A Morphological Review of Nouns and Verbs in Khmer and Indonesian

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Abstract

This study examines the morphology of nouns and verbs in Cambodian (Khmer) and Indonesian, two languages that come from different cultural backgrounds. Although there are significant differences in the history and development of these two languages, the analysis shows similarities in some structural aspects that are interesting to study. This study aims to understand how morphology affects word formation as well as its use in sentences, focusing on the way both languages handle word formation and meaning changes. The research method used involves qualitative analysis of data taken from linguistic sources, including dictionaries and related academic works. The results showed that the Khmer language, which has a relatively simple morphological structure, tends to use the basic form of the word without much afjection. On the other hand, Indonesian shows a wealth of variation in word formation through the use of affixes, both prefixes, suffixes, and infixes. This process not only enriches vocabulary but also gives different nuances of meaning to the words produced. These findings highlight the importance of understanding morphological differences and similarities in both languages, which can provide deeper insights into linguistic and cultural interactions. This research is expected to contribute to the development of linguistics, especially in the field of morphology, as well as improve understanding of how languages adapt and evolve in different social contexts.

Keywords: *Indonesian; Khmer; Morphology; Nouns; Verbs*

Introduction

Language serves as the primary communication tool that allows individuals to interact, convey/provide ideas, and share information. In this context, understanding morphology, namely the structure and form of words, is very important, because morphology plays a role in how words are formed and used in sentences. Morphology includes not only the formation of words, but also how they can function in different contexts and how they can adapt over time (Phonological Differences, Morphology).

Indonesian and Khmer, although they come from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, offer interesting examples of how morphology can vary. Indonesian, as part of the Austronesian language group, has a rich and complex morphological structure, especially in the use of aftension. For example, the root word "read" can be expanded to "read" with the addition of the prefix "me-", which indicates the action being performed. Additionally, the word "author" can be formed by adding the suffix "-is," which refers to the person who performs the act of writing. This example shows how Indonesian uses

morphology to create variation and nuance in communication (Linguistic Task). On the other hand, Khmer, which belongs to the Mon-Khmer language group, has a simpler morphological approach. In Khmer, words often do not undergo many changes in form. For example, the word "(srok" meaning "village" remains in the same form, both when used in simple and complex sentences. In this context, the use of the word "(ស្រុក   )   ស្រុក) srok" in the sentence "Srok Khmer is very beautiful" shows that the meaning of the word remains consistent without the need for morphological changes. This approach reflects how Khmer relies more on context and relationships between words to convey meaning (Khmer – Wikipedia). This difference presents its own challenges in learning both languages, especially for foreign speakers. For those learning Indonesian, understanding the complex affixation system can be a challenging task. On the other hand, for Khmer speakers learning Indonesian, they may have to adapt to the use of more flexible and varied morphology. By understanding the differences and similarities in morphology between these two languages, we can gain deeper insights into how languages function in different social and cultural contexts. This study aims to explore the morphology of nouns and verbs in Khmer and Indonesian, as well as how these differences affect the way language is learned and used in everyday interactions. Through careful analysis, it is hoped that patterns can be found that help in language teaching as well as enrich the understanding of linguistic dynamics in two different cultures.

Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis to explore the morphology of nouns and verbs in Khmer and Indonesian. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to investigate complex linguistic phenomena and gain a deep understanding of morphological patterns that may not be quantitatively explained (Creswell, 2014).

Data collection in this study was carried out through two main methods: literature study and document analysis (Kridalaksana, H. 1989). The research began with the collection of relevant literature on the morphology of both languages, including linguistic books, journal articles, and theses discussing the structure and use of words in Khmer and Indonesian. Important references used include the book "General Linguistics" by Chaer (2010), which provides a solid foundation on morphology in Indonesian, and "Khmer Language: Its Structure and Use" by Hadi (2011), which outlines the morphological structure of the Khmer Language. In addition to the literature study, the researcher also analyzed documents containing examples of the use of both languages, including text corpus from print and online media such as newspapers and literary works. For example, an analysis of news articles in Indonesian that contain new words and their use in social contexts, such as the use of the word "teacher" as a derivative form of the root word "teaching," provides an understanding of how affixation functions in everyday sentences, especially in the context of education and social roles.

