AN ANALYSIS ON THE ROLE OF WORD FORMATION PROCESS IN THE LYRICS OF MALAYSIA'S TOP 10 ENGLISH SONGS

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APPROVAL SHEET

This research paper attached hereto, entitled An Analysis on the Role of Word Formation Process in the Lyrics of Malaysia's Top 10 English Songs prepared and submitted by Ong Su Ke in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) English Language Faculty of Arts and Social Science is hereby accepted.

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ABSTRACT

The beauty of language is that it encourages evolution and changes to its contents. Being a sign of vitality (Yule, 2016), the changes of language use is shaped by its users to accommodate the changing paces of mankind. This study aims to understand the role of recent language changes by analysing the literary work of its users – song lyrics. Under the morphological concept of the word formation process, new instances of language uses are categorized into word formation process types such as Acronyms, Derivation, Backformation, Conversion, Compounding, Borrowing, Coinage, Clipping, and Blending. These categories are then compared to understand the trends of how language is changing. Setting the scope to the trends of language use in Malaysia, this study analyses the 10 most popular English songs amongst Malaysians to gain a more local insight on what types of word formation processes might influence their use of language. Findings of this study suggests that language change is vigorously evident in writings, with the most prominent word formation process being conversions. This study hopes to normalise and encourage the change and vitality, and creative use of language, especially in Malaysian context.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

According to Nunan (2012), language is a defining commodity to humans that runs through our whole lives. As time passes across land and culture, languages are shaped by language users to better suit the lives that they are leading. Though there are many traditional scholars who resist neologism and generally any changes towards language, the truth is language has always been ever evolving. Yule (2016) views the changing language and introduction of new words as a "sign of vitality and creativity".

Since the expansion and changes if the vocabulary is to accommodate the use of language, the changes should reflect in written, or spoken forms of the language. Scholars such as Gfeller (1987) and Maley (1987) included song writing as a means of expression, and regard lyrics as equal a useful material in language learning as poems and other forms of written material. Past studies have shown many instances where the word formation process is apparent in written arts such as in the evolvement of slang use in lyrics (Runuk, 2021). Since many studies have discussed the role of morphology and neologism in the context of novels, written plays, or even text messages (Siregar, 2021), song lyrics should also be included as a material that reflects the word formation process of a language. In this study, the various type of word formation processes will be discussed as well as how they shape the language and word use in lyric writing nowadays.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

A notable gap between studies would be the lack of variety in related works. Surely word formation process in lyrics is a prevalent study especially in recent years, but usually the object of discussion would be singular albums. Since not many songwriters' works are considered, it would not be inclusive enough to represent general language users. Other studies only analyse the word formation process of certain types of words such as slang words (Runuk, 2021). It would be inconclusive to say that it reflects the overall language use that involves word formation processes. This study aims to provide a wider and more accurate view of word formation processes in the language use by considering songs from different albums, songwriters, and artists, that are popular amongst the Malaysian society.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The study is done in hopes of contributing to the academia of related topics. Firstly, this study on the word formation process will contribute to the acceptability towards language changes and remove the stigmatisms of more puritan views towards language. Furthermore, the study also hopes to contribute to strengthening a more innovative method of using lyrics as a basis of linguistic analysis and as a reflection of language use of a society This study also aims to help educators gain insight on the word formation processes exposed to Malaysians in their daily lives by identifying the patterns and usage of each process. Finally, the study wishes to aid future researchers on the topic of morphology in language use, especially in song writing.

1.4 Research Objectives

This study aims to:

I.   Find out the role of recent language changes of current day lyric writing.

II. Compare the types of word formation processes used in lyric writing.

1.5 Research Questions

With regards to the research objectives, the study answers the following questions:

I.   What is the role of recent language changes of current day lyric writing?

II. What is the most common type of word formation in current day lyric writing?

1.6 Limitations of the Study

In this study, the songs analysed are taken from Spotify's official playlist named "Top Tracks of 2021 Malaysia". Spotify is a music playing platform available to the society in Malaysia, but the songs streamed on YouTube Music, Apple Music and so on are not considered because the list is generated based on user behaviour on Spotify only. This study also lacks genre universality and distribution, since not all song genres and their lyric writings are included in the list of study. The genres of the songs in the list mainly consist of songs from pop as well as rhythm and blues, and the findings of this study can be applied as such. However, other genres such as country, folk, jazz, and rock are limited from less to none on the list, hence the results cannot be applied universally to all types of music and lyric writing. Another limitation to this study might be the exclusion of other linguistic elements. This study did not include inflectional morphology in the study for neologism. Further studies may dive deeper on the variety of genres as well as other aspects of morphology.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The word formation process is known as the study concerning the pattern of the forming of new words in language (Marchand, 1969). This section will elaborate the types of word formation process that would be used in analysing the chosen songs, as well as their related studies.

