



## Minimizing the Use of Composition in Bahasa Indonesia through Utilizing Local and Foreign Languages



Syarifuddin <sup>a</sup>

---

### Article history:

Received: 20 September 2016

Revised: 5 January 2017

Approved: 10 February 2017

Published: 5 March 2017

---

### Keywords:

*Composition;*

*Single Form;*

*Indonesiaizing;*

*Language Prestige;*

*Language Absorption;*

---

### Abstract

Bahasa Indonesia is rich of the composition. The existing of composition shows the inability of Bahasa Indonesia to produce a word representing a certain concept. Ignoring this may obstacle the path of Bahasa Indonesia to become an international language. Therefore, this paper tries to propose a concept and development strategy of Bahasa Indonesia, especially in relation to the composition through collecting and connect-comparing Bahasa Indonesia's compositions and sources from local and foreign languages. In another word, to economize Bahasa Indonesia composition, the strategy applied is by utilizing local and foreign languages. The language absorption should meet the Indonesiaizing process. Another alternative applied is to make an agreement of certain form and process/model. These alternatives would enrich the vocabularies of one word one meaning and would strengthen and improve the prestige of Bahasa Indonesia.

2455-8028 ©Copyright 2017. The Author.

This is an open-access article under the CC BY-SA license

(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)

All rights reserved.

---

### Author correspondence:

Syarifuddin,

Kantor Bahasa Province NTB-Indonesia

Email address: [attuank@gmail.com](mailto:attuank@gmail.com)

---

### 1. Introduction

In the development of linguistic studies, at least there are two things which are always emerging and interconnecting, form and meaning. The form greatly influences in determining the meaning. Forms include aspects that will create a language structure. Forms—in linguistics studies—one of its function is to emerge the language formation process, including morphological studies. The language formation in morphological studies is at least in form of affixation, reduplication, derivation, abbreviation, and composition (Kridalaksana, 2007). The morphological process—in part or whole—can be found in all languages existed, including Bahasa Indonesia.

Bahasa Indonesia is rich of the morphological process. However, there are some parts to be focused on their morphological process, namely is composition matters. Composition—unification or pluralization—is a combination process between two or more lexemes which produce words (Ramlan, 1987; Kridalaksana, 2007). The combination of the two lexemes has an intact meaning. Thus, the lexemes combined no longer has an independent meaning. The emerging of lexemes combination between one and another lexeme which creates

---

<sup>a</sup> Researcher Kantor Bahasa Provinsi NTB, Indonesia

language composite in Bahasa Indonesia is due to the inability of Bahasa Indonesia to produce independent words referring to the noun, verb, or certain adjective. This condition, in the end, may rise an understanding that the composition is basically a process of combining root to root (usually base words or affixation forms) to organize a concept not yet included in a word (Chaer, 2008). Therefore, to show the references of the concepts (noun, verb, and adjectives). Therefore—wants or not—in the development, Bahasa Indonesia forms words consisted of two lexemes (root to root) or more which is called composition.

Composition in Bahasa Indonesia or other languages basically is just resulting inefficient words use of the related language. A composition is always made by two or more forms/ base words lexemes and the result of a composition process put the words out of every lexeme meaning which is used as a result of the combination. Consequently, sometimes it messes up the base meaning of the lexemes.

For minimizing the process of a composition in Bahasa Indonesia, the study collects data from secondary sources such as academic literature, Indonesian handbooks with the composition in it. Besides that, the study collects lexicon data from local and foreign languages found in mapping books of languages and literature, and English dictionaries. Furthermore, the data collected are analyzed by connecting—comparing though standardized Indonesiaizing process. This is the interesting point to rising in the upcoming Congress of Bahasa Indonesia.

## 2. Research Methods

This paper is aimed to describe a strategy to minimize Bahasa Indonesia composition toward strengthening as well as developing the language itself. Therefore the method needed is the qualitative descriptive method by describing the composition of Bahasa Indonesia systematically, factually, and accurately taken from utterances of the Bahasa Indonesia users and books using Bahasa Indonesia.

The data of the composition of Bahasa Indonesia are taken by applying observation method to get a clearer picture of the use of the composition of Bahasa Indonesia. The method is supported by applying recording and note-taking technique to collect the data. The data collected are then transcribed, observed, and analyzed to find a final conclusion.

## 3. Results and Analysis

To explain the process, this paper will show the process of utilizing local and foreign languages as well as minimizing process of Indonesiaizing the absorption forms.

