

## The Use of Lexeme HEAD in English and Indonesian Compound Words: A Contrastive Analysis

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**Abstract.** Compounding is a common word-formation process in Bahasa Indonesia (BI) and English (EN) as it can be found in constructions of the words *headline*, *headmaster*, and *kepala berita*, *kepala sekolah* in BI, which are widely used by the speakers of the languages. This study scrutinizes the constructions and the senses of lexeme HEAD and KEPALA from contrastive linguistic perspective. It aims at describing (1) The constructions of compound words containing lexeme HEAD and (2) the extended senses of lexeme HEAD in the compound word constructions in BI and EN. The data, taken from *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* and *Cambridge Online Dictionary*, were collected and analyzed using contrastive analysis. The data were collected and analyzed through observation and close reading techniques. The discussion highlighted the similarities and differences of the constructions and extended senses of compound words containing lexeme HEAD. In BI, lexeme *kepala* is combined with nouns, adjectives, while in English lexeme HEAD is combined with nouns, adjectives, gerunds, and prepositions. In BI the extended senses of lexeme head refer to leader, hair, the most important, the tip of things, and personality, while there are six extended senses in EN, namely leader, hair, the most important part, the tip of things, personality, and movement. The extensions show human creativity to produce and comprehend metaphors and metonymy in context to express ideas that are abstract with something more familiar and concrete.

**Keywords:** *Lexeme of HEAD, Meaning, Constructions, Contrastive Analysis*

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## INTRODUCTION

Humans use language to transfer increasingly complex ideas or concepts. As concepts are constantly developing, new expressions emerge to describe these concepts (Hovav et al., 2010; Nugraha, 2016; Nugraha & Baryadi, 2019; Pasaribu, 2014; Saraswati & Pasaribu, 2019; Wijana, 2010). A new concept can be expressed by creating a new lexeme and combining words or lexemes or compound words. Compounding is more common than coining new words. Compounding is considered more acceptable because of the speakers' familiarity with the words in the formation, while new words with new meanings should last a test of time and be accepted by the community of users (Baryadi, 2011; Pasaribu, 2019; Štekauer & Lieber, 2005). For example, the word *unggah* is still less popular than the word *upload*. This is in contrast to compound words with new meanings. Linguists can introduce compound words more easily to the community (Kridalaksana, 1988).

Before analyzing compound words containing lexeme HEAD in Bahasa Indonesia (BI) and English (EN), it is necessary to specify the meaning of lexemes in this study. Lyons states that the lexemes are abstract units with some variants (Lyons, 1968). Finnegan, Besnier, Blair and Collins (1992, p.146) define that lexemes are "vocabulary word encompassing all the inflectional word forms associated with it". Lexemes are different from words as lexemes are groups of words with their inflections. Wijana (2010, p.29) hypothesizes that different from words, a lexeme is "satuan Bahasa yang memiliki kemampuan untuk mengacu dan memprediksi (makna)".

Furthermore, a great deal of literature has discussed the nature of compound words (Berg, 2017; Kridalaksana, 1988; Ningsih, 2004, Nugraha, 2016), but compound words containing lexeme HEAD in BI and EN has not been done from the perspective of contrastive linguistics analysis (CLA). Previously, Kridalaksana (1988) examined *Perpaduan Kata* in his dissertation entitled "*Beberapa Prinsip Perpaduan Leksem dalam Bahasa Indonesia*". In the dissertation, he postulated some patterns underlying the compoundings of the lexeme in BI. His study has not discussed the meaning resulting from the combination of the lexeme. Another study was conducted by Ningsih (2004) who discussed the combination of lexemes containing the human body parts. Meanwhile, Nugraha (2016; 2018) explored the combination of lexemes based on family kinships, such as ANAK and IBU. These studies show that further studies comparing the structure of compound words from different languages are needed. Accordingly, this study aims at elaborating the use of the lexeme HEAD to form compound words in EN and BI.

In addition, Kridalaksana (via Ningsih, 2004, p. xvi) elaborated the term *lexeme* as, "*Hasil proses penggabungan dua leksem atau lebih yang menjadikannya input bagi proses gramatikal atau menjadikannya satuan yang berstatus kata dalam tingkat gramatika.*" The compounding of two or more words is marked by their status of the categorial word and the new grammatical role they possess in clauses or sentences. Consider the examples in sentence (1) and (2).