2.1 Derivation

As defined by Yule (2016), derivation is the process of adding derivational morphemes to existing words to create a new word, sometimes of a different word class. Derivational morphemes or affixes can be added to different parts of words to alter or add to their meanings. Most common types of affixes would be prefixes, suffixes, circumfixes, infixes, and interfixes, characterised by their positions. Prefixes are bound morphemes that are located before other morphemes, while suffixes are located after other morphemes (Bubenik, 1999). For instance, the word *unhappy* has *un-* as a prefix, and the word happily has *-ly* as a suffix, both changing the meaning of the stem word *happy*. According to Bauer (2003), circumfix is when two bound morphemes, each found at the front and back of the base, is used together as a pair, such as in *unhappily*, *un-* and *-ly* are used together to form this specific adverb from its stem. Infixes, however, is when an affix is placed in the middle of another morph, or as Bauer (2003) emphasizes, interrupts the continuity of one other whole morph, instead of being in between morphs. Yule (2016) explained that infixes usually occur in spoken discourse for emotionally agitating expressions such as "*abso-freakin-utely!*".

2.2 Backformation

Some word shortening cases involve lexemes that are reduced to form words of a different word class. This process is called backformation, and most common types involve transitions between nouns and verbs (Yule, 2016), while others may include transitions from adverbs to

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adjectives. According to Marta (2012), there are arguments regarding the definition or the position of backformation amongst the word formation processes. Some scholars claim that backformation is a reversed version the word-formation rule, or in other words, the removal of the "suffix" syllable from the existing word to form a new word, yet others, including Marchand (1969), argue the validity of this claim due to semiotic reasons, as the meanings of the word pairs do not necessarily reflect each other directly and define backformation as the combined process of clipping and conversion. Examples of backformation include emote (v.) from emotion (n.), where -ion is removed, and babysit (v.) from babysitter (n.), where -er is removed. Marta's study also observed conflict regarding which words are recognised as back-formation instead of derivation, and vice versa.

2.3 Conversion

Another word formation process that involves a change in function is conversion. According to Yule (2016), conversion is defined as the functional or category shift of a word without changing its word form. When the conversion involves a change in word class, some scholars like Marchand (1969) label it as zero derivation, since the change is not reflected by morphological signals like suffixes, but other scholars such as Bauer and Hernández (2005), disagree with the naming because it overlooks the semantic shift of the word. Sometimes, the words undergo conversion in secondary word class to change the meaning of the word. For example, in the phases "a beauty" and "her beauty", the word beauty does not undergo a change in word class, however, the former phrase indicates the word as an abstract noun, while the latter a concrete noun. Nevertheless, the new word looks and sounds the same as its original form but is used in a different manner, or as Pavesi (1998) describes "lacks iconicity", hence the meaning of the new word can only be identified through the surrounding context. For example, phrases like "up your game" or "up the prices" use the word up, which is originally an adverb, as a verb that carries the meaning of stepping up or increasing.

2.4 Compounding

Yule (2016) defines compounding as the word formation process where two whole words are joined to form a new word. According to a study by Fabb (2017), compounds can be categorized as endocentric or exocentric. An Endocentric compound would consist of a "head" or determinatum, which carries the meaning of the compound, and a determinant that complements determinatum. Usually, the determinatum is in the same word class as the compounded word, for instance in the compound word blackbird, black is the determinant that describes the determinatum bird. On the other hand, in an exocentric compound, a determinant is paired with a "zero determinatum", which is when the head of the compound lies outside the compound word and is not explicitly addressed (Sprockel, 1973). However, Fabb (2017) also argued that in some cases where the head is not distinctive, and the decision of whether the determinatum is present in the compound relies on the interpretation of the analyst. Fabb (2017) also brought up a type of compound that is made up of one lexeme and one bound word instead of two lexemes. Such examples include churchgoer, while -goer is neither an affix or an individual word. As for the common patterns of compounds, a study by Punske (2016) concluded that compounds do not normally include inflections in their determinants, but exceptions are made for irregular plural inflection, when the determinant is interpreted as a group, or when pluralia-tantum forms are involved. Although the latter part of the compound word (determinatum) contributes to the core meaning (Fabb, 2017), Punske (2016) mentioned that the initial part (determinator) is phonologically stressed instead.

