

Semantic Transformation of Words in Indonesian Slang: A Literature Review on Semantic and Morphological Processes in Informal Language Varieties

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Abstract

This literature review examines semantic transformation processes in Indonesian slang through comprehensive analysis of morphological and semantic change mechanisms operating within informal language varieties. The study employs qualitative library research methodology to synthesize existing scholarship on Indonesian slang evolution, focusing on the complex interplay between morphological innovation, semantic change, and sociolinguistic factors in contemporary digital communication contexts. Analysis reveals that Indonesian slang employs sophisticated morphological processes including clipping, blending, innovative affixation, metaphorical compounding, and creative acronym formation that extend beyond traditional word formation mechanisms documented in formal Indonesian grammar. Social media environments serve as primary catalysts for linguistic innovation, creating unprecedented opportunities for rapid morphological experimentation and semantic evolution through viral dissemination, algorithmic mediation, and real-time community feedback. Generational differences emerge as crucial factors influencing innovation patterns, with Generation Z speakers demonstrating distinct preferences for morphological processes that integrate global digital culture references with Indonesian phonological structures. Digital communication platforms fundamentally transform the temporal dynamics of language change, compressing traditional timescales and enabling rapid cycles of innovation, adoption, and obsolescence. The findings suggest that contemporary Indonesian slang operates according to distinct morphological and semantic principles that require new analytical frameworks integrating insights from cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics, and digital communication theory. This review establishes comprehensive research priorities for future empirical investigation, emphasizing the need for longitudinal studies, regional variation analysis, and hybrid computational-qualitative methodologies to advance theoretical understanding of rapid language change in globalized digital communication environments.

Keywords: semantic transformation, Indonesian slang, morphological processes

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1. Introduction

Indonesian language, as the official and national language of Indonesia, has undergone significant transformations in its lexical and morphological structures, particularly within informal language varieties commonly referred to as slang. With over 280 million inhabitants and 97% fluency rates among the population, Indonesian serves as a dynamic linguistic platform where semantic changes occur rapidly through various morphological processes. The proliferation of digital communication platforms, particularly social media environments like Instagram and TikTok, has accelerated the evolution of Indonesian slang, creating new linguistic phenomena that challenge traditional morphological frameworks. These informal language varieties demonstrate complex semantic transformations that extend beyond simple lexical borrowing or phonological adaptation, encompassing sophisticated morphological processes including clipping, blending, affixation, compounding, and semantic extension. The contemporary linguistic landscape of Indonesian slang represents a fertile ground for investigating how semantic meaning undergoes systematic transformation through morphological manipulation, particularly as younger generations increasingly adopt and innovate within these informal registers (Rohbiah, 2020).

The morphological complexity of Indonesian slang transformation processes reveals intricate patterns of semantic change that have not been comprehensively documented in existing literature. Recent studies have identified multiple word formation mechanisms operating simultaneously within Indonesian informal language varieties, including coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, acronyms, affixation, conversion, and multiple overlapping processes that create entirely new semantic categories. Word formation processes such as coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, acronyms, affixation, conversion, and multiple processes were utilized to create Generation Z slang. These morphological transformations frequently result in semantic shifts that move beyond predictable metaphorical extensions, creating novel meaning relationships that reflect contemporary cultural values, technological influences, and generational identity markers. The semantic transformation processes observed in Indonesian slang demonstrate systematic patterns of meaning change that operate according to identifiable morphological rules, yet these patterns remain largely undocumented in systematic linguistic analyses. The complexity of these transformations suggests that Indonesian slang operates as a sophisticated linguistic system with its own internal logic governing semantic change processes (Sahardin et al., 2020). Digital communication platforms have emerged as primary catalysts for semantic transformation in Indonesian slang, creating unprecedented opportunities for rapid linguistic innovation and dissemination. Social media environments provide immediate feedback mechanisms that accelerate the adoption and modification of slang expressions, resulting in continuous cycles of semantic evolution that reflect real-time cultural changes. The evolution of social media slang in Indonesia reflects broader shifts in digital communication, cultural identity, and linguistic adaptation. The interactive nature of digital communication allows for immediate semantic negotiation between speakers, enabling rapid consensus formation around new meanings and morphological innovations. These platforms also facilitate cross-regional linguistic contact, creating opportunities for semantic borrowing and adaptation across Indonesia's diverse linguistic landscape. The temporal compression of semantic change in digital environments presents unique challenges for traditional linguistic analysis methods, requiring new approaches to documenting and analyzing rapid morphological transformation

processes. Understanding how digital communication platforms influence semantic transformation patterns is crucial for developing comprehensive theoretical frameworks for analyzing contemporary Indonesian slang evolution (Panuntun & Hayati, 2020).

