

**AN ANALYSIS ON K-POP FANDOM SLANG WORD-FORMATION  
IN THE DRAMA ‘HER PRIVATE LIFE’**

**Shandina Megarani**

Korean Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia  
*[shandinamegarani@alumni.ui.ac.id](mailto:shandinamegarani@alumni.ui.ac.id)*

**Jelita Dini**

Korean Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia  
*[jelitadini@ui.ac.id](mailto:jelitadini@ui.ac.id)*

**ABSTRACT**

Slang is a language that is used daily and continues to grow due to the development of social media among fan communities. Each fan community has used slang specific to their interests, one of them being the K-Pop fandom. Despite the international growth of the K-Pop fandom and the spread of its cultural influence over recent years, there has been a lack of discussion on the linguistic aspect of its community, on the slang generated and used by its fan community in particular. Therefore, this research aims to expound on how K-Pop fandom slang words found in the drama ‘Her Private Life’ are formed. The study based its theoretical framework on the National Institute of Korean Language’s (2014) classification of new words in Korean based on its word-formation process. Out of the 24 slang words analyzed from the drama ‘Her Private Life’, there are 3 slang words in the form of a single word and 21 slang words in the form of a complex word. In the case of single-word form slang words, all 3 are created through the borrowing process; while complex-word form slang words are mostly created through the blending process, equating to 9 words in total.

**KEYWORDS:** Korean Language, Slang, K-Pop Fandom, Word Formation, Morphology

**INTRODUCTION**

Language is a system of sign, sound, and meaning based on an agreement made by members of the community. As one of the 7 elements of culture, language is not only used to communicate and collaborate but also a tool to conceptualize an identity. According to Suhardi

and Sembiring (2009, p. 47), one feature of language is its variation, or how language is formed, used, and advanced based on its speaker. As time goes by, the language that is used day-to-day continues to develop due to the growth of the internet and social media as a means of communication.

Slang is considered an informal language that points to new words in an existing language and is usually spoken by a certain community or media (Habtay, 2017, p. 10). Social changes motivated by the integration of the internet and the rise of social media users have a great impact on language advancement and its uses in society (Barton and Lee, 2013, p. 3). Slang used in the digital space has become more relevant in recent years because words that are considered slang have made their way into mainstream media such as news reports, marketplaces, television broadcasts, and several other mediums.

Even though the usage of Korean slang words is increasing within society, it is not commonly found in a bilingual dictionary, namely the Korean-Indonesian dictionary, as it does not have a standard equivalent in the target language. This is especially true when it comes to slang that is used by quite prevalent internet communities such as the K-Pop fan community or, as it is now known, the K-Pop fandom. Nancy Baym (2007 in Duffett, 2015, p. 241) defines fandom as a group of people that is organized socially and fused through their collective appreciation of a pop culture object, for instance, music, film, and others like it. Meanwhile, K-Pop is defined by Fuhr in his book, *Globalization and Popular Music in South Korea: Sounding Out K-Pop* (2017, p. 61), as pop songs in Korean that are marketed to a global audience. Despite it being marketed to foreigners, members of the K-Pop fandom in South Korea is also quite prominent and identifies themselves through the use of slang like ‘*deokhu* (덕후)’, ‘*meogeul* (머글)’, ‘*ilko* (일코)’ and more (Lee A., 2019). Those words are manifested as a reflection of K-Pop fandom culture, which is considered unique compared to other communities.

Even with the growth of the K-Pop fandom and the spread of its cultural influence on media internationally over recent years, there has been a lack of discussion on the linguistic aspect of its community, particularly on the slang generated and used by its fan community. Slang that is used by the K-Pop fandom can be found in the drama ‘*Her Private Life*’ (2019). The drama tells the story of Sung Deok-mi, a gallery curator that doubles as a passionate fan of a K-Pop idol. Through the life Deok-mi and her interactions with other characters that are also deemed as a part of, or familiar with the K-Pop fandom, it is evident just how relevant the use of slang is within said community as a means of communication. Therefore, the main focus of this research is to explore K-Pop fandom slang and how it is formed by examining the drama ‘*Her Private Life*’.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Previously, research has been done on the formation of new words and slang words, both in Korean and English, that dealt with the sociolinguistic aspect of the subject matter. Studies by Kim (2016), Jang (2019), and Jang (2011) exemplify a broader scope of inquiry that looks into word-formation processes on new words. Research done by Kim (2016) explores the incorporation of English into new Korean words by assessing the morphemes that form them. This study marks one of the few studies that dissect such topics in English. Meanwhile, Jang (2019) took it a step further, utilizing the National Institute of Korean Language's 2014 'Compilation of New Words' to analyze 4 word-formation processes, in particular, namely derivation, abbreviation, compounding, and blending; in Korean loan-words derived from English. On the other hand, Jang (2011) examines the collocation process of slang used by the online gaming community using data taken from a forum frequented by members of the community.

Roig-Marín (2016), Ulandari (2014), and Ahn and Kiaer (2020) narrowed down the discussion on the formation of slang words by focusing on one particular community, which is fandom; their interactions, and impact. Roig-Marín (2016) chose to center her research on how music fan communities generate a fan-base nickname, by the means of compounding or a derivation of the artists' name, as a form of identity. On the other hand, Ulandari (2014) narrowed the focus down on K-Pop fandom slang words in Indonesian online communities by observing conversations on a related Facebook group. Besides that, Ahn and Kiaer (2020) focused on K-Wave and how the global K-Wave fandom was able to bring Korean words into the English lexicon by examining its formation, usage across social media platforms, and prominence in media. Despite their conclusion that these words are considered translingual words and not entirely new words created exclusively by the K-Wave fandom, they still acknowledge its Korean origin and attribute its increasing use to the K-Wave trend.