Once the data is collected, the analysis is carried out with systematic steps. First, researchers identified morphological patterns in both languages by comparing the basic words and forms produced through affixation. For example, in Indonesian, the word "read" can change to "read" with the addition of the prefix "me-," which indicates an action being taken, such as in the sentence "He is reading a book," which shows the use of a derivative form in context. Furthermore, the words found in the data are categorized based on morphological categories, such as nouns and verbs. In Khmer, for example, the word "srok" (village) remains unchanged and is used in sentences such as "Srok Khmer is beautiful." In addition, the results of the analysis are arranged in the form of tables and graphs to facilitate the visualization of the morphological patterns found. A table showing the comparison between the root words and affixations in both languages can help illustrate the structural differences, providing a clearer picture of the morphological characteristics of each language.

Finding and Discussion

List of Transliterations and Abbreviations

A. Khmer-Latin Transliteration (Ed. Kammoni 2007)

The list of Khmer letters and their transliteration into Latin letters can be seen in the following table:

Khmer Alphabet	Name	Latin Letters	Name
ក	Ka	k	Ka
ខ	Kha	KH	Kha
គ	Ko	k	Ko
ឃ	Kho	KH	Kho
ង	Ng	Ng	Ng
ច	Cha	Ch	Cha
ឌ	Da	d	Da
ឈ	Dha	Dh	Dha
ទ	Ta	t	Ta
ឋ	Tha	th	Tha
ន	Na	n	Na
ប	Ba	b	Ba
ផ	Pha	Ph	Pha
ព	Po	p	Po
ភ	Pha	Ph	Pha
ម	Ma	m	Ma
យ	Yes	y	yes
រ	Ra	r	Ra
ល	La	l	La
វ	Va	v	Va
ស	Sa	s	Sa
ហ	Ha	h	Ha
អ	A	a	a

B. Indonesian Transliteration

The list of Indonesian letters and their transliterations can be seen in the following table:

Indonesian Script	Name	Latin Letters	Name
A	A	a	a
B	B	b	b
C	C	c	c
D	D	d	d
E	E	e	e
F	F	f	f
G	G	g	g
H	H	h	h

I	I	i	i
J	J	j	j
K	K	k	k
L	L	l	l
M	M	m	m
N	N	n	n
O	O	o	o
P	P	p	p
Q	Q	q	q
R	R	r	r
S	S	s	s
T	T	t	t
U	U	u	u
V	V	v	v
W	W	w	w
X	X	x	x
Y	Y	y	y

A. Cambodian Vokal (Um. (2002)

Khmer Alphabet	Name	Transliteration	Examples in Sentences
អ	Alif	a	you (anak) – "Anda"
ឥ	ĭ	ə	brick (ədh) - "strong"
ឦ	ĭ	ae	Northeast (aesan) - "Source"
ឧ	ŭ	u	industrious (ussah) - "Kerja hard"
ឩ	ŭ	u	ឩA (uk) – "Besar"
ឪ	ŏ	o	Rakwe (okarve) - "Raja"
ឈ	Yā	y	Ya (yay) – "Grandma"
ឌ	Dā	d	diya - "Design"

B. Indonesian Vowels

Letter	Name	Example	Examples in Sentences
A	A Open	Chicken	The fried chicken is very good.
E	E closed	Delicious	The food is very good.
E	E open	They	They go to the market.
I	I	Fish	The grilled fish is delicious.
O	O	Camel	Camels are desert animals.
U	U	Snake	The snake is venomous.

Table showing a comparison between some of the nominations in Khmer and Indonesian, including basic forms and afjections:

Nomina Base Words	Affirmation	Bahasa Khmer	Indonesian Language
Book	-	Books (sievphav)	Book
Child	-	Kon (kon)	Child
Food	-	Cuisine (mhoab)	Food
Friend	-	Friend (mitt)	Friend
Cat	-	Cat (chhma)	Cat
City	-	Municipality (krong)	City
Family	-	Family (kruasar)	Family
School	-	School (Sala)	School
Teacher	-	Teacher (crew)	Teacher
Market	-	Markets (PSAR)	Market
Place	-	Venue (Kanlaeng)	Place
Vehicle	-	Car (rotyon)	Vehicle
Health	-	Health (Sokhapheap)	Health
Education	-	Education (karobrom)	Education
Library	-	Library (bannalay)	Library

