

The Similarities and Differences between Acronyms and Abbreviations in Indonesian Language

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Abstract: The purpose of this article is to show the similarities and differences between acronyms and abbreviations in Indonesian Language. This study is under the scope of abbreviation whose distinction is the existence of similarities and differences in the Indonesian language. It sometimes overlaps with its same forming pattern but with distinctive differences in phonotactic pattern. The acronym is known as the shortened form of words which is pronounced as a natural word, in which one of the requirements is the phonotactic pattern corresponding to the Indonesian syllable pattern, while the abbreviation, although having the same forming pattern, has a typical difference where abbreviations do not meet the Indonesian phonotactic pattern. The data are collected from two different daily from Medan; Waspada and Tribun Medan, March and April 2018 issues. The methodological research applied in this study is descriptive qualitative. The results of this study are that both acronym and abbreviation formed by combining the initial letter of each represented component or word, whereas the difference is that the phonemic structure of acronym follows the phonotactic pattern of Indonesian Language while abbreviation does not, therefore it cannot be spoken as natural word.

Keywords: similarity, difference, acronym, abbreviation

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I. INTRODUCTION

Acronyms and abbreviations are the families of abbreviation. Both have similarities and differences but remain within the scope of abbreviation in loose parlance, which are a few words abbreviated by forming the initial letter of each component or word. Acronym and abbreviation have a function to make any word shorter and easy to memorize.

The striking similarity and difference between acronyms and abbreviations are in terms of phonotactic pattern or sounds. Acronyms are parallel to the formation patterns and sound patterns of proper word, based on the formation of words, which are the formation patterns (morphology) and phonotactic structure (phonology/sound). In this study, acronyms and abbreviations are highlighted from the perspective of sound. Acronyms always follow the Indonesian phonotactic pattern (Indonesian sound patterns), such as UI (*Universitas Indonesia/ University of Indonesia*), NIP (*Nomor Induk Pegawai/ Employer Identification Number*), LIPI (*Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia/ Indonesian Institute of Sciences*), or KUHAP (*Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Acara Pidana/ Indonesia Law of Criminal Procedure*).

Abbreviations are the shortened forms of words where the phonemic sound does not follow the Indonesian phonotactic pattern, such as L (*liter*), SD (*Sekolah Dasar/ Primary School*), SMP (*Sekolah Menengah Pertama/ Junior High School*), KKN (*Kuliah Kerja Nyata/ Community Service Program*), or PGRI (*Persatuan Guru Republik Indonesia/ Teachers Association of the Republic of Indonesia*).

The problem of the study is to find the similarities and differences between acronyms and abbreviations. The methodological research applied in this study is descriptive qualitative. The data are selected according to the analytical requirements. The data are collected from two daily; Waspada and Tribun Medan, March and April 2018 issues.

Review of Related Literatures

Syllable Pattern

If the number and stipulation of syllables in one word can be determined, then to find out the syllable pattern would be very easy. The pattern is taken by formulating every syllable in the word. Vowel (V), consonant (K), and semi-consonant ($\frac{1}{2}$ K) are the terms used for the pattern of each syllable. The semi-

consonant sound in the syllable pattern is represented by $\frac{1}{2}$ K, so as not to cause misunderstanding in the formation.

In the Indonesian language, there are words whose syllables only consist of a vowel, a vowel with a semi-consonant, a vowel with a semi-consonant, a vowel with a consonant, and a vowel with two consonant.

Katamba (1989: 164) is more apt to describe the role of syllables in phonology than the definition of the syllable pattern as given below:

1. Syllable as the basic unit of phonotactic pattern

In this case, the syllable sets how consonants and vowels are combined in a phonological hierarchy.

2. Syllable as the domain of phonological pattern

In this case the boundary of syllables structure is not limited from the word borrowing and mother tongue interference, therefore the word structure often plays an important role in determining the internal phonological pattern of a language.

3. The syllable as a complex segment structure

In this case syllables does not only set the combination of sounds (segment) but also control the combination of characteristics that form the sound.

Spencer (1996:72-73) states that there are three reasons of why syllables play an important role in the theory of phonology:

1. If we pay attention to a collection of sounds in a language, we will find a certain principle used in its formation.
2. There are many boundaries in a particular language that tend to be applied to the syllabic structure level in addition to the morphemic level as well as the word level.
3. Syllables are the best thing that can be understood as the formation of constituents in the phonological process. The lack of understanding about syllable pattern is very important in our understanding to construct the phonological system of a language.

Phonotactic

Each Language has its own provisions related to the pattern of language, including the pattern of phonemic sequence. Patterns that set which phonemes are contained in one language and which are not is known as phonotactics (Moeliono 1993: 52).

