

## Formation Process of Derived Words in Malay and Iban

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### Abstract

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The Study on the Formation Process of Derived Words in Malay and Iban is a bilingual research that aims to study the process of forming derived words in Malay and Iban while also discussing the differences that occur from the aspect of morphemes that form derived words for both languages. The method used is entirely a qualitative method by highlighting document analysis instruments and checklist forms. Some derived word lists are taken from the Kamus Dewan Edisi Keempat and Bup Sereba Reti. The data obtained is released in the form of a checklist table to display the comparison, especially the difference aspects of Malay and Iban derived words. In order to see the word formation process that takes place, Tatabahasa Dewan, Nahu Melayu Mutakhir and Iban Language Morphology are used as data sources. The findings state that all derived words with the same meaning in Malay Language and Iban Language are combined with different morphemes to form prefixes, suffixes and affixes. The word class transformation process based on Minimalist Theory also states that there are significant differences for derived words built in simple sentences. Malay does not go through the root word level for word production while Iban language can go through root words and base words. This study can establish a limitation between Malay Language and Bahasa Iban which have similarities in terms of language systems. It is hoped that this study will have an impact on language scholars as a stepping stone to continue other researches, especially studies in the form of comparisons between two languages that have correlations and kinship relationships.

**Keywords:** *Malay language, Iban language, Derived Words*

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## INTRODUCTION

In general, languages can be divided into several categories such as phylum, cluster, family and subfamily. Classification into phyla, group and family comes from the concept of "time". Different language ages or periods can be described using these terms. According to Khaidir Wahab (2020), phylum is the highest level in the hierarchy of language genealogy which is 5000 years old and above. Clumps are between 2500 and 5000 years old and last but not least are families which are about 2500 years old.

According to Asmah Haji Omar (2008), Malay is a language that is widely spoken in the archipelago. In Malaysia, the position of Malay Language is enshrined in the federal constitution in Article 152 as the national language. The Malay language comes from the Austronesian group and is related to the Iban language. Malay and Iban share a similar grammatical system, especially in terms



of Morphology and Syntax. Most of the languages in the world are related to each other regardless of whether they are distant or close.

The Malay and Iban languages are under the Austronesian group which originates from a parent language lineage which is the ancient Malay-Iban language. According to Asmah Haji Omar (2008), “Bahasa Melayu” and “Bahasa Iban” have cognates with each other as much as 63% which shows the kinship between the two languages. Several aspects of similarity have been identified, namely in the field of Phonology, grammar and lexical elements. The Iban language in Sarawak is said to have existed for the past 150 years and has experienced dynamic changes along over time (Rahim Aman, 2018). Therefore, the Iban language has experienced drafting in terms of standard spelling, pronunciation, addition of vocabulary, loanwords from foreign languages and word formation.

One of the elements found in Morphology is the group of words consisting of single words, derived words, compound words and double words. Derived words consist of prefix affixes, suffix affixes, adjacent affixes and insertion affixes (Nik Safiah Karim, 2020). Derived words are the result of the word formation process. The word formation process is an operation in forming a word from a root word or base word to a derived word, compound word and others. Erica Eanna's (2022) study on word affixation in the Iban language shows types of prefix affixes such as /be-/, /di-/, /te-/, /en-/ and /n-/ morphemes. In this study, the findings show the variation of morphemes found in each prefix that is allomorph. There are some allomorphic variations in Iban but not as many as there are in Malay. Even so, this study only displays prefixed affixes, the process of word formation between basic words and morphemes and their use in sentences.

### **Research Issues**

One of the elements found in Morphology is the group of words consisting of single words, derived words, compound words and double words. Derived words consist of prefix affixes, suffix affixes, adjacent affixes and insertion affixes (Musta'in & Handrianto, 2020; Nik Safiah Karim, 2020). Derived words are the result of the word formation process. The word formation process is an operation in forming a word from a root word or base word to a derived word, compound word and others. Erica Eanna's (2022) study on word affixation in the Iban language shows types of prefix affixes such as /be-/, /di-/, /te-/, /en-/ and /n-/ morphemes. In this study, the findings show the variation of morphemes found in each prefix that is allomorph. There are some allomorphic variations in Iban but not as many as there are in Malay. Even so, this study only displays prefixed affixes, the process of word formation between basic words and morphemes and their use in sentences.

