

An Analysis of *Meng*-Prefixation on English Loan Words in Indonesian Language From Morpheme Based Model Perspective

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Abstracts: Word formation rules of affixation on loan words in Indonesian language is not completely described. This research is aimed at describing word formation rules of *meng*- prefix on English loan words. The data in this article was gathered by observing everyday conversations by Indonesian native speakers around the writer. The *meng*- prefixation process on the data were tested and described based on morpheme based model. Based on the analysis, it is found that the rules of word formation for *meng*- prefix need to be redefined. It is also found that some allomorphs of *meng*- prefix are more productive than its other allomorphs. The source of data in this paper was some conversations by Indonesian native speakers. The data were gathered by observing the conversations. Based on the techniques, the writer found 20 loan words from English. However, the most frequent loan words are only five, namely WA, SMS, FB, IG, and Twit. Actually, the loan words had undergone some word formation process, namely abbreviation process. In this paper, the abbreviation process is not the focus. The focus in this paper is the affixation process on that five loan words. All allomorphs of *meng*- prefix are tested on the loan words.

Keywords: *meng*- prefix, morpheme based model, loan words

INTRODUCTION

It is said that one of the characteristics of language is dynamic. One way to look at this characteristic is by noticing the evolution of new words in a language. There are many ways in which new words can be formed, for example by applying affixation processes that conform to the morphological rules in the language. The rules allow the native speakers to generate new complex words that they never use before. Thus, it implies that a dictionary cannot be regarded as a full list of words in a language. Even the most complete dictionary cannot accommodate what linguists call potential words.

In relation to the matter, some derivational affixes in Indonesian Language are said to be productive, that is, the affixes can be attached to many words of the same class or the different classes to coin new words. One of them is verbal prefix, namely *meng*- prefix. This prefix can be attached to many nouns, verbs, and adjectives to derive verbs, such as shown respectively by the words *membeo*, *mengambil*, and *mengeras*. In addition, this prefix can also be attached to many loan words, such as *mengorganisasi*, *memvisitasi*, *mengklasifikasi* and *mengakomodasi*. Based on that rule, native Indonesian speakers can also produce words such as *menginstitusi* or *mengkaver* (from *cover*) although the words have not come up yet in Indonesian language dictionary.

The examples provided also show that *meng*- prefix has more than one realisation. Apparently, this verbal prefix has some allomorphs, namely *mem*-, *men*-, *meny*-, *meng*-, *me*-, and *menge*- (Alwi *et al.* 2003: 29-30). Based on the morphological rules, especially morphophonemic rule, the use of the specific allomorph of *meng*- is determined by the segment of the lexemes where it is attached to, usually the initial segment, as shown by the derived word *membeo*, in which *meng*- becomes *mem*- if it precedes the phoneme /b/ as the initial segment of a base, in this case the base is *beo*.

Further, a set of rules of *meng*- prefix showing its productivity has been postulated by Alwi *et al.* (2003: 110-113). They postulated eight rules regarding the *meng*- prefix. In that rules, it is shown that the morphophonemic process of *meng*- prefix on loan words is very different from other processes when it is attached to native words. The *meng*- prefix becomes *mem*- if it is attached to a word having phoneme /p/ as its initial segment. It can be seen from the word *memproses*, in which the word *proses* is a loan word from English. The rule is different from the rule applied to Indonesian words such as *pukul*. The *meng*- prefix becomes *mem*-

with the assimilation of the first segment of the base, namely the phoneme /p/ in the word *pukul* disappear, so that the word becomes *memukul*.

The different rule applied to loan words also happens to other words having phoneme /t/ as their initial such as *transfer* and *teror*. The derived words will be *mentransfer* and *menteror* instead of *menransfer* and *meneror*. Another example is shown in words such as *survei*. The derived words will be *mensurvey* instead of *menyurvei*. To sum up, the *meng-* prefix will become *mem-* for the loan words having phoneme /p/ as their initial segment, and *men-* for the loan words having the phoneme /t/ or /s/ as their initial segments.

The explanation has led to a question about the other allomorphs of *meng-* prefix for other loan words from English. Unfortunately, there is no further explanation for other allomorphs of *meng-* prefix for both other loan words that have initial segment of phonem /p/, /t/, and /s/ and initial segment other than that. Based on this matter, the structure and the process of *meng-* prefix applied to loan words becomes important to be discussed further.

Generative Morphology

Generative grammar has become the base theory for many linguists in analysing and describing the grammar of languages in the world. In the theory, two important aspects of language are differentiated, namely competence and performance. According to Chomsky (1965), competence refers to the knowledge of the language that the native speakers have. That knowledge reflects the limited set of rules of the native speakers of a language. That knowledge, the limited set of rules hold in the speakers' mind, make the native speakers can generate unlimited sentences in their language. The knowledge also enables the native speakers to recognize some clumsiness sentences or ungrammatical sentences in their language. Whereas, the performance refers to the actual use of language based on the native speakers competence. The performance can be seen or heard in the forms of the native speakers' utterances. Thus, it can be said that competence is the abstract level and performance is the concrete level.

