# WORD FORMATION IN ARABIC:
## A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF EGYPTIAN-PRODUCED SNACKS

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## Abstract

Like any other language, Arabic continues to evolve in line with the times. This can be seen with the emergence of new vocabulary. Studying word formation in Arabic is essential to trace the development of Arabic used by people in this era. This study analyzes Arabic word formation in snack products produced in Egypt. This research is qualitative research with a descriptive method. The research data was taken from several shops in Cairo, Egypt, and as many as 20 products in September. The data were collected using observation and documentation methods. One hundred ninety-seven data were selected using a simple random sampling technique. The data were analyzed using content analysis with a morphological approach regarding word formation. This study found various forms of words with the formation process of derivation, affixation, and borrowing. Based on these findings, the formation of Arabic words in snack food products in Egypt continues to develop, so this study can contribute to fulfilling the need for new word formation in Arabic.

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## Keywords:
Affixation; Arabic; Borrowing; Derivation

## مستخلص البحث

لغة العربية كما هو معروف في أكثر اللغات، أنها تطورت مستمرة متعاقبة وفقاً لتطور العصور. والدليل من خلال هذه الظاهرة هو وجود المفردات الجديدة. تعتبر دراسات في بناء الكلمات اللغة العربية مهمة يجب القيام بها لبحث مدى تطورات اللغة العربية المستخدمة من قبل المجتمعات في هذا العصر. وتنفيذ هذا البحث يهدف إلى تحليق تشكيل الكلمات العربية في منتجات الوجبات الخفيفة المنتجة في مصر. هذا البحث هو بحث نوعي بالمنهج الوصفي. بيانات البحث مأخوذة عن عدة متاجر ومحلات في مصر في سبتمبر لما يصل إلى ١٠٨ منتج. تلك البيانات مجموعة عبر استخدام طريقة الملاحظة وجمع البيانات. واختار الباحثون ١٩٧ بينة باستخدام أسلوب أخذ العينات العشوائي. وما تحليل البيانات قاموا به باستخدام تحليل المحتوى عبر المدخل العربي. ومن النتائج هذا البحث يقول إن هناك عدة الكلمات المشكلة عبر الاشتقاق، والزيادة، والاستعارة. وعلى أساس هذه النتائج، تشكل الكلمات العربية في منتجات الوجبات الخفيفة المنتجة في مصر لم يزل يتطور، بحيث يمكن لهذه الدراسة أن تسهم في قيمة الحاجة إلى تشكيل كلمات جديدة باللغة العربية.

كلمات أساسية: الاشتقاق; العربية; زيادة; الاستعارة.
Introduction

Language is a social entity; language changes cannot be separated from changes that occur in the community of speakers. Many factors influence changes in the language-speaking community. Changes that occur are possible because the language commonly used can no longer meet the needs of language speakers in interacting or conveying oral and written ideas.

Like any other language, Arabic develops with the development of science, technology, and its speakers. Language development is reflected in various things, including products produced by humans and snack products. The data source was chosen because snacks are very close to today's society. Based on observations made by researchers, almost all stalls along the road in Cairo sell snacks, both small and large shops. As if these snacks are equivalent to staple foods. Because these snacks are close to the culture of the community, the development of the language in the packaging may also be a language that lives and develops in the community.

Research on language development in the community needs to be done so that people can know and learn the language according to its development. Many researchers have conducted several studies related to word formation. Among them is word formation in Indonesian, which focuses on acronyms, clipping, and blending. Meanwhile, in English, research has been conducted by Cannon; Jacobs; Nafisah & Budiarsa. The research focuses on forming English words or terms in social media. Hadi has also carried out word formation in Arabic by studying new word formation in Arabic. The results of this study say that there are five morphological processes in Arabic, namely qiyas, isytiqaq, ta’rib, tadjhil, and acronyms.
Fathoni conducted another study; the study compared general morphological terms with Arabic morphology and took one word to analyze.\(^7\) While Miftahuddin, in his research, examined the process of forming terms related to international relations, the paper was more directed at translation techniques.\(^8\) This contrastive research was also conducted by Abdullah Al-Hamidi et al., 2020; Giaber; this research compares word forms in English and Arabic. Egyptian food products from the morphological aspect have been researched by Kusumoriny et al.\(^9\) Based on the review of previous research with similar themes, several studies focus on word formation in social media and Egyptian food products. This research focuses on word formation in snack food products traded in Cairo, Egypt.