The derived word in the Iban language is called *pemun jaku* and has only three formations which are the initial prefix (*penambah pun*), the final suffix (*penambah ujung*) and the conjunction (*penambah selit*). According to Rosline Sandai (2012), ending suffixes are considered unstable in Iban because there is only one suffix, which is -ka and no other allomorphs. With the limitations of the formation, there are many more words in the Iban language that cannot be published to receive any prefixes, suffixes or insertions. This contributes to native

speakers using another language, namely Bahasa Melayu, especially to communicate to replace derived words that do not have terms in the Iban language. The formation of derived words in the Iban language still requires a specific grammar law to be a guide (Pernantah et al., 2022; Rahman et al., 2022).

### **Research Objective**

The objective highlighted in this study is to identify the process of the formation of derived words in Malay and also Iban. The second objective aims to analyze the difference in the formation of derived words between Malay and Iban languages.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

A study carried out by Nurul Adzwa, Farakhanna Rusli, and Norfaizah Jobar (2020) entitled *Analysis of Inflectional Errors in Student Essay Writing and Linking in Terms of Grammatical Meaning* by making the three main races in Malaysia namely Malay, Chinese and Indian as the subject of the study. A total of 30 text samples were obtained from 30 4th-grade students consisting of the three races. This study was carried out to explain the error of affixes in writing essays and links in terms of meaning. The result of this study is that there are many mistakes in the use of derived words, especially noun affixes, verb affixes and adjective affixes. A common mistake they make is the incorrect use of affixes in writing (Saputra et al., 2021; Dato et al., 2022). However, this study only takes into account three races in Malaysia and does not take data from other second-language students who are likely to face the same problem, namely students in Sabah and Sarawak, especially Iban. The real cause or problem faced by students in learning derived words will not be able to be identified comprehensively because there is no data from students of other nationalities in Malaysia (Rita & Handrianto, 2021; Kiting et al., 2022).

A study by Erucca Eanna, Salbia Hassan and Dayang Sariah (2022) entitled *Word Affixation in Iban Language* was conducted to identify word affixation in Iban Language. The method used is to take corpus data from a secondary source which is the book *Tiga Ensera* published by The Tun Jugah Foundation (2009). In this study, the aspect of affixation in derived words that is highlighted is prefix affixation only, namely /be-/, /di-/, /te-/, /en-/ and /n-/. The analysis and discussion data found that there are various words beginning with the affixes mentioned above present in the *Tiga Ensera* book. This shows that the Iban language has variations in prefixed affixes, although not as wide as Malay affixes. Malay also does not have affixes consisting of only one phoneme such as /n-/. Suffixes beginning with /n-/ are suffixes resulting from the assimilation of nasal substitutions that can be used in the same word but with two different spellings such as /meda?/ and /peda?/. However, the gap in this study is that it does not touch on all the affixes found in the Iban language, namely beginning, ending and insertion. The Iban language still has limited resources in the field of Morphology, especially derived words and the formation of derived words involving affixes of other elements is still a question (Ramadhani et al., 2021; Banseng & Gerry, 2022).

In addition, a study titled *Fostering Unity in Malaysia: The Elements of Unification Behind the Iban Language of Ancient Sarawak* by Rahim Aman, Nur Latif and Shahidi A.H (2014) focuses on the inflection system involving three variants of Iban in Sarawak, namely Sri Aman, Betong and Sarikei. The sources used to obtain data are folk stories from each of the sections. The findings of this study state that there are many suffix variants such as verb prefixes, noun prefixes, adjective prefixes, verb suffixes and /-ka/ suffixes. All the derived words obtained have similarities with the standard Iban language even though it is said that the derived words were selected from three districts in Sarawak. Even so, this study does not touch the entire district in Sarawak. Based on the data obtained, suffixes ending in the Iban language are only /-ka/. If this study expands the scope of the study it is possible that other variants can be found because the vocabulary used by each district in Sarawak to Kalimantan Indonesia by native Iban speakers has little differences. Things like this will be able to contribute to the formation of derived words, especially involving suffixes that are very limited in the Iban language (Rita & Handrianto, 2020; Banseng et al., 2022).

