

Morphological Flexibility and Acronym Phenomena: A Comparative Study of Arabic Language and Indonesian Language

مرونة الصرف وظواهر الاختصارات

دراسة مقارنة بين اللغة العربية واللغة الإندونيسية

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Abstract

This study compares the phenomenon of acronyms in Arabic and Indonesian, emphasizing the role of morphological typology in the productivity of acronym formation. Using a qualitative descriptive approach and comparative methods, data was collected from an online corpus covering official texts, mass media, and academic documents. The results of the analysis show that the concatenative morphological flexibility of Indonesian allows for the formation of varied and productive acronyms, while the non-concatenative morphology of Arabic limits innovation, resulting in fewer acronyms that are heavily influenced by derivative patterns and foreign loanwords. These findings confirm that morphological structure has a direct influence on communication efficiency strategies and opens up opportunities for further corpus-based research.

Keywords: *Acronym; Morphology; Arabic; Indonesian; Linguistic Typology*

الملخص
تقارن هذه الدراسة ظاهرة الاختصارات في اللغتين العربية والإندونيسية، مع التركيز على دور النمط الصرفي في إنتاجية تكوين الاختصارات. وقد استخدم في البحث المنهج الوصفي النوعي والطريقة المقارنة، وجمعت البيانات من المدونة الإلكترونية التي تضم النصوص الرسمية ووسائل الإعلام الجماهيرية والوثائق الأكاديمية. أظهرت نتائج التحليل أن المرونة الصرفية التركيبية في اللغة الإندونيسية تتيح إمكانية تكوين اختصارات متنوعة ومنتجة، بينما تقيد البنية الصرفية غير التركيبية في اللغة العربية مجالات الابتكار، مما يؤدي إلى قلة

الاختصارات التي يغلب عليها التأثير بالأوزان الاشتقاقية والدخيل الأجنبي. وتؤكد هذه النتائج أن البنية الصرفية تؤثر تأثيراً مباشراً في استراتيجيات كفاءة التواصل، كما تفتح آفاقاً جديدةً للبحوث القائمة على المدونات اللغوية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الاختصار؛ الصرف؛ اللغة العربية؛ اللغة الإندونيسية؛ النمط اللغوي.

INTRODUCTION

Acronyms represent one of the linguistic phenomena that mark the dynamic development of modern languages. Their existence is closely related to the need for concise, efficient communication that can be easily adapted to the contexts of globalization and technological advancement. Through acronyms, the process of information delivery can take place more rapidly while simultaneously reflecting the speaker's creativity in adapting language to the demands of a changing era.

One of the main factors underlying the emergence of acronyms is the principle of linguistic economy. Acronyms serve as a strategy to save time, space, and effort in the communication process—both oral and written. This phenomenon aligns with the concept of the “law of least effort,” that is, the human tendency to find the simplest way to convey a message (Minyar-Beloroucheva et al., 2019).

In addition, the dynamics of globalization and technological progress have accelerated both the dissemination and creation of acronyms across languages and cultures. The internet, social media, and patterns of global communication have turned acronyms into a practical tool widely used in various fields, such as mass media, business, technology, and everyday social interaction (Padate, 2024).

Beyond their practical function, acronyms also reflect the linguistic creativity of speakers. This phenomenon can be seen as a form of language play that not only enriches communicative expression but also demonstrates the community's ability to adapt language to social norms and the needs of specific groups (Riri Amanda Fitriana, Fitri Yulinda, and Yana Febriani, 2024). Thus, acronyms are not merely efficient tools of communication but also manifestations of ongoing linguistic innovation in response to societal change.

Acronyms function not only as abbreviations but also play an important role in enriching a language's lexicon, giving rise to new words or neologisms that expand linguistic expressiveness and allow languages to evolve dynamically in accordance with the communicative needs of their speakers (Novikova, 2022). This phenomenon becomes increasingly evident as acronyms are used widely in various domains of life—whether in professional contexts, mass media, education, or daily conversation. In these domains, acronyms appear as practical and efficient linguistic adaptations that remain relevant to the communicative demands of modern society (Padate, 2024).