2.5 Borrowings

According to Yule (2016), borrowings are words that are directly taken from another language. Borrowings typically involves a donor language and a recipient language (Panocová, 2015). For example, the word croissant is borrowed from French, and incorporated into the English

vocabulary. In this case, French is the donor language, while English is the recipient language, Scholars stated that there are ways to characterize different types of borrowings depending on the way the two languages interact, namely cultural, intimate and dialect borrowings. In cultural borrowings, it is when words are taken from a foreign country, alongside with the exchange of items that might not have a name in the recipient language (Panocová, 2015). Intimate borrowing happens when the society speaks two different languages at once, with one language dominant over the other. This type of borrowings only happens in a singular direction, with the dominant language being the donor. Panocová (2015) also stated that in most case studies, it is hard to differentiate code switching and borrowing, especially when the clausal boundaries between the interchanging languages are unclear. However, According to Yule (2016), new words should be characterised with their lasting lifespan in the vocabulary, as well as their widespread use. Yule (2016) also stated that sometimes, foreign languages also introduce new phonemes, such as the voiced fricative /ʒ/ is brought into English along with words such as measure from French. Aside from the direct examples of borrowings stated, Haspelmath (2009) also includes calque as a type of borrowing. This is when the recipient language directly translates a word from the donor language instead of using it as it is. Examples include phrasal expressions such as marriage of convenience, which is directly translated from *mariage de convenance* in French.

2.6 Coinage

Coinage is the word formation process where completely new terms are used in the vocabulary. In most cases, the new words stem from commercial products, which then leads to the generalisation of their trade names to be used for all products of the same category (Yule, 2016). For instance, Panadol is used to refer any sorts of painkillers, despite it being a brand name. Lalić (2004) stated that when an item is named after a personal name, the new lexeme is called

an eponym. One famous example would be the origin of the word sandwich, which is named after the Earl of Sandwich, who invented the meal when gambling.

2.7 Acronyms

In an orthoepic sense, acronyms are new single pronounceable words (Pütz, 1991) taken from initials of an original phrase. In other words, instead of uttering it letter by letter as one may do for first letter initialisms, it is pronounced as whole words, for example, NASA (The National Aeronautics and Space Administration), is pronounced orthoepically instead of N-A-S-A. Some acronyms are not capitalised and seep into the society's daily vocabulary to become everyday words, most people might not be aware that the word laser is an acronym for "light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation" (Yule, 2016). Being an unpredictable formation, it is unable to standardize which or how many letters should be taken for acronyms (Bauer, 1983). Nevertheless, scholars stated that acronyms should still be characterized by a few criteria such as its usage across different discourse, and that it must consist of at least 3 letters (Grange & Bloom, 2007). According to Pütz (1991), though acronyms have always been a standard language feature, but this specific form of neology has been rising along with the advancement of technology and the need to shorten long-winded phrases of machinery for the ease of everyday conversations. Naturally, some arguments are also present amongst scholars when it comes to the definition of acronyms. Pütz (1991) mentioned the favour for prefabricated acronyms, which are acronyms that are deemed "suitable" by other linguists. Other than the criteria mentioned above, the prefabricated or acrostic acronyms also must be homonymous, or at least similar to an existing word in the language, and the formed acronym must be somehow in relation to the original phrase, or hint at the nature of the original phrase from which it was taken. However, in this study, the acronyms are not measured to the standard of prefabricated acronyms, since this is an area of heavy debate for scholars, but the study hopes to provide groundwork for future discussions on the topic. Another interesting extension

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of acronyms are the formation of backronyms, namely prolonging acronyms, for mnemonic or pronunciation purposes. The most common example would be S.O.S. taking up the meaning of "Save Our Souls" although it is not originally intended as such. (Gogu, 2020)

2.8 Clipping

Bauer (1983) defined clipping as the process where a word or lexeme is stylistically reduced while its meaning and word class stays the same. In other words, it is when words that originally consists of two syllables or more are shortened to become a new word. According to Yule (2016), this word formation process initially started out casually in spoken discourse, but then went on to be incorporated into written and more official forms of language. Some daily examples would include clipping mathematics into maths, or advertisement into ad. In fact, the widespread use of the process is also seen in nicknames for uncommon nouns – the names of places and people - such as Cali from California, or Sam from Samuel. Like other types of word reduction, clippings are also found in scientific terminologies, and the forms that they take are much more complicated than examples stated above. This is because it is again unpredictable in the sense that the number and nature of the syllables that are retained in the clipped form is ungoverned by linguistic rules, especially since the process is usually initialised in informal spoken discourse. Scholars like Jamet (2009) observed that commonly, there are three types of clippings, characterized by the syllables retained. Back-clipping removes the end parts of the word, which is the type of clipping the examples above are. Fore-clipping is when the initial parts of a word is removed, like how telephone is shortened to phone. Syncopes are when the middle part of the word is retained, while its front and back parts are clipped away. The most common example of syncope would be catching the "flu", instead of influenza. However, there are no restrictions towards which type of clippings should a lexeme undergo to form a new word. Scholars conclude that no limitations can be categorized as a rule to the formation of clippings, except for that it must make sense both phonologically and

