



Wakamono Kotoba Language Variations in Twitter Social Media (Morphological Study)

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Abstract

Japanese teenagers use slang terms when they talk with friends at their age, or in informal conversations. Slang is used by junior high school teenagers to adults approximately 30 years old in age. This research discusses slang in Japanese, called 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) by taking data from Twitter. The theory used is Tsujimura's theory for word formation and Sutedi's theory for the types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*). The aim of this research is to describe the various types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) and the forming process of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which appears in the posts from young Japanese people on Twitter social media in 2023. The data analysis method used is the distributional method. The data obtained was 21 data in which results show that the types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) contained in young Japanese's posts on Twitter were abbreviated words, abbreviated words with letters of the alphabet, imitation words, languages used by women, and foreign languages. When compared with standard Japanese, the difference in 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) lies in the morphological word formation process which consists of affixation, word borrowing, word fragmentation, word combination, and reduplication.

Keywords: *wakamono kotoba*, morphology, Japanese youth, twitter

INTRODUCTION

Language is very important for human life. Language is a means of communication that humans use in daily activities. To study the purpose of oral or written communication, the main context that speakers must pay attention to is so that the language goal can be achieved (Mailani et al., 2022). Language is not a static entity, but language continues to develop and change over time. This is influenced by various factors, such as contact with other languages (for example, through migration or globalization), developments in technology and social media, the need to communicate effectively in various areas of life. Language in the millennial era is experiencing great development, especially in the use of social media (Sulaeman, 2019). Social media has long been popular in society. Saputra (2011) states that social media is a forum that humans use to carry out social interactions with each other online using the internet network. According to the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (Big Indonesian Dictionary) (2017), social media is a page or application that allows users to create and share content or engage in social networks.

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Research on language use on social media can be carried out using various approaches, both pure linguistic approaches and non-linguistic approaches or multidisciplinary approaches. A purely linguistic approach can be done phonologically, morphologically or syntactically. This research uses a morphological approach. 「形態論」 (*keitairon*) morphology, according to Sutedi, in (TUMBELAKA, 2018) is a field of linguistics that studies words and the processes of their formation. 「形態論」 (*keitairon*), according to Ogawa, in (Purba et al., 2013) is a field of research that studies the smallest language units that have meaning, called morphemes (*keitaishou*).

The progress of time has made the use of language to become more advanced and developed. And then, a new language appears which was originally created just for fun, but over time it has become more widespread, and this new language is called slang. The use of slang is considered more comfortable to use in daily activities. In this era of globalization, slang which in Japanese is called 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) cannot be avoided. Social media is a basic need to socialize one's life with the world. This phenomenon carries along with the progress of times and increasingly rapid technology. Slang is a type of non-standard and seasonal language that is used in informal contexts, and many people use this slang almost every day (Fauziah et al., 2021). Furthermore, (Listeani, 2020) explains that slang is considered a well-known type of language because the way it is spoken is characterized by applying language cues that are individual and applied to groups or generations. Slang does not emphasize complete language rules with clear pronunciation, however, it is sufficient to mention acronyms or vocabulary, because there is an understanding of the meaning of the vocabulary in the group.

Japanese is a very flexible language. Many variations in the use of Japanese language are due to differences in the ages of speakers. Age is one factor that influences this variation. Words in Japanese often change, especially in slang or 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*). Japanese teenagers use the term “若者言葉” (*wakamono kotoba*) when talking to friends their age or in any informal conversations. According to Laili, in (Andriani et al., 2022) explains that 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) comes from the words “若い” (*wakai*) which means “young people” and “言葉” (*kotoba*) which means “language” (word, words, sayings). According to Yonekawa, in (Amalijah & Nadiya, 2023) explains that, 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is a language used by teenagers, from junior high school to adults aged around 30 years with friends to create a relaxed, pleasant conversational atmosphere familiar, and easy to understand.

The 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) phenomenon continues to develop over time, including in Japan. According to (Laili, 2012) the phenomenon of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) began with the emergence of コギャル言葉 (*kogyaru kotoba*). コギャル言葉 (*kogyaru kotoba*) comes from the word 高校学校 (*koukougakoo*) which means high school, and the word “コギャル” (*gyaru*) which means girl, in English, so it can be interpreted as the conversational language of high school female students. コギャル言葉 (*kogyaru kotoba*) is considered charming and unique, and is used not only by high school girls but also by students and young people under the age of teenagers in Japan. Thus, コギャル言葉 (*kogyaru kotoba*) became the beginning of the development of the 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) phenomenon among Japanese teenagers.