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study is qualitative, which is entirely using written materials or documents that do not involve statistics or numbering to identify the process of the formation of derived words in Malay and Iban languages and then compare the formation of the two languages from the aspect of differences (Sarte et al., 2021; Serang et al., 2022). The research design used in this study is a checklist and document analysis.

The first objective will highlight the checklist method which is by looking at the Morphological process which is the word formation that occurs between the two languages which are Bahasa Melayu and Bahasa Iban. Aspects that will be seen are the elements or morphemes present in derived words that form prefixes, suffixes, affixes and insertions. Next, examples of words for each morpheme will also be expressed in the form of derived words (Hafnidar et al., 2021; Arwin et al., 2022).

The second objective is to use the document analysis method. The document used as the main source is the Fourth Edition Hall Dictionary for the Malay language while the *Bup Sereba Reti* for the Iban language. In this section, derived words are presented in table form and compared according to morphemes that can show the differences between the two languages. Then, the derived word is used to build simple sentences to show the difference in the use of derived words for Malay and Iban in the context of the sentence.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The findings of this study were obtained by using document analysis methods and checklists. The data obtained through the instrument were analyzed using qualitative methods to uncover differences in the formation of derived words in Malay and Iban languages.

### Addition of Malay Prefixes

A prefix adder is an affix placed in front of a root word. Prefixes in Malay consist of native prefixes and borrowed prefixes. Prefix addition occurs in derived nouns, derived verbs and derived adjectives. Some prefixes undergo a change in form, namely the prefixes beR-, terR-, meN- and peN-, as shown in the following table.

Table 1: Allomorph Addition of Malay Prefixes

peN-	pe-, pem-, pen-, peng-, peny- dan penge-
meN-	me-, mem-, men-, meng-, meny- dan menge-
beR-	ber-, be- dan bel-
teR-	ter-, te- dan tel-

Table 2: Examples of Prefixes of Malay Nouns

<b>Definition</b>	A noun prefix is a prefix that when combined with a base word will form a noun.
<b>Noun Prefixes</b>	pe-, peN-, peR-, ke-, juru-, maha-, tata-, swa-, pra-, sub-, panca-, pasca-, supra-, eka-, dwi-, tri-, poli-, tuna-, auto- dan multi-.
<b>Examples</b>	petunjuk, penyuruh, persediaan, ketua, juruteknik, mahasiswa, tatabahasa, swalayan, prakata, subtajuk, pancaindera, pascasiswazah, supranasional, ekabahasa, dwibahasa, tribulan, politeknik, tunakarya, automatik, multifungsi.

Table 3: Examples of Prefixes of Malay Verbs

<b>Definition</b>	A verb prefix is a prefix that when combined with a base word will form a verb.
<b>Verb Prefixes</b>	meN-, beR-, teR-, di-, mempeR-, dipeR-.
<b>Examples</b>	memberi, berjasa, terpikat, dibuat, memperoleh, diperbesar

Table 4: Examples of Prefixes of Malay Adjectives

<b>Definition</b>	An adjective prefix is a prefix that when combined with a base word will form an adjective.
<b>Adjective Prefixes</b>	teR-, se-, bi-, pro-, anti-.
<b>Examples</b>	teramil, sebaik, bilazim, probarat, antisosial

### Addition of Iban Language Prefixes (Pun Additions)

In the example of "bepangan" and "belaukka", the morpheme is known as a prefix because it is placed before the root word or base word in the prefix structure. The Iban language has many prefixes besides be-. Among them are di-, te-, se- and pe-.

Table 5: Example of Addition of Prefixes (Addition of Pun) in Iban Language

<b>Definition</b>	A prefix is a suffix added to the front of a base word (Nik Safiah Karim, 2015)
<b>Types of Morphemes</b>	te-, di-, se-, pe-, be-
<b>Examples</b>	tepanggih, ditiki, sekunsi, bepangan.