orthographically (Bauer, 1983). Jamet (2009) also observed that clipped forms of words are so popular in daily language use that they bring different connotations in social settings compared to the original form of the words, although the definitions are similar. For instance, "gymnasium brothers" would make less sense than its common clipped form of "gym bros". Clippings also contribute other creative ways of inventing new words, such as hypocorism According to Yule (2016), hypocorism is when a clipped word is added with a *-y* or *-ie* ending to form a synonym to the original word. For example, the word "jammies" is taken from its original word *pyjamas*, where the syllable "jam" is retained for the hypocorism. The scholar also states that this form of word formation is popular amongst Australian and British English speakers.

2.9 Blending

In simplest terms, blending is the process where shortened parts of two separate lexemes are merged to form a new word (Yule, 2016). Common examples of blends include brunch, the combination of breakfast and lunch. As the types discussed before this, blending is also unpredictable by any linguistic rules, there is no clear regulation on which syllables to extract from the original lexemes, as well as the sequence or manner of their combination, because there are usually multiple permissible options on how the shortened lexemes could be joined together (Bauer, 1983). Even so, it is observed that blended words have the tendency to merge where there is an overlap in pronunciation or spelling, for instance spork – which is the combination of the words spoon and fork, has an overlapping letter "o", and how motor and hotel shares "ot" in the blended word motel.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data Collection

This study is a qualitative analysis studying word formation processes of the words used in the lyrics of selected songs. 10 songs were selected from Spotify's official playlist "Top Tracks of 2021 Malaysia". The playlist includes songs of other languages than English, and multiple songs from the same artist and same album. Note that this study only strives to analyse the word formation in English songs, hence non-English songs were eliminated. To ensure variety and inclusiveness, songs from the repeating albums are also eliminated while only the most played song on said album was selected. Spotify also provides the lyrics to each song, which acts the textual content analysed in this study.

3.2 Data Analysis

This study strives to describe the role of word formation processes found in the lyrics to grasp how it affects language use. As concluded by Rizki & Marnila (2018) in their study using a similar method, their descriptive research tests the research questions by interpreting and describing the situation of the object of research. In this study, the lyrics of the selected songs are analysed for their respective word formation processes using online dictionaries such as the Online Etymology Dictionary (n.d.) and The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology (Hoad, 1996). This study also observes the repetition of lyrics also affect the results of the analysis. Therefore, repeating instances of the same lexeme (used in the same manner) in a single song would not be counted. The data is then charted into a table and compared to determine the most common types of word formation processes. To answer the research question that concerns current changes of language, words that are rooted in Old English, Old French, or Old Latin would not be analysed in this study, and words that undergo change in form or in meaning after late middle English will be considered as new words.

3.3 Conceptual Framework

Neologism, or as Yule (2016) words it, the process of creating new words, has always been the main topic in morphology. According to Aronoff and Fudeman (2022), morphology is the linguistic field concerning word formation, which is the focus of this study. This study will aim to analyse neologism under the morphological concept of word formation process. To better explain the analysed results, this study observes Yule's definition of the word formation process (2016) and his categories of word formation such as Acronyms, Derivation, Backformation, Conversion, Compounding, Borrowing, Coinage, Clipping, and Blending. New words would be categorized according to these nine types of word formation processes.

4.0 FINDINGS & ANALYSIS

4.1 Analysis of results

This section showcases the results of the descriptive research. New words from each song are arranged in individual tables according to song and type of word formation processes. Due to the amount of data under one category, most findings will then be presented in table form to aid understanding and avoid redundancy. The explanations of categories with more prominent examples will follow the tables in paragraphs. The total is then tabulated and presented for comparison.

Song 1

Heartbreak Anniversary - Giveon									
Type of WFP	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
		lifeless		still	forever	balloons	deflated	'cause	
		unopened			outside	souvenirs			
		foolishly			heartbreak				
		deflated							
Number of words	0	4	0	1	3	2	1	1	0

Table 1.1

In Heartbreak Anniversary, word formation processes found include derivation, conversion, compounding, borrowing, coinage, and clipping.

Derivation

Prefixes	*de-, un-*
Suffixes	*-ish, -ly, -less*

Table1.2

In this song, derivation has the most data, while the term *foolishly* experienced the process twice – *fool* + *-ish*, and then subsequently *foolish* + *-ly.*

Compounding

forever	for + **ever**	Endocentric compound
outside	out + **side**	Endocentric compound
heartbreak	heart + **break**	Endocentric compound

Word in **bold** = **determinatum**

Table 1.3

The borrowed words shown here such as *balloons* and *souvenirs* are said to be borrowed from French. However, there are some arguments surrounding the origins of *balloons* because the spelling is also alike to both the French word *ballon* as well as the Italian word *ballone*.

