

Contrastive Analysis of Abstract Noun Formation in Indonesian and French

A Study of Noun Morphology

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ABSTRACT

Abstract nouns exist in any language. They can be referred to as something that senses cannot see or feel like ideas, actions, qualities, states, and conditions. The main objective of this research is to analyze the morphology of the Indonesian language and the morphology of the French language, particularly the formation of the abstract noun that exists in these two languages. The research was conducted by using the qualitative method. The objects of this research were abstract nouns of Indonesian and French languages. The data in this corpus-based study is collected from Le Monde.fr using an automated corpus tool and analyzed by conducting a contrastive analysis. Each data was deconstructed into segments and compared to find the differences and similarities between the abstract nouns of Indonesian and French languages. The findings in this research showed some similarities and differences of the characteristic of constructing the abstract nouns of Indonesian and French languages. This study should contribute to French language learning in Indonesia and might help Indonesian learners of the French language in their studies.

Keywords: *Abstract noun, contrastive analysis, noun morphology.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesian and French are living languages, which means these languages are spoken and learned in everyday life today. Language learners should know and respect the rules in a language, such as French so that people can communicate better. By respecting the rules, the mistakes that learners make in learning the foreign language can be reduced (Rini & Mutiarsih, 2016). Besides mastering four language competencies such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing, language learners should also learn linguistics. Linguistic is divided into several disciplines, including morphology. Morphology is part of linguistics that discusses or studies the intricacies of word structure and the effect of changes in word structure on groups of words and their meanings (Oz, 2014; Rugaiyah, 2018).

Abstract nouns are part of morphology. Abstract nouns are the words that represent invisible objects that cannot be physically sensed; they represent the actions, qualities, states, conditions, and interrelations of various subjects (Karim, 2021; Khokholva, 2014). In the Indonesian abstract noun formation, the affixation process takes place, for example, the word *keindahan*,

which consists of the base "*indah*" and the confix "*ke-...-an*". In French, *keindahan* is *beauté* which consists of the base "*beau*" and the suffix "*-té*". From the formation of the mentioned abstract noun, we can find similarities and differences in Indonesian and French. Because of the differences and similarities of abstract noun formation of Indonesian and French languages, it is essential to do some research and analysis on abstract noun morphology of these two languages. The structural similarities of two or more languages can facilitate language learning, while the differences can do the otherwise (Lado, 1971).

This research only concentrates on analyzing the formation of the abstract noun between Indonesian as the mother language and French as the foreign language. The researchers hope that this research can provide possible solutions to reduce and resolve the difficulties of Indonesian learners of the French language, particularly morphology.

Several researchers have conducted research that compare two languages. Mena and Saputri (2018) have been conducting contrastive analysis research of English and Indonesian prefixes and suffixes in the descriptive texts of student textbooks. Their research aims to

describe English and Indonesian prefixes and suffixes then find similarities and dissimilarities. It shows that there are similarities between the two languages, particularly the suffix. Both languages have nominal, verbal, and adjectival suffixes. While the dissimilarities are found in the prefix and suffix, English suffixes do not change word class, and in Indonesian, there is no adjectival suffix.

Rini and Mutiarsih (2016) have been analyzing by contrasting word structures that construct a vocabulary of profession of Indonesian and French languages. Their research discussed differences and similarities of Indonesian and French noun morphology, particularly the professions. The result shows that either in Indonesian or French, the use of affixes exists. Their research stated that the professions of the Indonesian language are mainly constructed using the prefix. Meanwhile, the professions of French always constructed using suffixes.

From the explanation above, the main objective of this research is to find the differences and similarities of the abstract noun formation between Indonesian and French languages by doing a contrastive analysis. This research analyzes the abstract nouns that appear in the articles on *Lemonde.fr* that are published in July 2021. *Lemonde.fr* is the online version of the French newspaper *Le Monde*; it is the most read and distributed newspaper in France (ACPM, 2021a, 2021b). The researchers formulated the research questions into: (1) What are the similarities and differences in the formation of the abstract noun in Indonesian and French, and (2) what are the research results that can be found in this contrastive analysis.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Morphology is a study of word formation, word structure, and its formation process (Oz, 2014; Rugaiyah, 2018). In morphology, there is a component called a morpheme, the smallest unit of a word that takes part in the grammatical structure that comprises the word (Halawa, Rafliis, & Reni, 2018). There are two types of morphemes (Luthfiyati, Kholiq, & Zahroh, 2017). The first one is a free morpheme that can stand on its own as a word, for example, *idée*, *manger* and *difficile* then the second one is a bound morpheme that cannot stand by itself, affixes are one of the bound morphemes, for example, *re-*, *-ion*, *-age*, *-ment* and *-ance*.

