MEANING AND FUNCTION OF WORD FORMATION IN THE NFL.COM NEW

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Abstract

Because of the interest and fans of American football in Indonesia, there is a need for information and understanding about the word formation in American football. Understanding the word formation process is very important in everyday life to communicate and understand each other. The research aimed to analyze the word formation, type, meaning, and function of various languages of American football on the official NFL.com news website. The research is classified as qualitative descriptive one. The research data are in the form of words, phrases, and clauses containing word formation found in NFL.com news published in November – December 2022. The findings were that there were four-word formations which were found: compounding, borrowing, acronym, and derivation. The results showed that the highest data frequency related to word formation is compounding. Moreover, there were 6 types, that is, injury, players, rules of time, game techniques, scores, and teams. The type of team appeared most often. Each datum has a different meaning, and function depending on the context of the sentence.

Keywords: *Word Formation, Meaning, Function, American Football*

1.   INTRODUCTION

American Football is one of the most famous sports in the world. American football is a team sport played by two teams of eleven players on a rectangular field with goalposts at each end. It uses an oval and brown ball. Due to the phenomenon of the increasing popularity of American football and the increasing interest and fans of this sport in Indonesia, there is a need for information and understanding about the rules and techniques used in this sport. Therefore, people need to know and understand words and phrases related to American football to avoid misunderstandings. Consequently, the research intends to find out the types of word formation, meaning, and function in American football, and show them to the public so that everyone can learn more about what word formations in American football are.

One of the most essential things in the world is language. Language is used to communicate, express feelings, thoughts, and emotions to each other, and it is used by people in everyday life. Not only do we have a native language, but learning other languages, such as English, is also needed. English is an international language that can be used to communicate with others and the rest of the world. Wardaugh (2006) states that members of a particular society use language. Language is very important in a community used to communicate and interact. Meanwhile, according to Yule (2010), word formation is the fundamental study of forming new words. Therefore, word formation is related to how existing words are constructed and how new words are created. There are ten kinds of word formation: coinage, compounding, clipping, conversion, borrowing, blending, back-formation, acronym, derivation, and multiple

processes. The correlation between language and word formation is an important part of linguistics. Language includes structures, rules, and communication systems used by individuals and groups in communicating. While word formation refers to the processes and rules used in creating new words in that language. The correlation between language and word formation lies in the fact that the structure and rules of the language used in communicating also influence the way new words are formed.

To gain an in-depth understanding about American football, many sources of information can be used, one of them is NFL.com News. NFL.com News is the official website of the National Football League (NFL), the world's largest professional American football league. This site provides news, information, and analysis about the NFL and American football. For example, the author states: "Eagles head coach Nick Sirianni was visibly animated on the sideline immediately after his team's game-winning stop against the Colts, forcibly ridding himself of his headset before jumping onto the bench to holler at a pack of Philadelphia fans" (Michael, 2022). The word head coach, sideline, and game-winning only occur in sports, especially American football. So, head coach, sideline, and game-winning include the English sports terms. The research of meaning and function of the word formation in American football NFL.com news is chosen as the topic of this research because American football is one of the world's sports that is in demand. In fact, many people also need help understanding what the word formations are in American football and how to use each of the word formation.

There are some researches found related to the topic; the first previous research is conducted by Fitriani (2012), that reveals the process of forming English words and investigate the types of English word formation processes that appear, changes in the basic meaning of derived words that occur, the types of word formation processes that are most often used in the world 2012. It shows that the processes of formation of English words that experience changes in meaning are compounding, coinage, and derivation. And the most frequently used English word formation process is derivation. The second previous one, by Adha (2020), that analyzes the types of word formation and their processes found in English articles on VOA News. It indicates that there are six types of word formation found in VOA News articles, namely derivation, combination, acronym, initialism, clipping/abbreviation, and conversion. Of these types, compound words are the most common word formation found in the article. The last one is by K Indra (2014), which discusses the registers used by Chess clubs in Brawijaya. This research investigates what registers are used, the meaning of registers, and the word formation process used. Based on the previous researches, the difference among this research and the previous ones lies in the data; this research took NFL.com News as the data source. In addition, it is also different in the statements of the problem; not only is the type or classification of data in the word formation but also meaning and function discussed. Therefore, concerning the word formation used in the NFL.com American football news, it is believed that it is also essential to analyze the types, meaning, and function of word formation in American Football to enhance our understanding of its use. Therefore, this research is critical because it can add new insights and strengthen previous research.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