This current study can be set apart from the studies mentioned above as it examines Korean slang word formation, strictly focusing on ones generated and utilized by the K-Pop fandom in Korean that is reflected in the drama 'Her Private Life'. Similarities can be drawn to Jang (2011) and Ahn and Kiaer (2020) in that the study focuses on a single community but none has quite captured the K-Pop fandom's productivity when it comes to generating Korean slang words that have now been utilized by the general public. This study focuses on the formation of these words to highlight its impact on the Korean language. In summary, the research aims to contribute a linguistic approach to the K-Pop fandom discourse that recognizes the role K-Pop fandom has in shaping the Korean language, as well as the impact it might have going forward.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **New Words and Slang Words**

The National Institute of Korean Language (2014, p. 8) defined new words as words that are created to express a new concept or object; or a word that already exists but is utilized in a new way, context, or field of expertise. That definition covers a lot of ground since new words are considered to have a wide variety of usage and could easily be understood by anyone. Yet, words that have a less inclusive meaning, specific usage and are only understood by a certain group of people can also be considered as such.

Slang on the other hand, specifically addresses a particular set of words that bounds members of a subculture or social group, which they use to set themselves apart from members of other communities (Ayto and Simpson, 2010, p. ix). Slang could also be considered as a variation of everyday language that reflects the current social condition, behavior, and mind of society (Jang, 2011, p. 272). According to Yoon Ina (2012 in Yu, 2017, p. 11), slang in Korean consists of words that are created to represent a new concept, words that are formed through morphological processes, words that are borrowed from foreign languages, words that are compounded from an already existing word, and existing words that go through a semantic change.

In conclusion, slang words can be seen as a subsection of what is considered new words. Both new words and slang words are inclusive of words that are generated to illustrate a new concept through the process of creation, compounding, abbreviating, or semantic change. However, slang words specify them to only include words used in an everyday setting by a particular community to establish an identity for themselves, thus those words can only be understood by members of said community. In this study, the authors will only focus on slang words used by the K-Pop fandom that can be found in the drama 'Her Private Life'.

### **Morphological Process**

Morphology is the linguistic field that examines word-formation, particularly identifying and analyzing morphemes to highlight the structure of words and their formation (Chaer, 2008, p. 3). Word-formation takes into account the elements that form a word (morpheme and words), the different processes the elements go through (compounding, derivation, abbreviation, and reduplication), and the grammatical meaning of the newly formed word. The formation of slang words is one of the things that can be examined through the lens of morphology. According to Chaer (2008, p. 7), a morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit of language that has meaning and cannot be further divided. There are two kinds of morphemes, which are morphemes that can function on its own, or free morphemes; and morphemes that can only function as a part of a word

as an affix, or bound morphemes. Moreover, Chaer (2008, p. 7) also details the concept of stem and root. Stem refers to the base form of a word before inflectional affixes are attached to the word. Meanwhile, root refers to the form of a word that can no longer be divided into morphemes.

In contrast to the description of Indonesian morphology by Chaer (2008), Lee, Lee, and Chae (1997) explained that there are differences in the concept of stem and root in Korean. Both terms refer to parts of the word that contain meaning and cannot function individually. However, in Korean, the stem (*eogan*) refers to the part that does not change when a sentence ending (*eomi*) is attached, for example, *gongbuha-* (공부하-) in the word *gongbuhada* (공부하다, which means 'learning'). Meanwhile, the root (*eogeun*) refers to the part that contains the core meaning of the word, namely only *gongbu-* (공부-, which means 'learn') when it comes to the same word. In the process of word-formation, the root (*eogeun*) can be considered as the main word-forming element. For example, the root *gongbu-* (공부-) is used when forming the word *gongbu-beolle* (공부벌레, *gongbu* + *beolle*, meaning 'mockery for someone who only spends their free time studying') through the process of compounding.

Additionally, Lee, Lee, and Chae (1997) also pointed out that words in *hanja-eo* (한자어) or Sino-Korean words, which are Korean words of Traditional Chinese origins, is also a great way to exemplify the root concept in Korean. Sino-Korean words typically consist of a single syllable. Even though there are words that can function on its own, for the most part they need to be compounded or derivated with another root to function in a sentence.

### **Korean Word-Formation Classification**

Lee, Lee, and Chae (1997) divides word form into two distinctive types, single words (*danireo*) and complex words (*habseongeo*). Single words are words that are made up of a single free morpheme, for example, *ib* (입, meaning 'mouth') dan *meori* (머리, meaning 'head'). On the other hand, words that are made up of two or more morphemes, be it free or bound, are considered complex words.

Complex words can be further divided into two kinds based on the morpheme used in its formation. The two kinds are compound words (*bokhabeo*) and derivative words (*pasaengeo*). Compound words are words that are formed by combining two or more free morphemes to produce new meaning, ie. *deop-bap* (덮밥, meaning 'rice bowl with topping'), and *neuj-jam* (늦잠, meaning 'sleeping late at night'). Meanwhile, derivative words are words that are formed by attaching a bound morpheme as an affix to a free morpheme. For example, *sagi-kkun* (사기꾼,

meaning ‘swindler’) with the affix *-kkun* (-꾼, meaning ‘someone who is good at a particular thing’) dan *geob-jaengi* (겁쟁이, meaning ‘coward’) with the affix *-jaengi* (-쟁이, meaning ‘someone who has a particular trait’).

