

WORD FORMATION PROCESS OF THE GIANTS' NAMES IN THE BFG - A CHILDREN BOOK WRITTEN BY ROAL DAHL

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Abstract

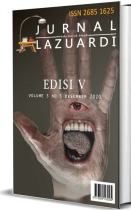
The aim of this research was to find out the types of word formation in the names of the giants; the fictional characters in children's book entitled *The BFG* written by Roald Dahl. This research was designed as descriptive qualitative research. To investigate the language phenomenon, the writer employed Yule's theoretical framework regarding the word-formation process. There are 10 types of word-formation processes proposed by Yule (2010), such as coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, conversion, acronym, derivation, back-formation, clipping, and multiple processes. But apparently, in creating names for the giants characters in the story, Dahl only used 3 types of word formation, they are an acronym, compounding, and multiple processes.

Keywords: *The BFG*, Yule's Theoretical, Qualitative Research.

INTRODUCTION

Discussing Roald Dahl's works of art is like a never-ending journey. Over decades of his long writing career, Dahl composed 19 children's books. Despite the popularity, his writing is also a great subject of controversy and debate. Let's say his first debut, *James and the Giant Peach* which is written in 1961, the book is about a lonely little boy living with his two mean aunts who meets the Old Green Grasshopper and his insect friends on a giant, magical peach. Apparently, the book gained wide critical and also commercial fame. His other masterpiece is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* which was written in 1964 about a weird, lonesome businessman, Willy Wonka, who has been holed up alone inside his fantastical chocolate factory. Some of us might know this story since it was adopted to be a movie in 2005. The main character of this book was said to portray a racist stereotype. Not to mention his other works such as *BFG* (1982), *The Witches* (1983), and also *Matilda* (1988).

Dahl's greatest charms in writing children's books relied on his creative and humorous style of writing. In his books, he uses lots of sound words, interesting adjectives, and humorous poems. He also comes up with specific names and figures of speech which compliments the different character in their personality and features. He also loves to twist words and play around with the sentence structure. Personification is often used in his works so as to transform characters, mainly animals, into human-like, where they have a



mind and can speak like a real human being. In fact, he actually creates his own language called *Gobblefunk*.

In the writer's opinion, *The BFG* (Big Friendly Giant) is one of Dahl's stories that rich in language phenomenon that will be interesting to be discussed. In this writing, the writer will try to analyze the names of the monster characters in *The BFG* linguistically.

RELATED THEORIES

1) The Giants

BFG is categorized as a fantasy novel since the story itself involves human and fictional characters like giants. Giant, according to the Cambridge English Dictionary (Year; page), is an imaginary creature like a man but extremely tall, strong, and usually cruel, appearing especially in children's stories. Giants are usually portrayed as bad characters who eat humans, but in this story, there are 2 kinds of giants, the bad (antagonist) and the good (protagonist) giants.

2) Previous Study

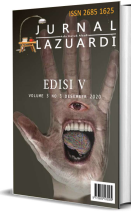
As the writer has mentioned before, Roald Dahl's writing is an interesting subject to be discussed even by linguists. Several types of research were conducted to analyze the *Gobblefunk*, the language that Dahl created and used in the children's books he wrote.

The article "Word Creation Styles in Fantasy Novels" by Nuttakan Pjjanapimol and Nattakan Sukchuen (2016), is one of the pieces of writing that tried to compare and contrast the word creation styles on two well known two children novel: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and *The BFG*. The results reveal that compounding is the main lexical creation in both novels. Both Rowling and Dahl create their own suffixes to use in their books. Although diminutives and blending in both books are similar in their structure, Dahl's Blending is more fanciful. Additionally, Rowling borrows some words from other countries, whereas Dahl does not borrow any foreign words in *The BFG*. Rowling uses a shifted meaning technique as a type of wordplay while Dahl uses the lexical-based-play technique. Moreover, reduplication is found only in Dahl's novel.

In the article *Wordplay in Children's Literature: A Morphological Study of Derivation and Word Formation in an Extract from Roald Dahl's The BFG (1982)*, Haqqy came to a conclusion that through a morphological study that he conducted, it is clear that Dahl uses derivational affixation and word formation process to impregnate his literary works in *The BFG*.