One notable word here is deflated, for it is a coinage from the word inflated. This study also characterises the word under derivation because it adds the prefix de- to the stem word -flate, which is a taken from inflate.

The word *still* in the song is an adverb with the meaning "even now". Originally an adjective, the word went through conversion and changed its word class (adjective to adverb).

Song 2

drivers license - Olivia Rodrigo									
Type of WFP	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
	okay	driver's		pictured	everything	blonde		'cause	alone
		finally		front	someone				always
		around		blue	forever				
		probably		through	sidewalks				
		insecure		fuckin'					
Number of words	1	5	0	5	4	1	0	1	2

Table 2.1

The types of word formation processes found in the song "drivers license" include acronyms, derivation, conversion, compounding, borrowing, clipping, and blending, with derivation and conversion both taking the lead in numbers.

Derivation

Prefixes	*in-, a-*
Suffixes	*-ly, -er.*

Table 2.2

Compounding

everything	every + **thing**	Endocentric compounding
someone	some + **one**	Endocentric compounding
sidewalk	side + **walk** (noun)	Endocentric compounding
forever	for + ever	Exocentric compounding

Word in **bold** = **determinatum**

Table 2.3

Conversions

picture	noun to verb
front	noun to adjective
blue	change in meaning
through	preposition to adjective, further change in meaning
fuckin'	verb to exclamation

Table 2.4

Notable conversions include blue, which means saddened or depressed instead of the colour blue, usually used informally in daily conversations. This might be due to the colour blue's long history of connotations to gloomy, melancholic tones especially in literature or films. Another conversion *through*, originally a preposition, carries the meaning of making it to the other side of something, which is then shaped by modern use into becoming an adjective that describes something that reaches the ends. Afterwards, it is used informally to describe a situation that is coming to an end, specifically relationships, in phrases like "We're through".

Blended words like alone and always come from blending the clipped word *all* with *one* and *ways* respectively: alone reflecting the person is "all but one", and always mean "in all ways".

The song contains the only acronym in all the songs analysed. Originally, O.K. is an acronym of *orl korrect,* which is a playful way of spelling "all correct". However, the two letters then go through style changes and lastly take form the backronym *okay.*

Song 3

Type of WFP	At My Worst - Pink Sweat$								
	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
		lover		sink or swim	somebody			'cause	
					whenever				
					nobody				
Number of words	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0

Table 3.1

In the song At My Worst, derivation, conversion, and clipping tied by having one word under each category, while compounding has the most.

In the phrase sink or swim, it does not carry the meaning of sinking or swimming in a body of fluid. Rather, it means to either succeed or fail. The term also has the connotation of testing if something (or someone) will succeed. While the negative connotation of failure is still found in the word sink, swim carries no such meaning when used alone, or at least not recorded as such in dictionaries. (Hoad, 1996)

 Derivation

Suffixes	-er

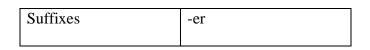Table 3.2

Compounding

somebody	some + **body**	Endocentric compounding
nobody	no + **body**	Endocentric compounding
whenever	when + ever	Exocentric compounding

Word in **bold** = **determinatum**

Table 3.3

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Song 4

Stay - The Kid LAROI, Justin Bieber									
Type of WFP	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformatio	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
			difficult	wasted	nobody	realize		'cause	
				fucked up	empty-handed				
				stranded	without				
Number of Words	0	0	1	3	3	1	0	1	0

Table 4.1

The word formation processes that affect the lyric writing in Stay include backformation, conversion, compounding, borrowing, and clipping, witch conversion and compounding leading the charts.

Conversion

wasted	Change in meaning
fucked up	Change in meaning
stranded	noun to verb, further change in meaning
realize	Change in meaning

Table 4.2

Wasted originally means being week or shrivelled, but then took on the meaning of being intoxicated by alcohol or drugs. On the other hand, *stranded* originated from the noun strand. The verb first referred to the way sea creatures or boats come up to shore, but then developed into being left behind with no escape.

As seen in Table 4.1 and Table 4.2, the English word realize is borrowed from the French word réaliser, both carrying the meaning of bringing into reality. The word then went through a conversion in meaning to imply understanding a certain situation.

Compounding

nobody	no + **body**	Endocentric compounding
empty-handed	Empty + **hand**ed (bound word)	Endocentric compounding
whenever	when + ever	Exocentric compounding

Word in **bold** = **determinatum**

Table 4.3

As the only instance of backformation in this study, the word difficult was taken from the word

difficulty, eliminating the -y syllable, thus changing the word class from noun to adjective.