Abstract nouns can also be formed with a morphological process called normalization, it is a process that creates a noun from another word, such as from verbs, adjectives, and nouns (Sleeman, 2010; Tribout, 2020). The process of nominalization involves the utilization of affixes (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014).

Table 1. Indonesian nominal affixes

Affix type	Affix	Indication
Nominal suffix	<i>-an</i>	Result of an action
	<i>-asi</i> , <i>-isasi</i>	Process
	<i>-isme</i>	Thoughts, function
Nominal Confix	<i>Pe-...-an</i>	Action, process, result of an action
	<i>Ke-...-an</i>	Qualities, properties

Table 2. French nominal suffixes forming abstract noun

Nominal suffix of action	Nominal suffix of quality
<i>-age</i>	<i>-esse</i>
<i>-ison</i> , <i>-aison</i>	<i>-eur</i>
<i>-ion</i> , <i>-tion</i> <i>-ation</i>	<i>-ie</i> , <i>-erie</i>
<i>-ature</i>	<i>-ise</i>
<i>-ment</i>	<i>-isme</i>
	<i>-té</i> , <i>-ité</i>
	<i>-ure</i>
	<i>-aile</i>

The nominalization process in the Indonesian language can be done by adding nominal affixes to a word (Kridalaksana, 2014). The categories of nominal affixes in Indonesian language are presented in Table 1.

Meanwhile, the French nominalization process only uses nominal suffixes. As seen in Table 2, French nominal suffixes that form the abstract noun are classified based on two general types of abstract nouns, such as abstract noun indicating action and abstract noun indicating quality (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007).

This research analyses the formation of the abstract noun, which refers to the morphology in Indonesian and French. In this case, the researchers do a contrastive analysis, collect the data, and then compare them to obtain the results. The purpose of this contrastive analysis is to predict and resolve the difficulties and mistakes made in foreign language learning and facilitate the process of foreign language teaching and learning (Rini & Mutiarsih, 2016).

3. METHOD

This research is conducted by using the descriptive qualitative method. This method describes, compares, classifying, analyzes, and interprets the entities and events in their different domains (Tavakoli, 2012). This research employs contrastive corpus-based analysis, which means the researchers compare abstract noun formation between Indonesian and French languages from the data gathered in a corpus, then the results are described after.

The data collection process is done by using a software called the #Lancsbox corpus tool. These research data are web pages in the culture section of *Lemonde.fr* published in July 2021, comprising 202.142 tokens and 24.678 lemmas. The “Words” feature in this

software is used to count the frequency of the words validly. This feature makes the noun identification process in the corpus easier by sorting the lemma and filtering the result by inserting “*_n” to find the noun word-class only.

The sampling technique used in this research is the purposive sampling technic; the samples are selected according to preselected criteria relevant to the research objective. This research analyzed nouns that matched the criteria and then translated them into Indonesian to obtain their Indonesian equivalent.

The samples will be grouped based on the presence and the type of suffix in a word. Then, the samples are deconstructed into segments to know the classification of the base word and its derivational morphology. The sample analysis process is performed by employing contrastive analysis based on a French and Indonesian abstract noun formation by their structure and pattern (Lado, 1971). The researchers then interpreting the results and pull the conclusion of this research.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

From the data collected, it can be found that there are 15.149 unique nouns in the corpus with a total of 73.405 occurrences. The abstract nouns are selected then the samples are grouped based on their characteristics. The samples are grouped into the following characteristics based on their suffixes in French language: abstract noun without affix, abstract nouns with suffixes *-ion*, *-tion* and *-ation*; abstract nouns with the suffix *-age*; abstract nouns with suffixes *-é*, *-té*, and *-ité*; abstract nouns with suffixes *-ence* and *-ance*; abstract nouns with the suffix *-ment*; and abstract nouns that formed by another suffix. Each group has abstract nouns with the top five occurrences.

4.1. Abstract Noun without Affix

Table 3 shows that both languages have abstract nouns without affixes. It shows that both languages have their existing abstract noun that can stand by themselves without the support of any affix.