The massive use of acronyms brings further implications, particularly in language learning and translation. This situation calls for adaptive strategies to ensure that acronyms are properly understood and processed, avoiding misinterpretation in cross-linguistic communication and academic contexts (Laffey, 2024). Thus, acronyms not only reflect linguistic development but also pose challenges to contemporary linguistic practice.

Acronyms play a significant role in accelerating information exchange, saving space and time, and simplifying communication across different areas of modern life. In business, academia, technology, and social media, acronyms serve as effective tools for delivering messages concisely and efficiently (Tugelbaevich, 2023).

In social media, acronyms have become an integral part of everyday linguistic practice. They function not only as practical communication tools but also help reinforce group identity and facilitate cross-cultural interaction. In this way, acronyms in digital spaces become symbols of connectivity and reflections of the dynamic nature of global language (Muti'ah, Basrowi, and Khaeruman, 2025).

Furthermore, the use of acronyms is strongly influenced by social, cultural, and generational factors. Among youth and online communities, acronyms are not only used for communicative efficiency but are also perceived as markers of identity, group solidarity, and linguistic creativity (Берека, 2024).

With technological progress and social transformation, acronyms continue to evolve dynamically. This phenomenon gives rise to various neologisms and serves as a source of linguistic innovation that adapts to the needs of cross-linguistic and cross-cultural communication. In other words, acronyms function not only as practical tools but also as agents of linguistic evolution that enrich the human communicative system (Muti'ah et al., 2025).

Acronyms can thus be viewed as reflections of linguistic dynamism, efficiency, and creativity in responding to the demands of the modern and global era. Their presence not only accelerates communication and enriches vocabulary but also requires careful use to avoid semantic ambiguity. Moreover, their use is shaped by social, cultural, and generational contexts; for example, among youth and online communities, acronyms often serve as symbols of membership and tools of linguistic creativity (Amaro and Reis, 2023). With wise and adaptive use, acronyms will continue to play a vital role in the evolution of contemporary languages.

The phenomenon of acronyms is one of the most distinctive features of modern Indonesian language development, as seen in the prolific use of abbreviations across various spheres of life—both formal and informal—such as *Ojol* (Ojek Online), *Japri* (Jalur Pribadi), and hundreds of other forms embedded in daily communication. This productivity reflects the morphological flexibility of the Indonesian language, which allows for creative shortening of words or phrases without violating linguistic norms or compromising intelligibility.

This situation contrasts sharply with Arabic, which, despite its complex and rich morphological system, rarely produces acronyms in communicative practice. Arabic's adherence to a strict

root-based morphology and linguistic norms that prioritize stable phonological and semantic structures (Al-Jarf, 2023) makes acronymization far less productive than in Indonesian. This contrast provides an important starting point for examining the relationship between a language's morphological flexibility and the productivity of acronym formation, while also opening space for comparative studies that explain how linguistic typology shapes communicative efficiency strategies in different speech communities.

Previous studies show that acronyms in Indonesian are highly productive and have become an essential part of vocabulary development across various domains such as administration, education, and mass media. In contrast, Arabic acronyms are relatively rare and are mostly limited to formal or institutional contexts or influenced by foreign languages—many of them adapted from English and adjusted to fit Arabic morphology (Altakhaine, 2017). Academic studies on Arabic acronyms remain limited, generally focusing on the borrowing of foreign terms without linking them to morphological typology. To date, no comprehensive study has compared how morphological typological differences between Arabic and Indonesian influence acronym productivity, making this the research gap that the present study aims to address.

The research problem in this study focuses on the relationship between the morphological typology of Arabic and Indonesian and the phenomenon of acronym formation. Specifically, it examines how structural differences between the two languages affect the level of flexibility in creating new abbreviated forms. The key question that arises is: why does Indonesian demonstrate high productivity in acronym formation, whereas Arabic rarely employs it? Thus, this study not only seeks to understand the linguistic mechanisms underlying these differences but also to uncover the typological factors shaping variation in acronym productivity in each language.

