WORD FORMATION PROCESS ON AVIATION TERMS IN ENGLISH FOR AVIATION BOOK

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Abstract

In today's advanced technology, the needs of word formation increase because more and more terms to support such technology advancement were invented. This also happens to aviation terms that also introduces several new terms that might be still strange to the public. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a study on word formation of aviation terms in order to facilitate the public understanding of aviation terms. The purpose of this study is to analyze the types of word formation of aviation terms in English for Aviation Book published by Oxford. This sudy used a descriptive qualitative method. The data were the words contained in the listening transcript of the book. The data were analyzed based on the theories of word formation proposed by Bryson (1990), O'Grady et al. (1997), Pena (2010), Plag (2002) and Yule (2010). Based on the data analysis, it was found that there are 12 out of 17 types of word formation proposed by aforementioned experts. They are (1) Derivation, (2) Inflection, (3) Coinage, (4) Conversion, (5) Acronym, (6) Initialism, (7) Compounding, (8) Back-formation, (9) Internal Change, (10) Suppletion, (11) Onomatopoeia, and (12) Multiple Processes. Among the 12 types of word formation found, the type of word formation most frequently used in aviation terms is inflection with the frequency of 112 data (31,20%). This finding shows that words used in aviation terms are sensitive to the grammatical needs of the words in the structure.

Keywords: *Word formation, Word formation processes, Aviation, English for Aviation.*

A. INTRODUCTION

Every language has its own variation due to its historical value, geographical value, and social value (Winford and Migge, 2007). From the historical value point of view, for example, African people can speak French language since they had been colonized by France. Yet, the French language that they speak is not as French native speakers use it because it is sometimes mixed with African

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language which comes up to the variation of French language.

This is one of the evidences that language always develops. In relation to language development, language users arbitrarily use language whether in the form of borrowing, adapting or forming new words in the language they use (Rosa and Zaim, 2014). Forming new words in linguistics belongs to morphological process or word formation process (Bauer, Lieber, and Plag, 2013). Such word formation phenomena exist in every language users including aviation terms.

The word formation itself explains how words are formed, and their relationship to other words in the same language (Wahyuni and Rosa, 2013). The structure of words, part of words such as stem, root, base, and affix, can be analyzed through morphology. The process of analyzing word structure is morphological process or word formation process. In English, there are 17 types of word formation process: They are, (1) Derivation, (2) Inflection, (3) Coinage, (4) Conversion, (5) Acronym, (6) Initialism, (7) Compounding, (8) Cliticization, (9) Back-formation, (10) Internal Change, (11) Suppletion, (12) Onomatopoeia, (13) Borrowing, (14) Blending, (15) Clipping, (16) Reduplication and (17) Multiple Processes (Bryson, 1990; O'Grady et al., 1997; Pena, 2010; Plag, 2002; Yule, 2010).

There are three reasons why this research is important to be conducted. Firstly, International Civil Aviation Organization requires people to improve their plain English into specified skill area; pronunciation, structure, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and interactions (Ellis and Gerighty, 2008). By this point, the researcher predicts that word formation process exists in this occupation. In fact, ICAO has its own English proficiency test for Aviation fellow called Aviation English Language Test Service (AELTS). Secondly, misinterpretation of the meaning of the word formation related to aviation terms may lead to a serious flight problem. The collision of two Boeing 747s on an airport runway in Tenerife, Canary Islands, that killed 583 people on March 27th 1977 and the midair collision over northern India of a 747 and a Tupolev TU-154 that killed 349 people on November 12th 1996 are accidents mainly caused by the pilots' poor English language skills (Matthews and Albritton, 2014). Finally, there are no previous studies analyzing word formation in this skill area. The previous studies tend to analyze novels, movie scripts, short stories, and articles in newspaper and another written form in a language.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used descriptive method in analyzing word formation processes on aviation terms in English for Aviation Book. It is because the population or phenomena needs to be describe and categorized. According to Pambudi (2009), descriptive research is a way to describe then interpret the data as it should be. In collecting the data, descriptive research is a study to test research questions or hypotheses to the existing events. This way of research reports these events about the data as it is.