- (1) Kepala batu patung Budha di Borobudur banyak dicuri orang.  
NP                      Prep.                      Det.                      V                      NP  
Head stone statue Buddha in Borobudur many steal people.

[The stone heads of Buddha statue in Borobudur were stolen by many people.]

- (2) Teman saya itu kepala batu.  
 NP 1st Det. COMPOUND-cons  
 Colleague me that stubborn  
 [My colleague is stubborn.]

The construction of *kepala batu* in Sentence (1) refers to the meaning of 'bagian kepala patung yang terbuat dari batu' and in the Sentence (2) refers to the meaning 'tidak mau menuruti nasehat orang lain'. In Sentence (1), the meaning is predictable from the meaning of the constituent. Also, if the word *batu* in the first sentence is deleted, as *kepala patung Budha di Borobudur banyak dicuri orang*, the sentence is still acceptable by BI's speakers. The word *batu* in Sentence (1) can be extended into "kepala yang terbuat dari batu". Meanwhile, the *kepala batu* in Sentence (2) is compounded by two lexemes KEPALA and BATU. The constituent of the compound word *kepala batu* is not replaceable and separable. The formation of *kepala batu* in Sentence (2) is called a compound word.

Previous studies have examined the compound words in one language (Kridalaksana, 1988; Ningsih, 2004, Nugraha, 2016), however to our knowledge, studies on how the compound words containing one lexeme in two languages share similarities and differences with others have not been conducted. Therefore, this study aims at investigating the (1) the constructions of compound words containing lexeme HEAD and (2) the extended senses of lexeme HEAD in the compound word constructions in BI and EN. With these goals in mind, we analyze the compound words containing lexeme HEAD found in *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (KBBI online version) and Cambridge Online Dictionary. The data are compared and contrasted to show the similarities and differences in BI and EN.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study involved three phases in analyzing languages (Sudaryanto, 2015; Wijana, 2016), namely (a) data collection, (b) data analysis, and (c) data presentation. First, the researchers determined the object of the study and the sources. The object of this study was compound words containing lexeme HEAD in BI and EN. The data collected are compound words with lexeme HEAD and KEPALA as the constituent. Compound words and definitions from *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (at [kbbi.kemdikbud.go.id](http://kbbi.kemdikbud.go.id)) and *Cambridge Online Dictionary* (at [dictionary.cambridge.org](http://dictionary.cambridge.org)) were collected as the primary data. Examples of Indonesian sentences were created by the researchers as the native speakers and the English sentences were taken from the Internet. The data were collected by using data collection table. We omitted some words that were not relevant to our study.

Second, we analyzed the data based on the principles of *contrastive lexical semantics* (Lefer, 2011). We observed the data and applied close reading techniques. We described the constituent in the compound words by validating the analysis with sentences and dictionary definitions. The data were analyzed through the theory of conceptual metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson (2003) and supported by

findings from Rajeg (2011). Finally, the data in both languages were analyzed based on Contrastive semantics (Zimmermann, 2007).

Third, we used table comparing the BI and EN constructions and verbal elaboration in presenting the data. The data informing different linguistic patterns were described verbally. The discussion involved comparison from other relevant semantic theories and studies. The validation was done by comparing the results to previous related studies. Finally, this study concluded the discussion by highlighting (a) The constructions of compound words containing lexeme HEAD and (b) the extended senses of lexeme HEAD in the compound word constructions in BI and EN.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research describes the structure and meaning of compound words containing lexeme HEAD in both BI and EN. From a cognitive linguistic point of view, language reflects the flow of mind from the physical experience. It is in line with Goddard & Wierzbicka (2011) arguments that, “Human cognition not only includes reasoning and information processing about physical reality but also includes the so-called social cognition” (2011, p.125). With this perspective, lexemes from human body parts are used widely as they are close with our experience. In BI and EN, we found lexemes referring to body parts that are joined with other lexemes. The compounding creates new meaning traceable from the components of the formation. For example, the words *kepala* and *head* share similar meaning as a leader in the compound words *head librarian* and *kepala pustakawan*. The lexemes extend their meaning metaphorically noting that HEAD is an important part of something in BI and EN. However, there are also differences found in both languages.