The main objective of this research is to provide a typological explanation of the differences in morphological systems between Arabic and Indonesian and to relate these typological distinctions to the productivity of acronym formation in each language. By examining the unique morphological characteristics of both languages, this study aims to demonstrate how structural aspects influence the dynamics of acronym formation, thereby offering a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between linguistic typology and lexical creativity.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research model employed in this study is a qualitative descriptive approach with a comparative method, a strategy increasingly used in social sciences and linguistics to gain an in-depth understanding of phenomena. This approach emphasizes detailed descriptions of the research object, wherein the researcher compares specific cases or contexts to identify significant similarities and differences (Seixas, Smith, & Mitton, 2017). Within linguistic studies, such a model is relevant for uncovering linguistic characteristics through cross-language analysis, thereby providing a comprehensive understanding of linguistic structure and variation (Haspelmath, 2010).

The qualitative descriptive approach combined with the comparative method in this study is specifically designed to understand linguistic phenomena through detailed descriptions and comparative analysis between Arabic and Indonesian. As emphasized by Nassaji (2015), qualitative research focuses on the collection of natural data without variable manipulation and emphasizes analysis centered on meaning, processes, and configurations of conditions influencing linguistic phenomena. Accordingly, this study does not aim to produce quantitative or statistical data but rather focuses on interpreting the meanings and structural features underlying the productivity of acronyms in both languages.

The rationale for using a qualitative descriptive model is rooted in the study's objective—to systematically present linguistic facts related to the morphological structures of Arabic and Indonesian and the phenomenon of acronym formation in both languages. This approach allows the researcher to explore natural linguistic data—texts, terms, and acronym examples—without experimental treatment. The comparative dimension is then applied to analyze the similarities and differences in the morphological typology of the two languages and relate them to the level of productivity in acronym formation.

Through this combination, the study not only describes the phenomenon of acronyms in Arabic and Indonesian but also explains the typological relationship underlying the productivity or limitation of acronym use in each language. Therefore, the qualitative descriptive approach with a comparative method is considered the most appropriate for achieving the research objectives, as it enables rich, meaningful descriptions, contextual analysis, and in-depth interpretation of the linguistic phenomena under study.

The data sources in this research were obtained from online documents (online corpus) representing the use of acronyms in Arabic and Indonesian. For Indonesian, data were collected from official government websites, online mass media, and public administrative archives known for their abundance of acronyms—particularly institutional abbreviations, program names, and policy terms. For Arabic, data were gathered from Arabic-language mass media, official websites of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the Arab League, as well as online academic publications containing acronyms—either organically formed in Arabic or adapted from foreign languages. The use of an internet-based corpus was chosen for its representativeness of contemporary language use, providing broad, authentic, and up-to-date data variation. Thus, collecting online corpus data from diverse sources—official sites, mass media, and academic publications—serves as the main strategy to capture the dynamics of acronym use in both languages (Barnett & Doubleday, 2020). Furthermore, online corpora allow researchers to obtain large datasets covering various registers, contexts, and social groups (Amaro & Reis, 2023).

Data collection was conducted through documentary methods based on internet searches. The researcher selected acronyms appearing in written texts through keyword searches in both Indonesian and Arabic. Each identified acronym was recorded along with its full form, source, and usage context. The purposive sampling technique was applied to ensure that the collected data were relevant to the research objectives—specifically, acronyms that could be morphologically analyzed in relation to each language's typology. Purposive sampling refers to the selection of samples based on specific considerations or criteria relevant to the research goals rather than random selection (Palinkas et al., 2015). In the

context of internet searches, this technique enables the researcher to select the most informative data or sources from a vast online population (Zega, Safii, & Roekhan, 2022).

Data analysis was carried out in three stages:

1. Classification Stage – sorting acronym data based on language of origin (Arabic or Indonesian), type of acronym, and field of usage.
2. Description Stage – analyzing the morphological patterns of acronym formation in each language, considering their respective morphological typologies: root-and-pattern morphology in Arabic and agglutinative-analytic morphology in Indonesian.
3. Comparison Stage – comparing the descriptive results of both languages to identify similarities and differences and interpret their implications for acronym productivity.