3) Word Formation

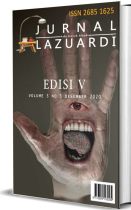
Morphology is an essential part of linguistics that directly deals with the word-formation process. According to Nida (Mardijono, 2012), morphology is the study of morphemes and their arrangements in forming words. In addition, Yule (2006) states that morphology is



investigating basic forms in the language. In conclusion, studying morphology means studying the structure and content of word forms. One of the topics in Morphology is Word Formation Process.

According to Tumewan (2013), word formation is the process to create a new word. Furthermore, Yule (1985) asserts that the word-formation process is a process to understand a new word in the language with the use of different forms. Informing words, there are several types and patterns to analyze word-formation. Yule (2006) proposed ten types of the word-formation process, they are:

- a) Coinage is the invention of totally new terms. Some trade names or commercial products are actually coinage, for example, *aspirin*, *nylon*, *vaseline*, and *zipper*, or even *google*.
- b) Borrowing means to borrow or take over of words from other languages. For example *croissant* (French), *dope* (Dutch), *lilac* (Persian), *piano* (Italian), *pretzel* (German), *sofa* (Arabic), *tattoo* (Tahitian), *tycoon* (Japanese), *yogurt* (Turkish), and *zebra* (Bantu).
- c) The derivation is the forming of new words by combining derivational affixes or bound bases with existing words.
- d) Back-formation is a very specialized type of reduction process where a word of one type (usually a noun) is reduced to form a word of another type (usually a verb). For example: *donate* (from "donation") and *babysit* (from "babysitter").
- e) Clipping occurs when a word of more than one syllable (facsimile) is reduced to a shorter form (*fax*). Other common examples are *ad* (advertisement), *bra* (brassiere), *cab* (cabriolet), *condo* (condominium), *fan* (fanatic), and *flu* (influenza)
- f) Blending is the combination of two separate forms by taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of other words in order to produce a new single term. For examples: *smog* (smoke/ fog), *brunch* (breakfast/lunch), and *motel* (motor/hotel)
- g) Compounding is a joining of two separate words to produce a single Common English compound *are bookcase*, *doorknob*, *fingerprint*, *sunburn*, *textbook*, *wallpaper*, *wastebasket*, and *a waterbed*. All these examples are nouns, but we can also create compound adjectives (good-looking, low-paid) and compounds of the adjective (fast) plus a noun (food) as in a fast-food restaurant or a full-time job.
- h) The acronym is are new word formed from the initial letters of a set of other words for example *CD* (compact disk) or *VCR* (video cassette recorder) where the pronunciation consists of saying each separate letter.



- i) Conversion is changing the function of a word without any reduction, for example, the word *chair* and *butter*.
- j) Multiple Process in which changing employs more than one process of word-formation.

Those types of word-formation processes would lead the writer to identify the types of word-formation processes used by Dahl to create the giants' names in *The BFG* novel.

METHOD

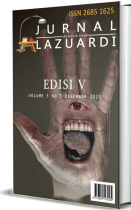
1. Research Design: Qualitative Descriptive Method, Library research
2. Source of Data: the primary source of this research is an English Children's book written by Roald Dahl entitled "*The BFG*", while the secondary sources are the journal, online articles, and various kinds of documents related to this novel.
3. Data Collecting Techniques:
 - a) Reading the book repeatedly and intensively to understand the content of the novel
 - b) Reading the theory books, browsing, and collecting all related papers, journals,
 - c) articles on the internet, to get more information that is relevant to the topic.
4. Data Analysis Techniques:
 - a) Reading the novel again, in this stage, the writer read and highlighted the lines that contain all necessary data to be analyzed
 - b) Classifying and analyzing the finding by using the theory proposed before.
 - c) Drawing the conclusion based on the findings

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Giant Characters in *The BFG*

Hall (1983:47) in Huan (2020) says that a character is an imagined person in a story, whom we know from the words we read on the page. Characters in this book are Sophie, The BFG giant, The Queen, Marry, Mr. Tibbs, The Heads of the Army and Air Force, The Fleshmeater, The Bloodbutler, and other giants in giants country, and also Mr. And Ms. Goochey. Based on the function of performance, characters are divided into the Protagonist and Antagonist.

