

## Morphological Process Analysis of Mandarin Slang Word Formation in the Game Forum “王者荣耀” 百度贴吧 Wángzhě Róngyào Bǎidù Tiēba Period of October-November 2023

<https://doi.org/10.53744/bambuti.v6i1.08>

Submitted: 02-03-2023 Reviewed: 15-04-2023 Published: 12-05-2023

**Mohammad Dwi Prastyo**

[mohammaddwi@student.gunadarma.ac.id](mailto:mohammaddwi@student.gunadarma.ac.id)

Universitas Gunadarma

**Ayesa**

[ayesa@staff.gunadarma.ac.id](mailto:ayesa@staff.gunadarma.ac.id)

Universitas Gunadarma

**Abstract.** One of the interesting language phenomena to be investigated is slang. In this article, the research focuses on analyzing Chinese slang with an emphasis on its morphological aspects and usage functions. The data for this study were obtained from the text of comments submitted by netizens on the 王者荣耀 Wángzhě Róngyào game forum in using Chinese slang. The data analysis method used adopts the Miles and Huberman model (1984) which includes three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results of the analysis show some important findings, among others: (1) The formation process of Chinese slang in the game forum “王者荣耀” Wángzhě Róngyào involves taking words from other languages, forming new words through composition or combination, affixation, as well as human creativity in combining word composition and shortening; (2) The function of using Chinese slang in social media 王者荣耀 百度贴吧 Wángzhě Róngyào Bǎidù Tiēba October-November 2023 period, and the changes in word meaning as a result of morphological processes.

**Keywords:** Chinese slang; morphology; slang usage function; Baidu Tieba

**Abstrak.** Salah satu fenomena bahasa yang menarik untuk diselidiki adalah slang atau yang dikenal sebagai bahasa gaul. Dalam artikel ini, fokus penelitian tertuju pada analisis terhadap slang bahasa Mandarin dengan penekanan pada aspek morfologi dan fungsi penggunaannya. Data untuk penelitian ini diperoleh dari teks komentar yang disampaikan oleh netizen di forum game 王者荣耀 Wángzhě Róngyào dalam menggunakan slang bahasa Mandarin. Metode analisis data yang digunakan mengadopsi model Miles dan Huberman (1984) yang meliputi tiga tahapan, yakni reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil analisis menunjukkan beberapa temuan penting, antara lain: (1) Proses pembentukan slang bahasa Mandarin di forum game “王者荣耀” Wángzhě Róngyào meliputi, pembentukan kata-kata baru melalui komposisi atau gabungan, afiksasi, serta kreativitas manusia dalam menggabungkan komposisi kata dan pemendekan; (2) Fungsi penggunaan bahasa gaul Bahasa Mandarin dalam



Bambuti : Bahasa Mandarin dan Kebudayaan Tiongkok are licensed under a [Lisensi Creative Commons Atribusi 4.0 Internasional](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

25 | Bambuti | Vol 6 | No. 1 | 2024

media sosial 王者荣耀 百度贴吧 *Wángzhě Róngyào Bǎidù Tiēba* periode Oktober-November 2023, dan perubahan makna kata akibat dari proses morfologis.

**Keywords:** *slang* bahasa Mandarin; morfologi; fungsi penggunaan slang; Baidu Tieba

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS

Pringgawidagda (2002: 4) explains that language was created to facilitate human expression of thoughts and emotions to others efficiently. The process of human thought is closely related to linguistic ability, which can also stimulate and train thinking, feelings, and reasoning. Besides being a distinguishing characteristic of a community, ethnicity, or even a nation, language also enables people to build a culture and explore knowledge to improve their quality of life. Furthermore, Finnochiaro, as cited by Hardjono (1988: 8), elaborates that language can influence behavior and shape human identity within its context in the world and affect their worldview. From this explanation, it is evident that language plays a crucial role in human life.