In analyzing new words, those two distinct word forms become the basis for a more intricate classification theory proposed by the National Institute of Korean Language (2014) to further examine the formation of new words. The theory in question is published in their annual new words (신어, *sineo*) compilation as follows.

*Table 1*  
 Classification of New Words in Korean based on The Word-Formation Process  
 (Source: Adapted from NIKL, 2014, p. 23)

Word Form	Formation Process	Example
<b>1. Single Words (<i>Daniero</i>)</b>	Creation ( <i>Saengseong</i> )	<i>dudeumchis</i> (두뚝치, meaning ‘dancing to the beat of the song’)
	Borrowing ( <i>Chayong</i> )	<i>selpi</i> (셀피, meaning ‘selfie’)
<b>2. Complex Words (<i>Habseongeo</i>)</b>	<b>a. Compound Words (<i>Bo-khabeo</i>)</b>  General Compounding ( <i>Ilban Habseong</i> )	<i>gomson</i> (곰손, <i>gom</i> + <i>son</i> , meaning ‘clumsy’), <i>meogeulking</i> (머글킹, <i>meogeul</i> + <i>king</i> , meaning ‘celebrities that easily attracts normal people into becoming fans’)
	Blending ( <i>Honseong</i> )	<i>meokstagram</i> (먹스타그램, <i>meokda</i> + Instagram, meaning ‘posting pictures of food on Instagram’), <i>gaentok</i> (가인 +

		kakaotalk, ‘meaning personal message/chat’)
	Abbreviation ( <i>Chukyak</i> )	<i>yeosachin</i> (여사친 <i>yeoja</i> + <i>saram</i> + <i>chingu</i> , meaning ‘female friend’), <i>syong-jang</i> (성장 <i>syueongjang</i> , meaning ‘swimming pool’)
	Prefix Derivation ( <i>Jeopdu Pasaeng</i> )	<i>heosyok</i> (헛욕 <i>heos-</i> + <i>yok</i> , meaning ‘habitual cursing’)
<b>b. Derivative Words (<i>Pa-saengeo</i>)</b>	Suffix Derivation ( <i>Jeopmi Pasaeng</i> )	<i>honbapjok</i> (혼밥족 <i>honja</i> + <i>bap</i> + <i>-jok</i> , meaning ‘people that eating alone’), <i>bumeokpa</i> (부먹파 <i>busda</i> + <i>meokda</i> + <i>-pa</i> , meaning ‘a group that prefers pouring sauce on the food’)

As with Lee, Lee, and Chae (1997), NIKL (2014) started on the 2 basic word forms which are single words and complex words. They then divided single words into 2 different processes, creation (*saengseong*) and borrowing (*chayong*). Creation refers to the process of creating a new word to express a new concept or object. Borrowing refers to the process of adopting a word from a foreign language through assimilation, in which sounds produced by the word are changed to a similar sound in Korean.

In the formation of complex words, compound words can be attributed to 3 different formation processes, while derivative words are made up of 2 processes. The 3 processes that make up a compound word are general compounding (*ilban habseong*), blending (*honseong*), and abbreviation (*chukyak*). General compounding refers to the process of combining two or more roots as it is. Blending refers to the process of joining a part of two different words, usually a

clipped syllable from each of the words. Lastly, abbreviation refers to the process of shortening a

word, phrase, or sentence. On the contrary, the 2 processes that make up derivative words are the addition of a prefix to a word or prefix derivation (*jeopdu pasaeng*), and the addition of a suffix to a word or suffix derivation (*jeopmi pasaeng*).

The classification put forth by NIKL (2014) and Lee, Lee, and Chae (1997) are generally based on the same idea of two basic word forms. Even so, NIKL (2014) further elaborated those two forms into 7 different word-formation processes that pinpoint distinct characteristics in new words, and therefore slang words, that might not be present in a standard morphological process. An example of these characteristics is the incorporation of foreign languages and the mixture of it with Korean to form a slang word. In this study, the authors will be using the National Institute of Korean Language's classification (2014) as a method to classify the slang words identified in the research.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research takes an analytical descriptive approach, utilizing a dialog dictation method to analyze the K-Pop fandom slang found in the drama 'Her Private Life', which highlights the life of a K-Pop fan. The authors will review all 16 episodes of the drama while taking note of instances of K-Pop fandom slang usage in both character dialog and captions on screen, then identifying the slang words used most often. Those words will then be classified based on the National Institute of Korean Language's classification of new words in Korean based on its word-formation process (2014).

To anticipate slang words that have a very specific usage and refer to a niche action or activity done by the K-Pop fandom, the authors will also delve into the meaning of the slang words and morphemes that form it. The added explanation will also help clarify the word-formation process as some of the words do not have a standard equivalent in English. The meaning of all the slang words and morphemes will be taken from the digital dictionary *Urimalsaem* (*우리말샘*), managed by The National Institute of Korean Language, for the Korean words; Merriam-Webster for the English words, and supplementary information from related studies done previously. Furthermore, the authors will also include the romanization of the Korean words analyzed in this research, using The National Institute of Korean Language's *hangeul* romanization system as a guideline.