It is the method applied to answer the problem of this research. These parts include research design, data and source of data, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques. According to Creswell (2016), a research design is a research plan and procedure for detailed data collection and analysis methods. The method used in this research is a descriptive

qualitative method by taking all the data that appear in NFL news about American Football. Data are the core of research because it is essential and required to answer many questions in scientific problems. Therefore, the research data should be relevant to the research topic. The data form in this research is words, phrases, and clauses that contain specific word formations found on NFL.com. The data sources in this research were taken from NFL news about American Football in November - December 2022.

The data collection technique in this research is document analysis. The document analyzed is American Football News on NFL.com. Documentary techniques are used to collect data from written sources. Bowen (2009) states that document analysis is a form of qualitative research in which researchers interpret documents to give voice and meaning to the topic being assessed. The steps of collecting data such as: reading the news about American Football in NFL.com news, finding the word-formation of American Football in NFL.com news, analyzing the types of word formation of American Football in NFL.com news based on its function, classifying the data of American Football in NFL.com news based on the types of the word formation, and the last one is coding the data based on the function and the meaning of the word formation in American Football. Data analysis is the activity of sorting, marking, and classifying data in such a way as to produce findings to answer research problems. The data analysis technique explained the steps to analyze the findings and answer the problem from the research. The data analysis techniques of this research include domain analysis means selecting data, taxonomy analysis means Collected and categorizing data into more specialized or smaller parts, component analysis means classifying based on problem statements, cultural theme analysis means findings are compared with previous research, and the last one is the conclusion, means to conclude what has been researched.

3.   RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The meaning and function of word formation in NFL.com news discussed in this study are divided into two parts: 1) word formation and types of American Football and 2) meaning and function of American Football. The data is taken from NFL.com news which was published in November-December 2022.

a.   Result

Types of word formation

The result shows there are found 62 data. It is found 4 kinds of word formation: Compounding, Borrowing, Acronyms, and Derivation. The first is compounding which consists of 37 data or 60%; the second is borrowing consisting of 16 data or 26%; the third is an acronym with 7 data or 11%, and the last is a derivation with 2 data or 3%. Meanwhile, the results for the types of word formation in American football NFL.com news, there are found 6 types of word formation related to American football on NFL.com news. The types of word formation are: types of injury, types of player position, types of time, types of game technique, types of score, and types of team. The data consists of 13 types of injuries, 17 types of player positions, 8 types of time, 2 types of game techniques, 3 types of scores, and 19 types of teams.

Compounding

In word formation, compounding refers to the process of combining two words or more to create a new word with a distinct meaning. It involves merging separate word or word parts,

called constituents or stems, to form a single word. Compounding is a productive word formation process found in many languages, including English. It allows for the creation of new words by combining existing words, which can help to expand the vocabulary and express new concepts. Compounding can involve various parts of speech including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. It provides flexibility in creating new words and allows for the concise expression of a complex idea. There are several types of word formation, such as:

1. Types of Injury

When playing games, American Football players can get injured. Sports injuries involve damage to a part of the body from exercise, sports, or athletic activity. Sports injuries are generally caused by overuse, direct impact, or applying a force more significant than the body part can structurally withstand. There is the example of injury is Abdominal Injury. Abdominal injury is a strain on the abdominal muscles. This is quite common in active players and populations as this muscle group is constantly working to keep a player's core tight so that players can perform and execute skills using their extremities and body as a whole. "abdominal injury" is an example of compounding because it combines two existing words (abdominal and injury) to form one word that has a specific meaning related to injury to the abdominal area.

