Word Formation Processes in the *Black Hawk Down* Movie Script

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ABSTRACT

The study entitled Word Formation Processes in the *Black Hawk Down* Movie Script is aimed at revealing the tokens of acronym, compounding and clipping. This study used Bauer's (1983) theory of word formation processes. The research method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The result shows that the total number of the target words is 75 tokens. There are 19 acronyms (35 tokens), 18 compounding (26 tokens), and 8 clipping (24 tokens). The most frequently used in acronym is RPG (7 tokens), while in compounding is gunship and roadblock (3 tokens), and in clipping is ammo (10 tokens). It can be concluded that the most popular word formation processes in the movie script is acronym.

Keyword*: Acronym, Compounding, Clipping, Word Formation Processes*

INTRODUCTION

Word formation processes are interesting phenomena to analyze. For example, Kouga (2003) investigated the word formation processes in Camfranglais. He found that the Cameroon secondary school students used several word formation processes to discuss issues of their interest. For example, they used coinage and shortening. Another study by Nanda, Rosa & Ardi (2012) investigating Twilight novel and Twilight movie script revealed that suppletion and cliticization are the most frequently used word formation process respectively in those two works. However, a similar study in a military context has not been conducted. This study investigated the word formation processes in a military context in the Black Hawk Down movie script.

Black Hawk Down illustrates the civil war in Somalia. It contains activities of the American soldiers who came to Somalia as part of a larger United Nations peacekeeping force. The analysis of word formation processes in a military context is an interesting phenomenon because in the military context, the soldiers use codes to keep confidential information from unauthorized eyes (Hipschman, 1995). A secure and rapid communication is essential to the effective operation on the battlefield. Pahl (2003) says that the soldiers have a bureaucracy to use abbreviations and acronyms in their code.

This study used Bauer's (1983) theory of word formation to investigate the word formation processes in the movie script. This study is focused on the words including acronym, compounding, and clipping processes in *Black Hawk Down* movie script.

Word formation is a constant evolution of new terms and new uses of old terms as a reassuring sign of vitality and creativeness in the way a language is shared by the needs of its users (Yule, 1996). According to Bauer (1983), there are nine types of word formation. The types are word manufacture, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, acronyms, derivation, and mixed formation. What follows

are his further elaboration of each types.

The first type of word formation process is word manufacture. Word manufacture is the name of a process in which new words are created. It usually comes from the name of company's product, such as *Xerox* or *Kleenex*.

Another type of word formation is compounding, which is joining of two words to produce a single form. The examples of compounding word are *bookcase*, *fingerprint* and *textbook*.

Blending combines two separate forms to produce a single new term, but blending takes only the beginning of a word and joins it to the end of another word. An example of blending is *gasohol* which refers to gasoline and alcohol (Plag 2003).

When the word of more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form, it is called clipping. The examples, as Zapata says (2007), are *gas* from gasoline, or *ad* from advertisement. Clipping is also used to clip someone's name, such as *Ed* from Edward. Then, clipping is often

reflected in their spelling. The examples are *showbiz* for show business and *cuz* for because.

Backformation is a word of one type that is reduced to form another word of a different type. It usually occurs from noun to verb. The example is *televise* (verb) from *television* (noun).

Conversion is a change on the function of a word, such as when a noun comes to be used as a verb, a verb comes to be a noun, a phrasal verb becomes nouns, verb becomes adjective, or adjective becomes noun. The example is the word *paper* in *"He is papering the bedroom walls"*.

The other type of word formation is acronym. Acronym is formed from the initial letters of a set other words. Quirck et al. (1985 cited in Zapata, 2007) says that there are two types of acronyms. First is the acronym which is pronounced as a word. The example is *NASA* from *National Aeronautics and Space Administration.* Second is the acronym which is pronounced as sequences of letters. It is also known as alphabetisms. For example, *FBI*

from *Federal Bureau of Investigation.*

Another type of word formation process is derivation. Bauer (1983) states that derivation is the process of creating a new word out of one or more words by adding a prefix or suffix. The examples are *unhappy*, *misrepresent* and *sadness*.

The last type of word formation, according to Bauer, is mixed formation. Mixed formation is some formations which appear to be a mixture of two or more of the process. The example is *footballer*. The word footballer undergoes two processes: compounding and suffixation.

Abbreviations and acronyms in a military context are usually known as code words. Parsch (2003) says that code words are always classified as confidential and secret, and always consist of a single word. Military usually uses abbreviations and acronyms for their code. They use it for communication, but abbreviations are not normally used in written texts. They may be used in the form of spoken communication.

METHODOLOGY

This study used a qualitative descriptive method. A qualitative method seeks to embrace and understand the contextual influences on the research issues (Hennick et al., 2011). A descriptive method is used in order to give the systematic description about the study. The source of data was *Black Hawk Down* movie script. That movie script is analyzed by means of qualitative approach the data which is also presented in table of data contains the frequency of the tokens within that movie script.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
FINDINGS

After investigating the movie script, it is revealed that the total number of the target words is 75 tokens. There are 19 acronyms (35 tokens), 18 compounding (26 tokens), and 8 clipping (24 tokens).

The acronyms are given in the following table. The full written words of the acronyms are taken from the Defense and Intelligence Abbreviations and Acronyms (Swenson, 1997).