### The Constructions of Compound Words Containing Lexeme of HEAD and KEPALA

The constructions of compound words containing lexeme HEAD can be identified by examining the word class of the lexemes both in BI and EN. Lefer states that “the minimum requirement for the first step is that the descriptions of the elements to be compared should be cross-linguistically parallel” (2011, p.651). There are at least two combinations of words using HEAD in BI, namely (a) with nouns and (b) with adjectives. Meanwhile, there are four patterns of forming these compound words in EN, namely (a) with nouns, (b) with adjectives, (c) with verbs, and (d) with prepositions. This section aims at elaborating these structures of compound words in BI and EN.

First, the compound words are categorized as nouns. From the data, there are various compound words from the combination of nouns with the root *head*. The formula can be simplified as the lexeme HEAD (a) is a part of other nouns (b). The meaning of *head* is extended metaphorically in this constructions. For example, the head of the school is the leader of that organization. The lexeme HEAD (a) is a part of the school. The word *kepala sekolah* cannot be separated from the elements constructing the words as the combination is considered as one word, a compound word as seen in example (3) and (4).

- (3) SMA Negeri 1 Jombang memiliki kepala yang berpendirian. \*
- (4) *The library has a very shining head.* \*



Perpustakaan itu mempunyai kepala yang sangat bersinar\*.

(5) *The library has a very strict head librarian.*

Perpustakaan itu mempunyai kepala pustakawan yang sangat disiplin.

The asterisk symbol (\*) demonstrates that the sentences are not syntactically acceptable. In BI, most types belong to compound words with the root Kepala as the first component. BI has almost consistent patterns in constructing lexeme kepala + nouns. However, there is always an exception like the compound word ikat kepala; the word kepala follows the root ikat [N+kepala]. It is interesting to note that different from other words in Table 1, the word kepala has metonymical meaning, not a metaphorical one.

**Table 1.** *Constructions of Lexeme HEAD and KEPALA with Nouns Categories*

Cluster 1		Cluster 2	
BI	EN	BI	EN
Kepala kereta api	<i>Rail head</i>	Kepala neraca	<i>Balanced head</i>
Kepala pustakawan	<i>Head librarian</i>	Kepala sumbu	<i>Axle head</i>
Kepala berita	<i>Headline</i>	Kepala kemudi	<i>Rudder head</i>
Kepala kasir	<i>Head teller</i>	Kepala pajak	<i>Head tax</i>
Kepala baut	<i>Bolt head</i>	Kepala departemen	<i>Departement head</i>
Kepala cerat	<i>Nozzle head</i>	Kepala pelayan	<i>Head waiter</i>
Kepala gerek	<i>Drill head</i>	Kepala sekolah	<i>Head master</i>
Kepala jarum pentul	<i>Pin head</i>	Kepala surat	<i>Letterhead</i>
Kepala konis	<i>Conical head</i>	kepala batu	<i>Stone head</i>
Kepala koil	<i>Coil head</i>	Kepala kumparan	<i>Spool head</i>
Kepala paku	<i>Nail head</i>	Kepala sekerup	<i>Screw head</i>

In EN, we can found different variation of the compound words containing lexeme HEAD and other nouns, as seen in Table 2.

**Table 2.** *Patterns of Lexeme HEAD and KEPALA with Nouns Categories*

BI		EN	
Constructions	Patterns	Constructions	Patterns
Kepala kereta api	[Kepala + FN]	<i>Rail head</i>	[ N + head ]
Kepala pustakawan	[Kepala + N]	<i>Head librarian</i>	[ head + N ]
Kepala berita	[Kepala + N]	<i>Headline</i>	[ head + N ]
Kepala kasir	[Kepala + N]	<i>Head teller</i>	[ head + N ]
Kepala baut	[Kepala + N]	<i>Bolt head</i>	[ N + head ]
Kepala cerat	[Kepala + N]	<i>Nozzle head</i>	[ N + head ]