2. Types of Players

In American football, every player on the field has a distinct role and specialized set of skills. All these positions have to work together for the intricate plays designed by the coaches to work. Eleven people on each team have to do it well in their jobs at all times. The following players are classified into compounding is Quarterback. The quarterback is an offensive team member and lines up directly behind the offensive line. The quarterback is the offensive team leader responsible for establishing play in the huddle. At most levels, the quarterback role is one of the team's most prominent and vital roles. The quarterback touches the ball on nearly every offensive play, calls play, and makes decisions during the game.

3. Types of Rules of Time

There must be time rules in every sport, especially in the American Football match. Playing time is calculated carefully second by second, and the rules of playing are strictly monitored because it involves physical clashes between players. Here is example of the rules of time: Halftime means the interval or break between the first and second halves of the match. Usually, teams swap the edges of the field after halftime.

4. Types of Score

The ultimate aim in American football is similar to pretty much every other sport out there to score more points than the opposition. Scoring in American football matches is a touchdown and field goal. Touchdown means when a player scores a touchdown, that team scores 6 points. A touchdown can be scored by carrying the ball into the end zone or by receiving the ball from a pass in the end zone. After a touchdown is scored, the attacking team has an opportunity to kick the ball for extra points. The ball must pass between the upright posts for the shot to be successful.

5. Types of Team

In a game or team match is the most important thing. Teams are where individuals are organized to work together in a group and work to win the game. There are many teams in American football that include to compounding is New England

The New England Patriots are a professional American football team from Foxborough, Massachusetts. They are members of the eastern division of the American Football Conference (AFC) in the National Football League (NFL). The club was originally founded as the Boston Patriots in 1959 in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, before changing its name to the New England Patriots in 1971, when the team moved to the area of Foxborough, Massachusetts.

Borrowing

Borrowing, in the context of word formation, refers to the process of incorporating words from one language into another. It occurs when a language adopts vocabulary from another language to fill gaps in its own lexicon or to express concepts or ideas that do not have equivalent terms in the borrowing language. Sometimes, the borrowed word retains its original form, while in other cases, it may undergo changes to better align with the phonetics and grammar of the borrowing language.

1. **Types of Injury**

An example of the types of word formation borrowing in the types of injury is Groin. The term "groin" is an example of an absorption or borrowing word in English. The word "groin" comes from the Old English "grain," which originally meant "midline" or "border." Later, the word was borrowed by English from French ("groin") with a similar meaning. In current usage, "groin" refers to the area of the human body that lies between the stomach and the upper thighs. The word is also used in architectural and construction contexts to refer to a retaining wall or structure that separates two areas or rooms. So, in this case, "groin" is an absorption word from French into English.

2. **Types of Players**

An example of the types of word formation borrowing in the types of player is stalwart. The term "stalwart" is an example of an absorption or borrowing word in Middle English. The word "stalwart" comes from the Middle English "stalworth," which was originally a combination of the words "stal" (strong, firm) and "worth" (worth). Its origins can be traced back to the Old English "stælwierðe," which had a similar meaning. Over time, the word underwent phonetic and spelling changes to become "stalworth," then to "stalwart" as we know it today.

In current usage, "stalwart" refers to someone who is loyal, steadfast, and resolute in his support, persistence, or loyalty to something, such as a team, organization, or principle. So, in this case, "stalwart" is a loanword from Middle English to Modern English.

3. **Types of Team**

The Colts is the name of the American football team known as the Indianapolis Colts. They are members of the National Football League (NFL) and are based in Indianapolis, Indiana. The team was founded in 1953 in Baltimore, Maryland, under the name Baltimore Colts. In 1984, the team moved to Indianapolis and became the Indianapolis Colts. The Indianapolis Colts team colors are Royal blue and white, and they play at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The term "*Colts*" is classified as borrowing. This is because "Colts" is a word from a foreign language. Here "*Colts*" is derived from the German word, which means horses. It can also be seen from the symbol or logo of the Colts team, namely the blue horseshoe, which embodies animalistic perseverance and absolute determination to win.