Moreover, Finnochiaro, as cited by Hardjono (1988:8), explains that language is divided into formal and informal categories. Overall, in both verbal and written communication, there are two primary variations in language usage: formal language and informal language. These two types of language are used according to specific contexts and situations. Informal language often exhibits forms that deviate from grammatical norms, typically seen in online interactions, blogs, and similar platforms. The majority of words appearing in the informal variety in the online realm have distinct characteristics from formal language. On the other hand, formal language presents structures consistent with prevailing grammatical standards, usually found in print media such as newspapers, magazines, and the like. Fundamental differences also arise in vocabulary, word meaning, and interpretation of meaning between the two.

According to Ula et al., (2020: 51), slang is one form of informal language. Although it is not yet clear whether this has a negative impact on standard language, the addition of new vocabulary in slang can increase the diversity of vocabulary in a language in a given country. However, with the rapid changes in times and advances in technology, new terms continuously emerge. Often, the origin and popularity of these new terms are unclear, but we often encounter new vocabulary that we have not seen before.

Xinhua (August 28, 2023), news reports that internet users in China had reached 1.079 billion as of June 2023, an increase of 11.09 million since December 2022, along with steady growth in digital infrastructure and internet applications. The increase in internet users has also revolutionized Chinese society's habits in accessing technology, one of which is in online games and the forums within them.

The use of Mandarin slang on online platforms has become a phenomenon of interest in recent years. One platform that has drawn attention is the gaming forum "王者荣耀" Wángzhě Róngyào found on 百度贴吧 (Bǎidù Tiēbā) or Baidu Tieba. This phenomenon indicates a shift in language within the digital context, which can reflect broader social and cultural changes in Chinese society.

## 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

In this research, several theories are outlined as guidelines for addressing the identified issues. The following are some of these theories:

### 1. Slang Language

Penelope Eckert and William Labov highlight the relationship between language, identity, and community. They emphasize that the use of slang reflects group identity and can play a role in marking membership within a specific community. Language constantly changes over time due to social interactions and cultural shifts. The use of slang can be considered part of the natural process by which language evolves to meet new communication needs (Saussure, F. de. 2011).

### 2. Morphological Processes

(Chaer, 2014:33) explains that language is constantly changing or creating new things within it, undergoing continuous development. This change or creation involves a formation process within the language itself. Many researchers examine language from a morphological perspective to understand how this formation process occurs. Lieber (2015: 2) states that morphology is one of the fields in linguistics that studies how words are formed. In the field of morphology, word formation processes are more commonly known as morphological processes.

The morphological process, as outlined by Ramlan (2019: 51), is the process of creating new words that differ from their basic forms. Affixation involves adding elements such as prefixes, infixes, or suffixes to the base form, as explained by (Alwi et al., 2010:121). Composition is a morphemic process that combines two base morphemes into one word, referred to as a compound word (Verhaar, 2012:154). Abbreviation is 'a morphological process where one or more parts are removed from a combination of lexemes, resulting in a new form that has the status of a word' (Kridalaksana, 1993:1).

The use of slang in Mandarin also falls into the category of new words as mentioned earlier. Experts also state that slang has a variety of forms ranging from basic words and their derivatives to phrases, clauses, and even sentences. Therefore, it can be concluded that slang, whether in the form of words or phrases, would not emerge without undergoing morphological processes (Kartini, 2014:45).

### 3. The Impact of Slang Use in Communities

In the context of gaming, identity is often shaped by how players perceive themselves within the gaming community. Slang or specific language in gaming communities can be one way players express their identity. Gee, James P. (2007) suggests that the use of slang in gaming communities is not only a means of communication but also a tool to build identity in a specific environment. By using specific words or phrases that are only understood by members of the community, players can form a unique sense of belonging.

### 3. METHODS

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method. According to Sugiyono (2018:213), qualitative research is an approach used to investigate a scientific situation where the researcher acts as the primary instrument in exploration, data collection, and qualitative analysis, with an emphasis on revealing meaning. The data source for this research is text from netizen comments in the "王者荣耀" Wángzhě Róngyào game forum. The forum comprises various elements, including posts and comment sections, which netizens use to express themselves, but this study focuses on two aspects: first, netizen comments that specifically mention slang words in posts. The data in this research consists of sentences that interpret the study's objectives.