A protagonist, as Altenbern and Lewis in Nugiyantoro (1998:170), says is a character who is admired by readers or watchers, popularly or is called a hero because he or she always does the ideal role and follows the rules and values in society. To sum up, the protagonist is actually the kind of character who is loved by the audience, the heart of the story, or the hero. The protagonist is the main character in the story. In this book, the characters are Sophia and a giant named BFG.



The opposite of the protagonist is an antagonist. Foster (1990:101) says "An antagonist is a character who opposes to the protagonists; the person that helps cause conflict for the protagonists". In this book, the protagonists are the other giants in the giant's country. They are Fleshlumpeater (the leader of the pack), Bloodbottler, Bucher Boy, Gizzardgulper, Manhugger, Childsewer, Meaddripped, Maidmasher, and Bonecruncher.

Table 01 Giant Characters in The BFG

Number	Giant's Name	Type of Character
Giant 01	BFG	Protagonist
Giant 02	Fleshlumpeater	Antagonist
Giant 03	Bloodbottler	Antagonist
Giant 04	Butcher Boy	Antagonist
Giant 05	Gizzardgulper	Antagonist
Giant 06	Manhugger	Antagonist
Giant 07	Childchewer	Antagonist
Giant 08	Meatdripper	Antagonist
Giant 09	Maidmasher	Antagonist
Giant 10	Bonecrusher	Antagonist

Word Formation Process in the Giants' Name

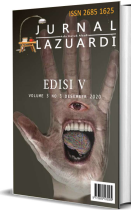
Roald Dahl is an outstanding language player and word creator as he creates many new words in most of his fantasy children's books. The BFG is one of Dahl's book that impress readers because of its funny and playful language. Dahl differentiates giant language from daily life language by creating various new words. But the other uniqueness is the name of the giants. Based on the data analysis, there are three-word formation processes used by Dahl to create his giant's characters' names. They are:

1. Acronym

The title of the novel The BFG comes from the name of the main character called BFG. BFG is the abbreviation of the word 'Big Friendly Giant'. In this book, *BFG* or *Big Friendly Giant* is depicted as a 24-foot-tall giant who is friendly, kind-hearted, sweet, gentle, heroic, innocent, nice, loyal, strong, selfless, sensitive, and also benevolent.

Table 02 Data on Acronym

Sample Number	Giant's Name	Word Formation Process	Elaboration
Giant 01	BFG	Acronym	Big Friendly Giant



From the data, we can clearly see that, Dahl combined three words to build the giant's name (*big + friendly + giant*) However, the name itself consists of three free morphemes and one bound morpheme; they are **big** (free morpheme), **friendly** (a combination of free morpheme **friend** (n) + suffix **-ly**) and **giant** (free morpheme).

2. Compounding

Based on the analysis, there is only one data that contains compounding.

Table 03 Data on Compounding

Sample Number	Giant's Name	Word Formation Process	Elaboration
Giant 04	Butcher Boy	compounding	butcher (n) + boy (n)

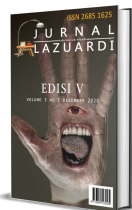
From the data above, we can see that Dahl created giant 04's name by combining two free morphemes "butcher" and "boy" to produce a new single compound word "Butcher Boy". According to Wikipedia, A **butcher** (n) is a person who may slaughter animals, dress their flesh, sell their meat, or participate in any combination of these three tasks, while the **boy** (n) in Cambridge Online Dictionary is a male child or, more generally, a male of any age. The given name itself actually describes the characters of this giant which is the youngest immature male giant who likes to slaughter men especially children and eat their meat. In this case, the compounding is written in **an open** way with a space between the parts of the compound.

3. Multiple Process

Multiple Process is the word-formation process in which the changing employ more than one process of word-formation. There are eight giants whose names undergo multiple processes, the result can be seen in table 03.