Research related to the formation of language in food products spread today is likely to produce novelty because the language used is a new living language, not a dead language not used in society. It is no exaggeration to say that language research will never run out because language always develops and changes following the development of human civilization.\(^10\) Therefore, the existing word-formation model is also the latest one today, which may differ from other forms.

Based on the above statement, the problem that becomes the focus of this research is how Arabic word formation in snack food products is produced in Cairo? This question will be solved by analyzing morphology as a science that oversees word formation. This study will also compare some concepts of word formation in English as the theoretical basis used, with Arabic as the data source in this study.

From a morphological perspective, Arabic is a unique language and differs from other languages. For instance, most Arabic words have three-consonant roots, but the addition of consonants and vowels results in numerous root morphological patterns and various morphological categories. These derivatives constitute a significant part of the language, and all products stemming from the same root potentially share semantic relationships based on that root. Forming nouns in Arabic holds the most significant portion of the lexicon. This is associated

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with the Kufa School, which asserts that verbs are the origin of all their derivatives.\textsuperscript{11}

Because of the morphological processes, the word classes in the Arabic language are numerous. One word in Arabic can be derived into more than ten-word forms or what is commonly called shigah. On the other hand, a one-word form in Arabic can inflect into 14 words because the form of the subject in terms of gender and number affects the word form. In addition, Arabic today is also heavily influenced by English as an international language that is widely used by the world community in communication.

Based on the above, the formation of words with the borrowing process becomes one of the processes that cannot be denied. The birth of new vocabulary with various techniques, on the one hand, is a positive thing that results from human creativity. Still, on the other hand, new vocabulary that does not follow proper language rules can also damage the existing language system.\textsuperscript{12} Therefore, research related to word formation that is currently developing is needed as an effort to monitor linguistic phenomena in the morphological aspect. This research is expected to be one of the efforts to listen to and watch the development of word formation that is currently developing.

\textbf{Method}

This research is a qualitative descriptive research. The object of this research is snacks sold in shops in Cairo - Egypt. The method of data collection is by observation and documentation. Researchers searched several stores in Cairo, Egypt, in September and documented snacks in almost all stores. The products collected were 20 products. After that, using the simple random sampling technique, the researcher selected data for research, totaling 197.

The sample data will be analyzed using content analysis using the Morphology approach, especially in the aspect of word formation. In this case, the researcher is guided by the theory developed by Katamba\textsuperscript{13} and Yule\textsuperscript{14}. This theory focuses on the analysis of word structure, which includes changes in word form achieved through affixation, derivation, and so on. Therefore, the views of the two linguists were adapted to the characteristics of the words that served as the data source in this research.

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\textsuperscript{12} Nafisah and Budiarso, “Pembentukan Kata pada Istilah Khas di Instagram dengan Unsur Bahasa Inggris.”

\textsuperscript{13} Francis Katamba, \textit{Morphology} (St. Martin’s Press, 1993).

\textsuperscript{14} George Yule, \textit{The Study of Language} (Cambridge University Press, 2006).
\end{flushright}
Result and Discussion

Morphology and Sharaf

The study of the internal structure of words as a distinct sub-branch of linguistics emerged in the 19th century. However, the awareness of the importance of morphology had appeared long ago. If we look at history, in 1816, Franz Bopp published the research results initially by Sir William Jones in 1786, which states that Sanskrit, Latin, Persian, and German are derived from the same language or ancestor. This was based on comparing the endings of words in these languages. Perhaps that is the origin of morphology, which has increasingly developed until now.