Indonesian slang varieties demonstrate remarkable morphological creativity in their approaches to semantic transformation, employing multiple simultaneous processes that create layered meaning relationships. Recent computational linguistic research has identified systematic patterns in how Indonesian colloquial words undergo morphological transformations from their standard forms, revealing consistent categorization principles for word formation processes. Indonesian colloquial words that have undergone morphological transformations from their standard forms, categorize their word formations. These transformations often involve semantic bleaching processes where original meanings are partially or completely replaced by new semantic content, while simultaneously preserving morphological structures that maintain recognizable connections to source forms. The resulting semantic networks demonstrate complex relationships between original and transformed meanings, creating polysemous systems that operate according to context-dependent selection principles. Morphological creativity in Indonesian slang also involves innovative combinations of traditional word formation processes, creating hybrid morphological structures that challenge conventional categorical boundaries in linguistic analysis. The systematic nature of these creative processes suggests underlying cognitive principles governing semantic transformation that merit detailed investigation (Saputra et al., 2023).

The sociolinguistic dimensions of semantic transformation in Indonesian slang reflect complex interactions between generational identity, cultural positioning, and linguistic innovation. Different age cohorts demonstrate distinct preferences for specific morphological transformation processes, creating generational linguistic markers that serve important social identification functions within Indonesian speech communities. Generation Z speakers, in particular, have developed innovative approaches to semantic transformation that incorporate global digital culture references while maintaining distinctly Indonesian morphological characteristics. These generational differences in semantic transformation preferences create dynamic tension between traditional Indonesian morphological patterns and emerging innovative processes that reflect contemporary cultural influences. The social functions of semantically transformed slang expressions extend beyond simple communication efficiency, serving as markers of group membership, cultural sophistication, and generational identity within rapidly changing Indonesian social contexts. Understanding these sociolinguistic dimensions is essential for developing comprehensive analyses of how semantic transformation processes operate within specific social contexts and serve broader cultural functions beyond simple lexical innovation (Eti & Rosalinah, 2025).

Current research on Indonesian morphological processes has primarily focused on formal language varieties, leaving significant gaps in understanding how morphological systems operate within informal language contexts. Existing morphological analysis frameworks developed for standard Indonesian may not adequately account for the innovative processes observed in slang varieties, particularly those involving semantic transformation mechanisms that operate independently of traditional morphological boundaries. The computational linguistic approaches currently applied to Indonesian morphological analysis have shown limited effectiveness when applied to informal language varieties, suggesting fundamental differences in underlying structural principles governing formal versus informal morphological systems. Traditional morphological theory emphasizes discrete categorical

boundaries between different word formation processes, while Indonesian slang transformation patterns suggest more fluid, overlapping relationships between morphological mechanisms that create hybrid forms resistant to conventional analysis. The gap between formal morphological theory and informal language practice has created a need for new analytical frameworks specifically designed to account for the unique characteristics of semantic transformation in Indonesian slang varieties (Denistia & Baayen, 2022).

Research methodologies currently employed in Indonesian linguistic analysis have not adequately addressed the rapid temporal dynamics characteristic of slang semantic transformation processes. Traditional corpus-based approaches to morphological analysis rely on stable textual sources that may not capture the ephemeral nature of many slang expressions, particularly those that undergo rapid semantic evolution in digital communication contexts. Existing literature review methodologies for Indonesian linguistics have not systematically integrated computational approaches with traditional philological methods, creating potential blind spots in identifying emerging transformation patterns. The interdisciplinary nature of contemporary slang analysis requires integration of sociolinguistic, computational, morphological, and semantic analytical approaches that have not been systematically combined in previous Indonesian linguistic research. Current research gaps also include insufficient attention to regional variations in semantic transformation processes, potentially overlooking important dialectal influences on morphological innovation patterns. Addressing these methodological limitations requires development of new analytical frameworks that can accommodate the dynamic, multi-dimensional characteristics of contemporary Indonesian slang transformation processes (Indra & Marhamah, 2024).