Table showing the comparison of verbs in Khmer and Indonesian, including basic forms and affirmations:

Verb Root Words	Affirmation	Bahasa Khmer	Indonesian Language
Read	Read	Read (AAN)	Read
Write	Write	Written (sorsae)	Write
Eat	Eat	Nhum	Eat
Drink	Drink	Drink (phik)	Drink
Sleep	Sleep	Sleep (keng)	Sleep
Walk	Walk	Walk (daer)	Walk
Play	Play	Play (leng)	Play
Learn	Learn	Learn (rian)	Learn
Talk	Talk	Speak (niyay)	Talk
Help	Help	Help (chuy)	Help
Cook	Cook	Split (puoh)	Cook
Wash	Wash	Wash (leang)	Wash
Hear	Hear	heard (listen) (sdap)	Hear
See	See	View (meul)	See
Focus	Focus	Focus (phdaut)	Focus

Interpretation of Results: The results obtained are analyzed and interpreted in the context of relevant linguistic theories. Discussions on how morphological differences can affect language learning and use were also conducted. For example, a comparison between the way Indonesian and Khmer form nouns and verbs can provide insight into the challenges faced by foreign speakers.

Validity and Reliability

To ensure the validity and reliability of the study, data triangulation is used. Triangulation was carried out by comparing findings from literature studies with data obtained from document analysis (Dewi, Yayat, & Usep. 2019). In addition, discussions with related linguists were also carried out to obtain a broader perspective on the research findings. For example, interviews with experienced language

teachers can provide additional insight into the challenges of teaching morphology. Through this research method, it is hoped that a deeper understanding of the morphology of nouns and verbs in Khmer and Indonesian, as well as their impact on the use of language in different social and cultural contexts, can be obtained.

Morphological Analysis

1. Nominas in Khmer

The morphological structure of nouns in Khmer generally does not tend to undergo complex shape changes. In Khmer, many words can stand on their own without the need for affixation or modification, but still have a clear meaning (Thion, S. (2009). Khmer Language and Culture). This reflects the characteristics of language that relies more on context to convey information.

Examples of Use of Nominas

For example, the words "srok" (village) and "khmae" (Cambodia) can be used in sentences without changing the form, respectively. Examples of its use are:

- Sentence: "Srok Khmer is very beautiful."

In this sentence, "srok" serves as a noun and indicates a place, without the need for modification. The use of "Srok Khmer" directly indicates that the village in question is in Cambodia, and this confirms the descriptive nature of the noun.

In addition, the word "bong" (brother) can also be used in the same context without changing the form:

- Sentence: "My bong lives in Phnom Penh."

Here, "bong" refers to a brother and stands alone as a noun without affixation (Him, S. 2016).

Reduplication in Nominations

Although Khmer does not have a complex affixation system like Indonesian, there are several mechanisms, such as reduplication, that are used to emphasize meaning or number. Reduplication in Khmer is often used to indicate plurality or proximity (Hadi, S. (2011).

For example, the word "bong" (brother) can be reduplicated into "bong bong" to indicate that a person has more than one sibling or to emphasize emotional closeness. Examples of its use are:

- Sentence: "My bong bong is very close."

(Morris, R. (2015). In this sentence, the reduplication of "bong bong" emphasizes that the speaker has more than one brother who is close to him.

The Use of Nouns in Social Contexts

Nominas in Khmer also reflect the social and cultural structure of Cambodian society. For example, the words pa "pa" (father) and "ma" (mother) are examples of nouns that are often used in family contexts. The use of these words not only indicates family relationships, but also reflects social norms and values in Khmer culture.

- Sentence: daddy "My dad loves gardening."

Here, pa "pa" serves as a noun that indicates family relationships and emphasizes the role of fathers in the community (Sangkat, S. 2018).