Morphology in Arabic is called Sharaf, described as the study of words and the changes that occur in terms, such as changes in letters, additions, and omissions. Unlike morphology, which only developed in the 19th century, Sharaf, known as tasrif, was born and set in the first century of hijrah, along with the birth of nahwu (syntax). So, if it is said that Abu Aswad ad-Duwali pioneered nahwu science, then Sharaf was also initiated by Abu Aswad ad-Duwali. Arabic linguists in the early centuries of hijrah did not distinguish between nahwu and Sharaf. But the discussion related to Sharaf is in the book of Nahwu.

Morphology is the study of word forms. One of the discussions of morphology is word formation. Word formation in English consists of etymology, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, conversion, acronyms, and derivation. In Arabic, word formation can occur with qiyas, isytiqaq, dakhil, and so on. The following is a discussion of word formation in Egyptian snack food packaging.

Derivation

The most common word formation process often found in the production of words in English is derivation. Usually, the derivation is characterized by adding affixes such as un-, mis-, pre-, ful, -less, and -ness. Adding these affixes causes a change in meaning, such as kind becomes unkind. In addition, derivation can also be interpreted as the process of word formation with a shift in word class; for example, type (adjective) becomes kindly (adverb).

In the Arabic linguistic tradition, derivation, also known as isytiqaq, has a similar definition in English. It is defined as a process of word formation through

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15 Katamba, *Morphology*.
19 Yule, *The Study of Language*.
20 Hadi, “Pembentukan Kata dan Istilah Baru dalam Bahasa Arab Modern.”
21 Yule, *The Study of Language*.
22 Katamba, *Morphology*. 
another word without altogether abandoning the meaning of the base word.²³ In general, word formation through derivation is achieved using affixation, which in Arabic is called ziyadah or ilshaq, which is the addition of certain letters to the base word, either in fi’il or isim.²⁴

As mentioned earlier, Arabic is one of the languages that has a variety of word forms. Almost every word has many derivations. Similarly, the new words found in snack products have a vocabulary that has a basic form. Here is some of the data that has been collected, taken from the packaging of snacks produced in Egypt. The following words are also presented along with their verb forms, which are the base words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Arabic Words</th>
<th>Verb (Word Origin)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>المكونات</td>
<td>كون</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>مستحلب</td>
<td>استحلب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>التخزين</td>
<td>خزن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>التداول</td>
<td>تداول</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>مصنع</td>
<td>صنع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>مكسرات</td>
<td>كشر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>معلومات</td>
<td>علم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>مضادات غذائية</td>
<td>أضاف</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>مكسبات</td>
<td>كسب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>مشروب غازي</td>
<td>شرب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>الإنتاج</td>
<td>الناتج</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>انتهاء الصلاحية</td>
<td>انتهاء</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>التوزيع</td>
<td>وّزع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>جمع الدهون</td>
<td>جمع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>اللون</td>
<td>اللون</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

²³ Raji Al-Asmar, Al-Mu’jam Al-Mufassal Fi Ilm Ash-Sharf (Beirut: Dar Al-Kotob Al-Ilmiyah, 1997).
The data in Table 1 shows a variety of word formations from fi'il madi as the initial form of the words. The word formation is intended to adjust the meaning intended by the author. For example, the first word in the data is a derivation of the word كُون.

The word means to form, then changed into shigah ism ma‘ul to show the meaning of the word formed or made from ... or ingredient. Furthermore, in data no. 5, which means factory, the shighah of the word is isim makan, which is included in the wazaً مَفْعَل which shows a place to make something because it comes from the noun صِبَع which means to make. The formation of the word is through the process of derivation or changing the word class from verb to noun or from fi'il madhi to ism makan.