The theoretical implications of semantic transformation in Indonesian slang extend beyond descriptive morphological analysis to fundamental questions about the nature of semantic change processes in contemporary linguistic systems. Traditional theories of semantic change, developed primarily through historical linguistic analysis of written texts, may not adequately account for the rapid, socially mediated transformation processes observed in contemporary digital communication environments. Indonesian slang transformation patterns suggest that semantic change can occur through direct morphological manipulation rather than gradual metaphorical extension, challenging conventional understanding of the relationship between form and meaning in linguistic change processes. The systematic nature of morphological transformation in Indonesian slang also raises questions about the psychological reality of morphological boundaries in speakers' mental representations of lexical knowledge. Understanding how Indonesian speakers navigate complex relationships between standard and slang forms provides insights into broader cognitive processes underlying multilingual competence and code-switching abilities. These theoretical implications extend beyond Indonesian linguistics to general theories of morphological productivity, semantic change, and sociolinguistic variation in contemporary global communication contexts (Saputra et al., 2023).

Based on the identified research gaps and theoretical considerations, this literature review addresses several critical research questions. First, what are the primary morphological processes underlying semantic transformation in Indonesian slang varieties, and how do these processes differ from those operating in formal Indonesian morphological systems. Second, how do digital communication platforms influence the speed, direction, and social distribution of semantic transformation processes in contemporary Indonesian slang. Third, what are the systematic patterns governing the relationship between morphological form and semantic content in Indonesian slang transformation processes, and how do these patterns reflect

underlying cognitive principles of lexical organization. Fourth, how do generational, regional, and social factors influence the adoption and modification of semantically transformed slang expressions within Indonesian speech communities. Finally, what theoretical frameworks best account for the unique characteristics of semantic transformation in Indonesian slang, and how do these frameworks contribute to broader understanding of morphological change processes in contemporary global communication contexts.

This literature review aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of semantic transformation processes in Indonesian slang through systematic examination of existing research on morphological and semantic change in informal language varieties. The primary objective is to identify and categorize the principal morphological mechanisms underlying semantic transformation in Indonesian slang, establishing a systematic typology of transformation processes that can serve as a foundation for future empirical research. Additionally, this review seeks to analyze the influence of sociolinguistic factors, particularly generational differences and digital communication contexts, on the patterns and directions of semantic transformation in contemporary Indonesian slang varieties. The review also aims to evaluate existing theoretical frameworks for their adequacy in explaining Indonesian slang transformation processes, identifying theoretical gaps and proposing directions for theoretical development. Furthermore, this review objectives include synthesizing current understanding of the relationship between morphological innovation and semantic change in Indonesian informal language contexts, providing a foundation for future computational and empirical research in this domain. Finally, this literature review aims to establish a comprehensive research agenda for future investigations into semantic transformation processes in Indonesian slang, identifying priority areas for empirical research and theoretical development (Sundaram et al., 2023).

This literature review provides several significant contributions to Indonesian linguistics and broader theoretical understanding of morphological and semantic change processes. For academic researchers, this review offers a comprehensive synthesis of current knowledge regarding semantic transformation in Indonesian slang, providing a systematic foundation for future empirical investigations and theoretical development. The identification of research gaps and methodological limitations will guide future research design and analytical approach development, potentially inspiring innovative interdisciplinary collaborations between computational linguists, sociolinguists, and morphological theorists. For Indonesian language educators and curriculum developers, this review provides insights into contemporary language change processes that may inform pedagogical approaches to teaching Indonesian in contexts where students regularly encounter informal language varieties. The systematic analysis of morphological transformation processes may also contribute to improved computational tools for Indonesian language processing, particularly in applications requiring analysis of informal text varieties commonly encountered in social media and digital communication contexts. Additionally, this review contributes to broader theoretical discussions regarding the nature of semantic change in contemporary global communication environments, providing Indonesian-specific insights that may inform comparative linguistic analysis across languages experiencing similar digital transformation pressures. Finally, this research may provide valuable insights for language policy development, particularly regarding the relationship between formal and informal language varieties in contemporary Indonesian educational and cultural contexts (Sahardin et al., 2020).

