A Comparative Study Between English and Bengali Word Formation

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Abstract

The objectives of this study were: 1. to study the word formation in both Bengali language and English language. 2. to compare the word formation between Bengali and English language. This research was a qualitative method and used the analysis of the processes of word formation in English and Bengali. Also, the study would contribute to linguistics research findings and meta-theory, including to compare several processes involved in the formation of words in English and Bengali. Research tools were used research works, books, documents, dictionary format (Bengali and English), thesis, documentaries, articles, library and online research about Bengali and English word formation. Data collection was prepared on the selected research topic, journal articles, research papers, reports, books, websites, and governmental, non-governmental publications. The researcher also analysed data based on a description of English and Bengali word formation processes through four steps given.

The finding of research found that 1) Forms of English and Bengali languages using some processes for instance, affixation, acronyms, alternation, blending, borrowing, clipping, compounding, reduplication. 2) Comparison of the word formation between Bengali and English language in the similarities as the word is formed in both English and Bengali using derivational and inflectional morphology, regularly use affixes as the primary facility for word

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construction including, both languages are connected with changes in tenses, personal pronouns, and numerical pronouns and commonly used in duplication and reduplication included the pronouns that act as direct or indirect objects. For the differences found that in morphology, both English and Bengali employ distinct terminology, English nouns lack a singular marker but the Bengali has a marker for singular and plural nouns, Nouns in Bengali must also be accompanied by the appropriate measure word when counted. In contrast to English, nouns in Bengali cannot be directly counted by adding the numeral immediately adjacent to the noun, in contrast to English, Bengali nouns are also case-sensitive, including nominative, objective, genitive (possessive), and locative including the terms of singular and plural affixes, English and Bengali are morphologically clearly different.

Keywords: English Word, Formation, Bengali Word, Affixation, Comparison

Introduction

Language is a constituent element of civilization. Language is used to maintain and convey culture and cultural ties. It makes social contacts easily. The people of different parts of the world speak different languages. Using language as a means of communication or media allows us to share thoughts, ideas, and feelings with others. It is critical to the survival of the human race. Variety in language encourages people to acquire it so they may converse, connect, and get to know one another better. It is not possible to study all of the languages in the world at a time. On this concern, humans need a universal language.

Furthermore, the English language plays the role of the world's universal language. The English language helps people with their cultural unification. On the other part, Bangladesh's official language is Bengali, commonly known as Bangla, but it is not the only language spoken there.

In this research, both languages are chosen from Indo-European language families. Therefore, they have the same linguistic lineage though of a different branch of the family. Experts believe nomads are thought to be the

original speakers of the English language. About 5,000 years ago, these nomadic people roamed the European plains. Proto-Indo-European speakers in southeast Europe north of the Black Sea spoke their dialect. Proto-Indo-European developed into the ancient languages of Latin, Greek, and German over time. Spanish, French, and Italian emerged from Latin. Ancient German gave rise to such languages as Dutch, Danish, German, Norwegian, Swedish, and, finally, the English language, (Colin Renfrew, 1989).

Bengali is an Indo-European language and therefore of the same linguistic lineage as English and the other European languages, though of a different branch of the family. The branch of the family to which Bengali belongs is called Indo-Iranian; its sub-branch is called Indic. In the Indic family, among the modern languages (of which a direct ancestor Is a form of Sanskrit) are Bengali, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese, Oria, Punjabi, Nepali, Sinhalese, and Kashmiri. These languages are closely related to one another, for example, Italian and Spanish of the European Romance branch of the Indo-European family. There are three other primary language families in the sub-continent, the Dravidian (including Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Kannada), the Tibeto-Burman languages of the north-east, and the Austric or Munda family (tribal languages of central and eastern India), (Dimock Edward, 1964).

Generally, beginners in second language learning are unaware of the subtle differences between languages, whether in terms of affixation or other word formation processes. Generally, they adhere to the patterns that are frequently encountered. For example, in English, the same pattern frequently occurs when changing the word class from verb to noun, as when lead (verb) becomes leader (noun), speak (verb) becomes speaker. (LEDERER, 1980) However, due to their habit, some beginners believe that any verb can be converted to a noun by adding the suffix -er, and it is incorrect, as invest (verb) never becomes invester. Numerous additional verbs cannot be altered simply by adding the suffix -er.

However, there is only one pair of morphemes – "tara" and – "tama" in the Bengali language to form comparative and superlative degrees, respectively. For example, "dhonitara" (richer) and "sundartara" (more beautiful). Unlike English,

in Bengali, as in Sanskrit and Hindi, the verb changes based on every person. Plural suffixes in Bengali are not used if a noun is preceded by a word that expresses plurality. So it is not seen in English. Thus, Bengali speakers can say "duto kalam" and "anek kalam", not "duto kalamgulo" and "anek kalamgulo" to refer two pens and many pens respectively. In order to shed light on the situation, a comparative study is required.

This comparative study is conducted given the critical nature of cross-language comprehension for a second learner. According to the description above, the title "A comparative study between English and Bengali word formation" was chosen due to the tendency of specific beginners to make transfer errors or negative transfers when learning a second language, particularly in affixation and some other word formation.