These abstract nouns do not have any affix in their formation. They can stand alone by themselves but cannot be deconstructed furthermore.

Table 3. Abstract noun without affix

No	French	Occurrences	Indonesian
1	<i>Jour</i> (n.m.)	599	<i>Hari</i> (n.)
2	<i>Monde</i> (n.m.)	565	<i>Dunia</i> (n.)
3	<i>Temps</i> (n.m.)	365	<i>Waktu</i> (n.)
4	<i>Culture</i> (n.f.)	230	<i>Budaya</i> (n.)
5	<i>Espace</i> (n.f.)	110	<i>Ruang</i> (n.)

4.2. Abstract Noun with Suffix *-ion*, *-tion*, *-ation*

Table 4. Abstract noun with suffix *-ion*, *-tion*, *-ation*

No	French	Occurrences	Indonesian
1	<i>Sélection</i> (n.f.) <i>Sélectionner</i> (v.) + <i>ion</i>	349	<i>Pemilihan</i> (n.) <i>Pe(m)</i> + <i>pilih</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>
2	<i>Édition</i> (n.f.) <i>Éditer</i> (v.) + <i>ion</i>	116	<i>Terbitan</i> (n.) <i>Terbit</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>
3	<i>Formation</i> (n.f.) <i>Forme</i> (n.f.) + <i>ation</i>	105	<i>Pembentukan</i> (n.) <i>Pe(m)</i> + <i>bentuk</i> (n.) + <i>an</i>
4	<i>Contribution</i> (n.f.) <i>Contribuer</i> (v.) + <i>tion</i>	90	<i>Sumbangan</i> (n.) <i>Sumbang</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>
5	<i>Discussion</i> (n.f.) <i>Discuter</i> (v.) + <i>tion</i>	87	<i>Pembahasan</i> (n.) <i>Pe(m)</i> + <i>bahas</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>

Table 3 shows that both French and Indonesian languages have abstract nouns formed using affixes. For example, *Sélection* and *Pemilihan*, each noun has its affix. In this case, each noun is deconstructed into:

Selection → *sélectionner* (v.) + *ion*

Pemilihan → *pe[m]* + *pilih* (v.) + *an*

The deconstruction process shows that the word *selection* is formed by adding a suffix *-ion*, while the word *Pemilihan* is constructed by adding a set of confixes *pe-...-an*. The deconstruction of these words also shows that both words have the same class of base words, they came from the verb class. The abstract noun formed in this manner indicates an action (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014).

There is also another case of abstract noun formation with the suffix *-ion*. For example, *formation* and *Pembentukan*.

Formation → *forme* (n.f.) + *ation*

Pembentukan → *Pe[m]* + *bentuk*(n.) + *an*

After deconstructing these words, it shows that the abstract noun can be formed from the other noun. The word class is not changed to the other class, but both words have their form and meaning changed that signifies a process (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014).

The abstract noun formed with suffix *-ion* indicates an object or a result of action (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014) for instance: *Édition* and *terbitan*; *contribution* and *sumbangan*. In this case, both languages only use suffixes. The suffixes *-ion*, *-tion*, *-ation* form feminine nouns in French abstract noun formation.

4.3. Abstract Noun with Suffix *-té* and *-ité*

Table 5. Abstract noun with suffix *-té* and *-ité*

No	French	Occurrences	Indonesian
1	<i>Société</i> (n.f.) <i>Social</i> (adj.) + <i>té</i>	88	<i>Kesosialan</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>sosial</i> (adj.) + <i>an</i>
2	<i>Liberté</i> (n.f.) <i>Libre</i> (adj.) + <i>té</i>	32	<i>Kebebasan</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>bebas</i> (adj.) + <i>an</i>
3	<i>Santé</i> (n.f.) <i>Sain</i> (adj.) + <i>té</i>	31	<i>Kesehatan</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>sehat</i> (adj.) + <i>an</i>
4	<i>Sécurité</i> (n.f.) <i>Secure</i> (adj.) + <i>ité</i>	29	<i>Keamanan</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>aman</i> (adj.) + <i>an</i>
5	<i>Actualité</i> (n.f.) <i>Actuel</i> (adj.) + <i>ité</i>	20	<i>Keaktualan</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>aktual</i> (adj.) + <i>an</i>

Table 5 shows that the two words are originated from the same word class, it is always constructed from the adjective. The formation process in French and Indonesian follows a particular pattern of word construction. The construction process in French is always done by adding a suffix *-té* or *-ité* after an adjective. In Indonesian is always done by adding a set of confix *ke-...-an*, surrounding an adjective. The base word in the French language is modified to adapt the suffix, while this process is not happening in the Indonesian language. The abstract nouns formed in this manner signify a state or a condition (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014). The suffixes *-té*, *-ité* form feminine nouns in French abstract noun formation.