### 3.1 Utilizing Local and Foreign Languages in Minimizing Compositions in Bahasa Indonesia

A concept and description of a composition are one of the studies which always be discussed whenever in the languages the morphology is the concern. However, some opinions of the composition concept are almost similar, yet sometimes the basis of the description and the objectives are different. The composition process in Bahasa Indonesia is a remarkably important mechanism in creating and enriching vocabularies (Chaer, 2008). The main objective of creating a composition is to accommodate and organize concepts in variety aspects of life which do not have a position in a single word. In Bahasa Indonesia, it is possible to emerge new concepts by combining the root words. A composition in Bahasa Indonesia generally consists of noun, verb, and adjective (Chaer, 2008). The nouns composition can be seen in the following words.

- a. *mata air*
- b. *anak angin*
- c. *anak bukit*
- d. *anak dayung*
- e. *anak kunci*
- f. *anak tangga*
- g. *anak panah*
- h. *bibir cangkir*
- i. *bibir jalan*
- j. *buah baju*
- k. *buah catur*
- l. *buah dada*
- m. *buah hati*
- n. *ibu jari*

- o. *ibu kota*
- p. *induk semang*
- q. *induk kalimat*
- r. *kaki gunung*
- s. *kaki langit*
- t. *kaki mejacaga*
- u. *kepala daerah*
- v. *kepala karangan*
- w. *kepala kampung*
- x. *mata air*
- y. *mata angin*
- z. etc.

While the verbs composition are listed below.

- a. *duduk termenung*
- b. *membanting tulang*
- c. *jual beli*
- d. *jatuh bangun*
- e. *angkat kaki*
- f. *adu lidah*
- g. *angkat bicara*
- h. *balik mata*
- i. *buka suara*
- j. *buka puasa*
- k. *cuci gudang*
- l. *cuci mulut*
- m. and so on.

Beside the above nouns and verbs composition, in Bahasa Indonesia, there are adjective compositions as follows.

- a. *keras hati*
- b. *banyak mulut*
- c. *berat hati*
- d. *berat jodoh*
- e. etc. (Kridalaksana, 2007 dan Chaer, 2008).

The most productive composition in Bahasa Indonesia is noun composition compared to the verb and adjective composition. The emergence of this composition basically shows the ineffective use of language because it does not follow the principle of one word one concept. In the other words, it leads to the inefficient use of language.

The development of science and technology is always in line with the development of language. An invention of concept in science and technology would rise various terms which sometimes emerge as single form rather than a combination of two stems. Those terms or terminologies mostly appear in the foreign language. On the other hand, when equivalence of those terms, terminologies or concept of science and technology is not found in Bahasa Indonesia, the language elements are generally constructed, that is, composition. This situation leads to inefficient use of language element in Bahasa Indonesia. Whereas, Bahasa Indonesia has the capacity and function for the development of science, technology, and culture. This study is aimed at raising the prestige swell as internationalizing Bahasa Indonesia. Hence, an effective way to minimize the use of the composition in Bahasa Indonesia is by utilizing local and foreign languages.

Indonesia is a country with abundant of various languages, Local languages have different capacity and function with Bahasa Indonesia and foreign languages in the Republic of Indonesia. Nevertheless, local languages have the same and common function and level with Bahasa Indonesia or foreign languages in the world. However, needless to say, that all of those languages have their own unique structure (language form). It is certainly possible that certain local languages have word forms or expressions to represent the concept of noun, verb or adjective category which is not found in the other languages as well as in Bahasa Indonesia. One of the capacities and functions of Bahasa Daerah is as a supplement of Bahasa Indonesia.

This recourse of vocabulary absorption, local languages is basically stated in “*Pedoman Umum Ejaan Bahasa Indonesia yang Disempurnakan dan Pedoman Pembentukan Istilah*” (1975); that is, if there is a concept, process, situation, or character does not have appropriate equivalence terms in Bahasa Indonesia, the term is then searched in the family language (*Bahasa serumpun*) accordingly. Therefore, local languages are an alternative to anticipate the abundance use of the composition in Bahasa Indonesia domain. On the other hand, if at the same time there are not any equivalence terms found from local language to refer to certain concepts, it is then adopted from foreign languages. Vocabulary absorption from foreign languages is considering (a) short vocabularies and terms (b) international character eases inter-language transfer and (c) agreement is easier to reached if Bahasa Indonesia vocabularies/terms have too many synonyms. This process is called a language absorption from one language to another. Such absorptions are like adopting vocabularies from European languages (Dutch, English, Germany, etc), Asian languages (Arabic, Sanskrit, Chinese, etc), and Indonesian local languages (Javanese, Sudanese, Minang, Sasaknese, Sumbawanese, etc) (Chaer, 2008).