2. Verbs in Khmer

Verbs in Khmer tend to be simpler in terms of changing forms compared to Indonesian. In Indonesian, the conjugation system uses additional affixes to indicate aspects of time, number of subjects, and verb forms. In contrast, conjugation in Khmer is not that complex; Changes in verb form are rare, and meaning is often determined by the context of the sentence and the use of adverbs (Musfiroh, T. 2004).

Basic Structure of Verbs

In Khmer, many verbs can be used in their basic form without undergoing changes. For example, the verb "walking" (daer) can be used directly in a sentence without the need for modification:

- Sentence: "I "walk" (daer) every morning."

In this sentence, "walk" (daer) functions as a verb that expresses the action of walking. The basic form of "walk" (daer) does not change even though the meaning of time and frequency is explained by the adverb "every morning."

Determination of Time and Aspects

Time and aspects in Khmer are more often explained through the use of supportive adverbs, rather than through changes in verb forms. For example, adverbs such as "now" (now, eylov nih) or "yesterday" (yesterday, msil mnh) can be used to provide a clear temporal context.

Another example:

- Sentence: "He "walked" (daer) (walked) to school yesterday."

Here, "walk" (daer) remains in the basic form, and the meaning of time is indicated by the adverb "yesterday."

Use of Adverbs

Adverbs play an important role in providing additional information regarding the time, place, and manner. Adverbs such as "always" (sering ง, taengtaeng) and "cepat" (fast, leuenn) can be used to clarify the meaning:

- Sentence: "He's always daer fast."

In this sentence, "always" indicates frequency and "fast" describes how to walk, but " daer " remains unchanged.

Other Examples of Verbs

In addition to " daer," there are several other verbs that also exhibit the same characteristics:

1. "thveu" (make):

- Sentence: "I thveu food."

Here, "thveu" is used in the basic form, and the meaning of the action is shown by the context.

2. "eat" (nham) " (makan):

- Sentence: "They're scumbags at restaurants."

"Nham" remains in its basic form, and the meaning of the place is indicated by the adverb "in a restaurant."

3. Sleep" (deck):

- Sentence: "I'm late at night."

In this sentence, "deck" indicates the action of sleep, and the meaning of time is explained by the adverb "late at night."

3. Nomina in Indonesian

Indonesian uses affixation extensively to form nouns. This process allows the formation of diverse words from root words by adding prefixes, suffixes, or infixes. The use of affixation not only enriches vocabulary, but also gives more specific nuances and meanings to each word (Word Formation and Selection)(AFIKS FORMATTING).

1. Use of Prefixes

One of the main ways to form nouns in Indonesian is through the use of prefixes. For example, the word "guru" (teacher) can be changed to "teacher" with the addition of the prefix "peng-." This prefix changes the root word "teach" into a noun form that refers to a person who performs the act of teaching (Chaer, Abdul. 2014).

Example:

- Base Word: "teach"

- Derivative Word: "teacher"

- Sentence: "He is a good teacher."

In this sentence, "teacher" indicates the profession and function of the person in the context of education.

2. Use of Suffixes

Suffixes also play an important role in the formation of nouns. For example, the word "read" can be changed to "read" through the addition of the suffix "-an." The word "reading" refers to something that can be read, indicating how affixation can change the function and meaning of the word.

Example:

- Base Word: "read"

- Derivative Word: "reading"

- Sentence: "This reading is very interesting."

Here, "reading" refers to a text or material that can be read, indicating a shift from a verb to a noun.

3. Use of Infixes

Infixes, although less common than prefixes and suffixes, also exist in Indonesian. Infixes are usually used to give emphasis or change meaning. For example, the word "like" can be changed to "like," which refers to a person's liking (Ramlan, M. 2012).

Example:

- Base Word: "like"

- Derivative Word: "like"

- Sentence: "My love is playing music."

In this sentence, "like" indicates what the subject likes.

4. Afix Combinations

Indonesian also allows for combinations of various affixes, which results in more complex words. For example, the word "write" can change to "write" with the addition of the prefix "pen-" and the suffix "-an. (Mulyana, A. (2017).

Example:

- Base Word: "write"

- Derivative Word: "writing"

- Sentence: "The writing of the report must be done carefully."

Here, "writing" refers to the process or outcome of writing, indicating how the root word can evolve into a more specific nominal form.