This category of the EN compound words can be further elaborated into two types. The first type of nouns that blend to the lexeme HEAD means human [+human] as in words *Head teller* [head + N], *Head librarian* [head + N], *Head waiter*

[head + N], and *Head master* [head + N]. While, if the word HEAD is combined with non-human entity, the word head tends to come after the other non-human nouns such as *Bolt head* [N + head], *Nozzle head* [N + head], *Drill head* [N + head], and *Pin head* [N + head]. From the data, there are some exceptions like the word *headline* and *headband*. Lexemes “line” and “band” do not refer to human [-human], but the lexeme head comes before these words. The typography of these words is also different from other words, as they are combined into one word without any space as seen in table 2.

The second category is compound words with adjectives. Lexeme HEAD is not only joined with nouns but also combined with adjectives. Different from noun and noun combinations in BI, the adjectives in the constructions can be found before and after the lexeme HEAD. On the contrary, the pattern involving adjectives in EN is almost consistent, [adjective + lexeme head], as seen in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Constructions of Lexeme HEAD and KEPALA with Adjectives Categories

Cluster 1		Cluster 2	
BI	EN	BI	EN
Besar kepala	<i>Big-headed</i>	Kepala batu	<i>Headstrong</i>
Berat kepala	<i>Heavy-headed</i>	Keras kepala	<i>Hard-headed</i>
kepala dingin	<i>Cool-headed</i>	Sakit kepala	<i>Headachy</i> <i>*Headache (N)</i>

It can be seen from the table that the lexeme HEAD has the inflection {-ed} functioning as adjectives. The results of this combination are adjectives. However, like in other cases, there are some exceptions like the word *headstrong*. It has a different pattern as it is written as one word without hyphen (-) and the word *headache* serves as a noun.

Third, compound words containing lexeme HEAD and gerund. The data show few EN compound words only with this construction. The lexeme HEAD is placed after the gerund. The construction *driving head* and *running head* can be seen in sentences (6) and (7).

- (6) *The driving head protects the internal thread. (online, Wallis)*
- (7) *A running head is a short version of the paper title that is printed as a heading at the top of each page. (Online, Enago)*

Fourth, we found the compound words formed by lexeme head and prepositions. We couldn't find this kind of construction in BI, but we can find EN few compound verbs with lexeme head in this construction. The construction of the compound verbs starts with lexeme HEAD followed by prepositions as seen in the words *head up*, *head off*, *dan head for* as in Sentence (8) and (9).

- (8) *This note is just to give you a heads-up that Vicky will be arriving next week. (Cambridge Dictionary)*
- (9) *What time are you heading off? (Cambridge Dictionary)*

We found out that the constructions of compound words containing lexeme HEAD share some similarities and differences in BI and EN. In BI, lexeme kepala is combined with nouns, adjectives, while in English lexeme HEAD is combined with nouns, adjectives, gerunds, and prepositions. The section has elaborated on the formation of the words. The following section, then, elaborates the senses found of the compound words containing lexeme head in EN and BI.

**The Extended Senses of Compound Words Containing of Lexeme HEAD and KEPALA**

In this part, we describe the compound words containing lexeme HEAD in BI and EN. The investigation is based on “the hypotheses about <sup>16</sup> meaning of words in a given language can be formulated in that very language” (Goddard & Wierzbicka, 2009, p. 61). The first one, lexeme HEAD in the data means “leader”. This sense is found in both BI and EN. The words head librarian and head teller in Sentence 10 and Sentence 11 carry this meaning.

- (10) <sup>3</sup> *The Head Librarian is responsible for overall leadership and direction for the Library and planning, organizing, directing and coordinating all activities of <sup>7</sup> the Worcester Public Library. (Online, Worcester Public Library)*
- (11) *Head teller supervises a teller line that processes a variety of financial transactions. (Online, Salary)*

The word Head Librarian in Sentence (9) or Kepala Pustakawan in BI means the leader of the library. Similarly, the word Head teller in Sentence (10) means the leader of the teller line. Conceptually, as head referring to the human body part is the most important part of the human body, the meaning is extended into a part of certain units. We can say that the meaning is metaphorically extended from the domain of HUMAN BODY to UNIT.