Vocabularies from local and foreign languages are the resources of equivalence to represent concepts substituting compound words (composition) in Bahasa Indonesia. In Bahasa Indonesia, word combination (composition) was initially known. However, composition leads to inefficient use of Bahasa Indonesia, therefore the change to by single form was proposed to represent certain concepts. A single form representing certain concepts substituting composition may be adopted from local or foreign languages, as absorption form. This form then goes through Indonesiaizing process ruled under the existing guideline. Eventually, the single form is determined to be one of the vocabularies referring to a certain concept. This process is expected to be an alternative concept to make Bahasa Indonesia more efficient in use. The change process from a composition to a single form in Bahasa Indonesia is shown in the following picture.

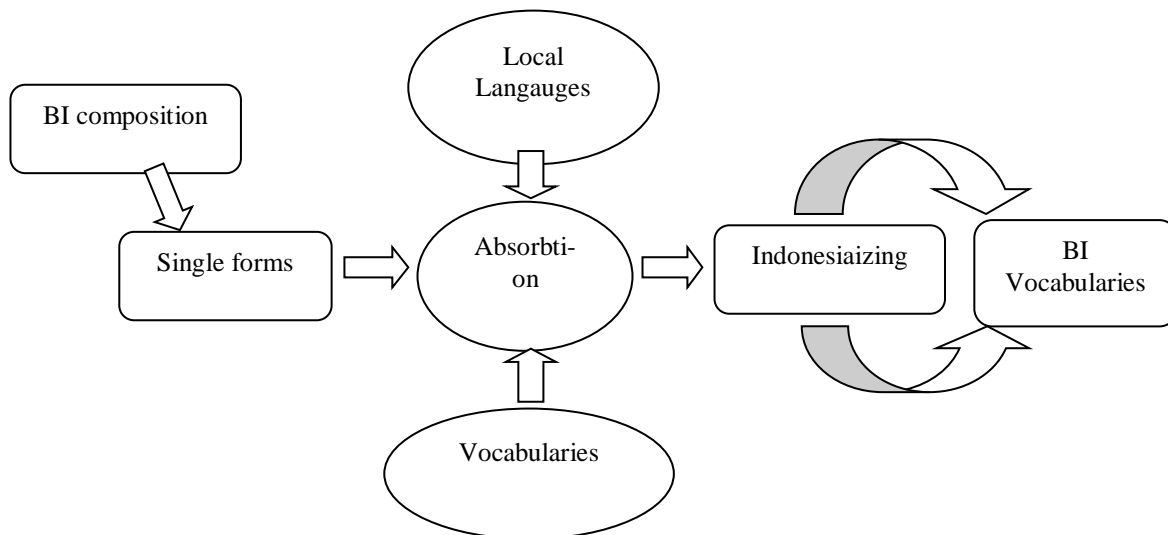


Figure 1. A Composition Change Process of Bahasa Language into single form

### 3.2 The Indonesiaizing Process

In the development of Bahasa Indonesia, indeed most of the terms that have no equivalence in the language are always absorbed from the local and foreign languages. Absorption of foreign vocabulary in history took place *audiologically*. It means that it is tough hearing. Foreigners pronounce certain foreign vocabularies, then the Indonesian people hearing imitate them accordingly. However, speech sounds imitated is adapted to the phonetic system/Indonesian pronunciation. Utpatti in Sanskrit word is pronounced Upeti, *mudharat* in Arabic is pronounced *melarat*. Furthermore, the absorption is progressing to the visual direction. It means that it is based on what is seen in writings (Chaer, 2008). This absorption should be adjusted to the alphabet system or Indonesian spelling. The most important thing is the Absorption of foreign languages should sharpen the uttering power of Indonesian language speakers and should allow people to express their inner intentions precisely and accurately. However, not all of the terms/names that refer to a particular concept are immediately absorbed and

accepted as one forms of the words/terms in Bahasa Indonesia, which is known as Indonesiaizing words and phrases (Sugono, et al., 2003). Indonesiaizing words and phrases of the local and foreign languages is also a basis for changing the composition into a single vocabulary in exposing/representing a noun, verb, and adjective concepts.

The Indonesiaizing process proposed as a concept of changing a composition to be a single form refers to the following patterns.