## **SLANG WORD-FORMATION IN THE DRAMA 'HER PRIVATE LIFE'**

Through the identification process, the authors were able to note 24 K-Pop fandom slang words that appear throughout 16 episodes of the drama 'Her Private Life', in the dialog of



characters a part of or familiar with the K-Pop fandom. Those 24 words are *Deokhu* (덕후), *Deok-jil* (덕질), *Seong-deok* (성덕), *Tal-deok* (탈덕), *Ib-deok* (입덕), *Hyu-deok* (휴덕), *Deok-mingaus* (덕밍아웃), *Deok-eob-ilchi* (덕업일치), *Deok-tongsago* (덕통사고), *Choe-ae* (최애), *Meogeul* (머글), *Il-ko* (일코), *Hom-ma* (홈마), *Anbang-paen* (안방팬), *Sasaeng-paen* (사생팬), *Ppa-suni* (빠순이), *Jjin-paen* (찐팬), *Seongji-sunlye* (성지순례), *Paen-ssa* (팬싸), *Paen-miting* (팬미팅), *Paen-kape* (팬카페), *Paenkeulleob* (팬클럽), *I-seon-jwa* (이선좌), and *Yusa-yeonae* (유사연애). These words are chosen based on the frequency of usage and occurrence in the drama.

Based on the slang word-formation analysis done through the use of NIKL (2014) classification, there are 3 slang words in the form of a single word and 21 slang words in the form of a complex word. The word-formation processes found include borrowing, general compounding, blending, abbreviation, prefix derivation, and suffix derivation. The only process not found based on the classification is the process of creation. The analysis process of the 24 K-Pop fandom slang words identified can be summed through the table below.

*Table 2*  
 Classification of Slang Words in the Drama ‘Her Private Life’

Word Form	Formation Process	No. of Words	Slang Words
	Creation ( <i>Saengseong</i> )	0	-
1. Single Words ( <i>Danireo</i> )	Borrowing  ( <i>Chayong</i> )	3	<i>Deokhu</i> (덕후),  <i>Meogeul</i> (머글),  <i>Paenkeulleob</i> (팬클럽)
2. Complex Words ( <i>Habseongeo</i> )	a. Compound Words ( <i>Bokhabeo</i> )	5	<i>Yusa-yeonae</i> (유사연애),  <i>Seongji-sunlye</i> (성지순례), <i>Anbang-paen</i> (안방팬), <i>Paen-</i>

			miting (판미팅), Paen-kape (판카페)
			Deok-tongsago (덕통사고), Deok-mingaus (덕밍아웃), Il-ko (일코), Hom-ma (홈마), Ib-deok (입덕), Tal-deok (탈덕), Hyu-deok (휴덕), Paen-ssa (판싸), Jjin-paen (짚뽕)
	Blending (Honseong)	9	
	Abbreviation (Chukyak)	4	Seong-deok (성덕), Deok-eob-ilchi (덕업일치), Sasaeng-paen (사생뽕), I-seon-jwa (이선좌)
<b>b. Derivative Words</b> (Pasaengeo)	Prefix Derivation (Jeopdu Pasaeng)	1	Choe-ae (최애)
	Suffix Derivation (Jeopmi Pasaeng)	2	Ppa-suni (빠순이), Deok-jil (덕질)

### Single-Word Form Slang Words

The analysis result shows that there are 3 single-word form slang words are all formed

through the borrowing process, which are *deokhu* (덕후), *meogeul* (머글) dan *paenkeulleob* (팬클럽). Those three words are considered borrowed single words as they function individually as a single free morpheme that is derived from a foreign language, English and Japanese in particular (NIKL, 2014).

- (1) a. 御宅 (otaku) → 오덕후 (odeokhu) → 덕후 (deokhu)  
b. Muggle → 머글 (meogeul)  
c. Fan^club → 팬클럽 (paenkeulleob)

The words listed on (1) are adopted into Korean by providing syllabic equivalents to have a similar sound. For example, the word *otaku*, which means 'a fanatic, passionate fan'. When adopted into Korean, it is adapted to the closest syllabic equivalent and became *odeokhu* (오덕후) (Lee S., 2016). When in use or a combination to form a complex word, *odeokhu* (오덕후) is often shortened to *deokhu* (덕후) or *deok* (덕), which are more widely known by the K-Pop fandom. This is an example of a monosyllabic segmentation in Korean (Lee S., 2016). In use, *deokhu* (덕후) tends to have a neutral connotation, in contrast to other slang words that refer to fans of a certain thing, especially K-Pop fans.

Next, we have the word *meogeul* (머글) which is adapted from the English new word found in the 'Harry Potter' fictional universe. As with the previous word, the word 'muggle' also went through a syllabic adjustment that equates it to *meogeul* (머글) in Korean. This word is initially used as a term for someone who is not of a magical bloodline. K-Pop fans took that term and adapted it to the context of the fandom and used it to refer to someone who is not a fan or not familiar with the K-Pop fandom. *Meogeul* (머글) is synonymous with someone who doesn't know which idols are currently popular and doesn't follow the trends related to K-Pop.

*Paenkeulleob* (팬클럽) is also another word adopted from English. Despite it being written separately in English, the word 'fan club' often functions as one word that forms a new meaning or morpheme and is noted as so in the dictionary. The new meaning in question is 'a fan

community group'. As a loanword, 'fan club' has become a new morpheme so that *paenkeulleob* (팬클럽) is considered a singular word. The word *paenkeulleob* (팬클럽) in the context of the K-

Pop fandom refers to a specific idol or group's fandom that usually has its own officially assigned name.

### Complex-Word Form Slang Words

Complex words are words formed by combining more than one morpheme, be it free morpheme or bound morpheme (Lee, Lee, & Chae, 1997). Complex words are divided into two, compound words and derivative words. One of the word-formation processes that form a compound word is general compounding (*ilban habseong*) that combines two free morphemes as it is (NIKL, 2014).