To emphasize, this research is comparative linguistics that is practically required for the success of English and Bengali language learning. This is due to the fact that the two languages under consideration in this study do not belong to the same family and may therefore be investigated using comparative synchronic research. The reason for this is that comparative synchronic research is fundamentally concerned with determining the kinship language in accordance with the classification system through comparisons and contrasts of similarities and differences.

Objectives of Research

1. To study the word formation processes in both Bengali and English language.

2. To compare the word formation between Bengali and English language.

Research Methodology

Research design: The research design incorporated and synthesized two distinct methods. Generally, the research employed a non-interactive qualitative approach. This relates to the technique of data collection, which

was accomplished through library research or data sampling from various sources of text, including books, thesis, journals, articles, and other texts, or what is commonly referred to as analytical research. Then, the data sample that was chosen is described in detail descriptively and supplemented by a systematic arrangement of the data in tables. Due to the nature of this research, which is a type of contrastive analysis, contrastive analysis is a unique method for conducting comparative language research. These two approaches are combined to assist readers in quickly comprehending this study.

The Populations: The Populations of data in this study are compiled from English and Bengali word classes. Thus, English and Bengali word classes become part of the data population.

Research Tools: The Researcher prepared works, books, documents, dictionary format (Bengali and English), thesis, documentary, article, library and online research about Bengali and English word formation.

Data Collection: This research was compiled data analysis. It was tried well prepared on the selected research topic, journal articles, research papers, report, books, websites and government and non-government publications.

Data Analysis: In the first step, the researcher analysed the data by collecting and selecting data to take the data sample (sampling). After identifying a data sample, it is classified and the analysis process is initiated in four steps. They are:

1. To compare: languages
2. To predict: Difficulties and errors in learning
3. Arrangement: Sorting the material
4. Deliver: To find a suitable way to deliver

Therefore, the research is based on a description of English and Bengali word formation processes and finally a comparison of those processes that are present in English with those in Bengali with a view to clarifying areas of differences and similarities. Some of them have been fulfilled through the use of selected steps, while others are covered in the following chapter, which discusses the results.

Results of Research

The results of the research paper which well-prepared from the selected research topic, journal articles, research papers, reports, books, websites and government and non-government publications. The results are the following:

1. Word Formation processes in English and Bengali language

Various word formation processes are used to generate new words. However, all functions of word formation result in either inflectional or derivational changes. Thus, inflection (also known as inflection) and derivation are the two primary processes in forming words. Analyzing the word formation of English and Bengali, it is evident that both languages possess some morphological similarities and dissimilarities.

When it comes to the pattern of English word formation, it is possible to find several variations of morphological processes because English does not have a consistent standard way. Each base has a unique pattern to follow to generate a new word or expand an existing base into a new lexical item. These challenges beginners are learning English because each foundation has a unique pattern for expanding or developing into other words, making it challenging to master.

The number of word categories postulated by Indian and European grammatical traditions varies. There are eight categories in the European tradition: noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection. There are five categories of words in the Indian grammatical tradition: noun, pronoun, adjective (including numerals and quantifier), verb, and avyaya, or the category of all indeclinable words. (Aussant, 2016) The European classification is more precise than the Indian one, as Adjectives and Adverbs are grouped in the Indian system. In contrast, the final three categories of European grammar are considered avyaya.

In English, affixes are classified according to their position relative to the stem or their physical position relative to roots. Prefixes, suffixes, postfixes, infixes, circumfixes, interfixes, duplifixes, transfixes, simulfixes, suprafixes, and

difixes are all used in English. For example, The English word "unforgettable" is composed of three morphemes: "un", "forget", and "able", but the Bengali word "anAdhUnIkTAr" is composed of the prefix "an", the root "AdhUnIk", the suffix "TA", and the inflection "r".

Borrowing is a linguistic feature that appears universal to all living languages, not just English and Bengali. English, for example, borrows words from a variety of world languages. Bengali, like English, makes use of borrowing to expand its vocabulary. Thus, it was natural for Bengali to adopt strange English terms for administration, judiciary, security, scholarship, science and technology, trade, food, and dress, among others. Contact with the British facilitated the introduction of new concepts, ideas, education, and technology into Bengali social life.

The concept of reduplication is related to morphemic repetition. A morphological process is one that both English and Bengali use while developing some of their respective vocabulary collections. for example,

English - zigzag, tip-top etc.

Bengali – boi-toi, aram-taram, kane-kane, mone-mone etc.

2. Comparision between Bengali and English word formation

1) Similarities: Due to the fact that both English and Bengali are Indo-European languages, some similarities between the words in Bengali that are directly or indirectly derived from Sanskrit and their English equivalents. Following an examination of the bases listed in the preceding data, some similarities and differences between English and Bengali word formation were identified. 1) The word is formed in English and Bengali using derivational and inflectional morphology. 2) Both English and Bengali regularly use affixes as the primary facility for word construction. 3) Both English and Bengali inflectional morphology are connected with changes in tenses, personal pronouns, and numerical pronouns. 4) Duplication and reduplication of words are common in both English and Bengali. 5) The objective case is used in both Bangla and English for pronouns that act as direct or indirect objects.