4.4. Abstract Noun with Suffix *-age*

Table 6 shows that the French and Indonesian abstract noun formations have some similarities. Both languages transform a noun into another noun, which is from a common noun into an abstract noun. But there is another case that the formation process is transforming a common noun into an abstract noun. There is also some Indonesian abstract noun that is formed without adding any suffix.

Table 6. Abstract noun with suffix *-age*

No	French	Occurrences	Indonesian
1	<i>Voyage</i> (n.m.) <i>Voie</i> (n.f.) + <i>age</i>	118	<i>Perjalanan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[r]</i> + <i>jalan</i> (n.) + <i>an</i>
2	<i>Jardinage</i> (n.m.) <i>Jardin</i> (n.m.) + <i>age</i>	62	<i>Perkebunan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[r]</i> + <i>kebun</i> (n.) + <i>an</i>
3	<i>Personnage</i> (n.m.) <i>Personne</i> (n.f.) + <i>age</i>	53	<i>Tokoh</i> (n.)
4	<i>Reportage</i> (n.m.) <i>Report</i> (n.m.) + <i>age</i>	29	<i>Pemberitaan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[m]</i> + <i>berita</i> (n.) + <i>an</i>
5	<i>Passage</i> (n.m.) <i>Passe</i> (n.f.) + <i>age</i>	26	<i>Jalan</i> (n.)

The abstract noun that is formed in this manner means an action or a function (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014). The suffix *-age* forms masculine nouns in French abstract noun formation.

4.5. Abstract Noun with the Suffix *-ence* or *-ance*

Table 7. Abstract noun with the suffix *-ce* or *-ance*

No	French	Occurrences	Indonesian
1	<i>Violence</i> (n.f.) <i>Violent</i> (adj.) + <i>ence</i>	37	<i>Kekejian</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>keji</i> (adj.) + <i>an</i>
2	<i>Compétence</i> (n.f.) <i>Compétent</i> (adj.) + <i>ence</i>	19	<i>Kecakapan</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>cakap</i> (adj.) + <i>an</i>
3	<i>Performance</i> (n.f.) <i>Performer</i> (v.) + <i>ance</i>	17	<i>Pertunjukan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[r]</i> + <i>tunjuk</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>
4	<i>Connaissance</i> (n.f.) <i>Connaitre</i> (v.) + <i>ance</i>	16	<i>Pengetahuan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[ng]</i> + <i>tahu</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>
5	<i>Naissance</i> (n.f.) <i>Naitre</i> (v.) + <i>ance</i>	15	<i>Kelahiran</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>lahir</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>

Table 7 shows that similarities occurred in the formation of the abstract noun with suffixes *-ence* and *-ance*. An example of this case is the words *violence* and *kekejian*.

Violence → *violent* (adj.) + *ence*
Kekejian → *ke* + *keji* (adj.) + *an*

The similarity of the construction is the class of the base word, these words are constructed from the adjective word class. From the table, it can be recognized that in French abstract noun formation, the suffix *-ence* follows the adjective and modifies the base word.

It is a different case with the abstract noun formation that involves verbs, the suffix *-ance* is used such as in *performance*, *connaissance*, and *naissance*. There is also a similarity between the abstract noun formation in French and Indonesian, both in these two languages are constructed from the same word class, which is the verb. The abstract noun that is constructed in this manner is signifying a quality, a property, or an event (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014). The suffixes *-ance*, *-ence* form feminine nouns in French abstract noun formation.

4.6. Abstract Noun with Suffix *-ment*

Table 8 shows that the formation process in French is transforming a verb into an abstract noun. However, in the Indonesian formation process, it constructs the abstract noun from the verbs of nouns. The abstract noun that is constructed by this process is signifying action or process (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014). The suffix *-ment* forms masculine nouns in French abstract noun formation.