Furthermore, he states that linguistics as a systematic study of language should be able to describe the knowledge that the native speakers have about their language clearly and thoroughly. This statement implies that competence gains more consideration in studying a language. In other words, the basic task of linguists is to be able to provide adequate explanation or description of a language based on the native speakers' competence.

This view has encouraged some linguists such as Halle (1973) and Aronoff (1976) to extent the generative grammar theory in other levels of language. They develop morphological theory based on generative grammar's view. They argue that there must be some limited rules governing the formation of a word in every language. Then, that limited rules allow the native speakers of a language to generate unlimited new words in their language.

However, they have fundamental differences in analyzing the rules of word formation of a language. Halle argues that the rules can be explained in the same way as sentence structure explanation. According to him, a complex word constitutes a construction built by some elements which he calls morphemes. In other words, a particular rule of a word formation can be explained by elaborating the structure of the word into its elements, namely its morphemes that build the word itself. Based on this view, his theory is known as morpheme-based model.

Whereas, Aronoff argues that the rules governed the word formation can be explained by formulating the actual realisation of related words (*cf.* Haspelmath, 2002: 47). Thus, His view is known as word-based model. According to him, morpheme-based model cannot explain the phenomenon of suppletion, such as word *men* which is derived from word *man* clearly. Not to mention the whole problems of morpheme-based approach, some words such as *receive* and *perceive* versus *remit* and *permit* give some problems to the morpheme based approach, in which the first pair contains the morphemes *re-*, *per-*, *-ceive*, whereas the second pair contains the morphemes *re-*, *per-* and *-mit* (*cf.* Fromkin and Rodman, 1998: 74).

However, the debate of the two linguists is not to discuss further in this paper because the differences actually can complete each other in explaining the words formation rules of languages in the world. Nevertheless, the discussion of word formation in this paper will follow the Halle's model because the morpheme-based model is more suitable for explaining the problem of word formation in this paper. It is also in accordance with Dardjowidjojo (1988)'s view stating that morpheme-based model is more suitable for explaining word formation in Indonesian Language.

Further, Halle (1973) states that generative morphology encompasses four basic components, they are list of morpheme (LM), word formation rules (WFR), filter (F), and dictionary (D). List of morpheme consists two types of morpheme, namely free morpheme and bound morpheme. For example, *makan* and *tulis* are free morphemes because they can stand alone by itself. However, *alir* and *juang* are bound morphemes because they

cannot stand alone by itself. In other words, they should be attached to other morpheme/s to be a word form. In addition, there are bound morphemes called affixes. Prefixes such as *pe-*, *meng-*, and *ber-* and suffixes such as *-an*, and *-i*, constitute affixes. Based on the function, affixes can be classified into two, namely derivational affixes and inflectional affixes. In the list of morpheme, every morpheme is stated with square bracket and the information about its class. The list of morpheme can be seen in the following example.

1. [makan]_v [tulis]_v [pe-]_{Prefix}

After deciding the list of morpheme, the morphemes are put into the next component, that is word formation rules. In this component the process that govern the word formation in a language is describe in order to reveal the rules. This component also becomes the base for the elements in the list of morpheme to be a word form, both for the actual word form and potential word form. In other words, word formation rules determine word forms which is accepted or denied in a particular language.

In relation to the statement, Dardjowidjojo (1988) states that word *berbis* can be an Indonesian word because the word form does not violate word formation rules in Indonesian language, both morphologically and phonetically. In fact, the word form never exists in everyday conversation. The reason is because there is a blocking of the word form in the the third component, namely filter.

As mentioned before, the third component or the filter has a filterate function. This function determines whether a particular word form can be listed in the dictionary or not. In the case of *berbis*, the filter gives the word forms a [-L1] as the characteristic showing that the word form is a potential word because the word form does not exist yet. That is why the word form is not listed in the fourth component or dictionary.

The framework of generative morphology from Halle can be seen in figure 1, which is adapted from Scalice (1984).

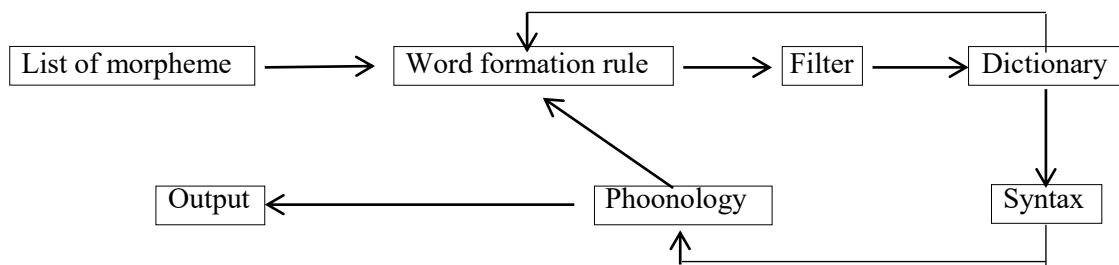


Figure 1: Halle's morpheme based approach model

Based on the model and some combination from the linguists discussed previously, the process of word form *memakan* will be seen at figure 2 below.