Table 03 Data on Multiple Process

Sample Name	Giant's Name	Word Formation Process	Elaboration
Giant 02	Fleشلumpeater	Multiple Process	flush + lump + eat + -er
Giant 03	Bloodbottler	Multiple Process	blood + bottle + -er
Giant 05	Gizzardgulper	Multiple Process	gizzard + gulp + -er

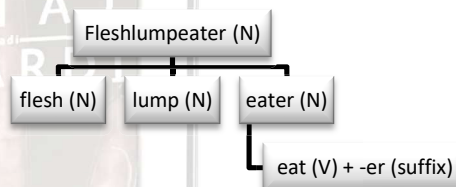


Giant 06	Manhugger	Multiple Process	man + hug + -er
Giant 07	Childchewer	Multiple Process	child + chew + -er
Giant 08	Meatdripper	Multiple Process	meat + drip + -er
Giant 09	Maidmasher	Multiple Process	maid + mash + -er
Giant 10	Bonecrusher	Multiple Process	bone + crunch + -er

Giant 02: *Fleshlumpeater*

Fleshlumpeater(Giant 02) is the leader of the other eight man-eating giants, he is the largest (52 feet) and most horrible of all the other giants. He is also said to be dim-witted, ravenous, coward, obnoxious, rude, threatening, childish, and cruel giant.

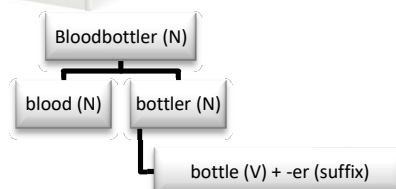
Looking at the tree diagram, the word *fleshlumpeater* (n) has undergone multiple processes of word-formation. The diagram below shows that the word *fleshlumpeater* is the combination of three free morphemes: *flesh* (n), *lump* (n), *eat* (v), and also one bound morpheme *-er*(suffix).

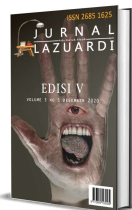


The first process is a derivation, it is involved the attachment of suffix *-er* to the root *eat* (v) to become *eater* (n). It changes the word classes from the verb to noun. The next process is compounding, all three nouns are joined to become a single word; *flesh + lump + eater* or *fleshlumpeater* which meaning is a person who loves to eat a mass of flesh. In this story, *Fleshlumpeater* is a giant who loves to eat a mass of human flesh.

Giant 03: *Bloodbottler*

The name *Bloodbottler* can be broken down into 3 morphemes; 2 free morphemes (*blood*, *bottle*) and 1 bound morpheme (*-er*). The word 'Bottle' has undergone a **conversion** where the noun has conversed to the verb. According to Cambridge Dictionary Online, the word *bottle* belongs to NOUN which means a [container](#) for [liquids](#), usually made of [glass](#) or [plastic](#), with a [narrowneck](#), but after conversion to the verb, 'to bottle' means to put a liquid into a bottle. The next process is the derivation process, in this process, the word 'to bottle' (v) is then combined with the suffix *-er* to create a new form of word 'bottler' that change its word-class from verb to noun. The last word-formation process in this name is compounding. This process involves the attachment of the word *blood*(n) to the word *bottler* (n) to become *bloodbottler* meaning a person who puts blood into a bottle. In the story, **The Bloodbottler** is the second-in-command to the *Fleshlumpeater* and also the smartest of all the other giants. He has a fondness for the taste

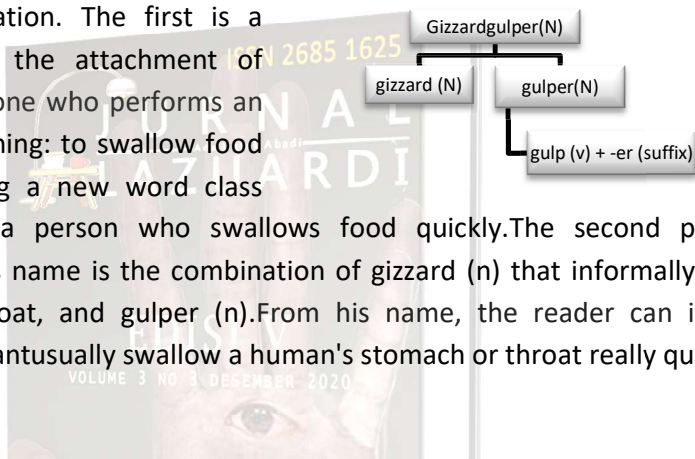




of human blood. From his name, the reader can infer that this giant is a man-eating giant who catches his prey and then put the pray's blood into a bottle.