- The writing system of absorption elements of composition form to be a singular form—in this case, a foreign language pronunciation—is changed accordingly considering the Indonesian form is still comparable to its original form. This is based on the spelling rules applying for absorption elements as for example *aa* (Dutch) becomes *an* in Bahasa Indonesia (*oktaaf* becomes *oktaf*). *Ae* if combined with *e* becomes *e* (*haematite* becomes *hemati*), *e* as an initial *a*, *u*, *o* and consonant they become *k* (*cubik* becomes *kubik*), and so on. However, elements absorbed into Bahasa Indonesia and commonly pronounced in Indonesian way are not necessarily changed.
- The absorption from beyond Latin alphabetical system, such as Arabic, Russian, China should first be transliterated and transcribed into Latin.
- Foreign vocabularies/terms prioritized to be a single form functioning as a composition substituent is an English term used internationally. The foreign vocabularies/terms taken from foreign languages may be in form of base words, roots, or their derivation. Basically, the terms/vocabularies taken are the single forms, except if the contexts tend to be in their plural forms.

Choosing the forms above is always considering (i) situational contexts and sentence boundaries, (ii) the easiness to learn the language, and (iii) its practicality. Another more important thing is to meet the (3) procedures for making terms stated in the *Pedoman Umum Ejaan Bahasa Indonesia yang Disempurnakan (1975)*.

Table 1  
The process of transition composition into the shape of single

Bahasa Indonesia Composition	Absorption		Indonesiaizing	Bahasa Indonesia Vocabularies
	Local languages	Foreign Languages		
<i>Rumah makan</i>	<i>paon</i> (Bali)	-	<i>Paon</i>	<i>Paon</i>
<i>Bibir jalan</i>	<i>talut</i> (Jawa)	-	<i>Talut</i>	<i>Talut</i>
<i>Buah baju</i>	<i>benik</i> (Jawa)	-	<i>Benik</i>	<i>Benik</i>
<i>Kaki meja</i>	<i>caga</i> (Jawa)	-	<i>Caga</i>	<i>Caga</i>
<i>Kepala kampung</i>	<i>dukuh</i> (Jawa)	-	<i>Dukuh</i>	<i>Dukuh</i>
<i>jam bicara</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>anak meja</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>anak kalimat</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>bibir cangkir</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>induk semang</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>mata angin</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>balik nama</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>cuci otak</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>kamar kerja</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>buah pikiran</i>	?	?	?	?
<i>dan seterusnya</i>	?	?	?	?

From the data above, the composition of *rumah makan* has a single form found as an alternative from The Balinese language. The composition of *bibir jalan*, *buah baju*, *kaki meja*, *kepala kampung* consecutively can be changed into single forms to be *tulut*, *benik*, *caga*, *dukuh* taken from the Javanese language as alternatives. Other compositions are used as data for searching their equivalent in local languages. If there is no equivalent composition in local languages, the foreign languages may become another alternative. The question marks (?) in the table mean that there are still possible equivalent composition unfound in the local and foreign languages

Besides the absorption model from local and foreign languages explained above, there is another alternative, namely are by making an agreement to create special vocabularies with certain considerations, such as (i) the easiness to use, and (ii) its practicality. The agreement may be in form of a single type from pattern which was taken either from each part of the lexeme form by adding other components as a marker or by combining two lexemes into one in form of an acronym, as follows.

- a) *buah pikiran* becomes *bupir/bukir*
- b) *ruang bedah* becomes *rudah*
- c) *uang duduk* becomes *angduk*
- d) *bulan madu* becomes *buma/ladu*
- e) *etc.*

However, the determination of an acronym form has no equivalence in Bahasa Indonesia as well as words having good sense and pleasant to hear (*euphonic*). The agreements may also be a direct integration into a single unit of a word, as occurred between the independent forms and the dependent form in relation to the unification. This can be seen in the form of a composite on which by Kridalaksana (2007) is classified into lexemic *kompositum*, as in:

- a) *a-nasional* becomes *anasional*
- b) *adi-buana* becomes *adibuana*
- c) *dis-kualifikasi* becomes *diskualifikasi*
- d) *dwi-bahasa* becomes *dwibahasa*
- e) *eka-sila* becomes *ekasila*
- f) *antar-bangsa* becomes *antarbangsa*
- g) *baku-hantam* becomes *bakuhantam*
- h) *catur-darma* becomes *caturdarma*
- i) *dasa-warsa* becomes *dasawarsa*
- j) *in-konstitusional* becomes *inkonstitusional*
- l) *etc.*

If the pattern above used as a standard, it will make the composition consisting of some lexemes becomes a unit of writing, as in:

- a) *obat nyamuk* may be written *obatnyamuk*
- b) *kuliah subuh* may be written *kuliahsuhuh*
- c) *banyak mulut* may become a single form *banyakmulut*
- d) *besar hati* may become a single form *besarhati*
- e) *etc.*

While an agreement process model suggested in the changing of the composition into a single form can be seen in the following table.