Acronym

An acronym is a term used to refer to an abbreviation that is formed from the initial letters or important parts of longer words. These acronyms facilitate communication by replacing longer words with shorter, easier to remember abbreviations. Here are examples of acronyms:

1. **Types of Score**

An example of the types of word formation acronym in the types of score is TD. The term TD (touchdown) is an acronym. In American football, the term TD refers to a score where a team scores points by landing the ball in the opponent's end zone. "TD" is an abbreviation of the word "touchdown" which comes from English. In this case, the acronym "TD" is generally pronounced as separate letters, namely "T" and "D".

2. **Types of Players**

An example of the types of word formation acronym in the types of player is RT. The term RT refers to Right Tackle, which is the player's position on the offensive line in American football. Right Tackle is the player to the right of Center (center position) and is responsible for protecting the quarterback and opening up space for the other players on the team's attack. So, RT is an acronym, RT stands for Right Tackle.

Derivation

Derivation in word formation refers to the process of forming new words by adding affixes to root words or base words. The affixes used in the derivation can be prefixes, suffixes, or infixes. The derivation process can change the basic meaning of words, change word classes (for example, from nouns to verbs), or give more specific nuances. Here are examples of derivation:

1. **Types of Game Technique**

An example of word formation derivation in the types of game technique is rushing. The term rushing is an example of derivation in English. The base word or root word is "rush", which is a verb that means to move fast or to run fast. In the process of derivation, the suffix "-ing" is added to the root to form a noun or adjective that refers to the act or process of running quickly, as in the sport of American football. An example of using the word "rushing" in the context of American football is as a noun to describe the total yards scored by a player or team in the act of rushing with the ball.

Meaning and function

1. Types of Injury

Abdominal Injury (09/INJ/CMP)

Sentence: "Pittsburgh Steelers running back Najee Harris exited Monday night's win over the Indianapolis Colts due to an **abdominal injury**, but head coach Mike Tomlin had no further updates other than his second-year player was being evaluated Harris went to the locker room just before halftime, with the announcement that he would not return to the game coming just after the break" (*NFL.com: Steelers RB Najee Harris exits Monday night win with an abdomen injury*, 28/11/22)

The meaning of abdominal injury is a strain on the abdominal muscles. This is quite common in active players as this muscle group is constantly working to keep a player's core tight. Based on the context of the news, abdominal injury that happened to Najee Harris resulted

in him having to leave the match after evaluated from locker room, and announced that he would not return to the match.

2. Types of Players
QB 03/PL/ACY
Sentence: "Packers **QB** Aaron Rodgers exits Sunday night loss early with ribs injury."
(NFL.com: Packers QB Aaron Rodgers exits Sunday night loss early with a ribs injury, 27/12/2022)

Based on the context, QB Aaron Rodgers was forced to exit the Sunday night game early due to a rib injury. Rib injuries pose significant risks for players, especially for QB as an offensive team leader responsible for establishing play in hunddle, necessitating immediate withdrawal from the game and prompt specialized treatment.

3. Rules of Time
Half time
20/TM/ CMP

Sentence: Harris went to the locker room just before **halftime,** with the announcement that he would not return to the game coming just after the break. (*NFL.com: Steelers RB Najee Harris exits Monday night win with an abdomen injury*, 28/11/22)

Based on the meaning of the context, Harris, who was injured, will not return to the field after halftime.