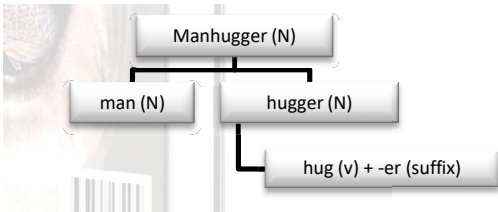
Giant 05: Gizzardgulper

The Gizzardgulper: is one of the giants who like to catch humans in the city. He hides on the rooftops of buildings, where the humans can't see him. The Gizzardgulper has a very fast arm. His arm is going up and down quicker than anyone can even think. The word gizzardgulper is classified as multiple processes since it undergoes two processes: compounding and derivation. The first is a derivation that involves the attachment of suffix *-er* (meaning: someone who performs an action) to verb *gulp* (meaning: to swallow food or drink quickly) creating a new word class gulper (n) that means a person who swallows food quickly. The second process is compounding in giant 05's name is the combination of gizzard (n) that informally means a person's stomach or throat, and gulper (n). From his name, the reader can infer that Gizzardgulper is a cruel giant usually swallow a human's stomach or throat really quick.



Giant 06: Manhugger

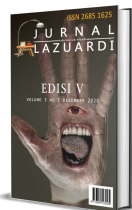
Linguistically, the word *man hugger* is a noun form that undergone 2 processes of word formation; **compounding** and **derivation**. From the diagram, we can see that the first process is a derivation in which the suffix *-er* is attached to the word *hug* (v), the process itself then creates a new meaning and also change the word class from verb to noun. *Man*, according to Oxford Learner Dictionary, belongs to a noun which means adult male human being; human being; the human race, while *hug* is a verb which meaning is to put the arms round tightly and suffix *-er* means someone who performs an action. So, man hugger means a person who likes to put his/her arms around tightly another human being. In this story, The Manhugger is a scary giant who usually catches a human crush him/her by hugging.



Giant 07: Childchewer,

The "**Childchewer**" is one of the nine man-eating giants that live in Giant Country. He has a grayish goatee and hair and is balding. Among the gang of man-eating giants, his closest friend is the Meatdripper. Hence his name, he

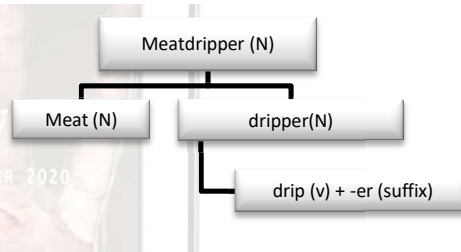




takes the most pleasure out of eating "human bean" children (<https://disney.fandom.com/wiki/Childchewer>). Linguistically, *childchewer* is a noun form that undergone 2 processes of word formation; compounding and derivation. The first process is the derivation process in which the suffix *-er* is attached to the word *chew* (v), the process creates new meaning and also change the word class from verb to noun *chewer* which means a person who moves (food, etc) about between the teeth in order to crush it. *Child*, according to Oxford Learner Dictionary, belongs to a noun which means a young human being, while *chew* is a verb that meaning is to move (food, etc) between the teeth in order to crush it, while suffix *-er* means someone who performs an action. So, *Childchewer* is a person who can move children between his/her teeth in order to crush it.