The analysis was conducted qualitatively, emphasizing systematic linguistic interpretation to explain the relationship between morphological typology and the existence and development of acronyms in both languages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Acronyms in the Arabic Language

The phenomenon of acronym formation in Arabic demonstrates a complex interaction between its non-concatenative morphological system—based on roots and vocalic patterns—and the practical need of modern language use to abbreviate long phrases. In cases such as *البسمة* (*al-basmala*) and *الحمدلة* (*al-hamdala*), we observe that acronym formation is not simply a matter of combining initial letters as in Indonesian or English, but rather involves a distinct Arabic morphological process employing the *maṣḍar* pattern on the form *فعللة* (*faʿlala*). This indicates that Arabic derivational morphology remains intact even when the goal is abbreviation of liturgical phrases. In other words, even though what is being shortened are lengthy expressions such as *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ* (“In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful”) or *الحمد لله* (“Praise be to Allah”), the resulting forms are not mere clusters of consonants but words with full vocalic patterns that sound natural within Arabic phonotactics.

A different phenomenon is observed in forms such as *داعش*, *حماس*, and *فتح*. In these examples, Arabic begins to exhibit the influence of Western-style initialism, forming acronyms from the first letters of each key word. *الدولة الإسلامية في العراق والشام* (*Dāʿish*) is constructed from *داعش* (*Dāʿish*), with each word represented by its initial letter. However, despite being based on initialism, the final form is adjusted to Arabic phonotactics so that it remains pronounceable rather than forming an awkward consonant cluster. The same applies to *حماس* (*Hamās*), from *حركة المقاومة الإسلامية* (“The Islamic Resistance Movement”), which further benefits from homonymy with the preexisting Arabic word *ḥamās* meaning “zeal” or “vitality.” Here, acronym formation is not merely phonetic but also semantic—acronyms are designed to carry positive lexical meanings in Arabic. *فتح* (*Fataḥ*) represents another variation, in which the initial letters of *حركة التحرير الفلسطيني* (“The Palestinian Liberation Movement”) are rearranged in reverse order. Rather than following linear sequencing, the acronym selects key letters inversely yet still produces a form that fits natural Arabic word structure.

Meanwhile, acronyms such as *وام* (*Wām*) and *ق.م* (*Q.M.*) illustrate more straightforward initialisms. *وام*, derived from *وكالة أنباء الإمارات* (“Emirates News Agency”), follows the pattern of taking the initial letters of each component word, yielding a simple and pronounceable form. Similarly, *ق.م* from *قبل الميلاد* (“Before Christ”) represents a traditional abbreviation closer to written shortening than to a spoken word. These differences reveal a typological spectrum—from *maṣḍar*-like derivational forms to practical abbreviations that align more closely with international abbreviation conventions.

A comparison with *إيسيسكو* (*ISESCO*) and *أوبك* (*OPEC*) is also insightful. Both are results of adapted loan acronyms. *إيسيسكو* originates from the phonetic transliteration of the initials in *Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*, while *أوبك* is a direct borrowing from the English acronym *OPEC*. In both cases, the borrowed forms are adjusted to Arabic phonotactics—for instance, *أوبك* begins with a hamzah and a *wāw* vowel to conform to Arabic syllable structure, avoiding unpronounceable consonant clusters.

From the overall data, three key factors can be identified as shaping acronym formation in Arabic:

1. The root-and-pattern morphological system, which allows long phrases to be condensed into full derivational words such as *الحمدلة* and *البسملة*;
2. Phonotactic adjustment, ensuring that forms like *داعش*, *حماس*, and *فتح* remain pronounceable and natural; and
3. International influence, through the adoption of Western-style initialism—either adapted (*إيسيسكو*) or directly borrowed (*أوبك*).

These factors indicate that, while the Arabic morphological system traditionally offers little room for acronyms, modern socio-political developments have encouraged typological innovation, enabling the language to accommodate concise expressions without abandoning its internal linguistic principles.