4. Game Techniques
Rushing
30/GT/DRV
Sentence: Sunday, in a rematch of last season's AFC title game, the third-year passer threw for 286 yards and notched three TDs (two passing, one **rushing**). (NFL.com: *Offensive Player Rankings, Week 14: Four teams whose 2023 starting QB isn't on the current roster*, Dec 06, 2022)

Based on the context, in last season's AFC title rematch, he scored 3 touchdowns, consisting of two passes and one rushing. Based on the context, in last season's AFC title rematch, he scored 3 touchdowns, consisting of two passes and one rushing. This means that the three TDs are done with two passing and one rushing using an attacking player running with the ball after being passed or thrown from the side.

The types of game techniques in American football can serve as a tool to track, analyze, and develop the playing techniques needed in the game. This helps players and coaches improve the quality of their game, hone skills and achieve success on the court. It also explains the techniques used in American football.

5. Score
Touchdown
01/SC/ CMP
Sentence: Patterson's **touchdown** was his seventh Score of 100-plus yards, per NFL Research. No one else in league history has scored more than three. (NFL.com: *Falcons' Cordarrelle Patterson sets career kick-return TD record with 103-yarder against Bears*, Nov 20, 2022)

Based on the context of the news, Patterson's touchdown marked his seventh score of 100 or more yards. According to NFL Research, this statistic highlights Patterson's exceptional ability to make long touchdown plays. The sentence also mentions that no other player in the history of the league has achieved more than three touchdowns of this nature, emphasizing the rarity and impressive nature of Patterson's achievement.

The function of the types of scores is to provide encouragement for the team to try to score as many goals as possible during the game. It also evaluates the results or points obtained by players in American football matches. Therefore, this is essential to let people know the Score and the number of points in each current Score. The Score is also essential because this is one of the assessments to determine the winner in a match.

6. Team
Colts
02/TE/ BRW
Sentence: "Reich was fired by the **Colts** on Nov" (NFL.com: *Falcons' Cordarrelle Patterson sets career kick-return TD record with 103-yarder against Bears*, Nov 20, 2022)

The head coach Frank Reich was fired from his position by the Colts, a Professional American football team based in Indianapolis, in November

New England Patriots, a professional American football team based in the Greater Boston area, are beginning a three-game stretch against Cincinnati, Miami, and Buffalo, all teams ahead of them in the playoff race. Mac Jones is proud of Jakobi Meyers' response to a costly mistake.

The function is to introduce the teams that play in American football. Due to the large number of teams coming from different places, an understanding of the word formation, types of team is needed to avoid misunderstandings. Teams in sports or matches aim to improve coordination and cooperation between players and increase motivation and overall performance. Based on the findings above, the results regarding meaning and function are all the data analyzed is included in the contextual meaning because it is explained based on the context of the sentence. Each type of word formation also has a different function, but the goal remains the same; that is, each function aims to help provide information related to the word formation itself.

In general, the function of the register is to help create and maintain relationships between those who see themselves as 'insiders' in some way and to exclude 'outsiders.' In this research, each type of register describes the register itself. For example, the function of type of players is to explain the names and positions of players, as well as their duties and responsibilities. Moreover, if it is analyzed based on its meaning, each piece of data has its own meaning based on the context of the sentence. The words in the register explain each sentence itself. So, all data in this research are classified into contextual meanings.

b. Discussion

Word formation is the fundamental study of forming new words. Therefore, word formation is related to how existing words are constructed and how new words are created. The data are obtained from NFL.com news about American football matches. NFL.com exists to inform and share information about news, videos, and game schedules on American football matches with the public, especially American football fans.

From the findings above, there are four kinds of word formations frequently appear and are used in NFL.com news. The first is compounding which consists of 37 data or 60%; the second

is borrowing consisting of 16 data or 26%; the third is an acronym with 7 data or 11%, and the last is a derivation with 2 data or 3%. So, the results show that high data frequency related to word formation is compounding. This is because combining two different words with different meanings can create new words with different meanings. In addition, compounding can help clarify the meaning of a word. This allows the formation of more specific words to describe a particular concept. The results show that derivation appears the least. This is because the word affix -ing is usually only used in spoken language or everyday language, and it is not good to put it in a written language such as in the news.