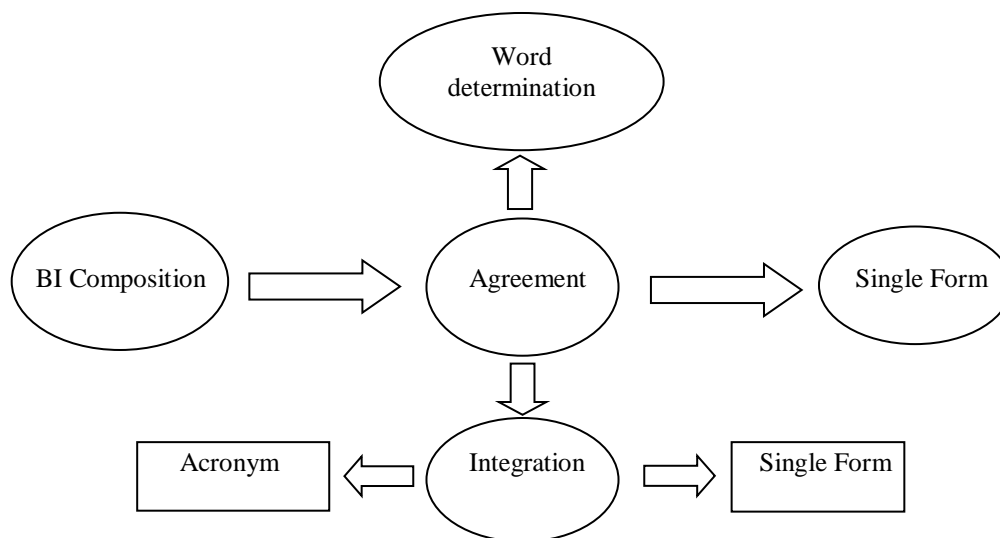


Figure 2. Model Suggested in the Changing of Composition into a Single Form

The Forms above is what suggested as one of the alternatives of the composition changing to be a single form which is rich in Bahasa Indonesia. This meant to interpret the concepts either as a result of absorption of local languages or from other foreign languages or other provisions to be agreed.

#### 4. Conclusion

Composition in Bahasa Indonesia shows the inability of Bahasa Indonesia to produce a word representing a certain concept/name/term (noun, verb, and adjective). To anticipate the abundant development of the composition, one of the suggestions is to find out a single form equivalent in local and foreign languages. Another alternative suggested is an agreement to directly determining words, acronym, or direct integration in its writing. By these alternatives, Bahasa Indonesia is expected, in the usage, to be more efficient and effective, yet still under Bahasa Indonesia rules. Beside that, this process will enrich Bahasa Indonesia's vocabulary in term of a single form carries a concept. This alternative, in another hand, function to strengthen the position and the function of Bahasa Indonesia both nationally and internationally. This proposal is aimed at providing input for language observers and language users to only use one word refers to a concept/name/term to strengthen the development of Bahasa Indonesia.

#### Acknowledgement


Thanks to partner researchers and the congressional committee have provided support.

**References**

- Chaer, A. (2008). *Morfologi bahasa Indonesia: pendekatan proses*. Rineka Cipta.
- Gayo, H., & Widodo, P. (2018). An Analysis of Morphological and Syntactical Errors on the English Writing of Junior High School Indonesian Students. *International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research*, 17(4).
- Kridalaksana, H. (2007). *Kelas Kata* Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Lavoie, M. (2003). The entry draft in the National Hockey League: Discrimination, style of play, and team location. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 62(2), 383-405.
- Ramlan, M. (1983). *Morfologi*. Karyono.
- Sugono, D. (2009). *Mahir Berbahasa Indonesia dengan Benar*. PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Verhaar, J. W. M. (2004). *Principles of General Linguistics*.



**Biography of Author**

	<p>Name : Syarifuddin Date of birth : Labuan Mapin (Sumbawa), 15 Februari 1974 Gender : Male Job : Researcher Reason journaling : To development of science</p>
---	---