### Addition of Malay Suffixes

A suffix is an affix at the end of a root word. Suffixes in Malay consist of native suffixes and borrowed suffixes. Suffixes in Malay can only exist in derived nouns and derived verbs.

Table 6: Examples of Malay Noun Suffixes

<b>Definition</b>	A noun suffix is a suffix that when combined with a base word will form a noun.
<b>Noun Suffixes</b>	-an, -wan, -man, -wati, -in, -at, -ah, -isme, -ik, -logi, -is
<b>Examples</b>	Lautan, rupawan, seniman, seniwati, hadirin, muslimat, sultanah, nasionalisme, fonemik, psikologi

Table 7: Examples of Malay Verb Suffixes

<b>Definition</b>	A verb suffix is a suffix that when combined with a base word will form a verb.
<b>Verb Suffixes</b>	-kan, -i
<b>Examples</b>	buatkan, siapkan, baiki, sudahi

Table 8: Examples of Malay Adjective Suffixes

<b>Definition</b>	An adjective suffix is a suffix that when combined with a base word will form an adjective.
<b>Adjective Suffixes</b>	-is, -wi, -i, -iah
<b>Examples</b>	puitis, duniawi, azali, jahiliah

### Addition of Iban Language Suffix (*Penambah Ujung*)

If an element that is not the main element is placed behind the root word or base word, then this element is known as a suffix. For example, in the Iban language, there is a suffix -ka for example *belauka* and *ngidupka* which shows *belauk* and *ngidup* given the suffix -ka.

In the written language, this suffix is written by joining the previous root or base word, but in the old spelling system, this suffix is written separately. For the examples above, the way to write in the old spelling system is as follows: *belauk ka*, *ngidup ka*.

Regardless of the way of writing, in Morphological considerations -ka is a suffix. In this book, we will use the spelling that is used in the teaching of Iban language at school, which is the one that joins this suffix with the previous root or base word. The Iban language only uses one suffix, which is -ka.

Table 9: Examples of Adding Suffixes (Ending Additions) in the Iban Language

<b>Definition</b>	Suffixes are affixes added to the back of the base word (Nik Safiah Karim, 2015)
<b>Types of Morphemes</b>	-ka
<b>Examples</b>	Belauka, ngidupka

### Insertion of Malay

An insertion is an affix that is inserted into the base word. Insertion in Malay consists of four types namely "-em-, -el-, -er-, -in-".

Table 10: Examples of Malay Noun Insertions

<b>Definition</b>	A noun insertion is an insertion that when combined with a base word will form a noun.
<b>Noun Insertion</b>	-el-, -er-, -em-
<b>Examples</b>	telunjuk, seruling, kemuncup

Table 11: Examples of Malay Adjective Insertion Affixes

<b>Definition</b>	Adjective insertion is an insertion that when combined with a base word will form an adjective.
<b>Adjectives Insertion</b>	-el-, -er-, -em-, -in-
<b>Examples</b>	gemilang, gelebung, gerodak, sinambung

### Iban Language Insertion (*Penambah Selit*)

Insertion is better known as insert adder in the Iban language. To identify the insertion, a comparison between two words should be done such as the words *temepak* and *tepak*. Both words carry the meaning of a loud falling sound either on the surface of water or in a watery area such as mud. From this comparison, we can see that *temepak* has an additional -em- placed after the phoneme 't' in *tepeka*. This indicates that the element -em- has been inserted into the drop. Thus, *tepak* ranks as a root word and -em- is an adder.

Another example is *seremidak* which means crying. This word can be compared to the word *semidak* which means to cry. Based on this comparison, we can conclude that the morpheme -er- in *seremidak* is an insertion while *semidak* is a root word. Based on the two examples, the definition of insertion can be determined, which is an additive morpheme placed in the root word, especially after the first consonant.