若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) includes variations in vocabulary, expressions, intonation, pronunciation, patterns and contexts of use. 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is often found in various media, including social platforms such as line, facebook, instagram, twitter, and others. In particular, Twitter is a social media that is very popular among Japanese teenagers for interacting and sharing information.

According to (Andriani et al., 2017) 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) has a very wide variations. Starting from the vocabulary created which is often abbreviated or combined, to the typical expressions of young Japanese people which are unique and only understood by their circle. This phrase often refers to popular culture trends, such as anime, manga, or video games. Apart from that, other variations of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*), such as the intonation used in 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is often higher and more enthusiastic compared to standard Japanese, and the pronunciation of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) also experiences changes, such as substitutions. certain vowels or consonants. (Andriani et al., 2017) added that the sentence patterns used in 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) are often more informal and freer compared to standard Japanese, and the context of use in 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is usually used in everyday conversation with peers or in informal situations.

According to Matsumoto, in Maslakha, (2022) 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is a language used by junior high school age teenagers up to adults aged approximately 30 years. Furthermore, (Maslakha, 2022) explains this is due to the fact that 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is often used to describe words that are arranged in a way that does not conform to old standards. The use of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is used by certain groups, such as young people, and has characteristics such as borrowing words from foreign languages, shortening words, and using words given new meanings. 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is used in various situations, such as everyday communication, films, dramas, and the use of language in YouTube videos. This use of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) can also differ from standard Japanese in different circumstances, such as in informal situations or in situations that require a more informal impression. This 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) probably influenced the way people use Japanese today. The use of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) can also be influenced by social relationships, such as seniors and juniors at school.

Much research has been conducted on 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*). For example, research (Sayekti et al., 2020) entitled "Analysis of the Popular Use of Wakamono Kotoba Among Japanese Women on Twitter Social Media" aims to examine the use of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which is popular among Japanese women on Twitter social media. The research results show that 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is a dynamic variety of language used by young Japanese people, especially women. This research focuses on the types of word classes, word formation, changes in word meaning, and the function of each 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which is popular among Japanese women based on a survey of the popularity of the use of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) conducted by the Jikitourai site .net.

Another research that has been conducted is research (Erwin Nur & Ari, 2018) entitled "Analysis of the Use of Wakamono Kotoba Based on Gender in Twitter Social Media" which examines the use of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) by men and women on Twitter social media in Japan with the aim of determining trends in the use of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) based on gender. The results of research in this journal show that young people often use types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) such as 省略語 (*shouryakugo*), 協調語 (*kyouchougo*), 擬音語擬態語 (*giongo-gitaigo*), 古 (*kogo*), 方言 (*hougen*), 語呂合わせ (*goroawase*), 切除 (*setsujo*), 比喻 (*hiyu*), and 外来語 (*gairaigo*). Women tend to use more 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) and more diverse types than men. This shows that women have a higher emotional level and are easily influenced compared to men.

2. METHODOLOGY

The author uses the listening method to collect data. This method is used in language research to observe the language use of the object under study. The use of words from 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is the data source for this research. To collect data, the author used basic tapping techniques, advanced Listening Free Involvement Cakap (SBLIC) techniques, and note-taking techniques. The tapping technique used is the process of listening to data related to 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) in a tweet on Twitter social media. In the advanced technique of Listening Without Involvement Cakap (SBLIC), the writer only acts as a language observer and is not involved in the speech event whose language is being studied. The next technique is the note-taking technique. The note-taking technique is carried out after all the data has been collected and captured. The data obtained were 21 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) data. The note-taking technique is used to convert the captured data into written form using Microsoft Word.

The data analysis methods and techniques used are distributional methods. The distributional method is a method used to analyze language based on the behavior of the language units studied. This method uses determinants in the language being studied. The author chose the distributional method in this research, because the distributional method can be used to identify new patterns and meanings of words. The technique used in data analysis is the basic technique for Direct Elements (BUL). The Direct Element Division (BUL) technique is a technique that divides a construction into the elements that make up the construction. It is called the technique for direct elements (BUL) because the initial way this technical analysis works is to divide lingual data units (word constructions) into several elements or parts. Advanced data analysis techniques, the author uses the drop technique and replace technique. The obliteration technique is carried out by obliterating or eliminating certain elements of the existing lingual unit and the dressing technique is carried out by replacing elements of a lingual unit with other elements outside the lingual unit concerned.

Example of data analysis using distributional methods with replacement techniques:

Gambar 2.1

Data description

長尾くんニコニコしながら何踊ってるんかな。 かわちいねえ。
Nagao-kun nikoniko shinagara nani odotterunkana. kawachiinee.