II. Research Method

2.1 Research Design

This study employs a qualitative library research methodology to conduct a comprehensive literature review on semantic transformation processes in Indonesian slang varieties. The qualitative approach is selected to enable in-depth analysis of existing scholarly works, theoretical frameworks, and empirical findings related to morphological and semantic changes in informal Indonesian language varieties. Library research methodology provides the systematic framework necessary for identifying, analyzing, and synthesizing diverse academic sources including peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, dissertations, and theoretical monographs. This approach allows for comprehensive examination of existing knowledge while identifying theoretical gaps and methodological limitations in current research. The qualitative nature of this methodology enables detailed textual analysis of scholarly discourse, facilitating identification of recurring themes, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings across multiple disciplinary boundaries. By utilizing library research methodology, this study can systematically integrate findings from linguistics, sociolinguistics, computational linguistics, and morphological theory to provide holistic understanding of semantic transformation processes in Indonesian slang contexts.

2.2 Data Collection Strategy

The data collection strategy encompasses systematic identification and selection of relevant academic sources through multiple database searches and bibliographic analysis. Primary data sources include peer-reviewed journal articles published in linguistics, applied linguistics, and Indonesian studies journals between 2010 and 2024, ensuring comprehensive coverage of contemporary research developments. Secondary sources comprise conference proceedings, dissertations, and theoretical monographs addressing morphological processes, semantic change, and Indonesian language varieties. Database searches are conducted using multiple academic platforms including Scopus, Web of Science, JSTOR, Project MUSE, and specialized linguistics databases such as Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts. Search strategies employ combinations of keywords including "Indonesian slang," "semantic transformation," "morphological processes," "informal language varieties," "word formation," and "semantic change" in both English and Indonesian languages. Boolean operators and controlled vocabulary terms are utilized to ensure comprehensive retrieval while maintaining relevance to research objectives. Citation tracking and reference list analysis supplement database searches, enabling identification of seminal works and emerging research trends that may not appear in initial database queries.

2.3 Source Selection Criteria

Source selection follows systematic inclusion and exclusion criteria designed to ensure relevance, quality, and comprehensiveness of the literature review. Inclusion criteria encompass peer-reviewed academic publications addressing morphological processes, semantic change, or informal language varieties in Indonesian linguistic contexts. Sources must demonstrate methodological rigor, theoretical grounding, and empirical evidence relevant to semantic transformation processes in Indonesian slang. Temporal criteria prioritize publications from the past fifteen years to capture contemporary research developments while including seminal theoretical works regardless of publication date. Language criteria include sources published in English and Indonesian to ensure comprehensive coverage of both international and domestic research perspectives. Exclusion criteria eliminate non-academic sources, opinion pieces without empirical support, and studies focusing exclusively on formal Indonesian varieties without informal language components. Quality assessment involves evaluation of publication venue reputation, methodological soundness, theoretical contribution, and citation impact within relevant academic communities. Geographic scope includes studies conducted within Indonesia and international comparative research that includes Indonesian language varieties, ensuring both local and global theoretical perspectives are represented in the analysis.

2.4 Data Analysis Framework

The data analysis framework employs systematic content analysis and thematic synthesis methodologies to identify patterns, themes, and theoretical perspectives across selected sources. Content analysis involves systematic coding of research findings, theoretical frameworks, and methodological approaches using predetermined categories related to morphological processes, semantic transformation mechanisms, and sociolinguistic factors. Thematic synthesis enables identification of recurring themes, theoretical debates, and empirical patterns across multiple studies, facilitating comprehensive understanding of current research landscape. Analysis categories include morphological transformation types, semantic change processes, sociolinguistic variables, methodological approaches, and theoretical frameworks employed in existing research. Comparative analysis examines similarities and differences in findings across studies, identifying areas of consensus and theoretical disagreement within the literature. Critical analysis evaluates the adequacy of existing theoretical frameworks for explaining semantic transformation processes in Indonesian slang, identifying limitations and gaps requiring future research attention. Synthesis methodology integrates findings across multiple studies to develop comprehensive understanding of semantic transformation processes while identifying priorities for future empirical and theoretical development. Meta-analytical techniques are employed where appropriate to identify statistical patterns across quantitative studies included in the review.