Based on the theory above, this study investigated types of word formation, as one of the language existing event used on aviation terms in English for Aviation Book especially in listening transcript section.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Findings

The findings related to the types of word formation of aviation terms used in English for Aviation Book are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 The Frequency of Word Formation Process in English for Aviation Book.

No	Types of Word Formation	Frequency	
		Number	**Percentage**
1	Inflection	122	31.20%
2	Conversion	92	23.53%
3	Derivation	75	19.18%
4	Coinage	26	6.65%
5	Compounding	22	5.63%
6	Multiple Processes	21	5.37%
7	Initialism	10	2.56%
8	Internal Change	9	2.30%
9	Suppletion	6	1.53%
10	Acronym	4	1.02%
11	Onomatopoeia	3	0.77%
12	Back-formation	1	0.26%
Total		391	100.00%

Based on the data presented in Table 1, five types of word formation of aviation terms – inflection, conversion, derivation, coinage and compounding – are most frequently used in English for Aviation book. Among these five frequent types of word formation, inflection is the type of word formation most frequently used (31.20%). The second type of word formation most frequently used is conversion with the percentage of 23.53%. The third, fourth and fifth type of word formation most frequently used includes derivation (19.18%), coinage (6.65%) and compounding (5.63%).

a. Derivation

The findings related to the types of derivation used in aviation terms are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Percentage of Derivation Process Found in English for Aviation Book

Type of Derivation	Frequency	
	Number	**Percentage**
Noun Formation	32	42.67%
Verb Formation	2	2.67%
Adjective Formation	17	22.67%
Adverb Formation	24	32.00%

Total	75	100.00%

The data related to derivation process can be classified based on word class formation into four categories: noun formation, verb formation, adjective formation, and adverb formation.

Noun Formation

assistance

"Negative. We have a medical doctor on board and do not need medical assistance."

The suffix *–ance* in assistance above is classified into noun formation because the suffix cannot stand alone and it is used to form a new word with new meaning and/or class of word from its root or base that it is attached to. The class of word *assistance* here stands as noun which is derived from verb *assist* and attached by a suffix *–ance*. Besides, the word *assistance* is categorized as a noun because it is situated after adjective *medical*. Such word formation changes both the class and the meaning of the word.

arrival

"Would you organise an ambulance on arrival?"

The suffix *–al* in *arrival* above is classified into noun formation because it is used to form a noun. Although suffix *–al* can also be used to form an adjective, in the data above, it forms a noun. The word *arrival* is categorized as a noun because it is situated after preposition *on*. Such word formation changes both the class and the meaning of the word.

Verb Formation

disembark

"The passenger can disembark normally."

The prefix *dis–* in *disembark* above is classified into verb formation of derivation because the prefix cannot stand alone and it is used to form a new word with new meaning and/or class of word from its root or base that it is attached to. The class of word *disembark* here stands as verb which is still same to its root *embark* and attached by a prefix *dis–*. In addition, that a modal *can* in the sentence must be followed by a verb strengthens the point that *disembark* is classified as a verb. Such word formation changes only changes the meaning of the word, but it keeps the class of the word.

rejoin

"You'll get onward clearance shortly to rejoin the holding stack."

The prefix *re–* in *rejoin* in the above sentence is classified into verb formation of derivation because it is composed of prefix and root. The class of word *rejoin* here is a verb because it is situated after *to* infinitive. However, the meaning of the word has been changed because of the attachment of the prefix *re–* to the word. Such word formation changes only changes the meaning of the word, but it keeps the class of the word.

Adjective Formation

medical

"Did you say you wanted medical assistance?"

The suffix *–al* above is classified into adjective formation of derivation because the suffix cannot stand alone and the suffix is used to form a new word

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with new meaning and/or class of word from its root or base that it is attached to. Although suffix *–al* can also be used to form a noun, the class of word *medical* here is adjective because it is situated before a noun. In English, adjective is used to modify a noun; therefore, it is usually situated before a noun. Such word formation changes both the class and the meaning of the word.

uncommon

"OK - it's not <u>uncommon</u> for an epileptic to lose consciousness."