I wonder what Nagao-kun is dancing while smiling. He's really funny.

In the data above there is 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*), namely *かわちい* (*kawachii*) which has the same meaning as *かわいい* (*kawaii*), namely 'cute'. According to Tsujimura's theory of word formation, in (Yani, 2018) 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is formed by clipping by removing one "い" (i) from the word "*かわいい*" (*kawaii*), and replacing it with "ち" (*chi*).

Structure: *かわいい* → *かわい*い → *かわ*+*ち*+*い* → *かわち*い

According to Sutedi's theory of the types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*), in (Andriani et al., 2022) this 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is included in the *ギャル語* (*gyaru-go*) category which is often used by girls.

3 DISCUSSION

In this study, the object of research is 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) on Twitter social media. This research focuses on the analysis of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) used by Japanese teenagers in tweets. Data classification was carried out based on the type and process of formation of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) that appeared in posts by young Japanese people on Twitter social media in 2023, in accordance with the research objectives. The 21 data obtained by the author are classified as follows.

1. 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) by type
 - a. 省略語 (*shouryaku-go*): there are 2 types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which are included in the 省略語 (*shouryaku-go*) type, namely ちょえ (*choe*) and とりま (*torima*).
 - b. 頭字語 (*touji-go*): there is 1 type of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which is included in the type of 頭字語 (*touji-go*), namely FJK.
 - c. もじり語 (*mojiri-go*): there are 3 types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which are included in the もじり語 (*mojiri-go*) type, namely てえてえ (*teetee*), なあぜなあぜ (*naazenaaze*), and わかりみ (*wakarimi*).
 - d. ギャル語 (*gyaru-go*): there are 5 types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which are included in the ギャル語 (*gyaru-go*) type, namely 好ハオ (*hao*), かわちい (*kawachii*), 羽ばたいている (*habataiteiru*), うちゆくちい (*uchukuchii*), and ちゅき (*chuki*).
 - e. 外来語 (*gairai-go*): there are 5 types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which are included in the 外来語 (*gairai-go*) type, namely ユザネ (*yuzane*), びっぐらぶ (*biggurabu*), ワンチャン (*wanchan*), リポスト (*riposuto*), and ハルシネーション (*harushinēshon*).

The classification of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) based on type can be seen as shown in the following table

Tabel 3.1 Klasifikasi 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) Berdasarkan Jenis

省略語 (<i>shouryaku-go</i>)	頭字語 (<i>touji-go</i>)	もじり語 (<i>mojiri-go</i>)	ギャル語 (<i>gyaru-go</i>)	外来語 (<i>gairai-go</i>)
Choe (ちょえ)	FJK	Teetee (てえてえ)	Hao (好ハオ)	Yuzane (ユザネ)
Torima (とりま)		Naazenaaze (なあぜなあぜ)	Kawachii (かわちい)	Biggurabu (びっぐらぶ)

		<i>Wakarimi</i> (わかりみ)	<i>Habataiteiru.</i> (羽ばたいている)	<i>Wanchan</i> (ワンチャン)
			<i>Uchukuchii</i> (うちゆくちい)	<i>Riposuto</i> (リポスト)
			<i>Chuki</i> (ちゆき)	<i>Harushinēshon</i> (ハルシネーション)

2. 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) based on the word formation process:

- Word clipping (clipping): there are 3 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which are included in the type of clipping word formation process, namely ちょえ (*choe*), てえてえ (*teetee*), and 羽ばたいている (*habataiteiru*).
- Word clipping and compounding: there is 1 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which falls into the type of compounding word formation process, namely 好ハオ (*hao*).
- Word clipping and affixation: there are 5 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which fall into the type of clipping and affixation word formation process, namely かわちい (*kawachii*), うちゆくちい (*uchukuchii*), ちゆき (*chuki*), とりま (*torima*), and わかりみ (*wakarimi*).
- Reduplication: there is 1 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which is included in the type of reduplication word formation process, namely: なあぜんあぜ (*naazenaaze*).
- Borrowing: there are 5 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) which are included in the type of borrowing word formation process, namely ユザネ (*yuzane*), びっぐらぶ (*biggurabu*), ワンチャン (*wanchan*), リポスト (*riposuto*), and ハルシネーション (*harushinēshon*).

The classification of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) based on the word formation process can be seen as shown in the following table.