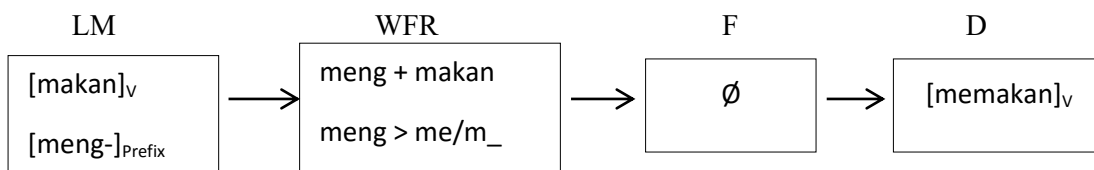


Figure 2: The diagram of word formation rule of word *memakan*

The small capital letter after each square bracket in LM shows the types of morpheme. The WFR shows the process of word formation including the deep structure, transformation rule by morphophonemic process, and the output. The deep structure is shown by the first line in WFR. The second line shows that *meng-* becomes *me-* if it precedes the bilabial nasal sound. The third line shows the output. Then, the \emptyset shows that there is no filterate process in F. Because there is no filterate process, the word form *memakan* can be put into dictionary. Whereas, the analysis of word *berbis* can be seen at figure 3 below.

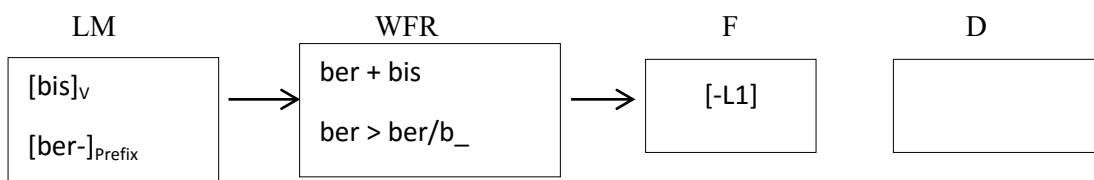


Figure 3: The diagram of word formation rule of word *berbis*

Similar to the previous explanation, the small capital letter after each square bracket in LM shows the types of morpheme. The WRF shows the process of word formation including the deep structure, transformation rule by morphophonemic process, and the output. The [-L1] in F shows that filterate process give an idiosyncrasy to the word form, namely it is a potential word because the word form does not exist yet. Thus, the word form is not listed in the fourth component, namely D. In the diagram, it is marked by not using an arrow to the D component and there is no word form in the last component.

In relation to *meng-* prefix, Alwi *et al.* (2003: 29-30) states that the prefix has six allomorphs, namely *mem-*, *men-*, *meny-*, *meng-*, *me-*, and *menge-*. They states that there are eighth rules governing the attachment of this prefix to another morphemes as its base. (1) Prefix *meng-* will still become *meng-* if it is attached to bases having the initial phoneme /a/, /i/, /u/, /o/, /ə/, /k/, /g/, /h/, or /x/. However, the first segment of the roots having the initial phoneme /k/ will disappear. Such as word *kantor* becomes *mengantor*. In this case, *meng-* will become *meng-* before the root having phoneme /k/ to give a particular meaning, such as on word *kaji* that will become *mengkaji* to differentiated its meaning from word *mengaji*. (2) The prefix will become *me-* if it is attached to roots having phoneme /l/, /m/, /n/, /ñ/, /ŋ/, /r/, /y/, or /w/. (3) The prefix will become *men-* if it is attached to bases having the initial phoneme /d/ or /t/. The first segment of the bases having the initial phoneme /t/ will disappear. Such as word *tulis* become *menulis*. (4) The prefix will become *mem-* if it is attached to bases having the initial phoneme /b/, /p/, or /f/. Similar to the rule (4), the first segment of the bases having the initial phoneme /p/ will disappear, such as *pakai* will become *memakai*. (5) The prefix will become *meny-* if it is attached to bases having the initial phoneme /c/, /dʒ/, /s/, or /ʃ/. However, in the standard spelling, the prefix will become *men-* for all roots except the bases having initial phoneme /s/. In this case, the writer assume this rule is same with the rule (3) for the bases having the initial phoneme /c/, /dʒ/, or /ʃ/. (6) The prefix will become *menge-* if it is attached to bases having just one syllable, such as *tik* and *bom* will become *mengetik* and *mengebom*. (7) The prefix will become *mem-* if it is attached to loan words having the initial phoneme /p/ or /k/. The prefix will become *men-* if it is attached to loan words having the initial phoneme /t/ or /s/. (8) All of the rules are applicable with the reduplication process. In this case the form of the base after affixation process is repeated as its reduplication, such as words *tulis* and *karang* becomes *menulis-nulis* and *mengarang-ngarang*.

As mentioned before, the process in the second component can not be separated with the phonological rule or phonotactic of the language being discussed. In this paper, the characteristic of phonological rule, namely the consonant and vowel, is based on the view by Dardjowidjojo (2009). In this case, he provides phonological rules related to sound changes which usually happen, namely assimilation, deletion, and addition rules. To sum up, the approach in this paper follows the Chomskian's theory which is developed by Halle in morphological level, and then, adjusted by Dardjowidjojo to the system of Indonesian language.