The prefix *un–* in uncommon above is classified into adjective formation because it is composed of prefix and root. The class of word *uncommon* here stays as an adjective while the meaning changed by the attachment of a prefix -*un–*. The new meaning of this word is the negation that adds the meaning of '*not'* to the word. Unlike the word formation of *medical*, the word formation of *uncommon* only changes the meaning of the word, but it keeps the class of the word.

Adverb Formation

immediately

"456, line up and take off <u>immediately</u> runway 06 left."

The suffix *–ly* above is classified into adverb formation of derivation process because the suffix cannot stand alone. The suffix is used to form a new word with new meaning and/or class of word from its root or base that it is attached to. The class of word *immediately* here is an adverb which is derive from an adjective *immediate* and attached by a suffix *–ly. In* this case it cause the change of class of word and the meaning is relatedly same to its root and the prefix refer to state the way. In addition, it is assured that the word *immediately* is an adverb because it is situated after verb phrase *take off* and the function of adverb is to modify verb. Such word formation changes only changes the meaning of the word, but it keeps the class of the word.

safely

"There's no ECAM message so why don't you check the handbook now, so we can work out how to get this thing down <u>safely</u>."

The suffix *–ly* above is classified into adverb formation of derivation process because the suffix cannot stand alone. The suffix is used to form a new word with new meaning and/or class of word from its root or base that it is attached to. The class of word *safely* here is an adverb which is derive from an adjective *safe* and attached by a suffix *–ly*. In this case it cause the change of class of word and the meaning is relatedly same to its root and the prefix refer to state the way. In addition, it is situated after verb phrase *get…down* and the function of adverb is to modify verb. Such word formation changes only changes the meaning of the word, but it keeps the class of the word.

b. Inflection

The findings related to the types of inflection used in aviation terms are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 Percentage of Inflection Process in English for Aviation Book

Type of Inflection	Frequency	
	Number	Percentage %
Noun Inflection	29	23.77%

Verb Inflection	84	68.85%
Adjective Inflection	9	7.38%
Total	122	100.00%

The data related to inflectional process can be classified into three categories: noun inflection, verb inflection and adjective inflection. The explanation of those three formations will have one each data to be analyzed. For noun inflection, possessive noun does not appear in the study. Every formation data that is going to be analyzed are noun inflection: *storms* and *vehicles*, verb inflection: *blowing, checked* and *collapses* then adjective inflection: *slowest* and *slower.*

Noun Inflection

storms

"X-1234, heavy storms approaching the vicinity of the airport."

The suffix of plural noun *–s* is classified into noun formation of inflection because the suffix cannot stand alone but this inflectional suffix is used to pluralize noun without changing the meaning nor the class of word. Thus, the word *storms* still in the same class of word and meaning as well from its root or base.

vehicles

"Control, we've just had a near miss with some vehicles near the end of the runway."

The suffix of plural noun *–s* is classified into noun formation of inflection because the suffix cannot stand alone but this inflectional suffix is used to pluralize noun without changing the meaning nor the class of word. Thus, the word *vehicles* is still in the same class of word and meaning as well from its root or base.

Verb Inflection

blowing

"You've got a south westerly blowing in there."

The suffix of present participle *–ing* is classified into verb formation of inflectional process due the suffix cannot stand alone but it is used to form the present participle of regular verbs without changing the meaning nor the class of word. Hence, the word *blowing* is still in the same class of word and also its meaning.

checked

"Did you say you checked the QNH setting?"

The past tense suffix *–ed* is classified into verb formation of inflectional process due the suffix cannot stand alone but it is used to form the past simple and past participle of regular verbs without changing the meaning nor the class of word. Therefore, the word *checked* is still in the same class of word and also its meaning.

collapses

"First problem is that if the gear collapses then both engine nacelles will contact the runway."