- (2) a. 유사 (yusa) + 연애 (yeonae) → 유사-연애 (yusa-yeonae)
- b. 성지 (seongji) + 순례 (sunlye) → 성지-순례 (seongji-sunlye)
- c. 안방 (anbang) + Fan → 안방-팬 (anbang-paen)
- d. Fan + Meeting → 팬-미팅 (paen-miting)
- e. Fan + Cafe → 팬-카페 (paen-kape)

The general compounding process combines two free morphemes, in Korean or other foreign languages, without segmenting or clipping syllables. For example, the word *yusa-yeonae* (유사연애) that is a combination of the free morpheme *yusa* (유사, meaning 'similar') and *yeonae* (연애, meaning 'dating'). K-Pop fans usually use this word to describe 'an obsessive and possessive relationship between a fan and an idol', comparing it to how people usually are when they are dating each other. This relationship is not only carried out by fans one-sidedly but could also be triggered by an idol's behavior like giving fans nicknames and affectionate words that play into the fantasy of having a boyfriend or girlfriend.

Such with the word *yusa-yeonae* (유사연애), the word *seongji-sunlye* (성지순례) is a combination of the free morpheme *seongji* (성지, meaning 'a place with religious relics') and *sunlye* (순례, meaning 'visit a place that is considered sacred in one's belief'). The combination

of those two morphemes does already exist in the Korean vocabulary, but new meanings emerge when they are used as slang for K-Pop fandom. The word is defined as 'pilgrimage' or traveling long distances to carry out religious worship. However, in the context of the K-Pop fandom, this

word can be interpreted as 'visiting places that have been visited by one's favorite idol'. An explanation of the new meaning of the word *seongji-sunlye* (성지순례) can be seen in the word definition on the screen found in episode 1 as below.

(성지순례: 좋아하는 아이돌이 다녀간 장소를 다니며 흔적을 찾는 팬투어의 일정)

Free Translation:

(*Seongjisunlye*: to come experience several places that have been visited by one's favorite idol, a scheduled fan-tour)

(Source: Her Private Life, 2019, Episode 1)

Conversely, The word *anbang-paen* (안방팬) is made up of two words from two respective languages, the Korean free morpheme *anbang* (안방, meaning 'living room' or 'bedroom') and *paen*, which is adapted from the English word 'fan'. When combined, the word *anbang-paen* (안방팬) means "a fan who only supports and cheers on their idol through television", which goes against the common stereotype of fans. Usually, *anbang-paen* (안방팬) is synonymous with fans who only consume content issued by their idols such as songs and variety shows, but do not actively participate in the fandom. It can be seen that the two meanings of the words *anbang* (안방) and 'fan' are combined in their entirety, even though these words come from different languages.

Next, there is the word *paen-miting* (팬미팅) that is the combination of two English words, which are the free morphemes 'fan' and 'meeting'. The two words in English commonly are not used in tandem, contrary to the word 'fan club' or *paenkeulleob* (팬클럽) which is often used in English. Therefore, this word is considered as a word formed through the general compounding process and not borrowing. *Paen-miting* (팬미팅) can be interpreted as an 'interactive fan event' or a music concert on a smaller scale with a shorter duration. Compared to concerts, *paen-miting* (팬미팅) events allow idols and fans to interact through question and answer sessions, games with

fan participation, or group photo sessions rather than just performances.

Besides the word *paen-miting* (팬미팅), *paen-kape* (팬카페) is another word that is a combination of two English words that are not usually used together in its native language. *Paen-kape* (팬카페) is made up of the free morphemes ‘fan’ and ‘cafe’, which when combined in Korean means ‘a website that is used as a means of communication between fans and idols’. The word ‘cafe’ in English tends to imply a place where people gather and mingle among the youths thus that implication is imbued into the word *paen-kape* (팬카페). *Paen-kape* (팬카페) is generally found in the form of a forum used by K-Pop idols and their management team as their main two-way communication and announcement platform.

Subsequently, there is the process of blending or the combination of segments from two different words (NIKL, 2014). Of the 24 slang words in the drama ‘Her Private Life’, 9 words are formed through this process.

- (3) a. 오덕후 (odeokhu) + 교통사고 (gyotongsago) → 덕-통사고 (deok-tongsago)
- b. 오덕후 (odeokhu) + coming out → 덕-밍아웃 (deok-mingaus)
- c. 일반인 (ilbanin) + 코스프레 (koseupeure) → 일-코 (il-ko)
- d. homepage + master → 홈페이지 (hompeiji) + 마스터 (maseuteo)  
→ 홈-마 (hom-ma)
- e. 입 (ib) + 오덕후 (odeokhu) → 입-덕 (ib-deok)
- f. 탈 (tal) + 오덕후 (odeokhu) → 탈-덕 (tal-deok)
- g. 휴 (hyu) + 오덕후 (odeokhu) → 휴-덕 (hyu-deok)
- h. fan + sign + 회 (hoe) → 팬 (paen) + 사인-회 (sain-hoe) → 팬-싸 (paen-ssa)
- i. 진짜 (jinjja) + fan → 찐 (jjin) + 팬 (paen) → 찐-팬 (jjin-paen)

The first word formed from the blending process is *deok-tongsago* (덕통사고). It can be seen that a segment of the word *odeokhu* (오덕후) is combined with a segment of the word *gyotongsago* (교통사고, meaning ‘traffic accident’). *Deok-tongsago* (덕통사고) can be interpreted as ‘the first time a fan unexpectedly starts liking his idol, like an accident’. Fans usually discover their favorite idols through accidentally coming upon photos or videos of said idol, which is the start of their spiral into exploring details about the idol. Thus, the spontaneous feeling of

affection that arises is likened to a traffic accident.

