

A Morphological Study of Jargon Used in Animation Production in the Facebook Group Professional Animators

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Abstract

This research aims to identify the types of word formation found in jargon used in animation production by animators and to analyze the functions of those word formations. The study employed a descriptive qualitative method to examine the data. In conducting the analysis, the researcher applied Yule's (2010) theory of word formation processes and Klegr's (2019) theory of word formation functions. The data were collected from posts and comments in the Facebook Group Professional Animators from April 21, 2020, to April 11, 2025. The findings revealed 31 jargon terms consisting of 2 conversions, 2 acronyms, 2 blendings, 4 borrowings, 7 derivations, 11 compoundings, and 3 multiple processes. In terms of function, 22 jargon terms were identified as having a naming function, while 9 terms functioned as condensation through nominalization. The study concludes that jargon in the animation industry is predominantly formed through compounding processes, reflecting the need to create specialized terms that are exclusive to the field. Furthermore, the findings indicate that most jargon terms are primarily formed to name new concepts and technical processes within animation production.

Keywords: animation, jargon, word formation

A. Introduction

Language plays an important role in communication within professional communities because it helps members exchange information efficiently and accurately. Nowadays, many communities use specialized vocabulary to identify and simplify communication among their members. These specialized words are often difficult to understand for people outside the community because they contain meanings that are specific to a particular field or profession. At the same time, the use of these terms helps strengthen relationships among members of the same group while distinguishing them from outsiders. These specialized expressions are commonly referred to as jargon.

Jargon is one of the language varieties studied in sociolinguistics. According to Yule (2010), jargon is one of the defining features of register and is closely associated with specific areas of work or interest. Jargon is commonly used to make communication more effective because it

allows speakers to express complex concepts in shorter and more practical forms. Instead of providing lengthy explanations, professionals can communicate efficiently by using technical terms understood within their community. Martinuzzi (2023) explains that jargon can generally be understood in two ways. First, jargon refers to the vocabulary that is peculiar to a particular profession or group, such as legal, scientific, or military language. For example, the military term *AWOL*, meaning “absent without leave,” is widely recognized among military personnel but may not be familiar to the general public. Second, jargon may also refer to language that appears complex, obscure, or difficult to understand for outsiders. An example is the medical term *myocardial infarction*, which is commonly known as a heart attack. These examples show that jargon functions both as a communication tool and as a marker of professional identity.

The writer is particularly interested in studying jargon within the animation industry because animation has become one of the fastest-growing creative industries in recent years. The increasing demand for animation content has created many opportunities for animators and digital creators worldwide. As someone who has experience and interest in the animation field, the writer recognizes that communication among animators frequently involves technical terms that are unique to animation production. These specialized expressions help animators discuss techniques, software, production processes, and creative concepts more efficiently. Therefore, the writer chose jargon used in animation production as the object of this study. Through this research, the writer hopes to expand understanding of animation-related jargon while also providing useful information for readers who are interested in animation and digital creative industries.

To understand how animation jargon is formed, this study focuses on morphology, which is the branch of linguistics that studies word formation and word structure. Fasold and Connor-Linton (2006) explain that words are the smallest independent units of language because they can stand alone and change position within sentences. Meanwhile, Haspelmath and Sims (2020) define morphology as the study of word formation and the ways new words are created in language. Morphology examines morphemes, such as roots, prefixes, and suffixes, which combine to form words and create meaning. Through morphology, researchers can analyze how language develops to accommodate new concepts and specialized terminology.

Word formation is closely related to morphology because it explains the processes through which new words are created. According to Yule (2010), there are several types of word formation processes in English, including borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, coinage, acronyms, derivation, and multiple processes. These processes are frequently used to create technical terms and jargon in professional communities. In animation production, many specialized terms are formed through combinations of words, abbreviations, and derivational processes to describe tools, techniques, and production stages more effectively.

In addition to identifying types of word formation, this study also examines the functions of word formation using Klegr’s (2019) theory. According to Klegr, word formation has several functions, including naming functions, textual functions through pronominalization, condensation through nominalization, and expressing attitude. Among these functions, naming is considered the most essential because new words are often created to label new concepts and phenomena. In technical and professional communities, jargon frequently emerges because existing vocabulary is insufficient to describe newly developed ideas or processes. Therefore, studying word formation functions helps explain not only how jargon is created but also why those terms are necessary within a particular field.