5. Use of Nouns in Social Contexts

Nominas in Indonesian also reflect various social and cultural aspects. For example, the word "leader" which comes from the root word "lead" indicates a person's role in a particular social context.

Example:

- Base Word: "lead"

- Derivative Word: "leader"

- Sentence: "The leader of the country must be wise."

In this sentence, "leader" refers to someone who holds power and responsibility in society.

4. Verbs in Indonesian

The use of affixes in Indonesian to form verbs is very varied and rich. The process of affixation plays an important role in expanding the meaning and function of verbs, making Indonesian a flexible and dynamic language. Through affirmation, root words can be changed to indicate various aspects, such as the time, manner, and shape of the subject.

1. Use of Prefixes

One of the main ways to form verbs in Indonesian is through the use of prefixes (Ramlan, M. 2012). For example, the root word "write" can change to "write" with the addition of the prefix "me-." This prefix shows the action being taken.

Example:

- Base Word: "write"

- Derivative Word: "to write"

- Sentence: "He's writing a letter."

In this sentence, "writing" indicates an action that is taking place, and the use of the word "moderate" emphasizes that the action is taking place in the present.

2. Use of Suffixes

Suffixes also function to form verbs in Indonesian. The word "write" can be changed to "author" through the addition of the suffix "-is." This suffix indicates that the word refers to a person who performs the act of writing.

Example:

- Base Word: "write"

- Derivative Word: "author"

- Sentence: "He is a famous writer."

Here, "writer" refers to a profession and indicates the result of the act of writing, describing a person's identity and achievements.

3. Diverse Verb Forms

Indonesian has many forms of verbs that can indicate aspects of time and action. Some commonly used verbs include:

1. Running:

- Base Word: "run"

- Sentence: "He runs to school every morning."

In this sentence, "running" indicates the act of moving quickly and emphasizes the way a person goes to school.

2. Play:

- Base Word: "play"

- Sentence: "Children play in the park."

Here, "play" denotes the activities performed by children in a particular place.

3. Reading:

   - Base Word: "read"

   - Sentence: "I love reading books."

         In this sentence, "reading" indicates the act of enjoying the text, and "book" provides further context regarding what is being read.

4. Use of Infixes

      Indonesian also has an infix, although its use is not as common as prefixes and suffixes. Infixes are often used to give emphasis or change meaning (Sneddon, J. N. 2006). For example, the word "write" can be changed to "writing" to indicate the result of the act of writing.

Example:

   - Base Word: "write"

   - Derivative Word: "writing"

   - Sentence: "This article is very interesting."

      In this sentence, "writing" refers to the result of writing activities, giving it a more specific meaning.

5. Afix Combination

      Indonesian also allows for a combination of the use of various affixes, which results in more complex words. For example, the word "write" can be changed to "write" with the addition of the prefix "pen-" and the suffix "-an (Creswell, J. W. 2014)."

Example:

   - Base Word: "write"

   - Derivative Word: "writing"

   - Sentence: "The writing of the report must be done carefully."

      Here, "writing" refers to the process or outcome of writing a report, emphasizing the importance of thoroughness in the activity.

6. Time Aspect in Verbs

      The time aspect in verbs can also be shown through the use of adverbs and context. For example, the word "will" can be added to indicate an upcoming action.

Example:

   - Sentence: "I'll write a letter tomorrow."

In this sentence, "will write" indicates that the action is planned to be carried out in the future.

Conclusion

This study shows that the morphology of nouns and verbs in Khmer and Indonesian has different characteristics, although there are some interesting structural similarities. The Indonesian language, with its rich affixation system, allows for the formation of varied words and more complex nuances of meaning. In this case, prefixes, suffixes, and infixes are used effectively to form new words and indicate aspects of time as well as actions. In contrast, Khmer tends to have a simpler morphological structure, where many words can stand on their own without modification. The use of context is key in conveying meaning, and reduplication is used to emphasize certain aspects, such as quantity or proximity. This difference poses its own challenges in learning both languages, especially for foreign speakers. Understanding the morphology of each language not only enriches linguistic knowledge, but also provides insight into broader cultural and social interactions. This research is expected to contribute to the development of linguistics and improve understanding of language dynamics in different contexts.

Acknowledgments

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