Table 12: Examples of Iban Language Insertion (*Penambah Selit*)

<b>Definition</b>	According to Nik Safiah Karim (2015), an insertion is an affix that is inserted between the elements of a base word, for example -em- in g + em + uruh for Malay.
<b>Types of Morphemes</b>	-em-, -er-, -el-
<b>Examples</b>	temepak, seremidak, kelejuang

### Simultaneous Addition of Malay Prefixes And Suffixes

Conjunction exists in derived nouns, derived verbs and derived adjectives such as noun affixes, verb affixes and adjective affixes.

Table 13: Examples of Malay Noun Affixes

<b>Definition</b>	A noun conjunction is a conjunction that when combined with a base word will form a noun.
<b>Adjectives Conjunction</b>	Pe-...-an, pem-...-an, pen-...-an, peng-...-an, penge-...-an, per-...-an, pel-...-an, ke-...-an
<b>Examples</b>	Pelaksanaan, pembuatan, pentakrifan, penggunaan, pengehadan, persisiran, pelajaran, kelainan.

Table 14: Examples of Malay Verb Conjunction

<b>Definition</b>	A verb conjunction is conjunction that when combined with a base word will form a verb.
<b>Verb Conjunction</b>	me-...-kan, men-...kan, mem-...-kan, meng-...-kan, menge-...-kan, ber-...-kan, ber-...-an, di-...-kan, me-...-i, men-...-i, mem-...-i, meng-...-i, di-...-i, diper-...-kan, diper-...-i, memper-...-kan, memper-...-i, ke-...-an
<b>Examples</b>	memainkan, mendermakan, membaharukan, menggunakan, mengecamkan, beralaskan, berlanjutan, dibiarkan, melalui, mencurigai, membaharui, menganggotai, didekati, diperdengarkan, diperingati, memperdengarkan, memperingati, kehujanan.

Table 15: Examples of Malay Adjective Conjunctions

<b>Definition</b>	Adjective conjunctions are conjunctions that when combined with a base word will form an adjective.
<b>Adjective Conjunction</b>	ke-...-an
<b>Examples</b>	kecinaan



### Iban Nasal Substitution (Substitutes and Additions)

The Iban language contains an arrangement or process in the form of a word, especially a verb that includes nasal or nasal consonants in the base word. The word will be a replacement or an addition to one base word.

Nasal plosive consonants such as b and p have similarities with m, t, n and others. Examples that can be taken to show this process are "*nyalak, meda, nusui, ngumbai*" and many more. Each of these examples consists of two morphemes, a consonant and a base word. In this case, the nasal sound has merged with the base word.

One of the reasons that the nasal sound is combined with the substitute or additive nasal sound is because this is an analytical way of a word that has a nasal sound being a different variation from the base word. The basic words in the examples mentioned are *salak, peda, tusui* and *kumbai* which can change to *nyalak, meda, nusui* and *ngumbai* when the nasal sound element replaces the phoneme.

Table 16: Examples of Nasalization (Substitutes and Additions) in the Iban Language

<b>Definition</b>	This process replaces the first phoneme in the base word with a consonant letter that has similar characteristics to the replaced letter.
<b>Type of Morphemes</b>	nge-, ny-, ng-
<b>Examples</b>	nyumai, ngelengka, nganu

### Analysis of Differences in Malay and Iban-Derived Words

This section will discuss the differences between the elements that make up derived words in Malay and Iban, that is, in terms of morphemes. This analysis makes morphemes found in Bahasa Melayu as a reference and comparison item for words with the same meaning. A discussion based on grammar rules will be done to identify the different factors that occur.

Table 17: Analysis of Differences in Derived Words Beginning with Infixes in Malay and Iban

No.	Prefixes	Malay Language	Iban Language	Notes
1.	tata-	tatabahasa	jalai jaku	The Iban language does not have a prefix element for "tata". The word "grammar" which means "jalai jaku" does not receive any suffix but is formed into a compound word.