Additionally, it is found that there are six types of word formation in American football on NFL.com: types of injuries, types of players, types of time rules, types of game techniques, types of scores, and types of teams. The results show that high-frequency data related to the type of word formation is the type of team with 19 data, such as; Colts, Packers, Raiders, Buccaneers, Steelers, Chargers, Chief, Houston Texan, Jaguars, New York Jets, The Raven, Atlanta Falcons, New England, Titan, and Devender Broncos, Arizona Cardinal, Bengal, Panther, Minnesota Viking, Chief, Detroid Lion, Washington Commander, and Seattle Seahawk. Team types frequently appear in NFL.com news as new vocabulary is formed with American football terms. This is also because many regions in America send representatives to become teams in American football, so there are many mentions of teams in NFL.com news. Meanwhile, the type that appears the least is the type of game technique. This is because the game of American football only has 2 techniques used in the match.

In general, there are several functions of word formation such as expression of rich vocabulary, adjustment of meaning, effective communication, special word formation, and grammatical identification. Through the process of word formation, language continues to evolve and adapt to changing times and communication needs, so these functions play an important role in the formation of new words and their proper use in relevant contexts. In this research, each type of word formation describes the word formation itself. For example, types of players function to explain what the names and positions of players are, as well as their duties and responsibilities. Moreover, if it is analyzed based on its meaning, each piece of data has its own meaning based on the context of the sentence. The words in the word formation explain each sentence itself. All the data in this research are classified into contextual meanings.

4.   CONCLUCION

The first research problem analyses the types of word formation. There are four kinds of word formations frequently appear and are used in NFL.com news. The results show that high data frequency related to word formation is compounding. This is because combining two different words with different meanings can create new words with different meanings. In addition, compounding can help clarify the meaning of a word. This allows the formation of more specific words to describe a particular concept. There are six types of word formation in American football on NFL.com. The first types of injuries are consisting of ribs injury, oblique injury, abdominal injury, ankle injury, calf injury, hamstring injury, knee injury, toe injury, shoulder injury, muscle injury, broken thumb, broken foot, and groin. The second one is the types of players, such as QB, WR1, LB, D, RT, RB, guard, defensive front, center, stalwart, linebacker, defensive end, fullback, tight end, running back, punter, and offensive tackle. The third one is the types of time rules: third-rounder, postseason, third quarter, overtime, second quarter, half-time, second half, first half, and fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, the fourth is the types of game techniques, namely passing and rushing. The fifth is classified into the types of scores used to find out the winner in the American Football game; touchdown, TD, and goal field. Thus, the last is classified into the types of teams. The types of teams consist of: Colts, The Packers, Raiders, Buccaneers, Steelers, Chargers, Chief, Houston Texan, Jaguars, New York Jets, The Raven, Atlanta Falcons, New England, Titan, Devender Broncos, Arizona Cardinal, Bengal, Panther, Minnesota Viking, Chief, Detroid Lion, Washington Commander, and Seattle Seahawk. The results show that high-frequency data related to the type of word formation is the type of team. Types of the team frequently appear on NFL.com news as new vocabulary is formed regarding American football teams such as The Ravens, Steelers, Dolphins, New England, etc.

The second research of the problem, there are meaning and function of the word formation related to American football. In general, there are several functions of word formation such as expression of rich vocabulary, adjustment of meaning, effective communication, special word formation, and grammatical identification. Through the process of word formation, language continues to evolve and adapt to changing times and communication needs, so these functions play an important role in the formation of new words and their proper use in relevant contexts. For example, types of players function to explain what the names and positions of players are, as well as their duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, if it is analyzed based on its meaning, each piece of data has its meaning based on the context of the sentence. The words in the word formation explain the sentence. Therefore, understanding the meaning based on the context of the sentence is essential to apply the correct word formation. All the data in this research are classified into contextual meanings.

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