

# The Typology of Abbreviations Related to COVID-19 in Japanese and Indonesian Newspapers

Ketut Widya Purnawati\*

Department of Japanese Literature, Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia

I Nyoman Kardana

Department of English Literature, Warmadewa University, Bali, Indonesia

Silvia Damayanti

Department of Japanese Literature, Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia

**Abstract**—This study aims to discover the typology of abbreviations found in Japanese and Indonesian newspapers. Data was collected using Sketch Engine tools with specific keywords and newspaper website addresses. The abbreviations analyzed are limited to those related to COVID-19 outbreak news. The identified types include alphabetisms (or initialisms), acronyms, clippings, and mixed forms. The findings reveal that Japanese newspapers use abbreviations in both Japanese and English, while Indonesian newspapers use those in Indonesian and English. The abbreviations formation is influenced by the writing system of each language used in the newspapers.

**Index Terms**—abbreviations, alphabetisms, acronyms, clippings, COVID-19

## I. INTRODUCTION

Genealogically, Japanese language and Indonesian language belong to different families of the language. Japanese language belongs to the Japonic family, while Indonesian language belongs to the Austronesian family. Nevertheless, the two languages morphologically belong to the agglutinative type (Eberhard et al., 2023).

In their development, both languages were influenced by other languages, which made them have several similar loanwords. That is why Japanese language and Indonesian language, separate their words into native and loanwords. There are three word classes in Japanese: native, Sino-Japanese, and *gairaigo*. The natives are words that initially belonged to Japan, and Sino-Japanese are words that came from China, while the *gairaigo* are loanwords that came from overseas other than China (Horie, 2018; Kobayashi et al., 2016; Shibatani, 1996; Tsujimura, 2014). The loanwords in Indonesian language mostly came from Indian languages, Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, Dutch, English, and other languages in the Malay-Indonesian archipelago (Tadmor, 2009).

However, a language's typology shows the language's characteristics, including its morphological processes. In most language, these processes can be a productive way to form words. The specific process varies, including the abbreviation. Abbreviation processes in languages can differ, varying across languages. This variation depends on the type of the language and the letters used in the language. Some languages have syllables that should end with a vowel, while others have syllables that consist of two, three, or even more consonants.

In Japanese, it is common to abbreviate the word(s) because the language tends to avoid using long words (Shibatani, 1996, p. 255), e.g., the word *suupaamaaketto* 'supermarket' is abbreviated into the word *suupaa*, and the word *gakusei waribiki* 'student discount' is abbreviated into the word *gakuwari*. Based on traditional Japanese grammar proposed by Tamamura (1984) (in Kageyama & Saito, 2016), those two words came from different class of words in Japanese. *Suupaa* belongs to the *gairaigo* 'foreign words', while *gakuwari* belongs to the *kango* or Sino-Japanese (words initially from Chinese).

The Abbreviations are also common in the Indonesian language. They can be formed easily by taking the words' initial letter or syllables. For example, DPR is the abbreviation of *Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat*, 'House of People's Representatives', or *daring* is the abbreviation of *dalam jaringan*, 'online'.

We can find such examples of abbreviations in everyday life. Many abbreviations can be found in newspapers, city signboards, books, magazines, etc. However, this study is a case study that took the data from several online newspapers related to COVID-19. Therefore, this study aims to compare the abbreviations found in Japanese and Indonesian newspapers, especially news regarding COVID-19. It compares the structure of the abbreviations and the type of the

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\* Corresponding Author. Email: [tuti@unud.ac.id](mailto:tuti@unud.ac.id)

abbreviated words (foreign or not) found in Indonesian and Japanese.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. COVID-19

Corona Virus Diseases 19, or COVID-19, is a disease outbreak that has emerged since the end of 2019. Its wide range of spread worldwide has changed the world community's life pattern. On March 11, 2020, this outbreak was designated a "pandemic" by the World Health Organization (World Health Organization, 2020). Since May 5, 2023, the WHO has determined that this outbreak is no longer a world health emergency.

When COVID-19 attacked the world, world languages tried to provide terms to accommodate the information. When they did not have specific terms to describe things or conditions, they borrowed English, the most common language for disseminating information about the disease. However, as time passed, some languages eventually determined the appropriate terms in their own language, while others could not.