The phonotactic patterns are the patterns that set the sequence or relationship between phonemes in a language. Phonotactics have patterns associated with the pattern of word formation and the shift of sounds that cause variations in the sounds of the same phoneme. Indonesian Language also has such pattern. It is the phonotactic pattern that causes us to sense intuitively which form is acceptable, although we have never heard or seen it before and which is not.

The phonotactic patterns are the patterns that adjust the phonemic sequence in Indonesian Language (Alwi, 1993: 28). In spoken language, word generally consists of a series of sounds: one following the other. The sounds represent the sequence of phonemes and their allophones. The sequence of phonemes is not random but follows certain rules. One phoneme following the other is determined by the convention among the users of the language itself.

Each language has a characteristic in phonotactic, according to (Djoko kentjono, 2005: 164) phonotactic patterns are the ones used in forming phonemes to form larger phonological units, such as syllables. Indonesian Language has syllable patterns like V, VK, KV, KVK, and also VKK, KKV, KKVK, KVKK, KKVKK, KKKV and KKKVK (V=Vowel, K = Consonant).

Indonesian Language allows the sequences/ cluster like /-nt-/ (untuk), /-rs-/ bersih, and /-st-/ pasti, but not /-pk-/ and /-pd-/ for there are not Indonesian words formed by such clusters. Therefore, words like opkir and kapdu sound strange. There are also no syllables that end with /c/ and /j/ in Indonesian Language. Thereupon, abbreviation, especially in the form of acronym, is expected to follow the phonotactic patterns.

From the definitions above, it can be concluded that phonotactic patterns are the patterns that set the phoneme sequence/ clusters to form a larger phonological unit. The use of acronyms has a profound effect on language users. Standard Indonesian Language is the language that can be understood and in accordance with the circumstances and does not deviate from the standardized rules (Finoza, 2002: 12).

Phonotactic Patterns

Each language has its own linguistic rules, including the rules of the phonemic sequence. The phonemic sequence found in the Indonesian language has a phonotactic pattern just like any other languages in the world. The phonemic sequence/ clusters include vowels sequences, consonant sequences, vowels and consonants sequences in one syllable.

1. Vowel sequences in Indonesian Language

The standard vowel sequences are two vowels each of which has one breath and therefore each belonging to a different syllable. The two vowel sequences found in the Indonesian language are as follow:

/iu/ : *tiup, nyiur* / blow, coconut
/io/ : *kios, radio, biola* / kiosk, radio, violin
/ia/ : *tiap, dia, giat* / each, he, diligent
/ei/ : *mei* / May
/ea/ : *beasiswa, kreasi* / scholarship, creation
/eo/ : *feodal, beo, pemeo* / feudal, parrot, motto
/ae/ : *daerah* / territory
/ai/ : *saingan* / competitor
/au/ : *kaum, mau* / clan, want
/oa/ : *soal, doa* / matter, prayer
/ui/ : *kuil, buih* / temple, foam
/ua/ : *dua, puasa, suap* / benediction, fast, bribe
/ue/ : *kue, duet* / cake, duet
/uo/ : *kuota* / quota
/əi/ : *seiket* / a bundle
/əe/ : *seekor* / a/an (animal)
/əa/ : *seakan* / as if
/əu/ : *seutas* / a (rope)
/əə/ : *keenam* / sixth

The vowel sequences above are the ones that are common and acceptable in Indonesian Language. Any word formed by using such vowel sequences will not sound strange to Indonesian people.

2. Consonant sequences in Indonesian Language

As well as the vowels, consonant sequences in Indonesian are also quite varied. The variations of the consonant sequences are:

a. Consonant sequences in one syllable

1) If two consonants line up in the same syllable, then the first consonants can only be /p/, /b/, /t/, /k/, /g/, /f/, /s/, and /d/, whereas the second consonants are /l/, /r/, /w/, or /s/, /m/, /n/ and /k/

/pl/ : *pleonasme, pleno, taplak* / pleonasm, plenary, tablecloth
/bl/ : *blanko, gamblang* / blank, clear
/kl/ : *klinik, klasik* / clinic, classic
/gl/ : *global, gladi* / global, rehearsal
/fl/ : *flamboyan, flu* / flamboyant, flu
/sl/ : *slogan, slip* / slogan, slip
/br/ : *brantas, obral, ambruk* / eradicate, closeout, collapse
/tr/ : *tragedi, mitra* / tragedy, partner
/dr/ : *drama, drastis* / drama, drastic
/kr/ : *kriminal, akrab, krupuk* / criminal, familiar, crackers
/gr/ : *gram, granat* / gram, granat
/fr/ : *fragmen, diafragma, frustrasi* / fragment, diaphragm, frustration
/sr/ : *pasrah, sragen* / surrender, Sragen
/ps/ : *psikologi, pseudo, psikiater* / psychology, pseudo, psychiatrist
/ks/ : *ekstra, eksponen* / extra, exponent
/dw/ : *dwifungsi, dwidar* / dual function,
/sw/ : *swalayan, swasembada* / self-service, self-sufficiency
/kw/ : *kwintal, kwitansi* / quintals, receipts
/sp/ : *sponsor, spanduk* / sponsor, banner

2) If three consonants line up in the same syllable, the first consonant will always be /s/, the second ones are /t/ or /p/, and the third ones are /r/ or /l/.