Tabel 3.2 Wakamono Kotoba Berdasarkan Proses Pembentukan Kata

Pemenggalan Kata (<i>Clipping</i>)	Pemenggalan Kata (<i>Clipping</i>) dan Penggabungan Kata (<i>Compounding</i>)	Pemenggalan Kata (<i>Clipping</i>) dan Afiksasi	Reduplikasi	Peminjaman (<i>Borrowing</i>)
ちょえ (<i>choe</i>)	好ハオ (<i>hao</i>)	かわちい (<i>kawachii</i>)	<i>Naazenaaze</i> (<i>なあぜんあぜ</i>)	ユザネ (<i>yuzane</i>),
てえてえ (<i>teetee</i>)		うちゆくちい (<i>uchukuchii</i>)		びっぐらぶ (<i>biggurabu</i>)
羽ばたいている (<i>habataiteiru</i>)		ちゆき (<i>chuki</i>)		ワンチャン (<i>wanchan</i>)

		とりま (torima)		リポスト (riposuto)
		わかりみ (wakarimi)		ハルシネーション (harushinēshon)

As for this discussion section, data analysis was carried out on two data samples, namely as follows.

Data Analysis 1:

これ本当可愛かったありがとうございます。ワンツー、好ハオ...
Kore hontō kawaikatta arigatōgozaimasu. Wansū, hao...
 This is really funny, thank you. One or two, hao

In the tweets in the data, 好ハオ (hao) is the kanji letter which means "like" and is followed by the katakana "ハオ" (hao) which is only pronounced once. This word is used to make it look cuter. Therefore, this 若者言葉 (wakamono kotoba) is becoming more popular because it sounds cuter. 好ハオ (hao) is a word that comes from Chinese. In Japan, this word has become popular especially among middle and high school girls among K-Popers since around 2023, because it is used to express what they like. For example, when praising an idol or character you like. 好ハオ (hao) is used to refer to a variety of subjects, including fashion, makeup, and food, and has become a common phrase on social media to emphasize the meaning of "like". Apart from that, there are also other derivative expressions of 好ハオ (hao) such as 好ハオイ (haoi) and 好ハオ すぎ (haosugi).

In the data above there is 若者言葉 (wakamono kotoba), namely "ハオ" (hao) used in the tweet comes from the word "好き" (suki) which means like. According to Tsujimura's theory of word formation, in (Yani, 2018) 若者言葉 (wakamono kotoba) is formed from compounding the word 「好き」 (suki) and the word 「ハオ」 (hao), and clipping by omitting or delete the hiragana letter 「き」 (ki) from the word 「好き」 (suki).

Structure: 好きハオ → 好ハオ

According to Sutedi's theory of the types of 若者言葉 (wakamono kotoba), in (Andriani et al., 2022) this 若者言葉 (wakamono kotoba) is included in the ギャル語 (gyaru-go) category which is often used by girls.

Data Analysis 2:

ちよ、え????
Cho, e????

'Wait'

か、かわ、かわわわかわいすぎん??

Ka, ka wa, ka wa wa wa kawai sugin??

'Wow, that's really funny!'

可愛すぎて2周した。

Kawai sugite 2-shū shita.

'So funny that I watched it twice.'

In the data above there is 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*), namely ちょえ (*choe*) which has the same meaning as ちよっとまって (*chotto matte*), namely 'wait'. The author uses a distributional method with replacement techniques in describing the data. According to Tsujimura's word formation theory, in (Yani, 2018) 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) experiences word formation through word clipping, by removing or obliterating the words "つと" (*tto*) and "待つて" (*matte*) from the words "ちよっと待つて" (*chotto matte*).

Structure: “ちよっと待つて” → ちょえ

According to Sutedi's theory of types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*), in (Andriani et al., 2022) 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is included in the category 省略語 (*shouryakugo*), which experiences word shortening.

4. CONCLUSION

In this era of globalization, slang which in Japanese is called 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) cannot be avoided. Social media is a basic need to socialize one's life with the world. This happens accompanied by the progress of the times and increasingly rapid technology. 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is a non-standard and seasonal type of language used in informal contexts, and many people use this slang almost every day. 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) is often found in various media, including social platforms such as Line, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and others. In particular, Twitter is a social media that is very popular among Japanese teenagers for interacting and sharing information.

The types of 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) found in young people's posts on Twitter are abbreviated words, abbreviated words with letters of the alphabet, imitation words, languages used by women, and foreign languages. When compared with standard Japanese, the difference in 若者言葉 (*wakamono kotoba*) lies in the morphological word formation process which consists of affixation, word borrowing, word fragmentation, word combination, and reduplication.

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