This study specifically examines jargon used in the Facebook Group *Professional Animators*. The group was selected because it contains active discussions among animators related to animation production and professional communication. Through observing posts and comments within the group, the writer identified various jargon terms used by members in daily interaction. The study aims to answer two research questions: (1) What are the types of word formation found

in the selected jargon used in animation production in the Facebook Group *Professional Animators*? and (2) What are the functions of the word formation of the selected jargon used in the Facebook Group *Professional Animators*?

Several previous studies also support this research. Aprihatina (2022) analyzed jargon used on Ol' Pops Coffee's Facebook official account and examined the forms and meanings of jargon using Yule's theory. Putirulan and Harared (2024) studied word formation processes in ticket reservation jargon, while Chulsum (2020) analyzed jargon word formation in online shops. Although these studies share similarities in discussing jargon and word formation using qualitative methods, they focus on different research objects and professional settings. Therefore, this study contributes to previous research by examining jargon specifically within animation production communities in digital social media environments.

B. Method

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method because the data analyzed consisted of descriptive and textual data obtained from online interactions within a professional community. A qualitative approach was considered appropriate because the study focused on identifying and interpreting the forms and functions of jargon used in animation production rather than measuring data statistically. Descriptive qualitative research enables the researcher to analyze language phenomena in their natural context and provide detailed explanations of linguistic forms and meanings.

The study was conducted through textual analysis by observing posts and comments shared in the Facebook Group *Professional Animators*. The group was selected as the research setting because it contains active discussions among animators related to animation production, technical processes, and professional communication. The data consisted of jargon terms used by group members in their interactions from April 21, 2020, until April 11, 2025.

The data collection process was carried out in several stages. First, the researcher observed conversations, posts, and comments within the Facebook group to identify terms related to animation production. Second, the researcher selected jargon terms that frequently appeared in discussions among group members. Third, the identified jargon terms were recorded and classified as research data for further analysis.

In analyzing the data, the researcher applied Yule's (2010) theory of word formation processes to identify the types of word formation found in the jargon terms. In addition, Klegr's (2019) theory of word formation functions was used to analyze the functions of the identified jargon. The collected data were then categorized systematically based on their word formation types and functions. Finally, the researcher interpreted and described the findings in order to answer the research questions and provide a deeper understanding of jargon formation in animation production communication.

C. Findings and Analysis

1. Findings

In answering the statements of the problem, the writer selected jargon used by animators through observing the posts and comments in Facebook Group *Professional Animators* starting from April 21, 2020 until April 11, 2025. From the observation, the writer found and selected 31 jargons used by members in Facebook Group *Professional Animators*. Those jargon terms were then analyzed to find out their types of word formations and their functions of word formations.

From the 31 jargons used by members in the Facebook Group *Professional Animators*, there are 2 conversion word formation, 2 acronym word formation, 2 blending word formation, 4 borrowing word formation, 7 derivation word formation, 11 compounding word formation, and 3 multiple processes word formation. There is no jargon formed through clipping, coinage and backformation. There are 2 conversion word formation (*Rig* and *overlap*), 2 acronym word formation (*FPS* and *FK/IK*), 2 blending word formation (*Animatic* and *mocap*), 4 borrowing word formation (*arcs*, *squash*, *stretch*, and *frame*), 7 derivation word formation (*inbetween*, *timing*, *splining*, *blocking*, *anticipation*, *staging*, and *overshoot*), 11 compounding word formation (*frame rate*, *animation curves*, *frame by frame*, *parent constraint*, *ease in/out*, *pose-to-pose*, *walk-cycle*, *graph editor*, *follow through*, *secondary action*, and *keyframe*), and 3 multiple processes word formation (*lipsync*, *stepped*, and *on twos/on 2s*). The result can be seen in the following table:

Table 1

Types of Word Formation Found in Selected Jargon in the Facebook Group Professional Animator

No	Types of Word Formation	Number
1	Borrowing	4
2	Compounding	11
3	Blending	2
4	Clipping	0
5	Backformation	0
6	Conversion	2
7	Coinage	0
8	Acronyms	2
9	Derivation	7
10	Multiple Process	3
Total		31