Song 5

Leave The Door Open - Bruno Mars, Anderson .Paak, Silk Sonic									
Type of WFP	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
				trap	newborn	mansion	the haze		alone
				romancing	bathtub	fillets	shamone		
				smoke		petals			
				newborn					
Number of Words	0	0	0	4	2	3	2	0	1

Table 5.1

Instances of conversion, compounding, borrowing, coinage, and blending are all found in the song Leave the Door Open; in which conversion occurred the most.

Borrowing

Borrowed word	Donor language	Original word
mansion	French	*mansion*
fillets	French	*filet*
petals	Modern Latin	*petalum*

Table 5.2

Conversion

trap	Change in meaning
romancing	Noun to verb, further change in meaning
smoke	Change in meaning
newborn	Adjective to noun

Table 5.3

The word trap used in this song, specifically in the phrase "shut your trap", refers to a person's mouth. It carries the same meaning as telling someone to stop talking. On the other hand, romancing comes from the verb conversion of the noun romance. Romance (verb) originally meant telling stories or poems, which then evolved into courting or taking interest in someone.

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Compounding

| newborn | new + **born** | Endocentric compounding |
| bathtub | bath + **tub** | Endocentric compounding |

Word in bold = determinatum

Table 5.4

As seen in Table 5.3 as well as Table 5.4, the compound newborn was used to describe an infant who was just born. It then evolved to refer to the newborn child itself as a noun.

Coinage

The word "the haze" is elaborated itself in the song, surrounded by textual clues such as "smoke" and "Purple Haze", the term refers to marijuana. Purple Haze is a type of marijuana that has been referenced by pop culture from time to time (*Purple Haze Weed Strain Information*, n.d.). Apart from that, the use of the term "Shamone" as a variation of "come on" is commonly believed to be inspired by the singer Mavis Staples from The Staple Singers, who sang it on a live performance back in 1972 (ReelinInTheYears66, 2019). Artists has since paid tribute to this performance and incorporated the term into their own songs.

Song 6

Here's Your Perfect - Jamie Miller									
Type of WFP	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
		insane		fell for	everywhere	bouquet	champagne		
		mistake				champagne			
		remind				design			
Number of Words	0	3	0	1	1	3	1	0	0

Table 6.1

In the song Here's Your Perfect, four types of word formation processes are evident in the lyrics, namely derivation, conversion, compounding, coinage, and borrowing.

Derivation

Prefixes	*in-, mis-, re-*

Table 6.2

Borrowing

Borrowed word	Donor language	Original word
bouquet	French	*bouquet*
champagne	French	*vin de Champagne*
design	French	*desseign*

Table 6.3

The word *champagne* (wine of Champagne) is also a coinage after the province of France.

The only conversion example found in the song is *fell* in the term "fell for". Traditionally, the word "fell" would mean to drop, but eventually the term "fall in love" gained popularity, and the expression "falling for someone" stemmed under the same concept.

Next, the endocentric compound *everywhere* is made up of *every + where, where* being the determinatum.

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Song 7

Reckless - Madison Beer									
Type of WFP	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
		reckless		cope	anyway	hotel		'bout	
				sorry	nobody				
				relate	somebody				
					goodnight				
Number of Words	0	1	0	3	4	1	0	1	0

Table 7. 1

Derivation, conversion, compounding, borrowing, and clipping are the types of word formation processes that are found in the lyrics of Reckless.

Derivation

Suffixes	*-less*

Table 7.2

Compounding

anyway	any + **way**	Endocentric compounding
nobody	no + **body**	Endocentric compounding
somebody	some + **body**	Endocentric compounding
goodnight	good + **night**	Endocentric compounding

Word in **bold** = **determinatum**

Table 7.3

Conversion

cope	Change in meaning
sorry	Change in meaning
relate	Change in meaning

Table 7.4

The word *cope* initially means quarrelling or fighting, but then adapted the meaning of managing a certain situation. At first, *sorry* is an adjective used to describe grief, sadness, and sorrow, but further developed to an apology in the phrase "I'm sorry". Besides that, *relate* has went through many changes in its meaning, from "recount a story" to "bring relation between two things", and now, as used in the song, it means being able to empathise with something.

As for borrowing, the word *hotel* is borrowed from the French word *hôtel*, which originally meant "a big house" in French.

Song 8

Kiss Me More - Doja Cat, SZA									
Type of WFP	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
		corny		groove	somethin	wisdom tooth	French	dummy	always
		rubbish		sugar	into	pussy		lunch	
		gushy		public	breakfast	dessert		gin	
				hickeys	lipstick	drama		buck	
				niggas				back	
				bitches				ass	
				dodge					
				whip					
				appeal					
Number of Words	0	3	0	9	4	4	1	6	1

Table 8.1

 Conversion is the most prominent type of word formation process in the song Kiss Me More, followed by clipping, compounding, borrowing, derivation, coinage, and blending.

