefix (*re-* in *recreate*), suffix (*ness-* in *sadness*), infix (*bloody* in *fanbloodytastic, fuckin* in *absofuckinlutely*), circumfix (*en-* and *-en* in *enlighten*), interfix (*-o-,* in *speedometer*), simulfix (It is another term for internal change. Usually in past and past participle. E.g: sing becomes sang and sung), and transfix (This only occurs in Arabic not in English such as: *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 only focus on prefixes from Indonesian and English.

According to Akhgari (2007) prefixes can be categorized as negative and positive, size, location, time and order, then number.

a. **Negative and Positive Prefixes**

These prefix types are used to change the meaning of the stem negatively or positively.

Table 1. Negative and Positive Prefixes

Prefix Types	Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Negative	un- in- im- il- ir-	not	unbeaten incomplete impossible illegal irregular
	non-	not connected with	non-programmable
	mis- mal-	bad, wrong	misdirect malfunction
	dis-	opposite feeling opposite action	disagree disconnect
	anti-	against	antiglare
	de-	reduce, reverse	demagnetize, decode
	under-	too little	underestimate
Positive	re-	do again	reorganize
	over-	too much	overload

b. **Prefixes of Size**

This prefix type is used to aggregate the meaning of a stem with a size concept.

Table 2. Prefixes of Size

Prefix Types	Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Prefixes of Size	semi-	half, partly	semiconductor
	equi-	equal	equidistant
	mini-	small	minicomputer
	micro-	very small	microcomputer
	macro- mega-	large, great	macroeconomics megabyte

c. **Prefixes of Location**

This prefix type is used to aggregate the meaning of a stem with a location concept.

Table 3. Prefixes of Location

Prefix Types	Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Prefixes of Location	inter-	between, among	interface, interactive
	intra-	within, inside of	intranet
	super-	over	supersonic
	trans-	across	transmit, transfer
	ex-	out	exclude, extrinsic
	in-	inside	include, intrinsic
	extra-	beyond	extraordinary
	sub-	under	subschema
	infra-	below	infra-red, infrastructure
	peri-	around	peripheral

d. **Prefixes of Time and Order**

This prefix type is used to aggregate the meaning of a stem with a time or an order concept.

Table 4. Prefixes of Time and Order

Prefix Types	Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Prefixes of Time and Order	ante- pre-	before	antecedent prefix
	prime-	first	primary, primitive
	post-	after	postdated
	retro-	backward	retroactive

e. **Prefixes of Numbers**

This prefix type is used to aggregate the meaning of a stem with a number or count concept.

Table 5. Prefixes of Numbers

Prefix Types	Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Prefixes of Numbers	semi-	half	semicircle
	mono-	one	monochromatic
	bi-	two	binary
	tri-	three	triangle
	quad-	four	quadruple
	penta-	five	pentagon
	hex-	six	hexadecimal
	sept(em)-	seven	september
	oct-	eight	octal
	dec	ten	decimal
	multi-	many	multiplexor, multidimensional

f. Other Prefixes

This prefix type includes the prefixes which cannot be categorized into any of the aforementioned categories.

Table 6. Other Prefixes

Prefix Types	Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Other Prefixes	Pro-	Before, in advance forward	Program Progress
	Auto-	Self	Automatic Autobiography Autograph
	Co- Con-	Together, with	Coordinate connect

Regarding the descriptions above, Indonesian has morphemes too where the placement of them are same namely in the beginning and in the final segment of the root words. Affix is studied also in the structure of word but Indonesian people call affix "imbuhan", prefix is called "awalan", whereas suffix is called "akhiran". Some examples of Indonesian prefixes and suffixes such as me- (*melihat, melaknat*), ber- (*berniat, bersedekah*), ke- (*kepala, kekasih*). Those are the example of Indonesian prefixes. Then, the examples of the suffixes are –an (*kucuran, jumlahan*), - iah (*amaliah, naluriah*), -if (*komulatif, asumtif*) (Pauzan, 2016: 1).

Based on the descriptions above, it can be concluded that suffixes and prefixes of both English and Indonesian are almost the same. The similarities between them are their suffixes and prefixes can change the meaning of words, word classes and function of word root and the meaning can be differed from the word root (Pauzan, 2016: 2). Writer attempts to focus on analyzing and comparing types, similarities and differences, between English and Indonesian prefixes. According to Plag (2002) in Pauzan (2016: 1) prefixes can be classified semantically into the following groups. Those are: (a) quantified prefixes, (b) locative prefixes, (c) temporal prefixes and (d) negation prefixes. He states further that suffix is divided into several types, they are: (a) nominal suffixes, (b) verbal suffixes, (c) adjectival suffixes and (d) adverbial suffixes.

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

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

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.