DISCUSSION

The source of data in this paper was some conversations by Indonesian native speakers. The data were gathered by observing the conversations. During the observation, the writer taken some notes to extract the data from the source of data. Based on the techniques, the writer found 20 loan words from English. However the most frequent loan words are only five, namely *WA*, *SMS*, *FB*, *IG*, and *Twit*. Actually, the loan words had undergone some word formation process, namely abbreviation process. In this paper, the abbreviation process is not the focus. The focus in this paper is the affixation process on that five loan words. All allomorphs of *meng-* prefix are tested on the loan words. Thus the discussion is divided into five subsections.

1. Meng- prefix + WA

As stated before, *meng-* prefix has six allomorphs. Based on this statement, the list of morpheme includes six pairs consisting two morphemes respectively, namely *mem-* and *WA*, *men-* and *WA*, *meny-* and *WA*, *meng-* and *WA*, *me-* and *WA*, and *menge-* and *WA*. In the component of WFR, there are six constructions based on LM. The characteristic of every constructions in WFR is filtered in the third component. This filterate processes determine whether the constructions in WFR are receiveable in the fourth component or not. The summary of these analysis can be seen in figure 4 below.

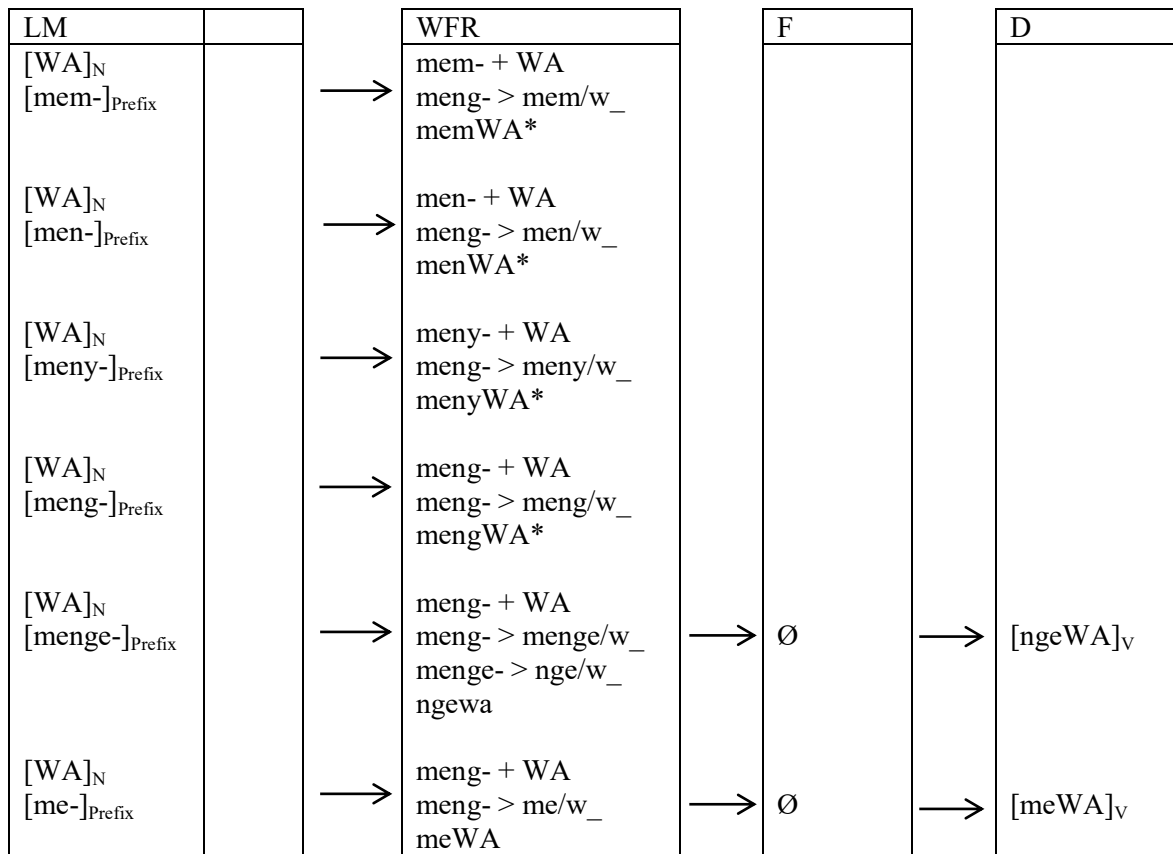


Figure 4: The diagram of word formation rule of *meng-* + *WA*

Figure 4 shows that the first till the fourth allomorphs of *meng-* prefix cannot be attached to base *WA*. It is shown by the sign of asterisk in WFR. Because they break the morphotactic rules in Indonesian language previously discussed, they cannot be attached to the base. In addition, Indonesians will need more effort to pronounce the words. In other words, the pronunciation of every word from the first allomorph till the fourth allomorph is harder than the pronunciation of the fifth and sixth allomorph. Thus, it can be said that the first till the fourth allomorph are blocked in WFR.