2.5 Validity and Reliability Measures

Validity and reliability measures are implemented throughout the research process to ensure systematic, comprehensive, and unbiased analysis of existing literature. Systematic

search strategies across multiple databases minimize selection bias while comprehensive inclusion criteria ensure relevant sources are not inadvertently excluded from analysis. Inter-rater reliability is enhanced through systematic coding procedures and explicit analytical criteria that can be independently verified by other researchers. Triangulation methodology involves comparison of findings across multiple theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches to identify convergent themes and theoretical conclusions. Peer review processes include consultation with Indonesian linguistics experts to verify accuracy of source interpretation and theoretical analysis. Reflexivity measures involve explicit acknowledgment of researcher perspective and potential biases that may influence source selection and interpretation processes. Documentation procedures maintain detailed records of search strategies, selection criteria, and analytical decisions to enable replication and verification by future researchers. Transparency measures include comprehensive reporting of methodology, limitations, and analytical procedures to enable critical evaluation by academic peers. Quality assurance involves systematic verification of citation accuracy, source authenticity, and analytical consistency throughout the research process, ensuring the literature review meets established academic standards for systematic review methodology.

3. Results And Discussion

3.1 Morphological Processes in Indonesian Slang Formation

The analysis of existing literature reveals that Indonesian slang employs a sophisticated array of morphological processes that extend beyond traditional word formation mechanisms documented in formal Indonesian grammar. The most prevalent processes identified include clipping, blending, affixation with semantic shift, compounding with metaphorical extension, and innovative acronym formation that creates entirely new semantic categories. Clipping processes in Indonesian slang demonstrate systematic patterns where syllable reduction follows phonological constraints while preserving semantic core meanings, as evidenced in transformations like "sepeda motor" becoming "sepeda" then "sep" in certain regional varieties. Blending mechanisms show particular creativity in combining morphemes from disparate semantic domains, creating hybrid forms that reflect contemporary cultural experiences and technological influences. The literature indicates that affixation processes in slang contexts frequently involve semantic bleaching of traditional affixes, where prefixes and suffixes acquire new grammatical functions that differ significantly from their roles in formal Indonesian morphology. Compounding processes in Indonesian slang reveal complex patterns of semantic composition that challenge traditional head-parameter theories of morphological structure. Research demonstrates that slang compounds frequently exhibit semantic opacity, where the meaning of the compound cannot be predicted from its constituent parts, suggesting specialized cognitive processing mechanisms for informal language varieties. Acronym formation represents perhaps the most innovative morphological process in contemporary Indonesian slang, with studies documenting systematic patterns of letter selection, phonological adaptation, and semantic extension that create stable lexical items with independent morphological productivity. The literature suggests that these acronyms often undergo further morphological transformation through affixation and compounding, creating nested morphological structures of considerable complexity. The temporal dynamics of

morphological innovation in Indonesian slang reveal rapid cycles of creation, adoption, modification, and obsolescence that operate on timescales significantly shorter than those documented for formal language change. Digital communication platforms appear to accelerate these processes through immediate feedback mechanisms that enable rapid community-wide evaluation and modification of morphological innovations. Regional variations in morphological preferences create complex dialectical patterns within Indonesian slang varieties, with certain urban centers serving as innovation hubs that influence national slang development patterns. The morphological creativity observed in Indonesian slang suggests underlying cognitive mechanisms for morphological productivity that may differ qualitatively from those operating in formal language contexts, requiring new theoretical frameworks for adequate analysis (Kusuma & Mardijono, 2013).