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*

Method of the Study

Qualitative method is used to conduct this study. It presents the data and research in the form of qualitative description. Analysis of this type is done with words to describe conclusions, so the qualitative study obtains the descriptive data either spoken or written (Puspitasari, 2010: 27). Therefore, it is the appropriate way to conduct this study. The differences and similarities between English and Indonesian for making prefixes are analyzed by comparing and contrasting the prefixes process in each language with aiming to find out the clear explanation on differences and similarities between English and Indonesian prefixes in order to be reference for language learners and other researchers that conduct similar research.

Result

The comparison between English and Indonesian prefixes will be focused on the processes of constructing them and find out the difference and similarities. First, the differences are shown in sub-section below and the similarities are shown in the latter sub-section.

Differences between English and Indonesian Prefixes

Regarding the previous definitions, English has many categories such as Negative and Positive Prefixes that show negative and positive meanings when being attached in the front of root word, Prefixes of Size show the size, Prefixes of Location that show the location, Prefixes of Time and Order can mean time and order, Prefixes of Number show the numbers and Other Prefixes which cannot be categorized into any of the aforementioned categories such as pro- (means: before, in advance forward), auto- (means: self) and co-/con- (means: together, with). Meanwhile the Indonesian prefixes do not have the categories like English.

The prefixes in Indonesian are really different if compared with English. The majority of prefixes show changes of their spellings, they will change in certain environments depend on adjacent letters come after prefix.

Regarding the previous descriptions, the writer can classifies the Indonesian prefixes based on the result of prefix processes. The brief explanation will be shown in the table below.

Table 7. Indonesian Prefix Processes

Kind of prefix	Root word				Prefix process				
	Noun	Basic Verb — Active	Adverb	Adjective	Derivative Noun	Derivative Verb — Active	Derivative Verb — Passive	Derivative Adverb	Derivative Adjective
Se-	-	-	Kantor	-	-	-	-	Sekantor	-
Me-	-	Injak	-	-	-	Menginjak	-	-	-
	-	Beli	-	-	-	Membeli	-	-	-
	-	Coba	-	-	-	Mencuci	-	-	-
	-	Gambar	-	-	-	Menggambar	-	-	-
	-	Kirim	-	-	-	Mengirim	-	-	-
	-	Sikat	-	-	-	Menyikat	-	-	-
	-	Tambah	-	-	-	Menambah	-	-	-
	-	Lihat	-	-	-	melihat	-	-	-
Ke-	Adil	-	-	-	Keadilan	-	-	-	-
Di-	-	Rusak	-	-	-	-	Dirusak	-	-
Ber	Janji	-	-	-	-	Berjanji	-	-	-
	Racun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Beracun
	Ternak	-	-	-	-	Beternak	-	-	-
	Ajar	-	-	-	-	Belajar	-	-	-
Ter-	-	-	-	Pandai	-	-	-	-	Terpandai
	-	-	-	Ramai	-	-	-	-	Teramai
Pe	-	Uji	-		Penguji	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	Kental	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	Pengental	-	-	-	-
	-	Jual	-	-	Penjual	-	-	-	-
	-	Main	-	-	Pemain	-	-	-	-
	-	Pikir	-	-	Pemikir	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	Sabar	Penyabar	-	-	-	-
Per-	-	rawat	-	-	Perawat	-	-	-	-

Based on the table above, Indonesian prefixes are unique and a bit complicated because there are some rules that alter the basic prefixes into the other spelling after prefix processes. In the prefix *me-* there are 5 variations of spelling after meeting certain letters such as: *meng-, mem-, men-, meny, me.* Then in the prefix *ber-,* there are 3 variations such as: *ber-, be-, bel-.* Meanwhile in the prefix *pe-,* there are 5 variations such as: *peng-, pen-, pem-, peny-, pe-.* Not only the variations of spelling are varied but also Indonesian prefixes can alter word class of the root words as long as English.

It can be concluded that in Indonesian prefixes, there are some variations of spelling after certain letters while in English prefixes, there are not variations of spelling.

Similarities between English and Indonesian Prefixes

English and Indonesian prefixes have similarities such as:
- The prefix process between them are 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)

Conclusion

This study has purpose to reveal the differences and similarities between English and Indonesian in terms of prefix processes. Contrastive analysis in both languages present English and Indonesian have different rules for the prefix process. In English prefixes, they categorize prefixes into some types such as Negative and Positive Prefixes, Prefixes of Size, Prefixes of Location, Prefixes of Time and Order, Prefixes of Number. However, in Indonesian prefixes, they do not categorize their prefixes, Indonesian prefix forms are less than English. But as a matter of fact, in the term of prefixes construction, Indonesian has some complicated changes because there are some prefixes that change into several variation spellings in the certain environments. The similarity in both languages are the prefix processes are same, the prefixes are adhered before root words and there are some changes of word class in both languages after the root words get the prefix process.

The findings of this study might help learners of English and Indonesian. They can know the clear explanation between English and Indonesian prefixes so they need to learn more about the variations of Indonesian prefixes that are more complicated than English prefixes.

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