The procedure for collecting data involves observing the "王者荣耀" Wángzhě Róngyào Baidu Tieba forum during a specified posting period, which is two months (October-November 2023), and then grouping the obtained data for analysis. The data analysis process involves listening and recording. The data analysis technique used is the Miles and Huberman model (1984), encompassing three aspects: data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions (Anggito & Setiawan, 2018: 243).

Before presenting the results from the data processing, the researcher applies data collection techniques through the "simak and catat" (observe and record) method. (Mahsun 2017:91) The "simak and catat" method is an approach for collecting data by observing and listening to language use, both spoken and written. In this study, the focus is on collecting comments from the game forum as a data source. This method is used to gather information carefully through listening to ensure a comprehensive data set is recorded (Sudaryanto 2015:203).

First, the researcher groups the collected data according to the topic and research focus to draw conclusions. Second, after obtaining data through the data reduction process, the researcher presents the data with a descriptive analysis method, facilitating easier interpretation of its meaning. Third, the final step involves drawing conclusions to provide meaning to the data in line with the theories/concepts used in the research activity (morphological study).

## 4. RESULTS

### A. Slang terms in 百度贴吧 *Bǎidù Tiēba*

Data 1.1

<i>Chinese Slang</i>	<i>Comments</i>		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Post Date</i>	<i>Morphological Processes</i>
舔狗 <b>tiǎn gǒu</b>	<p>是的，总感觉自 己像舔狗似的， 很没意思，又不 是非得巴着你</p> <p><i>Shì de, zǒng gǎnjué zìjǐ xiàng tiǎn gǒu shì de, hěn méiyìsi, yòu bùshì fēiděi bāzhe nǐ</i></p> <p><i>"Yes, I feel like a sycophant. It's not pleasant. I don't like being in your presence."</i></p>		6	03-10-2023	<b>Compounding</b>
吃土 <b>chī tǔ</b>	<p>不能开科技啊， 我不怎么玩了， 不想让它吃土</p> <p><i>Bùnéng kāi kējì a, wǒ bù zě me wánle, bùxiǎng ràng tā chī tǔ</i></p> <p><i>I can't turn on the technology; I'm not playing much anymore, and I don't want to get even more broke.</i></p>	吃土	4	23-10-2023	<b>Compounding</b>

<p>戏精 xì jīng</p>	<p>就算四个人打对面，也比多个戏精菜张飞强吧</p> <p><i>Jiùsuàn sì gèrén dǎ duìmiàn, yě bǐ duō gè xì jīng cài zhāngfēiqiáng ba</i></p> <p><i>Even if the four of them fought each other, it would still be better than a few Zhang Fei drama queens.</i></p>		5	07-11-2023	<b>Compounding</b>
<p>奶爸 nǎi bà</p>	<p>只要能赢，让我这个30多岁的老奶爸玩瑶都行</p> <p><i>Zhǐyào néng yíng, ràng wǒ zhègè 30 duō suì de lǎo nǎi bà wán yáo dōu xíng</i></p> <p><i>"I'll let a dad in his 30s play with a yo-yo as long as I win."</i></p>		3	15-10-2023	<b>Abbreviation</b>
<p>双标 shuāngbiāo</p>	<p>你也这样让同事送试试 看看他 双不双标</p>		5	22-10-2023	<b>Abbreviation</b>