3.2 Semantic Change Mechanisms and Patterns

Semantic change in Indonesian slang operates through multiple simultaneous mechanisms that create complex networks of meaning relationships extending far beyond simple metaphorical extension or metonymic transfer. The literature identifies several primary semantic change processes including semantic narrowing, broadening, amelioration, pejoration, and complete semantic replacement, each operating according to distinct sociolinguistic and cognitive principles. Semantic narrowing processes demonstrate systematic patterns where general terms acquire specialized meanings within specific social contexts, often related to youth culture, digital communication, or urban lifestyle experiences. Conversely, semantic broadening shows how specialized technical terms from domains like technology, gaming, or social media acquire generalized meanings that extend across multiple contextual domains. These processes often occur simultaneously within the same lexical item, creating polysemous systems that require sophisticated contextual interpretation mechanisms. The role of metaphorical and metonymic processes in Indonesian slang semantic change reveals systematic patterns of conceptual mapping that reflect cultural values, generational perspectives, and contemporary social experiences. Research demonstrates that metaphorical extensions frequently draw from domains of technology, popular culture, and global digital communication, creating semantic networks that bridge local Indonesian cultural contexts with international youth culture phenomena. Metonymic processes show particular sophistication in creating meaning relationships based on social context, emotional association, and cultural connotation rather than simple spatial or temporal contiguity. The literature suggests that these metaphorical and metonymic processes operate according to systematic cognitive principles that may differ from those documented in formal language semantic change. Semantic innovation in Indonesian slang also involves processes of semantic inversion, where traditional meaning relationships are systematically reversed or subverted to create new expressive possibilities. This phenomenon appears particularly prevalent in contexts involving generational identity marking, where semantic inversion serves to create linguistic boundaries between age cohorts. The temporal stability of semantic changes in Indonesian slang varies considerably, with some innovations achieving long-term stability while others undergo rapid semantic drift or complete obsolescence. Digital communication contexts appear to accelerate semantic change processes through mechanisms of viral dissemination, community feedback, and continuous semantic negotiation among users. The literature suggests that understanding these semantic change mechanisms requires integration of cognitive linguistics,

sociolinguistics, and digital communication theory to account for the unique characteristics of contemporary Indonesian slang semantic evolution (Moh. Shofi Zuhri, 2023).

3.3 Digital Communication Platforms and Linguistic Innovation

Digital communication platforms have emerged as the primary catalysts for morphological and semantic innovation in contemporary Indonesian slang, fundamentally transforming the speed, scope, and social distribution of linguistic change processes. Social media environments like Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, and WhatsApp create unprecedented opportunities for immediate linguistic experimentation, community feedback, and rapid dissemination of morphological innovations across geographic and social boundaries. The literature reveals that these platforms facilitate linguistic innovation through multiple mechanisms including viral content sharing, hashtag-driven lexical creation, comment-based semantic negotiation, and algorithm-mediated exposure to linguistic diversity. Character limitations on platforms like Twitter encourage morphological innovation through clipping, acronym formation, and creative orthographic representation, while video-based platforms like TikTok promote phonological innovation and multimodal meaning creation that integrates verbal and visual semantic content. The interactive nature of digital communication enables real-time semantic negotiation processes where meaning relationships can be established, modified, and stabilized through community consensus mechanisms operating on timescales ranging from hours to weeks. Research demonstrates that successful linguistic innovations in digital contexts require not only morphological creativity but also social media literacy, cultural relevance, and alignment with platform-specific communication norms. The algorithmic mediation of content distribution on social media platforms creates complex patterns of linguistic exposure that can rapidly amplify certain innovations while suppressing others, leading to uneven patterns of adoption across different demographic groups and geographic regions. Digital communication platforms also facilitate cross-regional linguistic contact that accelerates borrowing and adaptation processes between Indonesian regional varieties and international languages, particularly English, Korean, and Japanese. The literature indicates that these contact phenomena create hybrid morphological structures that combine Indonesian morphological processes with borrowed morphemes in ways that challenge traditional theories of language contact and borrowing. Platform-specific linguistic norms create distinct register varieties within Indonesian slang, where the same speakers may employ different morphological strategies depending on the communication platform and intended audience. The ephemeral nature of much digital communication content creates challenges for documenting and analyzing these linguistic innovations, requiring new methodological approaches that can capture rapid change processes while maintaining analytical rigor. Understanding the relationship between digital platform affordances and linguistic innovation patterns is crucial for developing comprehensive theories of contemporary language change in globalized communication environments (William et al., 2024).

3.4 Generational and Social Factors in Slang Evolution

Generational differences represent perhaps the most significant social factor influencing patterns of morphological innovation and semantic change in Indonesian slang,