 Borrowing

Borrowed word	Donor language	Original word
Wisdom tooth	Calqued from Latin	*dentes sapientiae*
pussy	Calqued from French	*le chat*
dessert	French	*dessert*
drama	Late Latin	*drama*

Table 8.2

Compounding

something	some + **thing**	Endocentric compounding
into	no + **body**	Endocentric compounding
breakfast	break + fast	Exocentric compounding
lipstick	lip + **stick**	Endocentric compounding

Word in bold = **determinatum**

Table 8.3

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Derivation

Suffixes	*-y, -ish*

Table 8.4

Conversion

groove	Change in meaning
sugar	Change in meaning
public	Adjective to noun
hickeys	Change in meaning
niggas	Change in meaning
bitches	Change in meaning
dodge	Change in meaning
whip	Verb to noun
appeal	Verb to noun

Table 8.5

Notable changes in meanings include *groove*, which initially means a sunken part of the land or cut part of a material. It then took the meaning of rhythm from music, commonly jazz music. The word *sugar* is now often used as a term of endearment due to the sweet nature of the substance. Hickeys originally refers to small gadgets but is now a common name for love bites. Bitches are traditionally used to address female dogs, but then became an offensive and derogatory term to address women. Initially referring to making a quick and sudden movement, dodge then took upon the added meaning of avoiding something.

Clipping

dummy	dumb	Back-clipping, hypocorism
lunch	luncheon	Back-clipping
gin	geneva	Back-clipping
buck	buckskin	Back-clipping
back	backside	Back-clipping
ass	arse	-

Table 8.6

Song 9

double take - dhruv									
Type of WFP	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
		happy		crowds	nobody		Levi's	dude	
		unzipped		hooked	rose tinted		muse	mural	
					lifetime				
					forever				
Number of Words	0	2	0	2	4	0	2	2	0

Table 9.1

The word formation processes present in the song double take includes derivation, conversion, compounding, coinage, and clipping, the most frequent being compounding.

Derivation

Affixes	*un-*
Suffixes	*-y*

Table 9.2

Compounding

nobody	some + **thing**	Endocentric compounding
Rose-tinted	rose + **tinted**	Endocentric compounding
lifetime	life + **time**	Endocentric compounding
forever	for + **ever**	Endocentric compounding

Word in **bold** = **determinatum**

Table 9.3

Conversion

crowds	verb to noun
hooked	Change in meaning.

Table 9.4

The word hooked originally meant to be "caught", which is then used to represent addiction.

For coinage, *Levi's* refers to an American clothing brand Levi Strauss & Co., which is well known for its denim apparel. The most famous product of the company would be their jeans, and they are commonly referred to as Levi's jeans or just "Levi's". the term *Muse* originates from the daughters of the Greek god Zeus and his nine daughters. The Muses oversaw protection of arts, which is why many relate them to inspiration for artists, hence the evolvement to the current day definition. The word *dude* was coined from the phrase Yankee Doodle Dandy, which was a popular song in America. Dude was taken from "doodle" and now just means "a guy".

On the other hand, the word mural was originally an adjective that meant "concerning walls", hence the term *mural painting* means paintings on a wall. The word "painting" is then clipped from the phrase, while *mural* retains the phrase meaning.

Song 10

		Peachers - Justin Bieber, Daniel Caesar, Giveon							
Type of WFP	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
		around		weed	badass	souvenir		'til	
		distracted		chick		ignore			
				bitch					
Number of Words	0	2	0	3	1	2	0	1	0

Table 10.1

In the song Peaches, the types of word formation processes found include derivation, conversion, compounding, borrowing, and clipping.

Derivation

affixes	*dis-, a-*

Table 10.2

Compounding

badass	bad + **ass**	Endocentric compounding

Word in **bold** = **determinatum**

Table 10.3

Conversion

weed	Change in meaning
chick	Change in meaning.
bitch	Change in meaning

Table 10.4

Before weed became a euphemism of marijuana, it meant unvalued plants, and proceeds to be associated with tobacco, which leads to the current meaning. The word chick's definition changed from "young chicken" to "young person", and finally to "young woman".

Borrowing

Borrowed word	Donor language	Original word
souvenir	French	*souvenir*
ignore	French	*ignorer*

Table 10.5

4.2 Answering the research questions

The first research question asks for the role of recent language changes of current day lyric writing.