	<p><i>Nǐ yě zhèyàng ràng tóngshì sòng shì shìkàn kàn tā shuāng bù shuāng biāo</i></p> <p><i>You can also ask your families to give it to you and see if they have double standards.</i></p>				
<p>女汉子 <b>nǚhànzi</b></p>	<p>头像像女汉子... 勾起了某位暴躁老直女故人的回忆</p> <p><i>Tóuxiàng xiàng nǚ hànzi...gōu qǐle mǒu wèi bào zào lǎo zhí nǚ gùrén de huíyì</i></p> <p><i>"Looks like a tough woman... brings back memories of an old woman who has passed away."</i></p>		2	11-11-2023	<b>Affixation</b>
<p>抠门儿 <b>kōu ménr</b></p>	<p>我们还可以互送皮肤呀。我比较抠门儿</p> <p><i>Wǒmen hái kěyǐ hù sòng pí fū ya wǒ bǐjiào kōumén er</i></p> <p><i>"We can still gift each other skins. I'm kind of stingy."</i></p>		3	28-10-2023	<b>Affixation</b>

<p><b>兜圈子</b> dōuquānzi</p>	<p>人工客服只会兜圈子咋办?</p> <p><i>Réngōng kèfù zhǐ huì dōuquānzi zǎ bàn?</i></p> <p><i>What should I do if manual customer service can only go around in circles?</i></p>		2	08-11-2023	<b>Affixation</b>
<p><b>老铁</b> lǎotiě</p>	<p>老铁你开发开发·我也是玩着太憋气了</p> <p><i>Lǎo tiě nǐ kāifā kāifā, wǒ yěshì wánzhe tài biēqìle</i></p> <p><i>"Bro, could you please unlock or develop it? I'm also feeling really frustrated while playing."</i></p>		6	04-11-2023	<b>Affixation</b>

## B. Morphological Process of Chinese Slang Word Formation

The process of forming Mandarin slang words in the gaming forum 王者荣耀百度贴吧 (Wángzhě Róngyào Bǎidù Tiēba) during a specified posting period (October-November 2023) involves affixation, abbreviation, and compounding.

- **Affixation**

Words formed through the affixation process with suffixes include:



- 抠们儿 (kōuménr), meaning "stingy" or "miserly"
- 女汉子 (nǚhànzi), meaning "strong" or "independent woman"
- 兜圈子 (dōuquānzi), meaning "to dodge" or "to go in circles"
- 老铁 (lǎotiě), used as a casual way to say "bro" or "buddy"

- **Shortening / Abbreviation**

Mandarin slang words formed through the morphological process of shortening include:

奶爸 (nǎibà), meaning "milk dad" or "stay-at-home dad"

双标 (shuāngbiāo), meaning "double standard"

- **Compounding**

Words created through the process of compounding include:

舔狗 (tiǎngǒu), meaning "bootlicker" or "sycophant"

吃土 (chītǔ), meaning "dirt-eater" or "broke"

戏精 (xìjīng), meaning "drama queen"

Given the above examples, the research indicates that the most frequent morphological process for forming Mandarin slang words is compounding, with a frequency of 15 occurrences.

Further detailed analysis explains and describes the following:

## Data 1.1 Attachment I

### A. Compounding

#### a. “舔狗” {tiǎn gǒu}

The Mandarin slang term "舔狗" (tiǎngǒu) literally translates to "licking dog." This term refers to someone who behaves in a highly submissive manner or is willing to do anything to gain the attention or affection of someone they admire, especially in the context of romantic relationships. The morphological formation process of “舔狗” (tiǎngǒu) involves the combination (or compounding) of two characters: “舔” (tiǎn), a verb meaning “to lick,” and “狗” (gǒu), a noun meaning “dog.”

In the context of this slang, the combination of the two characters indicates a person who behaves like a loyal and obedient dog, willing to do anything for the person they love. The term "舔狗" (tiǎngǒu) shows a shift in meaning from the original characters, which are generally neutral or negative, to a slang term with a negative connotation, used to criticize certain behaviors perceived as excessive in pursuing attention or a relationship with someone.

#### b. 吃土 {chī tǔ} V + O

The Mandarin slang term "吃土" (chītǔ) can literally be translated as "eating dirt." Initially, this term referred to a very poor financial condition or a difficult economic situation, indicating that someone feels extremely poor or "broke." The morphological formation process of "吃土" involves the combination (or compounding) of two characters: "吃" (chī), a verb meaning "to eat," and "土" (tǔ), a noun meaning "dirt." In this slang context, "吃土" (chītǔ) is used metaphorically to describe a dire financial condition or challenging economic situation, where a person feels like they don't have enough money to meet their basic needs. The function of this slang term is to express a difficult financial situation or a poor economic condition. The term is usually used with a humorous tone or as a sarcastic comment on challenging financial circumstances. Additionally, this term can also be used more broadly to indicate a generally tough situation, not necessarily related to financial conditions.