The present third person singular suffix *–s* is classified into verb formation of inflectional process due the suffix is attached to a verb and cannot stand

alone. It is used to form present third person singular to verb without changing the meaning nor the class of word. Therefore, the word *collapses* is still in the same class of word and also its meaning.

Adjective Inflection

slowest

"Er, we've got a problem. This is the <u>slowest</u> climb out ever! We've lost engine number 1."

The suffix of superlative *–est* is classified into adjective formation of inflectional process because the suffix cannot stand alone and needs an adjective to get its meaning. It is used to form superlative adjectives without changing the meaning of its root or base nor class of word. So, the word *slowest* is still in the same class of word and also its meaning.

closer

"It's not low enough. The gear's down but we need a much closer look."

The suffix of comparative *–er* is classified into adjective formation of inflectional process due the suffix cannot stand alone and needs an adjective to get its meaning. It is used to form comparative adjective without changing the meaning of its root or base nor class of word. Then, the word *closer* is still in the same class of word and so it's meaning.

c. Conversion

The findings related to the types of conversion process used in aviation terms are presented in Table 4.

Table 4 Percentage of Conversion Process Found in English for Aviation Book

Type of Conversion	Frequency	
	Number	Percentage %
Noun Conversion	60	65.22%
Verb Conversion	18	19.57%
Adjective Conversion	14	15.22%
Total	92	100.00%

The data related to conversion process can be classified into three categories: noun conversion, verb conversion and adjective conversion. Every formation data that is going to be analyzed are noun conversion: *crossing* and *landing*, verb formation: *clearing* and, *filed* then adjective conversion: *automated* and *suspected.*

Noun Conversion

crossing

"Be advised that there are 2 jump ships cruising at 90 knots, <u>crossing</u> the airway from right to left."

This word is classified into noun conversion of conversion process since this word supposed to be used as verb by recognizing its present participle suffix *–ing.* However, in a sentence, the word is has a function as subject. This function shifting caused *crossing* the changing of its class of word from verb to noun.

landing

"<u>Landing</u> delays at Milan 15 minutes."

This word is classified into noun conversion of conversion process because this word supposed to be used as verb by recognizing its present participle suffix *–ing*. In a sentence above, the word has a function as a subject. Indeed, this function shifting caused *landing* the changing of its class of word from verb to noun.

Verb Conversion

clearing

"A sweeper is still clearing runway 05."

This word is classified into verb conversion of conversion process due this word belongs to class of word of adjective. In the sentence above, the word has class of word as a verb by recognizing the used of present participle *–ing* attached to it. Thus, it caused word class of *clearing* changed from adjective into verb.

filed

Ground, the plan was filed a couple of hours ago, B344.

This word is classified into verb conversion of conversion process due this word belongs to class of word of noun. In the sentence above, the word has class of word as a verb with past participle suffix *–ed*. Thus, it caused word class of *filed* changed from noun into verb.

Adjective Conversion

automated

Gatwick Information Hotel, 1755 automated weather.

By the sentence above, *automated* has become an adjective due to its position is before a noun, weather. However, the used of suffix of past simple for regular word *–ed* as an adjective classify this word into adjective conversion. The meaning remain stands while its class of word has changed from verb to adjective.

suspected

"Pan-pan, pan-pan, pan-pan, Bellevue Approach, GAB 737, request emergency medical support on landing for passenger with suspected heart attack."

By the sentence above, *suspected* has become an adjective due to its position is before a noun, weather. However, the used of suffix of past simple for regular word *–ed* as an adjective classify this word into adjective conversion. The meaning remain stands while its class of word has changed from verb to adjective.

d. Coinage

The data related in coinage process in aviation found as a word and compounded word. The explanation will be shown below

Jetblue, Speedbird, Wolfair

These words are formed by compounding process but it is used by their airline companies to its brand. *Jetblue, Speedbird, and Wolfair* have compounding process each, jet(N)+blue(N), speed(N)+bird(N), and wolf(N)+air(N). This branding indeed for promotion factor for the airline company.