Morphological Notes	Formation Pattern	Meaning	Original Phrase	Acronym
Root from <i>bsm</i> + suffix <i>-lah</i> .	<i>Maṣḍar</i> pattern فعلة	Expression: <i>In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful</i>	بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم	البسملة
Derived from <i>ḥamd</i> (root ḥ-m-d).	Phrase reduction → pattern فعلة	Expression: <i>Praise be to Allah</i>	الحمد لله	الحمدلة
From initials of <i>dawla, islāmiyya, ‘irāq, shām</i> .	Initialism, based on first phonemes.	Islamic State Organization	الدولة الإسلامية في العراق والشام	داعش

Morphological Notes	Formation Pattern	Meaning	Original Phrase	Acronym
From initials of each core word; also homonymous with <i>ḥamās</i> ("zeal").	Initialism with semantic association.	Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement	حركة المقاومة الإسلامية	حماس
From key word initials in reversed order.	Reversed initialism (reverse acronym).	Palestinian Liberation Movement	حركة التحرير الفلسطيني	فتح
From initials of each key word.	Pure initialism.	Emirates News Agency	وكالة أنباء الإمارات	وام
From initials of each key word.	Pure initialism.	Before Christ	قبل الميلاد	ق.م
Phonetic international acronym from transliteration of <i>Islamic, Education, Science, Culture</i> .	International phonetic initialism.	Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)	منظمة العالم الإسلامي للتربية والعلوم والثقافة	إيسيسكو
Phonetic borrowing from the English acronym <i>OPEC</i> .	Borrowed acronym.	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	منظمة البلدان المصدرة للبترول	أوبك

B. Acronyms in the Indonesian Language

The phenomenon of acronymization in Indonesian reflects high flexibility, owing to its relatively simple and concatenative morphological system, which allows diverse strategies of word shortening. Examples such as OIKN, IKN, and BGN demonstrate the use of initialism, i.e., taking the initial letters of each word. However, there are typological variations: OIKN and IKN form pronounceable word-like shapes, while BGN tends to be non-lexical and difficult to pronounce without spelling out each letter. This difference highlights the role of phonotactic principles—acronyms that can be pronounced as words (e.g., *IKN*) are more readily adopted in spoken communication, while forms like *BGN* are better suited for administrative or written contexts.

Examples such as *Ojol* and *Japri* represent a different strategy—syllabic blending. In *Ojol* (from *Ojek Online*), the abbreviation takes the representative “O” from *ojek* and “jol” from *online*, producing a compact, easy-to-pronounce, and informal form. Likewise, *Japri* (from *Jalur Pribadi*) combines the first syllables “Ja” and “pri” to form a short, natural-sounding word for oral use. This pattern is distinctive in Indonesian acronym typology, reflecting a tendency to maintain open syllable (CV) structures for easier pronunciation—unlike Arabic acronyms, which often preserve derivational morphology through *maṣḍar* patterns.

The case of *Bucin* (from *Budak Cinta*) demonstrates creative development in colloquial or slang usage. This syllabic blend not only condenses the phrase but also produces a new lexical item with its own semantic nuance. *Bucin* has become a fully lexicalized word in everyday discourse, showing how Indonesian acronymization can yield productive neologisms.

Long bureaucratic examples such as *Kemdiktisaintek* (from *Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi, Sains, dan Teknologi*) and *Kemendikdasmen* (from *Kementerian Pendidikan Dasar dan Menengah*) represent a systematic syllabic strategy frequently employed in government institutions. Although these forms are relatively long, they still reflect the principle of information condensation without losing representational clarity. Thus, they function well in official communication, though not necessarily in casual speech.

Finally, *Tilang* (from *bukti pelanggaran*) illustrates acronymization that produces a fully lexicalized and semantically expanded term. The blending of *ti-* (from *bukti*) and *-lang* (from *pelanggaran*) yields a natural-sounding Indonesian word. Unlike administrative abbreviations such as *BGN* or *OIKN*, *Tilang* has become an integral part of the Indonesian lexicon. This demonstrates that syllabic blending in Indonesian has a higher potential for lexicalization and semantic expansion.

