

# THE ORIGIN OF ENGLISH WORD BLENDS IN “LEGGING” FASHION TERMS

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## Abstrak

*Penelitian ini mengkaji tentang kata-kata baru dalam istilah fashion “Legging” yang mengalami proses morfologis. Perkembangan dalam dunia fashion juga membuat terbentuknya istilah-istilah baru yang terbentuk dan digunakan dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Ketika kata-kata baru terbentuk, masing-masing kata tersebut memiliki arti yang baru pula. Dalam penelitian ini, kata-kata baru terbentuk dengan proses Blending. Proses Blending yaitu ketika satu kata digabungkan dengan satu kata lain untuk membentuk satu kata baru yang memiliki arti yang berbeda. Proses blending diikuti pula oleh etimologi dari setiap kata, karena ketika kata-kata digabungkan, masing-masing dari setiap kata tersebut memiliki makna yang berbeda dengan kata lainnya untuk membentuk kata baru yang membentuk makna baru. Proses blending juga diikuti oleh proses etimologi. Proses etimologi berfungsi untuk mengetahui makna dari setiap kata. Ketika dua kata atau lebih digabungkan, maka akan menghasilkan suatu kata baru yang berbeda makna. Oleh karena itu, dalam penelitian ini makna dari suatu kata dianalisis melalui proses etimologi agar bisa dengan mudah diucapkan dalam kehidupan sehari-hari.*

**Kata kunci:** *blending, etimologi, legging, morfologi*

## INTRODUCTION

It was a sunny day. The girl decided to go to mall for shopping.

The girl : Do you have a *jegging* pants?

Shopkeeper : Yes, sure. We have a new model, maybe you’ll like that

The girl : May I look?

Shopkeeper : Okay. Wait a second. I’ll take it for you.

From the phenomena above, the word *jegging* is the new word in English language. The word *jegging* stands for jeans and *legging* that has a new meaning, that is a new word formation combining jeans and a stretchy materials used in the usual legging materials.

The study of words structure is morphology. As Katamba (1993: 19) stated “*morphology is the study of words structure.*” Morphology is always related to the structure of words. Besides talking about the words structure, this study also discusses about the formation of words. As stated by Aronoff “*in linguistics morphology*

*refers to the mental system involved in word formation or to the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure and how they are formed.*” Based on the theory, it is explained that the morphology concerns about internal structure of words and also in the formation of word.

Etymology is a term dealing with history or origin of words. As dictionary.cambridge.org stated, “*Etymology is the study of the origin and history of words, or a study of this type relating to particular word*”. With this study, how a word is formed or adapted as well as the origin of a word can be identified. Wedgwoodi (2009: i) also stated, “*etymology is the study to know the earliest meaning of a word and what are the cognate forms either in our own or in related languages.*” It is assumed that etymology is focused on analyzing the earliest meaning or the history of words and identifying whether a newly formed word adapted from other language still has the same meaning or whether the meaning has been modified in the process of formation.

After recognizing etymology as the study of the origin of words, it is apparent that etymology is a necessary tool to analyze data on new word formation in order to understand the overall process during the word formation. The focus of etymology in this research is only on new word formation.

In creating a new word, smaller elements are combined to create the new words with complex meanings and sometimes there is a change in its meaning and word class. As stated by Plag (2001:12), “*words that are obviously composed by putting together smaller elements to form larger words with more complex meanings.*” The blending process is the combination of compound and clipping process.

As Brinton (2002: 97) said, “*a blend process involves two process of word formation, compounding and clipping.*” This process usually creates a new word by removing the end part of the first word and removing the beginning part of the second word resulting in a new word, the combination of the two free roots.

This case has been discussed in the previous research by Eva Nurfatimah, Undergraduate Program, Faculty of Letters, 2010, Gunadarma University “*English Word Blends*”. The previous research only focus on types of blending words. Therefore, this journal expands more than previous research. The focus of this research is about the origin of English word blends that used in “*legging*” fashion terms.

This research explains about the existence, the concatenation, for what it is used, and how to gather the meaning of a blend words. This research has some purposes, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it is expected that this research provides a brief explanation and knowledge to readers about how a new word is formed and how to look into the origin and the meaning properties of words. Practically, the readers can understand the meaning of the word without opening

dictionary and can help the readers try to form new words by using the processes in word formation to express a new activity.