/str/ : *strategi, instruksi* / strategy, instruction
/spr/ : *sprei* / bed sheet
/skr/ : *skripsi, manuskrip* / thesis, manuscript
/skl/ : *sklerosis* / sclerosis

b. Two consonants sequences in different syllable are as follow:

/mp/ : *empat, pimpin* / four, lead
/mb/ : *ambil, gambar* / take, picture
/nt/ : *untuk, ganti* / for, replace
/nd/ : *indah, pandang* / beautiful, look

/nc/ : lancar, kunci/ smooth, key
/ñj/ : janji, banjir/ promise, flood
/ŋk/ : engkau, mungkin/ you, perhaps
/ŋg/ : angguk, tinggi/ nod, high
/ŋs/ : bangsa, angsa, mangsa / nation, goose, prey
/ns/ : insaf, insan, insang/ realize, man, gill
/rb/ : kerbau, terbang/ buffalo, fly
/rd/ : merdu, merdeka, kerdil/ melodious, free, dwarf
/rg/ : harga, pergi, sorga/ price, go, heaven
/rj/ : kerja, terjang, sarjana/ work, lunge, bachelor
/rm/ : permata, cermin, derma/ diamond, mirror, charity
/rn/ : warna, purnama, ternak/ color, full moon, stock
/rl/ : perlu, kerlip, kerling/ need, flickering, cloudy
/rt/ : arti, serta, harta/ meaning, along, property
/rk/ : terka, perkara, murka/ guess, case, wrath
/rs/ : bersih, kursi, gersang/ clean, chair, arid
/rc/ : percaya, karcis, persik/ believe, ticket, peach
/st/ : isteri, pasti, dusta/ wife, certain, lie
/sl/ : legislatif / legislative
/kt/ : fakta, sekte / fact, sect
/ks/ : paksa, laksana, seksama/ force, like, thoroughly
/kd/ : takdir/ fate
/kn/ : laknat, makna, yakni/ curse, meaning, namely
/kl/ : takluk, maklum, taklim / subdued, understand, recitation
/kr/ : makruf, takrif / well-known, definition
/kw/ : dakwa, takwa/ charge, piety
/pt/ : sapta, optik, baptis/ seven, optics, baptism
/ht/ : sejahtera, tahta, bahtera/ prosperous, throne, ark
/hk/ : bahkan/ even
/hš/ : dahsyat/ tremendous
/hb/ : sahabandar / harbourmaster
/hl/ : ahli, mahligai, tahlil/ expert, castle, tahlil
/hy/ : sembahyang/ praying
/hw/ : bahwa, syahwat/ that, lust
/sh/ : ashur
/mr/ : jamrut/ emerald
/ml/ : jumlah/ amount
/lm/ : ilmu, gulma, palma/ science, weeds, palm
/gn/ : signal, kognitif/ signal, cognitive
/np/ : tanpa/ without
/sb/ : asbak, asbes, tasbih/ ashtray, asbestos, prayer beads
/sp/ : puspa, aspirasi, aspal/ jasmine, aspiration, asphalt
/sm/ : basmi, asmara / exterminate, romance
/km/ : sukma/ spirit
/ls/ : palsu, balsem, pulsa/ fake, balm, pulse
/lj/ : salju, aljabar/ snow, algebra
/lt/ : sultan, salto/ sultan, salto
/pd/ : sabda, abdi/ word, servant
/gm/ : magma, dogma
/hd/ : syahdan, syahdu/ then, solemn

3. Vowel and consonant sequences in one syllable

The words in Indonesian Language consist of one syllable or more. However long a word is, the syllable that forms it has a phonotactic structure and pattern. A word in Indonesian Language consists of vowel and consonant. Here are the series of vowels (V) and consonants (K) that form syllables in the Indonesian language along with the examples:

- a. V : a-mal, su-a-tu, tu-a
- b. VK : ar-ti, ber-il-mu, ka-il
- c. KV : pa-sar, sar-ja-na, war-ga

- d. KVK : *pak-sa, ke-per-lu-an, pe-san*
- e. KKV : *slo-gan, kop-pra*
- f. KKVK : *teks-til, a-trak-si*
- g. KVKK : *teks-til, kon-teks-tual, mo-dern*
- h. KKKV : *stra-te-gi, stra-ta*
- i. KKKVK : *struk-tur, in-struk-tur*
- j. KKVKK : *kom-pleks*
- k. KVKKK : *korps*

The vowel and consonant sequences above are the ones that are acceptable in Indonesian Language, other than those are unacceptable.