Quality, Freedom, Delta

These words are root or base but it is used by their airline companies to its brand. *Quality(N), Freedom(N), and Delta(N),* when they meet their dictionary meaning, it is not same as the meaning in this coinage process. The meaning in the coinage process is the brand of the airplane which is given by their airline company. This branding indeed for promotion factor for the airline company.

Approach, Ground, Tower

These words are root or base but it is used to name the air traffic controller based on the position of the person in it. So, there are three work positions in air traffic controller, they are approach (controlling near airplane), tower (controlling nearer airplane), and ground (controlling the runway for airplane to land and take off). By this position, pilots name the air traffic controller to these three words in their communication through radio.

e. Compounding

In English, a word may be formed by two or more independent words, this process called compounding. There are 12 compounds: Noun+Noun, Noun+Verb, Noun+Adjective, Verb+Noun, Verb+Verb, Adjective+Adjective, Adjective+Noun, Adjective+Verb, Preposition+Adjective, Prerposition+Noun, Preposition+Verb, and Preposition+Preposition. The study is discovered and is going to analyze 8 compounds out of those 12: *aircraft* (Noun+Noun), *airborne* (Noun+Verb), *runway* (Verb+Noun), *eastbound* (Adjective+Adjective), *centreline* (Adjective+Noun), *inbound* (Preposition+Adjective), *midpoint* (Prerposition+Noun), and *overtake* (Preposition+Verb).

Noun+Noun

aircraft

The word *aircraft* is constructed by two roots which are a noun *air* and a noun *craft*. It means that compounding process was occurred to this word since it was formed by connecting two separate words without eliminating each of the original ones.

Noun+Verb

airborne

The word *airborne* is constructed by two roots which are a noun *air* and a verb *borne*. It means that compounding process was occurred to this word since it was formed by connecting two separate words without eliminating each of the original ones.

Verb+Noun

runway

The word *runway* is constructed by two roots which are a verb *run* and a noun *way*. It means that compounding process was occurred to this word since it was formed by connecting two separate words without eliminating each of the original ones.

Adjective+Adjective

eastbound

The word *runway* is constructed by two roots which are an adjective *east* and an adjective *bound.* It means that compounding process was occurred to

this word since it was formed by connecting two separate words without eliminating each of the original ones.

Adjective+Noun

centreline

The word *centreline* is constructed by two roots which are an adjective *centre* and a noun *line.* It means that compounding process was occurred to this word since it was formed by connecting two separate words without eliminating each of the original ones.

Preposistion+Adjective

inbound

The word *inbound* is constructed by two roots which are a preposition *centre* and an adjective *bound.* It means that compounding process was occurred to this word since it was formed by connecting two separate words without eliminating each of the original ones.

Preposition+Noun

midpoint

The word *midpoint* is constructed by two roots which are a preposition *mid* and a noun *point.* It means that compounding process was occurred to this word since it was formed by connecting two separate words without eliminating each of the original ones.

Preposition+Verb

overtake

The word *overtake* is constructed by two roots which are a preposition *over* and a verb *take.* It means that compounding process was occurred to this word since it was formed by connecting two separate words without eliminating each of the original ones.

2. Discussion

There are 122 data indicate inflection category which means inflection is the most word formation process used in aviation while the less use is compounding has 22 data. The most used among these three sub inflection processes (noun, verb and adjective inflection process) is verb inflection. There are four sub inflection processes in verb inflection: third person singular, present participle, past simple, and past participle. Aviation is the workplace where people are doing their job carefully. It needs exact information to be shared when at work. If there is an accident in the air or related to the aviation, these two occupation, pilot and air traffic controller will be investigated first by the authority in aviation. The used of verb, for example, *land* is used on aviation has four inflections in its class of word. They are *lands, landing, landed,* and *landed.* In a sentence these words can be, *"Speedbird lands safely, passengers are safe.", "Speedbird is landing to the airport safely.", "Speedbird landed safely and passengers were safe.", "Speedbird has landed safely, passengers are safe."* So, the exact and detail information is needed in this field work.