Pasaribu (2016) mentions that the use of one domain can be understood by using other domain because of some familiarities. In this case, the target domain UNIT is understood partially in terms of the source domain HUMAN BODY. The emergence of this extension happens for certain similarities they share, i.e (a) both of the domains have smaller units, (b) the word “head” prototypically refers to the upper position of human body, then, as argued by Rajeg (2011), it is extended to the upper structural position, and (c) the word “head” suggests the most important part of human body that protects the brain which commands our body. This sense is then extended to the meaning “leader” as leaders give commands to their units. The use of the lexeme head in this sense can be found in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Lexeme HEAD as “Leaders”

Cluster 1		Cluster 2	
BI	EN	BI	EN
kepala kereta api	<i>Rail head</i>	Kepala pelayan	<i>Head waiter</i>
Kepala pustakawan	<i>Head librarian</i>	Kepala sekolah	<i>Head master</i>
Kepala kasir	<i>Head teller</i>	Kepala stasiun	<i>Stasion master</i>
Kepala departemen	<i>Department head</i>		

Secondly, the lexeme HEAD is closely related to the word “hair”, so the word head or kepala can carry this sense. The examples are both found in BI and EN in the word *headband* or *ikat kepala*. The sense does not directly emerge from the roots forming the words, as the band or *ikat* is placed surrounding the hair. The extension of this meaning is caused by a metonymy that WHOLE FOR A PART or HEAD FOR HAIR. Related to the first extended meaning we discussed, the third meaning of the lexeme head is “the most important”. The concept most important is abstract, so we use a more concrete term to express this idea such as head in the words *headline* ‘*kepala berita*’ and *Headquarters* ‘*pusat kantor*’ in Sentence 12 and Sentence 13.

- (12) *The news of his death was splashed in headlines across all the newspapers.*  
 (Cambridge Dictionary)
- (13) *The company's headquarters is/are in Amsterdam.* (Cambridge Dictionary)

The word *headlines* or *kepala berita* in sentence (12) refer to the most important part of the news. Similarly, example (13) also suggests that the meaning of lexeme HEAD in the word *headquarters* means the most important office. The word “head” suggests the most important part of human body. In both examples, as also argued by Rajeg (2011), the meaning of the word *head* means the most important things or locations. The target domain IMPORTANT ENTITY is understood by using the source domain IMPORTANT HUMAN BODY PART. From the data we can say that both in EN and BI lexeme HEAD in the compound words refer to the most important entity.

Fourth, lexeme HEAD also means “at the tip”. The prototypical meaning of the word head or kepala spacially refers to the tip of human body part. This sense is metaphorically extended in different compound words such as *bolt head* ‘*Kepala baut*’ dan *pin head* ‘*Kepala jarum pentul*’. Those words show a part or location of an entity. Therefore, we can say that the extended meaning is understood similarly with the prototypical meaning. The source domain THE TIP OF HUMAN BODY is used to understand THE TIP OF THINGS. Table 5 presents words having this sense in BI and EN.

**Table 5.** Lexeme HEAD as “at the tip”

Exampe of Data			
BI	EN	BI	EN
Kepala baut	<i>Bolt head</i>	Kepala paku	<i>Nail head</i>
Kepala cerat	<i>Nozzle head</i>	Kepala sumbu	<i>Axle head</i>
Kepala gerek	<i>Drill head</i>	Kepala kemudi	<i>Rudder head</i>
Kepala jarum pentul	<i>Pin head</i>	Kepala kumparan	<i>Spool head</i>
Kepala konis	<i>Conical head</i>	Kepala sekerup	<i>Screw head</i>
Kepala koil	<i>Coil head</i>		

The EN data also refer to a movement (Radden & Dirven, 2007). Different from lexeme head in BI, lexeme HEAD in EN compound words can refer to movement when it is combined with prepositions. The extended meaning is highly



influenced by the meaning of the prepositions following the lexemes, such as *head off*, *head for*, and *head to*. The combination of the lexeme in EN and the prepositions alter the word class of the word head from noun to verb and extend the meaning to “movement to the certain direction” (Radden & Dirven, 2007, p.292). The metaphorical extension of the prepositions enables speakers to grasp the meaning of these compound words.