Whereas, the last two allomorphs of *meng-* prefix can easily be pronounced by Indonesian. It is also shown that there is no filterate process in the third component. So that, the word form yielded in WFR can be put into dictionary. In addition, the analysis also shows that a base having billabial aproximat sound or phoneme /w/ as its initial cannot be preceded by prefixes having consonant as their last segment.

2. Meng- prefix + SMS

The summary of these analysis of *meng-* prefix with the base *SMS* can be seen in figure 5 below.

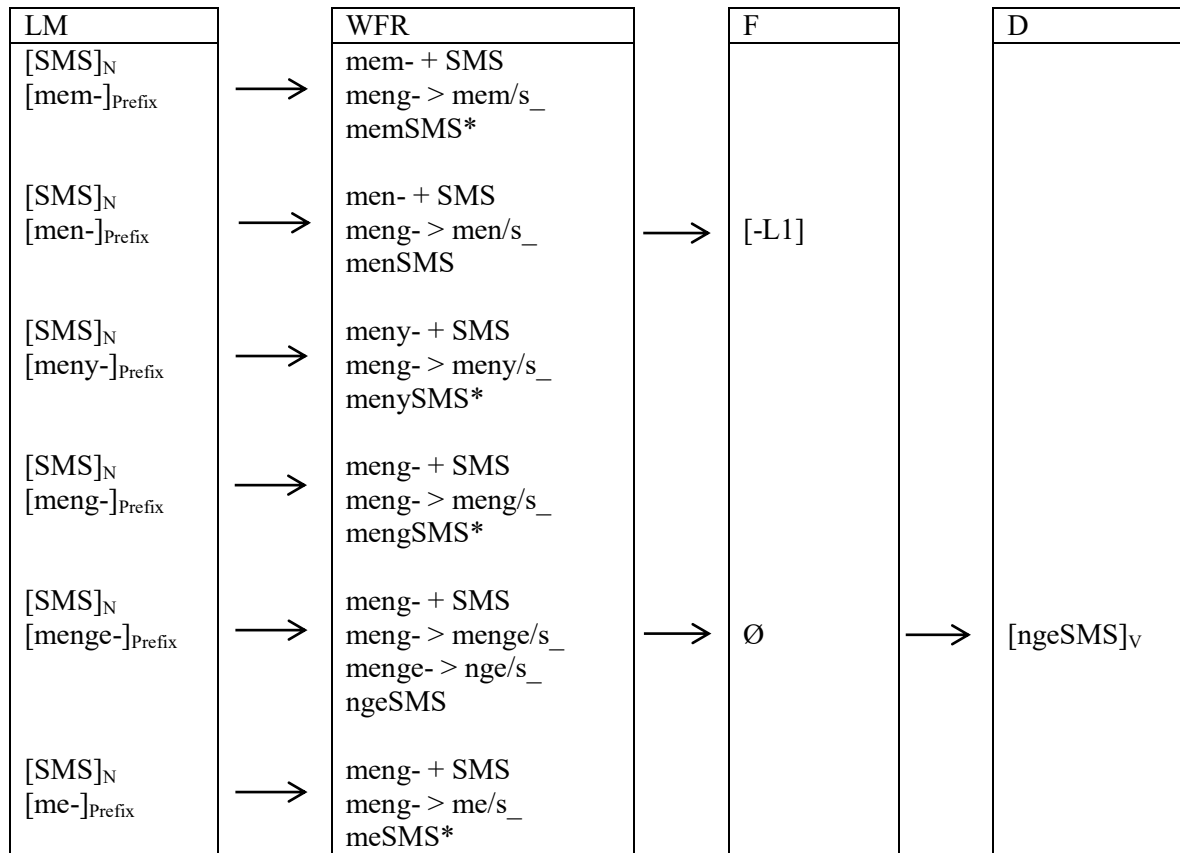


Figure 5: The diagram of word formation rule of *meng-* + *SMS*

Figure 5 shows that the first, the fourth, and the sixth allomorphs of *meng-* prefix are blocked in WFR. It is because they do not subject to the morphotactic rules of Indonesian language, in which the base having voiceless fricative stop sound or phoneme /s/ can only be preceded by prefix having the last segment of phoneme /n/ or /ñ/. Whereas, the third allomorph, namely *meny-*, does not break the morphotactic rule. However, the allomorph cannot be attached to the base *SMS*. Alwi *et al.* (2003) states nothing to this phenomenon. In this case, the writer assumes intuitively that the bases having the initial segment of phoneme /s/ can be attached to allomorph *meny* if the following segment of phoneme /s/ is vowels, such as *menyadari* from *meny-* + *sadar* and *menyucikan* from *meny-* + *suci* + *kan*. In this case, the initial phoneme /s/ in *SMS* is not followed by vowel sound. Thus, it is impossible to apply the rule in this case. Indonesian will be unable to pronounce the word form. That is why four allomorph in figure 5 are stoped in WFR. They cannot be put into the F component. Consequently, they cannot be listed in dictionary.