During the pandemic, the news about the disease was massive, and new terms came and went, following the need for information to spread. The term itself is not always a single word; it could consist of several words, and those words could be abbreviated.

Several studies on the lexicon of COVID-19 emerged during the pandemic. Research has been conducted on the English language, such as *The Influence of COVID-19 on the Lexical Features of English in Pakistan* (Nauman Ahmed & Islam, 2020) and *COVID-19 Lexicon in English News Reports Based on the Theory of Semantic Field* (Wu, 2021). Studies on the COVID-19 lexicon in Indonesian have also been carried out, including an analysis of the development of vocabulary during the pandemic era (Sutarini et al., 2021) and an examination of lingual expressions in COVID-19-related ecolicons in Indonesian online media (Khotimah et al., 2021). In Japanese, research has explored the adaptation of COVID-19-related loanwords into the language (Lim, 2021).

### B. Abbreviations

Blake (2008, pp. 29-30) proposed four abbreviations: blends, shortening, alphabetisms or initialisms, and acronyms. He explains that blending refers to forming a word by taking the first part of one word and the last part of another word. An example of blending in English is the word *smog*. We can form this word by taking the first part of the word *smoke* and the last part of the word *fog*. However, we can find blends differently when we make a word. McCarthy (2002) proposes partial blends like *talkathon*. We can make this word from the words *talk* and *marathon*. In this case, we truncated only the word *marathon*.

We can shorten a word by taking only a part of the word. Examples are *ad* (advertisement), *flu* (influenza), and *mike* (microphone). The complete form of the word and the abbreviated form could have the same meaning, but in some instances, it also could have a change in meaning, e.g., *fan* (fanatic). The word *fan*, shortened from *fanatic*, has a different meaning from its original form. We can see the difference in a sentence: *You can be a fan without being a fanatic* (Blake, 2008, p. 29).

Alphabetism or initialism is a term for abbreviating a compound word or a phrase. We take only the initial letter of the word(s) and read the letters individually (Blake, 2008, p. 30). Examples of alphabetisms can be seen in ATM (Automatic Teller Machine), CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), and FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). We also have another kind of abbreviation called acronym by taking the initial letters, which are read as words rather than individually. The examples are scuba (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) and RAM (random access memory: the computing power of your computer).

In Japanese language, abbreviations are blending or shortening. We can abbreviate the words in three different ways: (1) clipping of everything after the first few *mora*, e.g., *suto* 'labor strike' abbreviated from *sutoraiki*; (2) clipping of the entire first or second part, or the middle part, e.g., *hoomu* 'platform' abbreviated from *purattohoomu*; (3) the selection of a *mora* or two from each member of the compound, e.g., *gakuwari* 'student discount' abbreviated from *gakusei waribiki* (Shibatani, 1996, p. 255). Abbreviations in Japanese tend to be classified into blends or shortening categories because Japanese is a vowel language where the consonant (except nasal) cannot stand alone.

In Indonesian language, forming an abbreviation is much freer. Kridalaksana (2007) proposed five kinds of abbreviations in Indonesian: abbreviations, clippings, acronyms, contractions, and letter symbols. In Kridalaksana's theory, clipping is similar to the shortening proposed by Blake, while contraction is similar to blends. The letter symbol abbreviation is identical to shortening, but this kind of abbreviation is only for describing the basic concepts of quantity, unit, or element.

In this study, we compare abbreviations in two different languages. Therefore, we need a universal theory for both languages, and Blake's theory of abbreviations has become our basis.

## III. RESEARCH METHOD

The data was collected using the Sketch Engine tool. The tool retrieved data from four newspapers, two newspapers for each language. For Japanese language, the data was collected from *Yomiuri Shimbun* (<https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/>)

and *Mainichi Shimbun* (<https://mainichi.jp/>), while the data for Indonesian language was collected from *Kompas* (<https://www.kompas.com/>) and *Detik* (<https://www.detik.com/>).

Text from those newspapers was retrieved using the Sketch Engine tool and accessed at <https://www.sketchengine.eu/>. The tool retrieves texts from the newspapers and collects them into a corpus. Data collection was carried out using several keywords related to COVID-19. The keywords were used to create two different corpora: the Japanese corpus and the Indonesian corpus.