## Research Methodology

Method of this research is collecting data about the fashion terms and then choose the words that have morphological process “*Word Blending*” and finally find the etymology of each words to have a result about the origin of English word blends, especially in “*legging*” fashion terms. The method used to analyze the data in this research is descriptive analytic. The theory of this method is described by Dawson:

*“Descriptive research attempts to describe systematically a situation, problem, phenomenon, service or program, or provides information about, say, living condition of a community, or describes attitudes towards an issue”.* (Dawson, 2002).

In commercial language, according to R. Quirk (1972) blends are often conscious deliberate formations, and hence particularly common. It also happens in fashion terms that formed from word blends. However, the word blending has the origin. Those case are discussed through the etymology of each words. Etymology seeks to displace our attention back in time, therefore, Walter Redfern (1984) said that etymology used to roots and to update the words to make it familiar.

### 1. Data Collecting Techniques

This research takes the data from the fashion terms that used in nowadays condition which have the term Word Blending. The words are from the fashion term that become a trend and used in daily conversation. The data focus on the various word blending that use the word “*legging*” in fashion terms taken from the fashion site to make the reader can know the different meaning of those words.

## 2. Data Analyzing Techniques

After collecting the data, the writer analyzes through several ways. Firstly, the writer identifies how the words are formed. Secondly, each data is analyzed through the meaning. Finally, the data are analyzed through the etymology of each word.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Language is dynamic, it changes constantly. The new words of language can spread so fast and it can be used in daily activities. The new words are formed by word blend. Word blend is a part of morphology. A word blend is one of the morphological processes in forming new words. It has been an important thing in studying language. Two existing words are compounded to form one new word and gather both meanings in that new word. Therefore, the new words can stand as a common language that used in daily conversation and make a new word formation.

One of the morphological process that retain two elements of each word known as Word Blending. It is formed by two existing words that compounded to form one new word and has a new meaning. Word blending that is discussed in this research are in fashion terms, especially for terms of pants that is jegging, tregging, and skegging.

### 1. Morphology

*Jegging*, *tregging*, and *skegging* are formed by word blend. This is a table that shows the formation of those words:

Word Blending	Formed by	Meaning
Jegging	Jeans + Legging	Denim legging, very skinny jeans
Tregging	Trousers + Legging	Trousers with a fit and shape of legging, stretchy, and sleek

Skegging	Skirt + Legging	The legging that attached underneath a skirt
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### 2. Etymology

*Jegging*, *trigging*, and *skegging*, all of those words are formed by the word “*legging*”. It comes from the word “*leg*” which is first used on 13th century from Old Norse “*leggr*”, and then added the suffix *-ing* to form a new word “*legging*” that famous in fashion term in 1980s.

The words that formed by the word “*legging*” are jegging, tregging and skegging. Those words are formed by word blends. The first word is “*jegging*” that formed by jeans and legging. The word “*jeans*” originally a shortened form of jean fustian (from Middle English Gene (“*Genoa*; *Genovese*”) + fustian (“*strong cotton fabric*”). The *-s* was added to jean under influence from the cognate Old French Jannes (modern French *Gênes*).

The term “*jegging*” is first known in 2000s. The second word is “*tregging*” that formed by the word trousers and legging. The word “*trousers*” attested since the 1610s, from the earlier form *trouzes* (attested since the 1580s), extended from *trouse* (1570s), with plural ending typical of things in pairs, from Middle Irish *triubhas* (“*close-fitting shorts*”), of uncertain origin. The term “*tregging*” is first known in early 21st century. Another word that formed by “*legging*” is skegging which is blending of skirt and legging. The word “*skirt*” is From Old Norse *skyrtá*, from Proto-Germanic *skurtij*. The term “*skegging*” is first known in early 21st century.

## CONCLUSION

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that each word has the origin. The origin of each word is analyzed through the etymology from another language. In this research, the origin of each word is analyzed through the morphological process called

Blending. When the words have a blending process, the certain words can be familiar and used in daily conversation. Word blending makes a shorten word that can be simply say. Therefore, when the words have a blending processes, absolutely the blending processes have an etymology of each words.

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