Whereas, the second allomorph can be continued to F because it does not break the rule of word formation in Indonesian language. Based on that, the word form can be put into F. However, it is given the characteristic of idiosyncretic [-L1] because there is no one using the form. Thus it can be said that *menSMS* is a potential word in Indonesian language, but it is not listed yet in dictionary till there is someone who uses this form. The interesting point is the fifth allomorph of *meng-* prefix. In the morphotactic rule of Indonesian language, *menge-* is used to derive a base having one syllable whatever the initial phonem of the base. In this case, the derived word *mengeSMS* can be the word form in Indonesian language because there is *ngeSMS* which the writer assumes as the result of the deletion rule on the first and second segment of the allomorph *menge-*, so that the form will be *nge-* or /ŋ/. It usually happens in the informal variety or Indonesian colloquial. Based on this, apparently the word *SMS* is regarded as a word having the same quality with words consisting of one syllable by Indonesian native speakers. That is why this form of allomorph can be used on all data in this paper.

3. Meng- + FB

The summary of these analysis of *meng-* prefix with the base *FB* can be seen in figure 5 in turn.

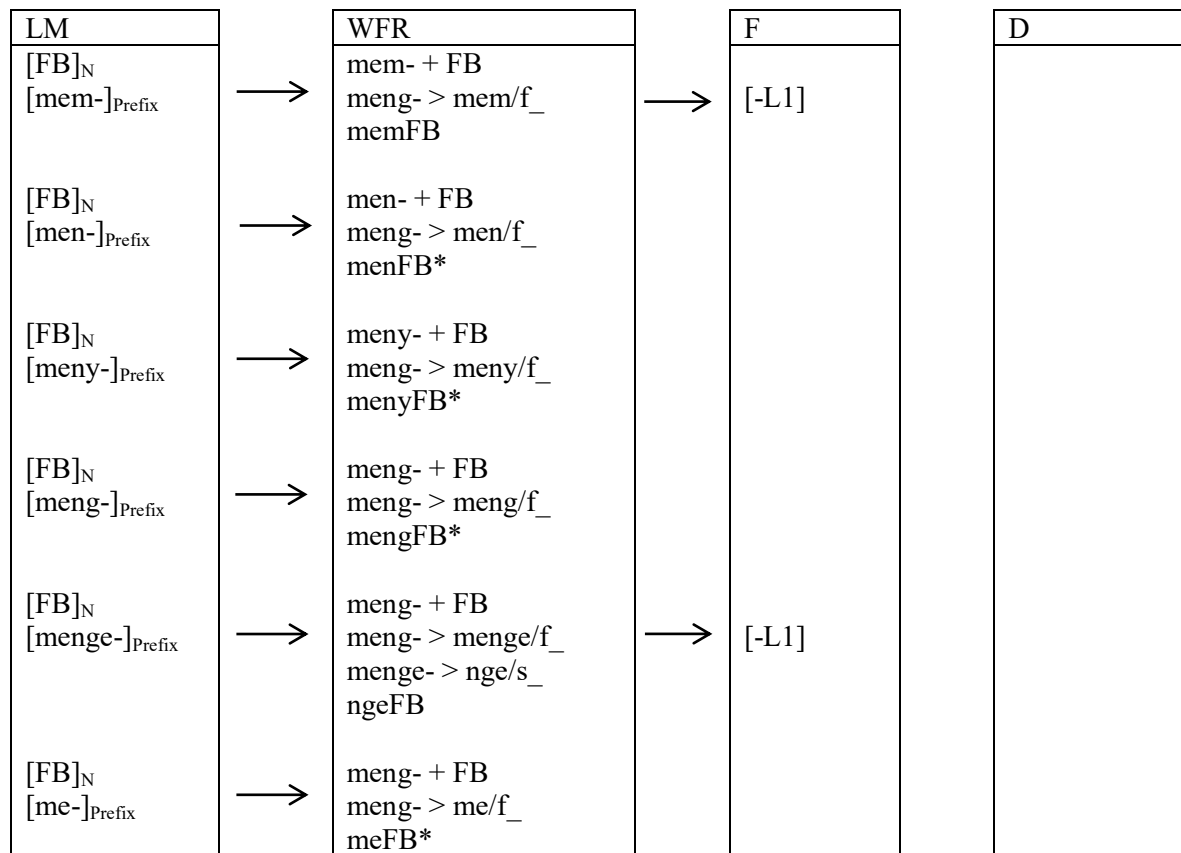


Figure 6: The diagram of word formation rule of *meng-* + *FB*

Figure 6 shows that the second, the third, the fourth and the sixth allomorphs of *meng-* prefix are blocked in WFR. It is because they do not conform to the morphotactic rules of Indonesian language, in which the base having labiodental fricative sound or phoneme /f/ is regarded as borrowing sound from another language. Thus it can only be preceded by prefix having the last segment of phoneme /m/ and there is any deletion for the sound of the base.

In other words, the first allomorph of *meng-* prefix is suitable for the base. However, the word form is never used by Indonesians, so the it constitute a potential word in Indonesian language.