The second most word formation process used in aviation is conversion. In communication between pilot and air traffic controller through radio signal, they tend to speak in short structure. Be effective as possible. Take a look to

the sentence *"Climbing to 2000 feet until reaching zone boundary."* There are two verbs that can be classified to noun formation of conversion process, they are *climbing* and *reaching*. The word *climbing* is classified as noun because it is situated as the first part of the sentence and the word *reaching* is because it is situated after preposition *until*. This is the cause why they tend to speak in short structure, to be effective with time.

In the derivation ones, the noun formation of derivation process is dominated by verb which derived to noun. The data of noun formation of derivation process in this study area are originally from verbs. This derivation process can be seen in the sentence follows *"Negative. We have a medical doctor on board and do not need medical assistance."* The word *assistance* is derived from a verb *assist* and it is also situated after an adjective which has function to modify noun. These class of word shifting is a reason that people in aviation tend to speak in short structure, to be effective with time.

In the coinage process, there are 26 data found in this study. The words in this process have meaning dominantly to an airplane brand while another belong to its job position. These words used to communicate through radio which aviation field defines these words as call sign. The words such as *Jetblue, Speedbird, and Wolfair* refer to an airplane brand. Another words that belong to its job position are *Ground, Tower, Approach, Maintenance,* and *Tug*. So, in this field people are classified by its position which comes to the case of coinage not by personal identification while communicating on the radio.

In compounding process, this study found 22 data belong to compounding process. The data can be seen in the sentence follows *"There are vehicles on the runway!"* The word *runway* stands as a noun because it is situated after preposition *on*. The word *runway* is formed by a verb *run* and a noun *way*. Compounding is combining two or more words to produce a single form that denotes thing. The word *runway* is constructed from two words but it refers to one object. The word *runway* found many in the English for Aviation book because the word itself only used to aviation field and related to aircraft. The 22 data of compounding found in this study are classified into six types: (i) noun+verb, (ii) verb+noun, (iii) adjective+noun, (iv) preposistion+adjective, (v) adjective+adjective, and (vi) preposition+noun. This finding adds the number of types of compounding proposed by Rosa (2013) who argues that there are five types of compounding in English including noun+verb, verb+noun, adjective+noun, adjective+adjective, and preposition+noun.

The finding of this study is in contrast with Meisara (2014) who found that derivation is the type of word formation most frequently used in medical terms in New York Time Magazine's Articles. The difference is due to the different technical terms studied. Meisara focuses on medical terms which are mostly formed by involving derivational affixes attached to the root or the base.

In addition, this finding is also different from the finding of research done by Mustafa, Kandasamy and Yasin (2015) who found that abbreviation is the most common word formation process in everyday communication on Facebook with the percentage of 73%. This is mainly because the participants

intend to save time, fill the communication gap or barrier among the users, indicate the group membership and show some excitements that represent the emotions and feelings through communicating on Facebook.

D. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study found 12 out of 17 types of word formation used in English for aviation book. They were inflection, derivation, coinage, conversion, acronym, initialism, compounding, back-formation, internal change, suppletion, onomatopoeia, and multiple processes. Meanwhile, 5 other types – cliticization, blending, clipping, borrowing and reduplication – were not found because these types of word formation were frequently used in informal language not in formal one like in this study. In addition, the study found that the process which mostly used in English for Aviation book was inflection. However, this study found also the other issue about using and 'tweaking' verb to these processes, they are inflection, conversion and derivation. These three processes are top 3 of most word formation process used based on the data findings. It can be said that the communication among people in aviation tends in short structure of sentences and phrases in order to be effective with time. Based on this study, it was found that the communication between pilot and air traffic controller tended to be in short structures of sentences and phrases.

Based on the findings, this study suggests to do the analysis about word formation in other technology-related terms such as in computer engineering, computer software, etc. Besides, it is also suggested that the finding of this study would be an excellent source and reference for further studies.

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