Hence, the data reveal that the morphological typology of acronym formation in Indonesian is highly diverse—from formal initialisms to natural-sounding syllabic blends and fully lexicalized words. This flexibility contrasts with Arabic, whose non-concatenative morphology imposes stricter structural limits. In Indonesian, the success of an acronym largely depends on phonotactic ease (pronounceability), context of use (formal vs informal), and semantic potential for becoming a productive lexical item.

Morphological Notes	Formation Pattern	Original Phrase	Acronym
Initial letters of each word.	Initialism (abbreviation).	Otorita Ibu Kota Nusantara	OIKN
Initial letters forming a readable word.	Readable initialism (acronym proper).	Ibu Kota Nusantara	IKN
Initial letters, not forming a new word.	Non-lexical initialism.	Badan Gizi Nasional	BGN
Combination of representative syllables (<i>O</i> from <i>Ojek</i> , <i>jol</i> from <i>Online</i>).	Syllabic blending.	Ojek Online	Ojol
Combination of first syllables (<i>Ja</i> from <i>Jalur</i> , <i>pri</i> from <i>Pribadi</i>).	Syllabic acronym.	Jalur Pribadi	Japri

Morphological Notes	Formation Pattern	Original Phrase	Acronym
Composite of syllables (<i>Bu</i> from <i>Budak</i> , <i>cin</i> from <i>Cinta</i>).	Popular slang blend.	Budak Cinta	Bucin
Combination of key syllables from each long component.	Bureaucratic syllabic abbreviation.	Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi, Sains, dan Teknologi	Kemdiktisaintek
Combination of syllables from each core word.	Bureaucratic syllabic acronym.	Kementerian Pendidikan Dasar dan Menengah	Kemendikdasmen
Blend of <i>ti-</i> (from <i>bukti</i>) and <i>-lang</i> (from <i>pelanggaran</i>).	Syllabic blending → lexicalized word.	Bukti Pelanggaran	Tilang

The formation of acronyms in Arabic and Indonesian reveals fundamental typological differences due to their contrasting morphological systems. Arabic, with its root-and-pattern non-concatenative morphology, is bound by strict phonotactic and derivational constraints. Consequently, Arabic acronyms often follow derivational patterns resembling *maṣḍar* formation, such as in *الحمدلة والبسملة*, condensing long liturgical expressions into morphologically coherent words.

Indonesian, on the other hand, with its concatenative morphology, allows greater flexibility—forming acronyms through initial letter reduction, syllabic blending, or hybrid strategies without the need to conform to derivational templates. This enables the creation of forms such as *Ojol*, *Japri*, and *Bucin*, which are phonotactically natural, easily pronounceable, and productive as new vocabulary.

In the Context of Initialism, both languages exhibit a similar tendency to form acronyms from the initial letters of words. However, the typological outcomes differ. In Arabic, examples such as *داعش* (*Dā'ish*) and *حماس* (*Ḥamās*) go beyond mere letter combination—they are adapted to fit the phonotactic system of Arabic, resulting in pronounceable word-like forms. In the case of *حماس*, the acronym is intentionally designed to coincide with an existing Arabic word meaning *enthusiasm* or *vitality*, thereby adding positive semantic value. In contrast, in Indonesian, initialisms can result in forms that are pronounceable as words (IKN) or purely orthographic sequences that must be spelled out (BGN). This distinction indicates that Indonesian is more lenient toward phonotactic constraints, allowing some acronyms to remain non-lexical in use, while Arabic places greater emphasis on pronounceability and phonological harmony.

A clearer contrast appears in the domain of blending, or syllabic combination. Indonesian is highly productive in this strategy, as seen in *Ojol*, *Japri*, *Bucin*, and *Tilang*. This blending pattern aligns closely with Indonesian's concatenative and syllable-based morphology, allowing acronyms to follow the open syllable (CV) structure, which is phonetically light and easy to pronounce. Many such acronyms evolve into fully functional lexical items—for instance, *Tilang* is no longer merely a contraction but has become an

established word in the lexicon. Conversely, Arabic rarely employs syllabic blending in acronym formation. Most Arabic acronyms are either based on the initial letters of words or shaped through derivational (masdar-like) patterns to sound natural. This reflects Arabic's adherence to traditional morphological templates and its limited flexibility in creating syllable-based neologisms.