Finally, lexeme HEAD refers to the sense “personality”. Bandura (1999) that mental activities are not apart from neural systems. Personality is influenced by brain activities inside the head. Therefore, our data show that the meaning of head or *kepala* in both BI and EN can refer to someone’s personality. Personality is an abstract concept that can’t be detected directly through our senses. However, it can be understood using a more concrete and familiar concept, i.e. HEAD. The words *besar kepala* or ‘*Big-headed*’ and *Keras kepala* or ‘*hard-headed*’ refer to someone’s temper or personality. The senses of lexeme head in Table 6 are extended as people use the source domain HUMAN BODY to understand the meaning of an abstract concept PERSONALITY.

**Table 6.** Lexeme HEAD as “Personality”

BI	EN
Besar kepala	<i>Big-headed</i>
kepala berat	<i>Heavy-headed</i>
kepala dingin	<i>Cool-headed</i>
Kepala batu	<i>Headstrong</i>
Keras kepala	<i>Hard-headed</i>
Sakit kepala	<i>Headache</i>

The data show that the constructions of compound words containing lexeme HEAD and KEPALA in EN and BI share similarities and differences. This part highlights some noteworthy findings of the extended meaning of HEAD. First, lexeme HEAD in both EN and BI is used in various senses depending on the context of the sentences. The prototypical meaning of the word in both languages is the upper part of human body, but it is extended to help explain something more abstract. The extension of this lexeme is caused by the ability of human beings to produce and comprehend metaphors and metonymy. Smolka (2009, p.338) mentions that “The meaning of its parts can disentangle semantic processing” or we can guess the meaning of the compound words based on the parts of the word-formation.

Our use of language is then highly influenced by metaphors and metonymy (Pasaribu, 2014; Pasaribu, 2016; Rajeg, 2011). Aristoteles (Ullman, 1977, p.256) states that “The greatest thing by far is to be a master of metaphor; it is the one thing that cannot be learnt from others; and it is also a sign of genius, since a good metaphor implies an intuitive perception of the similarity in the dissimilar.” Metaphors involve the use of source domains to describe target domains. For example, the word head teller means that the source domain HUMAN BODY is used to describe UNITS, which is teller. Conceptually, “head” referring to the most important part of human

body that gives commands to our body is then metaphorically extended to the meaning “leaders” that give commands to their units. Metaphors of other prepositions attached to the word HEAD also alter the meaning of HEAD from PARTS OF HUMAN BODY to MOVEMENT OF WHOLE BODY. Metonymy, then, enables people to use PART-WHOLE relationships.

The extended meaning of lexeme head results in different senses of the lexeme in BI and EN. In BI the extended senses of lexeme head refer to leader, hair, the most important, the tip of things, and personality, while there are 6 extended senses in EN, namely leader, hair, the most important, the tip of things, personality, and movement. This extension shows human creativity to produce and comprehend metaphors and metonymy to express ideas that are abstract with something more familiar and concrete.

### CONCLUSION

This study has investigated the constructions and the senses of lexeme HEAD and KEPALA from a contrastive linguistic perspective. It has discussed the constructions of compound words containing lexeme HEAD and KEPALA in BI and EN. In BI, lexeme *kepala* is combined with nouns, adjectives, while in English lexeme HEAD is combined with nouns, adjectives, gerunds, and prepositions. Furthermore, it elaborated on the extended senses of both words HEAD and KEPALA. In BI the extended senses of lexeme head refer to leader, hair, the most important, the tip of things, and personality, while there are 6 extended senses in EN, namely leader, hair, the most important, the tip of things, personality, and movement. The extended senses are motivated by metaphorical extension, metonymy, and the constituent in the compound word constructions. However, since this study is only limited to compound words containing lexeme HEAD and KEPALA in BI and EN, further studies should be conducted in analyzing the constructions and senses of this lexeme in longer idiomatic constructions to investigate how senses are highly influenced by the context surrounding the lexeme. Besides theoretical investigation, further studies are encouraged to elaborate on how syntactic and semantic contrastive analysis of two different languages helps learners learn a foreign language.

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