Whereas, the fifth allomorph, namely *menge-*, can be a potential word in Indonesian language although there rule governing this phenomenon is not stated in Alwi *et al.* (2003). The decision made here is based on the writer intuition and encouraged by the previous discussion in which Indonesians, apparently, regard the abbreviation of loan words as a word having quality such as a word having one syllable. Based on that, *ngeFB* is said a potential word. In fact, this form is never used by Indonesian. That is why, in figure 6, it is stopped and marked [-L1] in the third component.

4. Meng- + IG

The summary of these analysis of *meng-* prefix with the base *IG* can be seen in figure 7 below.

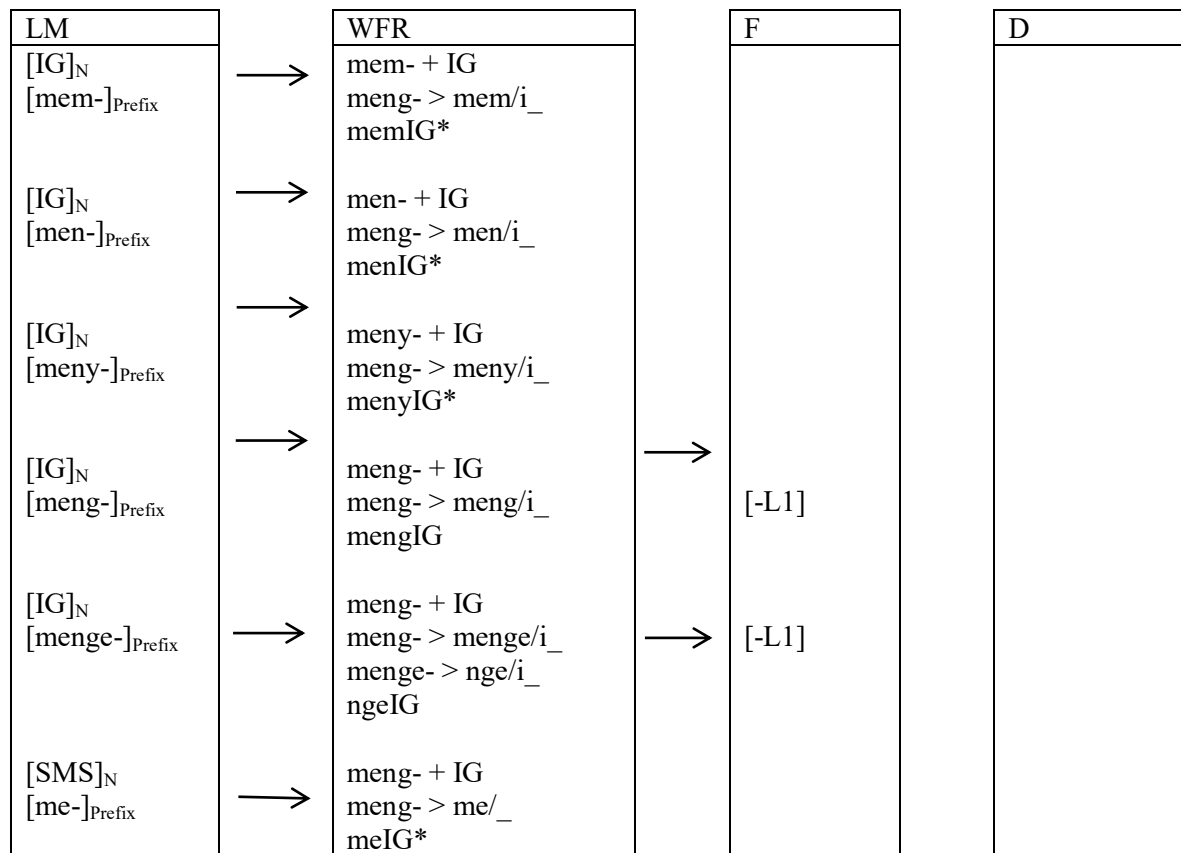


Figure 7: The diagram of word formation rule of *meng-* + *IG*

Figure 7 shows that the first till the third and the sixth allomorphs of *meng-* prefix are blocked in WFR. Similar to the other explanation. The blocking is because they do not conform to the morphotactic rules of Indonesian language. The bases having vowel sound as their initial segment is only attached to by allomorph *meng-* without any process to the base itself. Thus, it can only be preceded by prefix having the last segment of phoneme /ŋ/ directly. In other words, the allomorph of *meng-* is suitable for the base. However, the word form is never used by Indonesians, so the form constitutes a potential word in Indonesian language. It does not need to be listed in dictionary, at least, for the moment.

In the same way with the previous explanation, the fifth allomorph, namely *menge-*, can be attached to the base *IG*. It can be a potential word in Indonesian language although there rule governing this phenomenon is not stated in Alwi *et al.* (2003). The decision made here is based on the writer intuition and is encouraged by the previous discussion in which Indonesians, apparently, regard the abbreviation of loan words as a word having quality such as a word having one syllable. Based on that, *ngeIG* is said a potential word in Indonesian language. However, this form is never used by Indonesian. That is why, in figure 7, the process is stopped and marked [-L1] in the third component.

5. Meng- + Twit

The summary of these analysis of *meng-* prefix with the base *IG* can be seen in figure 8 below.