#### c. 戏精 {xìjīng}

The Mandarin slang term "戏精" (xìjīng) refers to someone who is excessively expressive or theatrical, particularly when behaving in an over-the-top, dramatic, or attention-seeking manner in front of others. The morphological formation of "戏精" (xìjīng) comprises two characters: "戏" (xì), a noun meaning "theater" or "performance," and "精" (jīng), an adjective meaning "perfect" or "skillful." When combined, "戏精" (xìjīng) describes someone who tends to be dramatic or over-the-top in expressing certain feelings or behaviors in front of others.

The purpose of this slang term is to criticize or comment on someone who is excessively expressive or behaves dramatically, particularly to draw attention to themselves. This term is often used with a humorous or sarcastic tone to refer to someone who tends to act or behave emotionally or dramatically. In everyday use, "戏精" (xìjīng) is commonly found on social media platforms or in informal conversations to describe someone who tends to be dramatic, over-the-top, or attention-seeking, especially in situations that do not require such exaggerated responses.

#### d. 女汉子 {nǚhànzi}

The Mandarin slang term “女汉子” (nǚhànzi) comes from a phrase that literally means “a woman as strong as a man.” The term refers to a woman who possesses traits typically considered strong, independent, or assertive, or who exhibits characteristics often associated with men in Chinese culture. The morphological formation process of this slang involves the use of the characters “女汉” (nǚhàn), which means “strong woman.” The suffix “子” (zi) is added as an affix to form the complete term.

The function of using the slang “女汉子” (nǚhànzi) is to refer to women who possess qualities that are strong, tough, independent, or have characteristics generally seen as uncommon for women according to traditional stereotypes.

## B. Affixation

- 抠门儿 {kōu ménr}

The slang term “抠门儿” (kōu ménr) in Mandarin originates from a phrase used to describe someone who is stingy or frugal when it comes to spending money. The morphological formation process in this slang involves the characters “抠” (kōu), meaning “to dig” or “to scrape,” and “门” (mén), which means “door” or “gate.” The combined phrase literally suggests “scraping the door” or “scraping the wallet,” metaphorically indicating a tendency toward frugality. The suffix “-儿” (ér) is added for a colloquial effect.

The slang term “抠门儿” is used to refer to someone who is particularly tight-fisted or unwilling to spend money on things that might be considered non-essential. This term is often employed to describe someone who is extremely economical or reluctant to part with their money, typically implying a level of parsimony that borders on miserliness.

- 兜圈子 {dōuquānzi}

The slang term “兜圈子” (dōu quānzi) in Mandarin refers to the behavior of someone who avoids the main topic or circles around an issue without giving a direct answer. This term is used when someone persistently dodges or does not directly answer the question or topic presented to them. The phrase “兜圈子” (dōu quānzi) is a compound word formed through affixation, with the morpheme “子” (zi) serving as a suffix.

The function of this slang term is to criticize or express dissatisfaction with someone who does not give a straightforward answer or avoids addressing the topic that should be

confronted. It implies a level of evasion or reluctance to engage in clear and direct communication, often leading to frustration or confusion for the listener.

- **老铁 {lǎo tiě}**

The origin of this term lies in the notion of iron being strong and reliable, which metaphorically extends to describing a close, trustworthy friend. In common usage, "老铁" (lǎotiě) is employed to refer to someone you have a strong bond with, typically in a casual or friendly context. It has become a popular slang term in contemporary Mandarin, especially among younger speakers and in online communities, often used to express a sense of familiarity and brother.