Second, there is the word *deok-mingaus* (덕밍아웃), a combination a segment of the word *odeokhu* (오덕후) in Korean and ‘coming out’ in English. Similar to the word *deok-tongsago* (덕통사고), this word substitutes the initial syllable in ‘coming out’ with the middle syllable in *odeokhu* (오덕후), namely *deok* (덕) in the process of formation. The word *deok-mingaus* (덕밍아웃) can be defined as ‘to reveal oneself as a passionate fan of a specific thing to those around them’. Some people still look at K-Pop fans in a negative light as they only know the dark side of K-pop fans, such as their obsessive behavior. Therefore, most fans are afraid to show their love for K-Pop idols. For a big-time K-Pop fan, this is likened to a sexual minority revealing one’s sexual identity, so they use the word ‘coming out’ to express such a feeling.

Inverse to fans who reveal their identity to others, some fans hide their passions. These fans do something called *il-ko* (일코). The word *il-ko* (일코) consists of a segment of the word *ilbanin* (일반인, meaning ‘ordinary person’) and a segment of the word ‘cosplay’ (meaning ‘to dress up like a fictional character’). However, the word cosplay, which was originally in English, has been absorbed into Korean slang and is given a syllabic equivalent, *koseupeure* (코스프레). In the context of K-Pop fans, the *il-ko* (일코) means ‘hiding one’s hobby as a fan of something and trying to blend in with ordinary people’. K-Pop fans likened their need to blend in with ordinary people as a form of cosplay because for them it is almost the same as a fictional character who is very different from who they really are.

The word *hom-ma* (홈마) is a combination of two English words, ‘homepage’ and ‘master’, which has been absorbed into respective words in Korean. ‘homepage’ (meaning ‘website’) specifically refers to a web page that includes personal hobbies, organizational work, or publicity content as a loanword in Korean. On the other hand, ‘master’ (meaning ‘someone who has control over something’), in the context of a website, refers to the site administrator.

The two words are absorbed into Korean then further shortened to *hom-ma* (홈마), which is formed from the combination of a segment of *hompeiji* (홈페이지) and a segment of *maseuteo* (마스터). When associated with the context of K-Pop fans, *hom-ma* (홈마) is considered a term for ‘fans who often upload photos or videos of their idols to the internet’, especially on social media accounts or special websites specially made for it. *Hom-ma* (홈마) is also known as the

prime influencer of the K-Pop fandom, who often organizes mass fan support initiatives in the

form of birthday gifts, donations on behalf of idols, or an idol photo exhibitions.

Next, there are *ib-deok* (입덕), *tal-deok* (탈덕), and *hyu-deok* (휴덕). These three words represent the result of the blending process that is formed with a segment of *odeokhu* (오덕후) and describes a fan's experiences in phases. As previously explained, words that are adopted from Traditional Mandarin or *hanja-eo* (한자어) mostly consist of a single-syllable root (Lee, Lee, and Chae, 1997). *Hanja-eo* roots cannot function as a standalone and must be combined with other root to form an independent word.

*Ib-deok* (입덕) is a combination of the word *ib* (입, meaning 'enter') and *odeokhu* (오덕후). The word itself can be defined as 'entering the fandom, becoming a fan of something'.

In contrast to *ib-deok* (입덕), the word *tal-deok* (탈덕) is the combination of the word *tal* (탈, meaning 'exit, leave') and *odeokhu* (오덕후). Hence, the meaning of the resulting word refers to 'quitting the fandom, stop being a fan of something'. In addition, there is also the word *hyu-deok* (휴덕), a combination of the word *hyu* (휴, meaning 'rest') and *odeokhu* (오덕후). When combined, the resulting word can be defined as 'taking a break from the fandom'.

Another form of blending that is evident in the data is the joining of words that have had a vocal or consonant elimination, namely found in the word *paen-ssa* (팬싸) and *jjin-paen* (찐팬). The word *paen-ssa* (팬싸) is formed through the combination of three distinct segments of a word, which are 'fan' and 'sign' in English, as well as *hoe* (회, meaning 'event') in Korean. These three words make up the word *paen-sain-hoe* (팬사인회) that can be interpreted as 'an album autograph event, more exclusive than a concert and *paen-miting* (팬미팅)'.

Nevertheless, *paen-sain-hoe* (팬사인회) is further shortened into *paen-ssa* (팬싸), particularly the segment *sain-hoe* (사인회) which is compressed into *ssa* (싸). This is due to the tendency for foreign loanwords that are adopted into Korean to be written based on their pronunciation rather than matched to its alphabetical form (Lee, Lee, & Chae, 1997). Some words are transcribed with an emphasis on sounds made by the letter 'S' thus it uses the *hangeul* equivalent for such pronunciation, 'ㅅ' or 'ss'. For example, the word 'something', which when transcribed as a loanword becomes *sseomdding* (썸딩).



The word *jjin-paen* (찐팬), is formed through a similar process, combining a segment of the word *jinjja* (진짜, meaning ‘really’) and ‘fan’. *Jjin* (찐) comes from the word *jinjja* which is shortened to a single syllable (Lee J., 2019). The word when combined with fan, means ‘fan who likes everything about said thing’. In the context of K-Pop fandom, the word *jjin-paen* (찐팬) can be defined as ‘fans who know everything about the idol they like or does not favor only a single member within a group, rather liking all the members’. Not only that, but *jjin-paen* (찐팬) is also synonymous with fans who have liked a certain idol for a very long time, usually since the idol debuted.