**Affixation**

Affixation is the process of forming words by adding affixes, either prefixes, infixes, or suffixes. Examples of prefixes in English are re, un, and in, for instance, remake, untidy, and inaccurate. Infixed in English are rare, unlike in Arabic and Hebrew. Examples of words with infixed are incubate, incubus, concubine, succubus, incumbent, succumb, and decumbent. While suffixes in English, for example, the affixes -ly, -er, -ist, -ing, and ed, measures are in words kindly, waiter, walked, quickly, and so on Katamba.25

Arabic is a language that has many affixes. Word formation through affixation in Arabic is achieved by employing prefixes (sawabiq), infixes (hasyu), suffixes (lawahiq), and confixed (muzdawijah), which are additions in two places at once.26 All of these affixes come from essential words, which in Arabic consist of 3 letters and four letters. From this word, various forms of words are formed from 3 letters to 6 letters. Sometimes, due to the morphological process, a comment can only be formed from one letter, for example, the word ،ق a fi'il Amar (command word) meaning take care. Here are examples of comments that contain affixation. The data collected is taken from the packaging of snacks produced in Egypt. The following words are also presented along with their base forms. This demonstrates the existence of word form changes. Another thing shown by the following terms is the "muannas salim" plural form, which is more commonly used than other forms.

26 Febriani, Safa, and Munir, “Proses Morfologi atau Kontruksi Kata dalam Bahasa Arab.”
Table 2. Arabic Word Formation with Affixation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Arabic Words (Before Getting Affixes)</th>
<th>Arabic Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>المكونات</td>
<td>كون</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>مستحلب</td>
<td>استحلب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>التخزين</td>
<td>خزن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>التداول</td>
<td>تداول</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>مكسرات</td>
<td>مكسر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>مضادات</td>
<td>مضاف</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>معلومات</td>
<td>معلوم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>مطابق</td>
<td>طابق</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>التوزيع</td>
<td>وزع</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data in Table 2 show an addition to the base word. The acquisition can be pluralized as in data numbers 1, 5, 6, and 7 or to change the meaning, for example, in data numbers 2, 3, 4, and 8. These words, apart from being formed by the process of affixation, also have a derivation process. This is because almost all Arabic words start from 3-letter verbs. About the context of word formation, the opinion used by linguists as the base word is fi’il madhi mujarrad, which is the opinion of the Kuffa madhhab.27

**Borrowing**

Borrowing is the formation of words by taking over words from other languages. Borrowing is also called loan word or calque. In this process, there is a direct translation from one element to another. Borrowing is one of the influences of interference in morphology. Interference, or tadakhkhul lughawiy in Arabic linguistic tradition, is a shift that occurs in a linguistic system due to language contact.28

Interference is sometimes considered a mistake because it disrupts the system of a language. Still, on the other hand, interference is also considered to enrich a language, which is initially referred to as a loan to become part of the

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language.\textsuperscript{29} Arabic, in the development of its language structure, is inseparable from the influence of English. Hundreds of languages from various fields of life are absorbed into Arabic, used in everyday life and even in the dictionary. Not only by borrowing, but it has reached other aspects of word formation as part of morphology.\textsuperscript{30}

English, one of the international languages with the most speakers, is also inseparable from borrowing. Some English words that are formed from this process are croissant (French), dope (Dutch), lilac (Persian), piano (Italian), pretzel (German), tycoon (Japanese), and yogurt (Turkish).\textsuperscript{31} In Arabic, borrowing is also widely used in word formation, especially those related to science and technology. This research tries to trace Borrowing used in the packaging of snack food products in Cairo. Borrowing is the most common word in the packaging of snacks produced in Egypt. Here is a table containing words that involve borrowing in Arabic and their original languages. The following data show identical similarities between the borrowed speech and the borrowing language. Additionally, some adaptations are used in the target language to make the borrowed language comfortable to pronounce for native speakers.