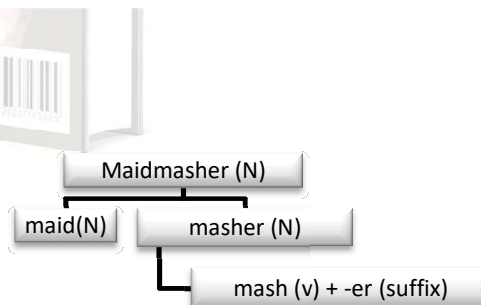
Giant 08: Meatdripper

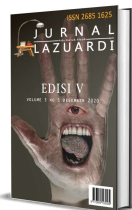
The Meatdripper is a scary giant who usually catches humans bypretending to be a tree in a park so that he can pick off the humans that go under him. This giant' characters can be seen from his name. Linguistically, *meat dripped* is a noun form that undergone 2 processes of word formation; compounding and derivation. The first process is the derivation process in which the suffix *-er* is attached to the word *drip* (v), the process creates new meaning and also change the word class from verb to noun. *Meat*, according to Oxford Learner Dictionary, belongs to a noun which means flesh of animals used as food, while *drip* is a verb meaning (of a liquid) fall in drops, while suffix *-er* means someone who performs an action. So, *meat dripped* is a person who drops meats while eating.



Giant 09: Maidmasher

The Maidmasher: In this story, *Maidmasher* is depicted as one of the nine man-eating giants that live in Giant Country who has a small head and almost invisible hair. Among the gang of man-eating giants, the *Maidmasher* seems to have the best sense of fashion considering the way he dresses. The name *Maidmasher* is created by using multiple processes of word-formation. According to Oxford Learner Dictionary, *Maid* means a girl or a servant woman while *masher* means to beat or to crush something into a mash. The word *masher* has undergone the derivation process, where the word *mash* which is

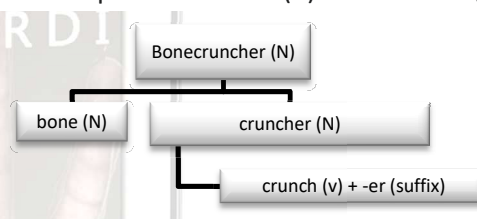




categorized as a verb is combined with suffix *-er* which means someone who performs an action. The affixation process not only caused the word class changes from verb to noun and but also change the meaning to become someone who beat or crush something into a mash. The next process is compounding, in this process, the word *maid* (n) is combined with *masher* (n) to become *maidmasher*. *Maidmasher* means a person who beat or crush a girl or servant woman into a mash.

Giant 10: *Bonecruncher*.

The **Bonecruncher** is one of the nine man-eating giants who is known for crunching up two humans for dinner every night. He enjoys eating people from Turkey, making him the picky eater of the bunch. Based on the analysis by using the tree table below, the word *Bonecruncher* (n) can be separated into two free morphemes: *bone* (n) and *crunch* (v),

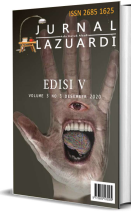


and one bound morpheme: suffix *-er*. According to Oxford Learner Dictionary, the word *bone* is categorized as a noun means parts of the skeleton of an animal's body, *crunch* is a verb that means to crush noisily with the teeth when eating, while suffix *-er* means someone who performs an action. Linguistically, there are two multiple processes of word formation applied in the creation of the name *Bonecruncher*. The first process is a derivation, in this process suffix *-er* is attached to the base *crunch* (v) in order to create a new word *cruncher*. The process changes the word class from verb to noun, and as well as the meaning; a person who usually crushes something noisily with the teeth when eating. The second process is compounding where the word *bone* is combined with the word *crusher* (n) to become *Bonecrusher* meaning a person who loves to crush bones noisily with the teeth when eating.

CONCLUSION

One of language development is creating new words by using word-formation. Literature always comes with a big surprise, take the fictional prose, for example, some authors come up with new words, some even created a new language. Roald Dahl is an author who creates a new language called *Gobblefunk*. One of the characteristics of the language is the manipulation of word-formation.

In *The BFG* book, Dahl created unique names for the giants, he played with the word-formation to create a vivid picture of the characters. There are 10 giants in the story, they are BFG, Fleshlumpeater, Bloodbottler, Bucher Boy, Gizzardgulper, Manhugger, Childscewer, Meatdripped, Maidmasher, and Bonecruncher. By using the Word Formation proposed by



Yule (2016), the writer concludes that in creating the giant's name, Dahl applied three Word Formation Process such as Compounding, Acronym, and also Multiple Process.

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