Next, among 31 findings, there are 22 findings which have a naming function, and 9 condensation through nominalization. There are no Textual (Pronominalization) functions nor expressing an attitude function. There are 22 naming functions: *animatic*, *frame rate*, *animation curves*, *fps*, *arcs*, *lipsync*, *on 2s/on twos*, *frame by frame*, *parent constraint*, *squash*, *stretch*, *ease in/out*, *pose to pose*, *walk-cycle*, *graph editor*, *overlap*, *follow through*, *fk/ik*, *frame*, *secondary action*, *overshoot*, and *keyframe* and 9 condensation through nominalization: *inbetween*, *timing*, *splining*, *stepped*, *mocap*, *blocking*, *anticipation*, *staging*, and *rig*. The result can be seen in the following table:

Table 4.2

Functions of Word Formation Found in Selected Jargon in the Facebook Group Professional Animator

No	Function of Word Formation	Number
1	Naming Function	22
2	Textual (Pronominalization)	0
3	Condensation Through Nominalization	9
4	Expressing an Attitude	0
Total		31

2. Discussion

In terms of the first research question regarding the types of word formation of the jargons found in the Facebook Group *Professional Animators*, 7 word formation processes emerge. The most dominant word formation process for selected jargons used by members in the Facebook Group *Professional Animators* is compounding, with 11 jargons emerging. It is followed by derivation with a total of 7 jargons. There are very few jargons that were formed through conversion, acronym, and blending, and no jargon formed through coinage and backformation. This shows that jargon in animation often combines words to create words that are exclusive to the field, for example, *pose-to-pose* is a compound of pose, to, and another pose. Jargon in animation also sometimes adds suffixes or prefixes to create words that are exclusive to the field, for example, *inbetween* is from the word *between* and adding the prefix *in-*. Other than that, jargon in animation does not commonly use conversion, acronym, and blending. According to the observation and analysis, there is no jargon formed through clipping, coinage, and backformation in the animation field as well. To conclude, combining words to create animation jargon is common within the animation community.

Comparing this study with the study entitled “Jargon Used on Ol’ Pops Coffee’s Facebook Official Account” by Aprihatina (2022), the study also had compounding as the jargon’s most used word formation. However, this does not mean jargon in general uses compounding the most. In the study entitled “An Analysis Of The Word-Formation Processes In Jargon Used In Ticket Reservation” by Putirulan and Harared (2024), their findings show that the most common word formation used is initials. Then, in the study by Chulsum, I. P. H. (2020) entitled “An Analysis of Word Formation Processes of Jargon Word in Online Shop to Improve Vocabulary”, based on the research results, the borrowing process is the most common process.

From the findings, in addressing the second research question, on the function of word formation of the jargons found in the Facebook Group *Professional Animators*, 2 functions emerge. They are naming functions and condensation through nominalization functions. Most of the words that were formed through the derivational process have undergone condensation through nominalization, though not all of them, because derivation helps change the word class to noun to condense the meaning. Most of the words have naming functions, which highlights the very process of expanding a language to accommodate new ideas and concepts, especially in technical areas.

D. Conclusion

This study examined the use of jargon in animation production within the Facebook Group *Professional Animators* by analyzing the types and functions of word formation found in the

selected jargon terms. The study aimed to identify the word formation processes used in animation jargon and to analyze the functions of those formations. To conduct the analysis, the researcher applied Yule's (2010) theory of word formation processes and Klegr's (2019) theory of word formation functions.

The findings revealed that jargon is widely used within the animation community as a form of specialized communication among animators. From the data collected, the researcher identified 31 jargon terms used by members of the Facebook Group *Professional Animators*. The analysis showed seven types of word formation processes: acronyms, blending, borrowing, compounding, conversion, derivation, and multiple processes. Among these processes, compounding was the most dominant type, with 11 identified jargon terms. This finding indicates that animation jargon is commonly formed by combining words to create technical and field-specific terminology that can be easily understood by members of the animation community.

In terms of word formation functions, the study identified two major functions: naming functions and condensation through nominalization. The naming function appeared most frequently in the data, demonstrating that jargon in animation production is primarily created to name new concepts, techniques, and processes within the field. Meanwhile, condensation through nominalization functions helps simplify communication by transforming complex ideas into concise technical terms.

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