In formal and bureaucratic contexts, the two languages also exhibit typological differences. Indonesian frequently produces long acronyms that retain representation of the original components, such as Kemdiktisaintek or Kemendikdasmen. These forms emphasize administrative completeness, even if they are less efficient for spoken communication. In contrast, formal Arabic acronyms are often borrowed or adapted from foreign languages, such as أوبك (OPEC) or إيسيسكو (ICESCO), which are then adjusted to Arabic phonotactics by inserting vowels to ensure pronounceability. In other words, while Indonesian bureaucratic acronyms are constructed internally following principles of full representation, Arabic acronyms in formal registers are largely shaped by international borrowing and adaptation.

From all these comparisons, it can be concluded that the main difference between Arabic and Indonesian acronym formation lies in the influence of each language's morphological system on its formation strategies. The non-concatenative nature of Arabic morphology leads to acronyms that either follow traditional derivational patterns or undergo phonotactic adjustment to be pronounceable—even when adopting Western-style initialism. Meanwhile, the concatenative morphology of Indonesian allows greater freedom in combining letters, syllables, or both, producing highly variable, natural-sounding, and productive acronyms that often become new lexical items. This typological difference demonstrates that the study of acronyms is not merely about abbreviation phenomena but also reflects the fundamental character of each language's morphological system.

Conclusion

Based on the comparative analysis, this study finds that typological differences between the morphological systems of Arabic and Indonesian strongly determine how each language forms acronyms. Arabic, with its root-and-pattern non-concatenative morphology, tends to restrict flexibility in morphological innovation. Arabic acronyms typically follow two main patterns:

1. Derivational adaptation through traditional *wazan* patterns, as in البسمة (al-basmala) or الحمدلة (al-ḥamdala).
2. Phonotactically adapted initialisms, as in داعش (Dā'ish) or حماس (Ḥamās), designed to be pronounceable and semantically meaningful.

Conversely, Indonesian, with its concatenative morphology, allows a wider range of strategies—from initialism to syllabic blending—resulting in concise, phonetically natural forms that often develop into new lexical items. This typological contrast confirms that the underlying morphological structure of a language directly influences the potential and variation of acronym formation.

In terms of acronym productivity, the findings show that Indonesian exhibits a higher level of productivity compared to Arabic. This is evident in the ability of Indonesian to rapidly

integrate acronyms into everyday vocabulary—both in formal domains (*IKN*, *Kemendikdasmen*) and informal contexts (*Ojol*, *Bucin*, *Tilang*). In contrast, Arabic acronyms remain more restricted, often confined to formal or political registers, and heavily influenced by international borrowings such as *أوبك* (OPEC) and *إيسيسكو* (ICESCO). Hence, morphological typology serves as a key factor that either limits or expands a language’s creative capacity in forming acronyms. The simple, syllable-based concatenative system of Indonesian fosters innovation, whereas Arabic’s non-concatenative system maintains a more conservative approach.

These findings carry significant implications for typological and sociolinguistic studies. From a typological perspective, acronymization can serve as an indicator of a language’s morphological productivity. From a sociolinguistic standpoint, differing levels of productivity correlate with social dynamics: Indonesian, widely used in informal daily interaction, generates creative acronyms that quickly circulate in public discourse; meanwhile, Arabic, bound by its classical morphological tradition, tends to produce acronyms with formal, political, or religious functions. This demonstrates that the study of acronym formation provides valuable insight into the interaction between a language’s internal structure and its sociocultural context of use.

For future research, it is recommended that acronym studies be expanded using larger and more diverse corpora, encompassing various discourse domains such as social media, official documents, religious literature, and popular culture. This would enable a deeper understanding of how acronym patterns evolve synchronously and diachronically, and how globalization and language contact (particularly with English) influence acronymization trends in both languages. Furthermore, corpus-based quantitative approaches could be applied to map the frequency, distribution, and degree of integration of acronyms into each language’s lexicon. Through such approaches, this research can be further developed on a more empirical and comprehensive level, enhancing understanding of the relationship between morphological typology, acronym productivity, and sociocultural dynamics in language development.

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