2.	memper-	memperoleh	ngulih	In Malay, the base word "oleh" receives the prefix memper- and forms the word "memperoleh" while in Iban language it receives a different prefix which is the nasal substitute or nasal sound "ng" which forms the word "ngulih".
3.	teR-	terpikat	tekait	The affix teR- is found in Malay while the affix te- is found in Iban. The Iban language does not have many variations for the morpheme teR- compared to the Malay language which has a variety of teR-, te- and tel-.
4.	beR-	bergantung	bepanggih	The affix beR- is found in Malay while in Iban the affix be- is used. Most of the derived words from the verb group do not use prefix suffixes in the Iban language.
5.	di-	dipanggil	dikangau	Affixes are used in both languages for words with the same meaning.

Table 18: Analysis of Differences in Derived Words Ending Affixes in Malay and Iban

No.	Suffixes	Malay Language	Iban Language	Notes
1.	-kan	siapkan	tembuka	The suffix ending in -kan in Malay is the same as the suffix ending in -ka in Iban. Even so, there are differences in terms of spelling and pronunciation.
2.	-i	temui	temu	There is a suffix ending -i morpheme in Malay while for the same word in Iban, namely "temu", the word does not undergo the morphological process of adding the suffix -i. This is said to be so because there is no morpheme -i in the Iban language for suffixes.

3.	-i	baiki	miki	In the word “ <i>baiki</i> ”, there is a suffix morpheme -i while for the word with the same meaning, which is “ <i>miki</i> ”, it does not undergo any process of affixation for derived words. The word “ <i>miki</i> ” is limited to a specific context only, which is to repair a car and cannot be used for other contexts or situations, such as repairing damaged household appliances, repairing writing and so on.
4.	-kan	buatkan	ngaga	For the word “ <i>buatkan</i> ” in Malay, the accepted suffix is -kan. For the word with the same meaning in the Iban language that is <i>ngaga</i> , this word does not receive a suffix but a nasal addition in front of the word which is “ng” which is formed from the root word <i>gaga</i> .

Table 19: Analysis of Differences in Derivatives of Infixated Infinitives in Malay and Iban language

No.	Conjunction	Malay Language	Iban Language	Notes
1.	beR-...-kan	berdasarkan	bepelasarka	The affix beR-...-kan exists in Malay compared to the Iban language which uses the affix be-...-ka. This is said to be so because there is only one suffix in Iban, the morpheme -ka, while for the variation of the suffix be-, there is also only one, the morpheme be-. This shows the difference in terms of the morphemes that make up the affixes even though the elements of the two morphemes are the same.
				An example of the word

2.	di-...-i	dinaiki	ditiki	apitan di-...-i in Malay is <i>dinaiki</i> while in the Iban language, it is <i>ditiki</i> . The Iban language does not accept suffixes in the context of this word and only accepts prefixes which is di-.
3.	memper-...-kan	memperkatakan	madahka	An example of a word for the suffix memper-...-kan in Malay is “memperkatakan” while in Iban for words with the same meaning is <i>madahka</i> . This explains that the Iban language does not accept the suffix suffix for this word but only the suffix -ka.
4.	meng-...-kan	mengingatkan	ningatka	For the suffix meng-...-kan, the word in Malay is <i>mengingatkan</i> while in Iban it is <i>ningatka</i> . The significant difference between these two derived words is that the Iban language uses the suffix ng-...-ka instead of meng-...-ka for words with the same meaning.
5.	ke-...-an	kesakitan	pemedis	For the conjunction suffix ke-...-an an example of a derived word is <i>kesakitan</i> while in the Iban language, it is <i>pemedis</i> . In this context, words with the same meaning in the Iban language do not receive a suffix but the prefix pe-.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research conducted, it can be concluded that Bahasa Melayu and Bahasa Iban have some differences in the process of forming derived words. Despite sharing many similarities in terms of language systems, some

differences limit the two languages. This can be seen when the Iban language has a different type of word formation process than the Malay language, which is the process of adding and replacing words. Not only that, in the aspect of word class transformation, there is also a significant difference because the Iban language does not need to go through the word class process, which is from the root word to the base word and finally to the derived word in the word formation process compared to the Malay language which has to start with the base word because derived words cannot come from root words. Therefore, a comparative study like this, especially between Bahasa Melayu and Bahasa Iban, is seen as a breath of fresh air as a starter for similar studies in the future as well as contributing to the development of both languages for Iban students in Sarawak.

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