Table 8. Abstract noun with suffix *-ment*

No	French	Occurrences	Indonesian
1	<i>Gouvernement</i> (n.m.) <i>Gouverner</i> (v.) + <i>ment</i>	58	<i>Pemerintahan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[m]</i> + <i>perintah</i> (n.) + <i>an</i>
2	<i>Mouvement</i> (n.m.) <i>Mouvoir</i> (v.) + <i>ment</i>	50	<i>Pergerakan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[r]</i> + <i>gerak</i> (n.) + <i>an</i>
3	<i>Changement</i> (n.m.) <i>Changer</i> (v.) + <i>ment</i>	22	<i>Perubahan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[r]</i> + <i>ubah</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>
4	<i>Confinement</i> (n.m.) <i>Confiner</i> (v.) + <i>ment</i>	23	<i>Penawanan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[n]</i> + <i>tawan</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>
5	<i>Développement</i> (n.m.) <i>Développer</i> (v.) + <i>ment</i>	19	<i>Pengembangan</i> (n.) <i>Pe[ng]</i> + <i>kembang</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>

4.7. Abstract Noun with Other Suffixes

This section contains the abstract noun that formed by using other suffixes that rarely occur in this corpus. Table 9 shows how the abstract nouns that are constructed with other suffixes.

The French abstract noun that is formed by adding the suffix *-esse* is constructed from adjectives. Like its Indonesian equivalent, which is constructed from adjectives, but in Indonesian, the process is done by adding a set of confix *ke-...-an*, surrounding an adjective. The abstract noun that formed with this way is indicating a property or a quality (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014). The suffix *-esse* forms feminine nouns in French abstract noun formation.

In the other case, the French abstract noun that is formed by adding a suffix *-isme*, if there is no Indonesian equivalent of that word, the borrowing process is occurring, for example *surrealisme* that borrowed from *surréalisme*. This process forms an abstract noun

Table 9. Abstract noun with other suffixes

No	French	Occurrences	Indonesian
1	<i>Vitesse</i> (n.f.) <i>Vite</i> (adj.) + <i>esse</i>	12	<i>Kecepatan</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>cepat</i> (adj.) + <i>an</i>
2	<i>Richesse</i> (n.f.) <i>Riche</i> (adj.) + <i>esse</i>	7	<i>Kekayaan</i> (n.) <i>Ke</i> + <i>kaya</i> (adj.) + <i>an</i>
3	<i>Surréalisme</i> (n.m.) <i>Surréal</i> (adj.) + <i>isme</i>	10	<i>Surealisme</i> (n.)
4	<i>Tourisme</i> (n.m.) <i>Tour</i> (n.m.) + <i>isme</i>	9	<i>Pariwisata</i> (n.)
5	<i>Livraison</i> (n.f.) <i>Livrer</i> (v.) + <i>ison</i>	228	<i>Pengiriman</i> (n.) <i>Pe[ng]</i> + <i>kirim</i> (v.) + <i>an</i>
6	<i>Conjugaison</i> (n.f.) <i>Conjuguer</i> (v.) + <i>ison</i>	87	<i>Konjugasi</i> (n.)

signifying a thought or a function (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014). The suffix *-isme* forms masculine nouns in French abstract noun formation. It is almost the same case with the French abstract noun that formed by adding the suffix *-ison*. There is a borrowing process if there is no word that equals the referred word. The abstract noun that is formed in this manner indicates an action (Buguet-Melançon & Turcotte, 2007; Kridalaksana, 2014). The suffix *-ison* forms feminine nouns in French abstract noun formation.

5. CONCLUSION

After explaining the abstract noun based on the classification of their affixes, and their formation process. Some similarities and differences can be found. French and Indonesian abstract nouns are similar, it can be proven that the abstract noun of both languages can be formed by adding the affixes to the base word.

The differences between French and Indonesian abstract nouns can be found in this analysis. French abstract nouns only use suffixes in their formation. While the Indonesian abstract noun uses suffixes or sets of confixes. The abstract noun formation in the French language employs more variation of suffixes than the abstract noun formations of the Indonesian language. Unlike French abstract nouns, Indonesian abstract nouns do not have gender classification.

It can be found that most of the corresponding abstract nouns are constructed from the same base word class. Indonesian and French abstract nouns can be constructed from nouns, verbs, and adjectives. The borrowing process will occur in the formation of Indonesian abstract nouns if there is no word that matches the word referred to in French.

The similarities between these two languages should facilitate Indonesian learners of the French language in their studies. This analysis should help them to understand and to enrich their knowledge about French and Indonesian morphologies, particularly abstract noun formation.

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