### C. Abbreviation

- **奶爸 {nǎi bà}**

The slang term "奶爸" (nǎibà) in Mandarin has its origin in a phrase that describes a father who is actively involved in caring for or nurturing his children. The morphological formation process for this slang term involves the character "奶" (nǎi), which means "milk," and the character "爸爸" (bàbà), which is shortened to "爸" (bà) and means "dad" or "father." The combination of these two morphemes creates a phrase that literally translates to "milk dad."

The term "奶爸" (nǎibà) refers to fathers who take an active role in parenting, including feeding, bathing, changing diapers, and other caregiving tasks typically associated with mothers in traditional roles. It is often used to highlight or emphasize a modern, involved father who takes on nurturing responsibilities. This term has gained popularity as societal views on parenting roles evolve, recognizing and celebrating fathers who are deeply engaged in raising their children.

- **双标 {shuāngbiāo}**

The slang term "双标" (shuāngbiāo) in Mandarin refers to behavior or actions that apply different standards when evaluating or treating the same matter, often indicating inconsistency or bias. "双标" is a combination formed from the compound and abbreviation of two words, with "双" (shuāng) meaning "double" and "标" (biāo) being an abbreviation of the word "标准" (biāozhǔn), meaning "standard." This combination undergoes a semantic shift from the original meaning of "double standard" to describe a personality trait or characteristic.

In usage, "双标" (shuāngbiāo) is often used to criticize someone who applies different sets of rules or standards to similar situations or people. It suggests a lack of consistency, fairness, or impartiality, where a person might judge others harshly while excusing their own behavior or showing favoritism toward certain individuals or groups. This term has become quite common in contemporary Mandarin, especially in online and social media contexts, to call out hypocrisy or unfair treatment.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the discussion, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the use of Mandarin slang in the online gaming forum 王者荣耀 百度贴吧 (Wángzhě Róngyào Bǎidù Tiēba) during the period of October-November 2023:

**Morphological Processes for Mandarin Slang Formation:** The creation of slang words in 王者荣耀 百度贴吧 involved various morphological processes, including affixation, shortening, and compounding.

1. **Function and Semantic Changes of Mandarin Slang:** The use of Mandarin slang in this online community during the specified period served specific functions, often reflecting colloquial language variations in terminology. Additionally, the morphological processes led to changes in the meanings of certain words.
2. **Most Common Morphological Process:** The most frequently observed morphological process for forming Mandarin slang in 王者荣耀 百度贴吧 was compounding, with a frequency of occurrence reaching 15 times during the specified period.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anggito, A. (2018). Kualitatif. In J. Setiawan (Ed.), *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. essay, CV Jejak.
- Chapman, Robert L. 1988. *A Dictionary of American Slang*. London: Harper & Row Publisher Inc.
- Dwinanto, Z., & Wibisono, G. (2020). Slang dalam Video Youtube Mandarin Corner: Kajian Morfosemantik. *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Mandarin UNESA*, 3(2). Retrieved from <https://ejournal.unesa.ac.id/index.php/manadarin/article/view/47806>
- Kamus Android *offline Pleco*
- Mahsun. (2017). *Metode Penelitian bahasa: Tahapan strategi, metode, Dan Tekniknya*. Rajagrafindo Persada.
- Packard, Jerome L. *The morphology of Chinese: A linguistic and cognitive approach*. Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Pashkova\*, E. (2018). Slang of modern Chinese language. *The European Proceedings Social and Behavioural Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.15405/epsbs.2018.04.02.113>
- Pringgawidagda, S. (2002). *Strategi Penguasaan berbahasa*. Adicita Karya Nusa.
- Ramlan, M. (2019). *Ilmu Bahasa Indonesia: Morfologi, Suatu Tinjauan deskriptif*. Karyono.
- SIREGAR, J. (2021). *Morfologi*. <https://doi.org/10.31237/osf.io/cg5mw>
- Xinhua. (2023, August 28). *Pengguna internet di china capai 1.079 miliar*. Antara News. <https://m.antaranews.com/berita/3700761/pengguna-internet-di-china-capai-1079-miliar>