- (4) a. 성공한 덕후 (*seonggongghan deokhu*) → 성-덕 (*seong-deok*)
- b. 덕질과 직업이 일치한다 (*deokjilgwa jigeobi ilchihanda*) → 덕-업-일치 (*deok-eob-ilchi*)
- c. 사생활을 침해하는 팬 (*sasaenghwaleul chimhaehaneun paen*) → 사생-팬 (*sa-saeng-paen*)
- d. 이미 선택된 좌석 (*imi seontaekdoen jwaseok*) → 이-선-좌 (*i-seon-jwa*)

The subsequent process is abbreviation, which is the shortening of a word, phrase, or sentence into a word form (NIKL, 2014). The four words that fall into this classification are *seong-deok* (성덕), *deok-eob-ilchi* (덕업일치), *sasaeng-paen* (사생팬), and *i-seon-jwa* (이선좌). *Seong-deok* (성덕) is a shortened form of the noun-phrase ‘*seonggongghan odeokhu*’ (성공한 덕후). *Seonggongghan* which comes from the word *seonggonghada* (성공하다) meaning ‘successful’, while *odeokhu* (오덕후) means ‘a passionate fan’ thus when combined, the resulting word means ‘a successful fan, someone who dedicates time onto their chosen field and becomes an expert on it’. Success for K-Pop fans is equated to getting the idol's attention or getting the opportunity to meet them.

Next, the word *deok-eob-ilchi* (덕업일치) is a shortened form of the sentence ‘*deokjilgwa jigeobi ilchihanda.*’ (덕질과 직업이 일치한다.). *Deok-eob* (덕업) is the shortened form of *deokjilgwa jigeob* (덕질과 직업, meaning ‘fangirling and work’) which is then combined with *ilchihada* (일치하다, meaning ‘coinciding’). When combined, these sentences mean ‘fangirling and work coinciding’, such as meeting a favorite idol in a professional setting and working

together on a project. Fans use this phrase to remind themselves to stay professional even when faced with jobs related to their hobbies.

On the other hand, *sasaeng-paen* (사생팬) is shortened form that broadly covers the meaning of the noun-phrase ‘*sasaenghwareul chimhaehaneun paen*’ (사생활을 침해하는 팬), which means ‘a fan that breached an idol's privacy’. Said phrase is made up of *sasaenghwal* (사생활, meaning ‘privacy’), *chimhaehaneun* which comes from the word *chimhada* (침하다, meaning ‘breach’), and *paen* (팬, ‘fan’). Usually, fans who are called *sasaeng-paen* (사생팬) are fans who stalk their idols daily and attend activities that are not announced or held publicly. In

fact, some of them also tried to harm their favorite idols to be remembered and recognized by the idol.

Lastly, the word *i-seon-jwa* (이선좌) is the abbreviation of the noun-phrase ‘*imi seontaekdoen jwaseok*’. The phrase is made up of *imi* (이미, meaning ‘already’), *seontaekdoen* which comes from the word *seontaekdoeda* (선택되다, meaning ‘chosen, taken’), and *jwaseok* (좌석, meaning ‘seat’). The resulting word roughly translates to ‘the seat you have chosen has already been booked’. This phrase is commonly found in the process of buying concert tickets or similar events, moreover by K-Pop fans when they repeatedly encounter pop-up screens with this very sentence as the tickets have all sold out.

Aside from compound words, there are also words formed through derivation or the process of forming words by combining free morphemes with bound morphemes, which are commonly referred to as affixes (Lee, Lee, & Chae, 1997). Derivative words include two formation processes based on the placement of affixes, prefix derivation and suffix derivation. Based on the 24 words that have been identified, there are 1 prefix-derived word and 2 suffix-derived words.

(5) 최- (choe-) + 애 (ae) → 최-애 (choe-ae)

(6) a. 오빠-부대 (oppa-budae) + -순이 (-suni) → 빠-순이 (ppa-suni)

b. 오덕후 (odeokhu) + -질 (-jil) → 덕-질 (deok-jil)

*Choe-ae* (최애) is a prefix derived word that combines the bound morpheme *choe-* (최-, meaning ‘the most’) and the free morpheme *ae* (애, meaning love, affection’). The morpheme *ae*

comes from *hanja-eo* thus the meaning ‘love, affection’ is contained in just a single syllable. In the context of K-Pop fandom, *choe-ae* (최애) means ‘one’s favorite idol or member in a group’. Usually, K-Pop idol groups consist of 3 or more members, so K-Pop fans use this term to refer to the member they like the most. The word *choe-ae* (최애) has also expanded its meaning and can be used to describe other things such as one's favorite food or favorite place.

In contrast to *choe-ae* (최애), the word *ppa-suni* (빠순이) is a suffix derived word that combines the monosyllabic segment *ppa* (빠) that represents the word *oppa-budae* (오빠부대, meaning ‘a group of fans that supports their favorite idol’) with the bound morpheme *-suni*. *Oppa-budae* (오빠부대) itself is a slang iteration that over time has narrowed in meaning. This is achieved through the addition of suffixes that denotes the gender of the fan, forming words such as *ppa-suni* (빠순이) and *ppa-dori* (빠돌이) that denotes a teenage girl and teenage boy, respectively (Lee S., 2016, p. 56).