with distinct age cohorts demonstrating systematically different preferences for specific transformation processes and semantic domains. Generation Z speakers, typically defined as those born after 1997, show marked preferences for morphological processes that integrate global digital culture references with distinctly Indonesian phonological and morphological patterns. This generation demonstrates particular creativity in acronym formation, often creating complex nested acronyms that require specialized cultural knowledge for interpretation, and shows strong preferences for semantic domains related to social media, gaming, romance, and educational experiences. Millennial speakers, by contrast, tend to favor blending processes and semantic extensions that draw from early internet culture, popular entertainment, and professional contexts, creating distinct generational linguistic markers that serve important social identification functions. The intergenerational transmission of slang innovations reveals complex patterns of adoption, adaptation, and rejection that reflect broader social dynamics within Indonesian society. Research indicates that successful intergenerational transmission of slang innovations requires cultural translation processes where generational-specific references are modified or explained to enable adoption by other age cohorts. However, many slang innovations serve explicitly as generational boundary markers, designed to exclude older speakers and maintain linguistic distinctiveness for younger generations. These exclusionary functions create ongoing tension between linguistic innovation and social cohesion within Indonesian speech communities. Social class factors intersect with generational differences in complex ways that influence both the creation and adoption of morphological innovations in Indonesian slang. Urban middle-class speakers demonstrate different patterns of linguistic innovation compared to working-class or rural speakers, with education levels, economic resources, and cultural capital affecting access to global cultural references that inform semantic change processes. The literature suggests that social media access and digital literacy serve as crucial mediating factors that can override traditional social class boundaries in some contexts while reinforcing them in others. Regional differences also play significant roles, with major urban centers like Jakarta, Bandung, and Surabaya serving as innovation hubs that influence national slang development patterns, while regional varieties maintain distinct morphological preferences that reflect local cultural values and linguistic substrates. Understanding these complex interactions between generational, social class, and regional factors is essential for developing comprehensive models of sociolinguistic variation in Indonesian slang evolution (Melissa et al., 2024).

3.5 Theoretical Frameworks and Analytical Challenges

Existing theoretical frameworks for morphological analysis demonstrate significant limitations when applied to Indonesian slang transformation processes, revealing fundamental gaps between formal linguistic theory and informal language practice. Traditional morpheme-based approaches to morphological analysis, which assume discrete categorical boundaries between different word formation processes, prove inadequate for analyzing the fluid, overlapping relationships characteristic of slang morphological innovation. The literature reveals that Indonesian slang frequently employs hybrid morphological processes that combine multiple transformation mechanisms simultaneously, creating forms that resist classification within conventional morphological taxonomies. Construction Grammar approaches show greater promise for analyzing these complex forms, as they can accommodate the holistic semantic properties and context-dependent interpretations characteristic of slang expressions,

but require significant theoretical development to address the unique challenges of rapid morphological change in digital communication contexts. Semantic change theory faces similar challenges when confronted with the temporal compression and social mediation characteristic of contemporary Indonesian slang evolution. Classical theories of semantic change, developed primarily through analysis of historical texts spanning centuries, may not adequately account for the rapid, socially negotiated transformation processes observed in digital communication environments. Cognitive linguistic approaches to semantic change, particularly those emphasizing metaphorical and metonymic processes, provide valuable insights into the conceptual mechanisms underlying slang semantic innovation, but require integration with sociolinguistic theory to account for the community-based processes through which semantic changes are adopted and stabilized. The literature suggests that usage-based theories of language change show particular promise for analyzing Indonesian slang evolution, as they can accommodate the frequency effects, social learning mechanisms, and community-based conventions that appear central to contemporary slang development. Computational approaches to morphological analysis face significant challenges when applied to Indonesian slang varieties, particularly regarding the handling of non-standard orthography, creative morphological structures, and rapid lexical innovation. Machine learning models trained on formal Indonesian corpora demonstrate poor performance when applied to informal language varieties, suggesting fundamental differences in underlying structural principles. The literature indicates that successful computational analysis of Indonesian slang requires specialized training data, innovative feature engineering approaches, and hybrid methodologies that combine rule-based morphological analysis with statistical learning techniques. These analytical challenges highlight the need for new theoretical frameworks specifically designed to account for the unique characteristics of contemporary informal language varieties, integrating insights from morphological theory, cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics, and computational linguistics to provide comprehensive understanding of rapid language change processes in globalized digital communication environments (Ekayati et al., 2024).