No	Word	Acronyms of	Frequency	Percentage
1.	APC	Armored Personnel Carrier	1	2.9 %
2.	BS	Broadcast Service	1	2.9 %
3.	CPR	Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation	1	2.9 %
4.	CNN	Cable News Network	1	2.9 %
5.	ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival	3	8.6 %
6.	IR	Infrared	2	5.7 %
7.	JOC	Joint Operations Center	3	8.6 %
8.	JROTC	Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps	1	2.9 %
9.	KIA	Killed in Action	1	2.9 %
10.	NE	Northeastern	1	2.9 %
11.	NOD	Night Observation Device	1	2.9 %
12.	PCL	Parallel Communication Link	1	2.9 %
13.	QRF	Quick Response Force	2	5.7 %
14.	SAR	Search and Rescue	1	2.9 %
15.	SE	Southeastern	4	11.4 %
16.	UHF	Ultra High Frequency	1	2.9 %
17.	UN	United Nations	2	5.7 %
18.	RPG	Rocket-Propelled Grenade	7	20 %
19.	PFC	Private First Class	1	2.9 %
Total			**35**	**100 %**

Table 1 Acronym

The table shows that RPG is the most frequently used in the movie script. The next is SE, it appeared four times. Then, ETA and JOC appeared three times and IR and QRF appeared twice. The rest appeared only once.

The compounding is given in the following tables.

No	Word	Word Component		Frequency	Percentage
		N+N	Adj+N		
1.	Airfield	Air + field		1	3.8 %
2.	Airspace	Air + space		2	7.6 %
3.	Airstrike	Air + strike		1	3.8 %
4.	Businessman	Business + man		1	3.8 %
5.	Cowboys	Cow + boys		1	3.8 %
6.	Daylight	Day + light		1	3.8 %
7.	Downtown	Down + town		1	3.8 %

8.	Flashlight	Flash + light		1	3.8 %
9.	Frenchfries	French + fries		1	3.8 %
10.	Gentlemen		Gentle + men	2	7.6 %
11.	Gunfight	Gun + fight		1	3.8 %
12.	Gunship	Gun + ship		3	11.5 %
13.	Minigun	Mini + gun		2	7.6 %
14.	Roadblock	Road + block		3	11.5 %
15.	Rooftop	Roof + top		2	7.6 %
16.	Stronghold	Strong + hold		1	3.8 %
17.	Sunglasses	Sun + glasses		1	3.8 %
18.	Taxpayer	Tax + payer		1	3.8 %
Total				26	100 %

Table 2 Compounding

The table shows that the most frequently used are gunship and roadblock. Those appeared three times. Then, airspace, gentlemen, minigun, and rooftop appeared twice. The rest appeared only once.

The clippings are given in the following tables.

No	Word	Meaning	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Ammo	Ammunition	10	41.7 %
2.	Cos	Because	2	8.3 %
3.	Doc	Doctor	4	16.7 %
4.	Ev	Eversmann	2	8.3 %
5.	Evac	Evacuate	2	8.3 %
6.	Info	Information	1	4.2 %
7.	Max	Maximum	1	4.2 %
8.	Mog	Mogadishu	2	8.3 %
Total			**24**	**100 %**

Table 3 Clipping

The table showed that the most commonly used is ammo. It appeared ten times. The next is Doc which appeared four times. Then, cos, Ev, evac and Mog appeared twice. The rest tokens appeared only once. The definitions were taken from Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (2008), except for the word Mog, which is found in the movie script.

DISCUSSION

Some of the acronym tokens belong to the type of acronyms pronounced as a word, except for the word NOD and SAR, which are pronounced as sequences of letters or alphabets. The soldiers used acronym tokens in a serious condition, such as a war. The reason is in a serious condition, a fast and brief decision is required. Besides, many terms or names in military contexts are too long to pronounce and the soldiers have to optimize the time in making a conversation due to the seriousness of the condition. That is why the soldiers usually make shorter terms.

Similar to the use of acronym tokens, the soldiers also used compounding process to optimize the time due to a serious condition. The words in the compounding process are found in the construction of Noun + Noun and Adjective + Noun. The construction of Adjective + Noun is only found in the word *Gentlemen*, while the rest are constructed with Noun + Noun combination.

Furthermore, the number of clipping is less than the number of acronym and compounding. Clipping can be applied to shorten someone's name. It can be seen in the finding of the word *Ev*. *Ev* is formed from Eversmann. The textual evidence is shown below:

> Eversmann: Listen Smith, I need you to back me up out there today, all right? Keep sharp.
> Smith: Yes sir, Sergeant Eversmann.
> Eversmann: All right.
> Smith: **Ev**, it's gonna be nothing man, nothing.
> *(Scene 6)*

The data also shows that the type of clipping is reflected in their full spelling such as the word *cos*, which came from the word because.

Overall, the acronym, compounding, and clipping tokens were used in all things related to

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weapons. In acronym, for example the most commonly used is RPG. In compounding the most used is gunship, and clipping is ammo. Those words are names of weapons.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study is to identify the tokens of word formation types uttered in *Black Hawk Down* movie script. Results show that the total number of the target words is 75 tokens. There are 19 acronyms (35 tokens), 18 compounding (26 tokens), and 8 clipping (24 tokens). The most frequently used in acronym is RPG (7 tokens), while in compounding is gunship and roadblock (3 tokens), and in clipping is ammo (10 tokens). It can be concluded that the most popular word formation process in the movie script is acronym.

The study of word formation process is reasonably wide. However, this research only focuses on the use of word formation in a military communication context. There might be some other fields using more word formation types. Thus, there are some suggestions that

can be considered for further research on similar fields or other situations and conditions. First, other fields such as economics, law or politics are interesting subjects to be investigated. Second, the internet chat room, newspaper, magazine, song lyrics or blog are also remarkable resources to be analyzed. The last, some other types of word formation besides acronym, compounding and clipping are also available to be explored.

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