When the word *oppa-budae* (오빠부대) and the suffix *-suni* (-순이) are combined, the meaning of *oppa-budae* (오빠부대) is narrowed to ‘a group of female fans that avidly supports their favorite idol’ (Lee S., 2016, p. 56). The segmentation of the syllable *ppa* (빠) is representative of *oppa-budae* (오빠부대) as a whole and is not simply a segment from the word *oppa* (오빠). This fact becomes clear when examining the object-subject structure of *oppa-budae* (오빠부대), seeing as *oppa* (오빠, meaning ‘a term used by a woman to call an older male figure’) is the object of *budae*’s (부대, meaning ‘a group of fans’) affection. Thus, it proves that separating *oppa* (오빠) from the bigger context of *oppa-budae* (오빠부대) would render the meaning of *ppa-suni* (빠순이) incomprehensible.

Meanwhile, according to Lee S. (2016, p. 56), the suffix *-suni* is originally considered a slang word, yet in its usage resembles a bound morpheme. However, in the *우리말샘 Urimalsaem* dictionary managed by the National Institute of Korea, under the entry *-suni* (-순이), it is classified as a bound morpheme. In the formation of present-day slang words, the word functions more as an affix attached to a free morpheme to add the meaning of ‘a woman that displays a certain trait’ or ‘a woman that likes a particular thing’. An example would be the suffix *-suni* in the word *juk-suni* (죽순이, meaning ‘a woman who has stayed in the same place for a long period’) and *jib-*

*sun* (집순이, meaning ‘a woman who happens to be a homebody’).

Besides that, the word *deok-jil* (덕질) is also a suffix derived word, form through the combination of the free morpheme *odeokhu* (오덕후) and the bound morpheme *-jil* (-질, meaning ‘an action or behavior that is usually frowned upon’). When *odeokhu* (오덕후) is attached with said affix, the meaning of ‘a fanatic, passionate fan’ thus becomes ‘fangirling, passionately fawning over an idol’ (Lee S., 2016, p. 65). The word *deok-jil* (덕질) is usually used as a verb and describes the activities of idol fans in general such as watching concerts, listening to idol songs, and other initiatives that help the idol reach success. However, there are times when this word is

also used by groups of people who do not understand the purpose of fan activities in general, to demean and look down on K-Pop fans.

Thus, it can be concluded that slang words are divided into two based on their shape, slang words are in the form of single words and complex words. Single-word form slang words can be divided into 2 processes, namely creation (*saengseong*) and borrowing (*chayong*). all 3 single-word form slang words are considered as slang words formed through borrowing. Meanwhile, complex-word form slang words can be divided into 5 formation processes, namely, general compounding (*ilban hapseong*), blending (*honseong*), abbreviation (*chukyak*), prefix derivation (*jeopdu pasaeng*), and suffix derivation (*jeopmi pasaeng*). Out of the 21 complex-word form slang words, there are 5 general compounded words, 9 blended words, 4 abbreviated words, 1 prefix-derived word, and 2 suffix-derived words.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, 3 single-word form and 21 complex-word form slang words were found from 24 samples of K-Pop fandom-related slang words in the drama ‘Her Private Life’. The two forms of words are then detailed based on NIKL’s 7 new word-formation processes (2014). When referring to this classification, only 6 out of 7 word-formation processes were identified, namely borrowing (*chayong*), general compounding (*ilban habseong*), blending (*honseong*), abbreviation (*chukyak*), prefix derivation (*jeopdu pasaeng*), and suffix derivation (*jeopmi pasaeng*).

Among the 24 words analyzed, there were no words formed through the creation process (*saengseong*), specifically words that are created to communicate new concepts. Of the 6 processes found, the blending (*honseong*) process had the highest number of words, 9 out of the 24 words analyzed. Meanwhile, the prefix derivation (*jeopdu pasaeng*) process has the lowest number of

words, which is 1 in 24 words. However, the amount of words in each word-formation classification does not represent the overall ratio of Korean slang word-formation processes because this study only examines the slang words found in the drama 'Her Private Life'. Thus it can be concluded that morphologically, the Korean K-Pop fandom slang words analyzed in this study were formed through the process of adopting loanwords; combining existing words, in whole or segments; abbreviations of a phrase or sentence; and the attachment of a prefix or suffix to a word.

One of the unique traits of Korean slang word-formation that was found through this study is the use of a monosyllabic segment to represent a whole concept, usually using the middle syllable. For example, the segmentation of the words *odeokhu* (오덕후) and *oppa-budae* (오빠부대) which are used in both single and complex word-formation. The segmentation of the word *odeokhu* (오덕후), occurs in blending (*honseong*), abbreviation (*chukyak*), and derivation (*pasaeng*) in the form of *deok* (덕). Likewise, the *ppa* (빠) segment which represents the word *oppa-budae* (오빠부대) can be found in the word *ppa-suni* (빠순이) formed through derivation (*pasaeng*). This process is one of the unique traits of the slang formation described in this study because the words studied all related to the K-Pop fandom thus words that refer to fans have a greater role, especially *odeokhu* (오덕후). There are 8 out of 24 words that use the *deok* (덕) in its formation, while only 1 word uses the *ppa* (빠) in its formation.

The authors experience limitations in conducting this research, namely the sample slang words that can be considered minimal and very specific to their time period. It is possible that this research can be continued by examining a larger sample of Korean slang words in different mediums or a later time frame. Besides that, the classification of new words theory used only includes morphological formation, while there are words that also undergo phonological changes, such as the segmentation of the middle syllable thus the authors hope that in the future there will be a theory that puts other factors into consideration. The authors hope that further research can examine in detail the correlation between the phonological processes that occur simultaneously with the morphological process in Korean slang word-formation.

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