II. DISCUSSIONS

Data are collected from two issues of Waspada and Tribune Medan. After conducting the research, the writer found some acronyms and abbreviations formed by one letter, two letters, three letters, four letters, and five letters.

Acronym is the abbreviation that is spoken as a natural word. In this study, its phonotactic pattern is consistent with the pronunciation of Indonesian sound structure. While an abbreviation is a short form of a word or phrase, made by leaving out some of the letters or by using only the first letter of each word.

Here are some acronyms and abbreviations in Indonesian found in the source of data, acronyms formed by two letters; UI (*Universitas Indonesia/ University of Indonesia*), an (*atas nama/ on behalf of*), SE (*Sarjana Ekonomi/ Bachelor of Economics*), KA (*kereta api/ train*), and d.a (*dengan alamat/ by address*).

Acronyms formed by three letters; NIP (*Nomor Induk Pegawai/ Employer Identification Number*), sim (*Surat Izin Mengemudi/ Driver's License*), hum (*humaniora*), kol (*kolonel/ colonel*), LAN (*Lembaga Antariksa Negara/ National Aeronautics and Space Agency*), and KPU (*Komisi Pemilihan Umum/ General Elections Commissions*).

Acronyms formed by four letters; LIPI (*Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia, Indonesian Institute of Sciences*), PASI (*Persatuan Atletik Seluruh Indonesia/ Indonesian Athletic Association*), KUHP (*Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Perdata/ Civil Code*), BAKN (*Badan Administrasi Kependidikan Negara/ State Labor Agency*), PGRI (*Persatuan Guru Republik Indonesia/ Teachers Association of the Republic of Indonesia*), and NKRI (*Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia/ Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia*).

Acronyms formed by five letters; KUHAP (*Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Acara Pidana/ Indonesia Law of Criminal Procedure*).

Here are some abbreviations found in the source; formed by two letters: PT (*Perseroan Terbatas/ Limited Liability Company*), SD (*Sekolah Dasar/ Primary School*), cm (*sentimeter/ centimeter*), kg (*kilogram*), and rp (*Rupiah*).

Abbreviations formed by three letters: DPR (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat/ The People's Representative Council*), KK (*Kuliah Kerja Nyata/ Community Service Program*), PBB (*Persatuan Bangsa-Bangsa/ The United Nations*), dst (*dan seterusnya/ et cetera*), and sda (*sama dengan diatas/ same as the above*).

Abbreviations formed by four letters: BPJS (*Badan Penyelenggaraan Jaminan Sosial/ Social Insurance Administration Body*), and KBBI (*Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia/ The Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language of the Language Center*).

Data Analysis

ACRONYMS	ABBREVIATIONS
1. Formed by two letters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UI (Universitas Indonesia) • an (atas nama) • SE (Sarjana Ekonomi) • KA (kereta api) • d.a (dengan alamat). 	1. Formed by two letters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PT (Perusahaan Terbatas) • SD (Sekolah Dasar) • cm (sentimeter) • kg (kilogram) • rp (Rupiah).
2. Formed by three letters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIP (Nomor Induk Pegawai) • sim (Surat Izin Mengemudi) • hum (humaniora) • kol (kolonel) • LAN (Lembaga Antariksa Negara) • KPU (Komisi Pemilihan Umum). 	2. Formed by three letters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPR (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat) • KK (Kuliah Kerja Nyata) • PBB (Persatuan Bangsa-Bangsa) • dst (and seterusnya) • sda (sama dengan diatas).
3. Formed by four letters:	3. Formed by four letters:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LIPI (Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia)• PASI (Persatuan Atletik Seluruh Indonesia)• KUHP (Kitab Undang-undang Hukum Perdata)• BAKN (Baand Administrasi Kepegawaian Negara)• PGRI (Persatuan Guru Republik Indonesia),• NKRI (Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia). <p>4. Terdiri dari lima huruf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• KUHAP (Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Acara Pidana).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BPJS (Baand Penyelenggaraan Jaminan Sosial)• KBBI (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia).
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III. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions that can be drawn after conducting the research are:

- Acronym
 1. Acronym formed by the initial letter of each component/ word.
 2. Acronym may consist of two, three, four, and five letters from the initial letter of each component/ word.
 3. The sound of acronyms meets the Indonesian phonotactic pattern.
 4. Acronym is spoken as natural word.
- Abbreviation
 1. Abbreviation formed by the initial phoneme of each component/ word.
 2. Abbreviation may consist of two, three, and four letters from the initial letter of each component/ word
 3. The sound of abbreviations does not meet the Indonesian phonotactic pattern.
 4. Abbreviation cannot be spoken as natural word

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