3.6 Research Gaps and Future Directions

The systematic analysis of existing literature reveals several critical research gaps that limit current understanding of semantic transformation processes in Indonesian slang and suggest priorities for future empirical and theoretical investigation. Longitudinal studies of slang evolution remain severely limited, with most existing research providing only synchronic snapshots of particular varieties rather than systematic documentation of change processes over time. This temporal limitation prevents comprehensive understanding of the stability, directionality, and cyclical patterns that may characterize slang evolution, and limits the development of predictive models for future linguistic change. The literature also reveals insufficient attention to regional variation in slang transformation processes, with most studies focusing on Jakarta-based varieties while neglecting the rich dialectal diversity that characterizes Indonesian slang across different geographic regions. This geographic bias potentially obscures important patterns of innovation diffusion, contact-induced change, and substrate influence that may vary significantly across Indonesia's diverse linguistic landscape. Methodological limitations represent another significant research gap, particularly regarding the integration of computational and traditional linguistic analysis methods. Most existing studies employ either purely qualitative approaches that limit systematic pattern identification

or computational methods that cannot adequately handle the creative morphological structures characteristic of slang varieties. The development of hybrid methodologies that combine computational pattern recognition with qualitative linguistic analysis represents a crucial priority for future research, enabling both systematic documentation of large-scale patterns and detailed analysis of specific morphological innovations. Cross-linguistic comparative research also remains underdeveloped, limiting understanding of which aspects of Indonesian slang transformation processes reflect universal principles of informal language change versus language-specific characteristics related to Indonesian morphological structure, cultural context, or sociolinguistic environment. Future research directions should prioritize the development of comprehensive longitudinal corpora that can capture rapid change processes in digital communication contexts while maintaining sufficient analytical depth for detailed morphological analysis. Collaborative research initiatives involving linguists, computer scientists, and social media researchers could enable innovative methodological approaches that leverage big data techniques while maintaining linguistic sophistication. The integration of psycholinguistic experimental methods could provide crucial insights into the cognitive processes underlying morphological productivity in slang contexts, potentially revealing fundamental differences between formal and informal language processing mechanisms. Additionally, applied research focusing on pedagogical implications of slang evolution could inform Indonesian language teaching practices and curriculum development, particularly for contexts where students regularly encounter informal language varieties. International collaborative research examining slang evolution across multiple languages experiencing similar digital transformation pressures could provide valuable comparative perspectives that enhance theoretical understanding of contemporary language change processes in globalized communication environments (Juli et al., 2024).

4. Conclusion

This comprehensive literature review demonstrates that semantic transformation in Indonesian slang represents a sophisticated linguistic phenomenon characterized by innovative morphological processes, systematic semantic change mechanisms, and complex sociolinguistic dynamics that challenge traditional theoretical frameworks for analyzing language change. The analysis reveals that Indonesian slang employs a diverse array of morphological transformation processes including clipping, blending, creative affixation, metaphorical compounding, and innovative acronym formation that extend significantly beyond the word formation mechanisms documented in formal Indonesian morphological systems. These processes operate according to systematic principles that reflect underlying cognitive mechanisms for morphological productivity, yet they demonstrate sufficient flexibility and creativity to generate novel forms that resist classification within conventional morphological taxonomies. Semantic change processes in Indonesian slang demonstrate equally sophisticated patterns of meaning transformation, including semantic narrowing, broadening, metaphorical extension, metonymic transfer, and complete semantic replacement that operate through community-based negotiation mechanisms accelerated by digital communication platforms.

The temporal dynamics of these change processes differ markedly from those documented in historical linguistic analysis, operating on compressed timescales that enable

rapid cycles of innovation, adoption, modification, and obsolescence within contemporary digital communication contexts. Social media platforms emerge as crucial catalysts for linguistic innovation, providing unprecedented opportunities for morphological experimentation, semantic negotiation, and viral dissemination of linguistic innovations across geographic and social boundaries. Generational factors play particularly significant roles in shaping innovation patterns, with different age cohorts demonstrating systematically different preferences for specific morphological processes and semantic domains that serve important social identification functions within Indonesian speech communities. The research identifies critical limitations in existing theoretical frameworks for morphological and semantic analysis, revealing fundamental gaps between formal linguistic theory and informal language practice that require new analytical approaches specifically designed to accommodate the unique characteristics of contemporary slang evolution. Digital communication contexts present unique challenges for linguistic analysis, requiring integration of computational techniques with traditional qualitative methods to capture both large-scale patterns and detailed morphological innovations. The findings establish clear priorities for future research, emphasizing the need for longitudinal studies, comprehensive regional variation analysis, cross-linguistic comparative research, and innovative methodological approaches that can adequately document and analyze rapid language change processes in globalized digital communication environments.

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