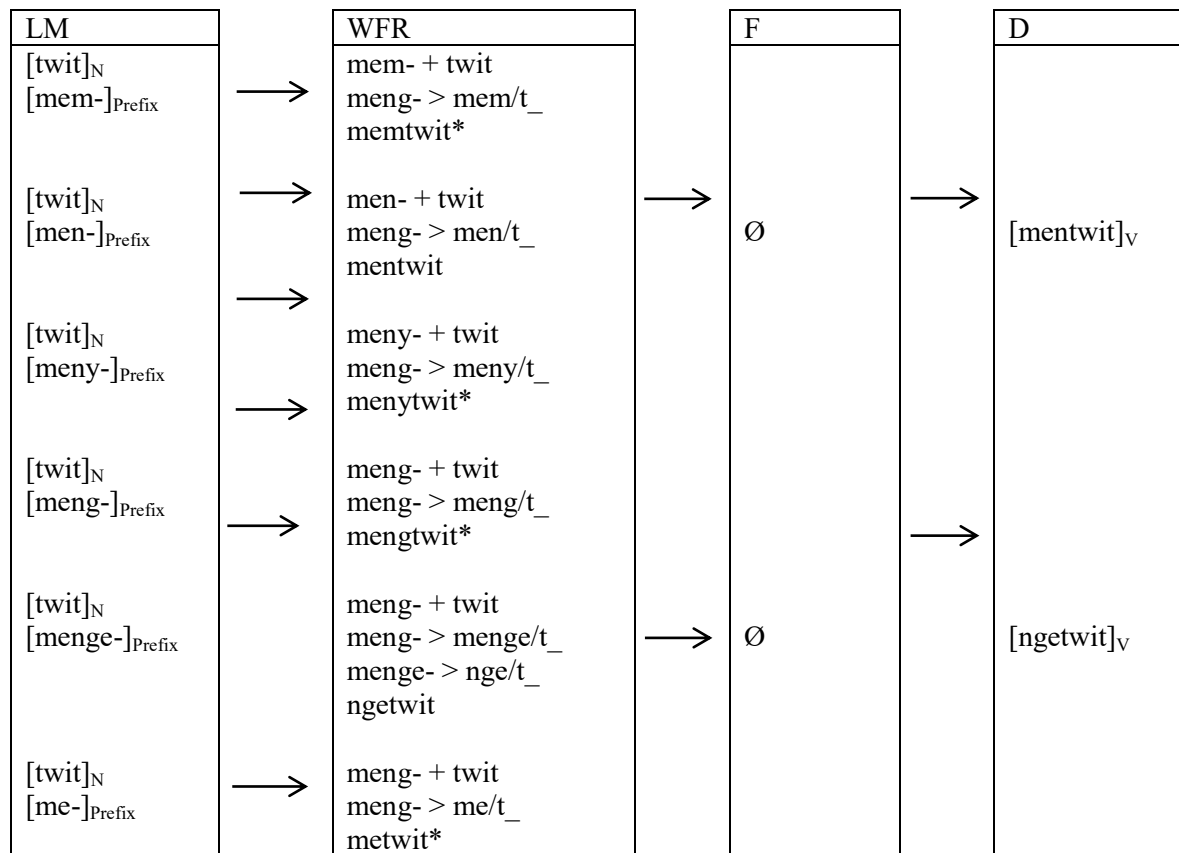


Figure 8: The diagram of word formation rule of *meng-* + *Twit*

Figure 8 shows that the first, the second, the fourth and the sixth allomorphs of *meng-* prefix are blocked in WFR. In the same way to the previous explanation. The blocking is because they do not conform to the morphotactic rules of Indonesian language. The bases having voiceless alveolar stop sound or phoneme /t/ as their initial segment can only be attached by allomorph *men-*. The morphophonemic process is accompanied by the deletion of the first segment of the base. However, this rule is not valid for the loan words. For the loan words, *meng-* prefix will become *men-* if it precedes the base having the phoneme /t/ as its initial. Thus, it can said that only the second allomorph which is suitable to attached to the base. In Third component, the form is not given any idiosyncresy because many Indonesians use the form regularly. Therefore, the form can be directly listed in dictionary.

Whereas, the fifth allomorph of *meng-* prefix can be described in the same way as the previous explanation, namely the decision made here is based on the writer intuition and is encouraged by the phenomenon that Indonesians tend to regard the abbreviation of loan words as a word having quality such as a word having one syllable. Based on that, *ngetwit* is not given the idiosyncresy characteristic in the third component, and it can be listed into the dictionary.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion, there are some conclusions that can be stated here. The first is the word formation rules for *meng-* prefix should be redefined, especially for the bases coming from English words. The second is there is a phenomenon showing the allomorph *menge-* which is shortened in informal variety into *nge-* is suitable for all the data which constitute the abbreviated loan words from English. It is assumed that the form is regarded as a word having a same quality as the Indonesian words having one syllable although two out of five words are still a potential words, namely *ngeIG* and *ngetwit*. The last is the other rules that account the

formation of loan words with *meng-* prefix are applicable and show that *meng-* prefix is quite productive to derive new words, especially for the loan words from English, in Indonesian language.

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