2) Differences: 1) In morphology, both English and Bengali employ distinct terminology. 2) English nouns lack a singular marker. Bengali has a marker

for singular and plural nouns. 3) Nouns in Bengali must also be accompanied by the appropriate measure word when counted. In contrast to English, nouns in Bengali cannot be directly counted by adding the numeral immediately adjacent to the noun. 4) In contrast to English, Bangla nouns are also case-sensitive, including nominative, objective, genitive (possessive), and locative. 5) In terms of singular and plural affixes, English and Bengali are morphologically clearly different.

Conclusion and Discussion

English and Bengali share a similar linguistic structure in a broad sense. It is thought that English and Bengali, notably in terms of Word formation, have correspondences and non-correspondences in terms of affixation, blending, borrowing, clipping, compounding, and reduplication. After examining and discovering the correspondences and non-correspondences between English and Bengali, it was determined that both languages utilize distinct morphological terminology even though some of them serve the same purpose. The study of more than one language is consistent with linguistics itself. Specifically, English and Bengali sometimes have the same morphology or word formation pattern. It is a result of the systemic aspect of the language. Each language has a unique system that differentiates it from other languages. Which is consistent with Suniti Kumar Chatterji (1926) presents the standard work on the history of Bengali in his Book the Origin and Development of the Bengali Language. This book focuses on standard Bengali, it is in many ways a history of the entire Magadhan group of languages, which includes Assamese and Oriya as well as smaller languages sometimes regarded as dialects of Bengali, such as Sylheti and Chakma. It begins with a survey of the linguistic situation in South Asia and the Aryanization of India, moves to the earliest known stages of Sanskrit, and works forward from there. Along the way it discusses foreign influences as they arise, such as that of Persian as a result of the Muslim invasions and later those of Portuguese and English. Typically for a work of this period, it is confined to phonology and morphology. It discusses

syntax only in those few places where a syntactic point arises from the discussion of the morphology. It is also typical of its time in its lack of explicit recognition of the phonemic principle. And Heidi Harley (2009) explored English Words is a comprehensive and accessible introduction to the study of English words from a theoretically informed linguistic perspective.

- accessibly written to give students a command of basic theory, skills in analyzing English words, and the foundation needed for more advanced study in linguistic theory or lexicology

- covers basic introductory material and investigates the structure of English vocabulary

- introduces students to the technical study of words from relevant areas of linguistics: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, historical linguistics and psycholinguistics

In conclusion, English and Bengali word formation occurs due to affixation, the most common method for forming words. Precisely, in Bengali, affixation is consistently followed by internal change. In contrast to English, affixation and modification are distinct morphological processes in other languages. This conclusion addresses the issue addressed by the research. The vast majority of linguists are expected to contribute to advancing linguistic science.

Moreover, this comparison research aims to present a general overview of morphology to the reader, focusing on novices studying English and Bengali simultaneously. Morphology is the first step the learner must take to acquire all languages, each of which has a distinct pattern. Essentially, both English and Bengali have distinct qualities that must be grasped. Which is consistent with Garland Cannon (1986) stated that Blending process seems to occur in all languages, to be very common in them, and to occur in every stage of the language's development. The voluminous scholarship on this very old process displays wide disagreement on terminology, definition, scope, and place within a modem taxonomy. Analysis of the six broad patterns exhibited by 132 recent written English blends, together with a refined definition, helps to show the dynamic role of blending in word formation and language

development, and the inter relations with derivation and compounding. Present phonological and word-formation rules cannot account for these blends, which considerably complicate any viable theory of the lexicon. The untabulated number of contemporary oral and written blends is evidently huge, with slips and other oral nonce forms pouring out from perhaps millions of businesses and persons who are enjoyably indulging their linguistic individuality in a way that perhaps no other word-forming process can challenge. Paradoxically, despite this enormous, ever-growing popularity, blending mainly produces oral forms that quickly die. The process has not significantly expanded the English lexicon; but blends are important and diverse, and one of the most intricate of all the word-forming categories.

New Body of Knowledge

Knowledge from research results on a comparative study between English and Bengali word formation, the researcher has applied the knowledge from the research results. summarized as:

English and Bengali languages have a combined vocabulary of several hundred thousand words. Without a large and diverse vocabulary, meaningful communication in English and Bengali is simply not possible.

Also crucial to efficient communication is a solid command of both English and Bengali, which is necessary for the teaching and learning of English as a foreign language and Bengali as the mother tongue of Bengali people. The vocabulary of a language contributes to its overall richness. If we wish to keep up with a language, we must become intimately acquainted with it.

Suggestions for Research

The suggestion of this study is that:

1. this research study will immensely help future researchers to get the proper knowledge of English and Bengali word formation. As I observed there is not enough research of comparative study between English and Bengali Word Formation.

2. this research study will help students and other researchers to continue further research on word formation in English and Bengali.

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