Song Title	New WFP	Word Count	Percentage of New WFP
Heartbreak Anniversary	12	259	4.63%
drivers licence	19	364	5.22%
At My Worst	6	237	2.53%
Stay (with Justin Bieber)	9	379	2.37%
Leave The Door Open	12	452	2.65%
Here's Your Perfect	9	299	3.01%
Reckless	10	293	3.41%
Kiss Me More (feat. SZA)	28	509	5.50%
double take	12	305	3.93%
Peaches	9	486	1.85%
Average			3.51%

Table 11.0

The percentage of new words that went through word formation process has an average of 3.51% in each song. To put it bluntly, in every 200 words, averagely 7 instances of new language use would be evident. This shows that a large number of words used daily are considered to be new words, which are incorporated into the users' daily vocabulary and artistic works.

The second research question seeks to find out the most common type of word formation in current day lyric writing.

Song Title	Types of Word Formation Process								
	Acronyms	Derivation	Backformation	Conversion	Compounding	Borrowing	Coinage	Clipping	Blending
Heartbreak Anniversary	0	4	0	1	3	2	1	1	0
drivers licence	1	5	0	5	4	1	0	1	2
At My Worst	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0
Stay (with Justin Bieber)	0	0	1	3	3	1	0	1	0
Leave The Door Open	0	0	0	4	2	3	2	0	1
Here's Your Perfect	0	3	0	1	1	3	1	0	0
Reckless	0	1	0	3	4	1	0	1	0
Kiss Me More (feat. SZA)	0	3	0	9	4	4	1	6	1
double take	0	2	0	2	4	0	3	1	0
Peaches	0	2	0	3	1	2	0	1	0
Total	1	21	1	32	29	17	8	13	4

Table 12.0

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As seen in Table 12.0, Conversion has the highest total number of occurrences in the 10 songs analysed in this study. Out of 32 cases, 20 of them involved a shift in meaning without (or succeeding) a shift in word class. This shows that the language users nowadays prefer to use existing words, without changing its form, and shape their meanings into fitting situations. Pavesi (1998) observed that these conversions rely heavily on context, which might be why words with great to little relation would take on meanings of other words, due to the observance of context. Another explanation would be, given the characteristic of "zero derivation", language users do not have to possess knowledge on derivation or affixation when it comes to using conversion to find a suitable new word for their situations.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Discussion

Some cases of multiple processes are also observed in this study, when the word goes through more than one type of word formation process to evolve into its current form (Yule, 2016). One of the examples is included in Song 4, where the word *realize* is borrowed from French, and afterwards went through a change in meaning via conversion.

Another notable feature of the results is that the majority of the borrowed words originate from French, compared to Italian, German, or Greek. The type of borrowing found in this study could be categorized as cultural borrowing, as it involves two foreign countries interacting. French acts as the donor language and English as the recipient language.

According to Bauer (1983), acronyms, clipping and blending are word formation processes that are deemed to be "oddities" by other scholars due to their unpredictable nature. Some word formation processes that involve word shortening or simplification are formed based on orthography, hence are unable to be predicted by rules. As seen in the results, there are no clear distinctions on specific letters or syllables should be retained, some eliminating a singular letter; others eliminating whole words and retaining singular syllables (as seen in *dude* in Song 9).

Although many might believe unpredictable formations to be a modern trend, a study by Grange and Bloom (2007) states otherwise, that abbreviation took place in languages as early as when words were written on stone. To save space where the writing medium was limited, shortened versions of words or phrases were used instead of the lengthy group of words that they were taken from. Later, abbreviations were adapted by the language users, especially in the scientific field for its simplicity and efficiency. The fact that it is most abundantly found in the field of science might be able to explain why it is lacking in modern pop or RnB songs. It can also be reflected that an average language user might not incorporate many scientific terms or abbreviations in their daily spoken vocabulary.

5.2 Recommendations

The study aims to find out the new changes in language use in context of the Malaysian society. As stated at the beginning of the study, the genres of the songs analysed are not all-inclusive, as Pop and RnB are favoured to the majority of Malaysia. To better grasp the full image of language changes and neologism, it is encouraged for future researchers to examine songs from as much genres as possible.

During this study, a pattern of semantic changes, especially those of offensive slang words, are found in a few songs analysed in this study, such as *nigga*, *bitches* and *fuckin'*. Apart from the various forms that they take (McEnery & Xiao, 2003), a wave of linguistic reclamation has also brought change to the negative connotations of the phrases. Future scholars are encouraged to pursue this topic to find out how reclamation affects the definition of words and its usage.

In conclusion, this study analyses language changes reflected in lyrics, by applying the concept of word formation processes. This hopefully provides potential ground for other linguistic studies, and serves as a contribution to the education world, by showing the significance or role of language changes in English nowadays.

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