\textbf{Table 3. Word formation with borrowing}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Arabic Words</th>
<th>Base Word (Before Getting Affixes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>نايس بسكويت</td>
<td>Biscuit Nice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>كروميديرادات</td>
<td>Carbohydrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>بروتين</td>
<td>Protein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>الصوديوم</td>
<td>Sodium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>جلوكوز</td>
<td>Glucose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>فركتوز</td>
<td>Fruktosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ليسيتين الصويا</td>
<td>Lecithin Soya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>كالوري</td>
<td>Calory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>كافيين</td>
<td>Caffeine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>دليفرى</td>
<td>Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>شوكولات</td>
<td>Chocolate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>سناك</td>
<td>Snack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{29} Nafisah and Budiarso, “Pembentukan Kata pada Istilah Khas di Instagram dengan Unsur Bahasa Inggris.”
\textsuperscript{30} Abderrahman, “A Linguistic Study of the Impact of English on Arabic Word-Formation.”
\textsuperscript{31} Yule, The Study of Language.
The twelve data in Table 3 are examples of words formed by the borrowing process. If you look closely, the majority of the word formation process is based on the way of speaking or according to the phonology, not according to the writing. For example, c is replaced with k in biscuits, calory, and caffeine. But in some cases, this concept does not apply; for example, the p sound in the word 'protein' is written with b, and this is adjusted to the Arabic tongue, which is easier to pronounce b than p. Likewise, the so sound in the word 'sodium' is written with صو instead of سو. The ch sound in the word chocolate is replaced with syu because Arabic does not have the Ch phoneme, and the closest sound is the syu sound.

Borrowing in data no. 11 (شوكولات) also shows affixation in the form of suffixes, namely the addition of alif ta as a plural marker for feminine nouns. The change of words from singular to plural without changing the word class is also called inflection.

**Blending**

Word formation by combining two words can also be called blending. This process is usually done to connect the beginning of a term with the end of another word. Food products are often formed through the blending process. Even traditional foods we often eat contain this element, such as batagor, a blending of fried tofu meatballs, a cireng blending of fried aci, and jasuke, a blending of corn milk cheese. Likewise, food products produced in factories such as Richeese (Rich + Cheese), Nutrijel (Nutritious + Jelly), Milkist (Milk + Malkist), Fruitamin (Fruit + Vitamin) and so on. Blending is widely used in English, including the words telethon (television + marathon), Franglais (French/Anglais) and Spanglish (Spanish/English), telex (teleprinter + exchange) or modem (modulator + demodulator), and so on. In Arabic, there is a particular term to name blending, namely naht. Naht, or isytiqaq kubbar, combines at least two or more words that form one word with a unique pattern in Arabic morphology. In the data the researchers used in this study, there is not much word formation by blending, like food products in Indonesia.

One of the food names in this research data that uses the blending process is the word Bisco, which is a blending of the words biscuit + coconut after being blended using the clipping technique due to removing the last syllable. Usually, blending takes the final part of the second word, but in this example, the language...
user took the beginning of the second word. The term is then absorbed into Arabic following its original form as بسكو.

Conclusion

Arabic words in Egyptian snack food packaging are formed from various word forms. The formation processes that are widely used are derivation, affixation, and borrowing. The basic word in Arabic is a 3-letter verb, so the derivation is formed from the verb into various forms, including Masdar, isim makan, isim fa'il, and so on. Affixation also starts from 3-letter fi'il madi with affixes at the beginning of alif; alif and nun; alif and ta, can also be with affixes in the middle in the form of alif and can also be from nouns or isim mufrod with affixes at the end of the word in the form of ta marbuthah, wau and nun, alif and ta to show plural. Further research with the same theme and different locations will provide novelty for the development of Arabic from time to time, which permanently has changed, especially when viewed from contact between cultures and languages that cannot be avoided.

Acknowledgment

We want to thank the parties who have helped provide data, especially some shops in Egypt for 20 products.

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