Data search was done by entering the web addresses of the newspapers and several keywords into the Sketch Engine. There are 19 keywords with the same meaning in both Indonesian and Japanese. Table 1 shows the keywords for data search. Indonesian language keywords tend to use English terms.

TABLE 1  
KEYWORDS FOR DATA SEARCH

	Keywords	
	Indonesian Language	Japanese Language
1	COVID-19	COVID-19
2	Pandemic	パンデミック <i>pandemikku</i>
3	Virus	ウイルス <i>wirusu</i>
4	Vaksin	ワクチン <i>wakuchin</i>
5	Corona	コロナ <i>korona</i>
6	Kluster	クラスター <i>kurasuta</i>
7	WFH	WFH
8	WFO	WFO
9	delta	デルタ <i>deruta</i>
10	omicron	オミクロン <i>omikuron</i>
11	lockdown	ロックダウン <i>rokkudaun</i>
12	post-COVID-19	ポスト-COVID-19 <i>posuto-COVID-19</i>
13	outbreak	アウトブレイク <i>autobureeku</i>
14	masker	マスク <i>masuku</i>
15	face shield	フェースシールド <i>feesushiirudo</i>
16	social distancing	ソーシャルディスタンス <i>soosharu disutansu</i>
17	swab	スワブ <i>suwabu</i>
18	PCR	PCR
19	antigen	アンティゲン <i>antigen</i>

The data search resulted in a long list of words. The abbreviations from the list were chosen and classified based on their type. The data were analyzed separately for Japanese and Indonesian newspapers, and then a comparative study was conducted to compare the two groups of abbreviations.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The analysis was conducted separately for each type of abbreviation. The data were classified into alphabetisms, acronyms, and clippings. Some data belonged to more than one type of abbreviation, and were classified as mixed types.

The following table presents the data on each abbreviation type in Japanese and Indonesian newspapers. It also shows the number of abbreviations for each type based on the original language used to form it.

TABLE 2  
TYPES AND NUMBER OF ABBREVIATIONS IN JAPANESE AND INDONESIAN NEWSPAPERS

	Types of Abbreviations	Japanese Newspapers		Indonesian Newspapers	
		Japanese	English	Indonesian	English
1	Alphabetisms & initialisms	1	10	9	14
2	Acronyms	1	3	1	4
3	Clippings	-	6	7	1
4	Mixed type	-	2	-	5

##### A. Alphabetisms or Initialisms

Alphabetism or initialism is a kind of abbreviations where only the initial letter of a compound word or a phrase is taken, and those letters are read individually (Blake, 2008, p. 30). In Japanese newspapers, eleven abbreviations can be classified into this group. The list of the abbreviations can be seen in Table 3. Most of the abbreviations are written in the alphabet, so these abbreviations belong to the alphabetism type. All abbreviations that are written in the alphabet writing system are initially English. There is only one abbreviation that is written in numbers and kanji characters. The abbreviation is 3密 *san mitsu* '3 close'.

The phrase 3密 *san mitsu* is abbreviated from 密閉 *mippei* 'close spaces', 密集 *misshū* 'crowds', 密接 *missetsu* 'close contact'. Each word consists of the character 密 *mitsu* 'close', which is the initial character of the words. Based on Blake's theory, this abbreviation can be classified as initialism. Using the language that uses the alphabet as the writing system,

Blake put the terms alphabetism and initialism as the same thing. However, since the writing system in Japanese is not alphabetical, the term initialism is more appropriate in this context.

TABLE 3  
ALPHABETISMS AND INITIALISMS IN JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS

	Abbreviations	Meaning	Frequency
1	3密 <i>san mitsu</i>	密閉、密集、密接 <i>mippei, misshū, missetsu</i> 'Closed spaces, crowds, close contact'	63
2	CDC	Center for Disease Control	66
3	DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid	182
4	ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	6
5	IHR	International Health Regulations	36
6	mRNA	messenger RiboNucleic Acid	58
7	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction	376
8	RNA	RiboNucleic Acid	60
9	RT-PCR	Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction	6
10	WFH	Work From Home	1
11	WHO	World Health Organization	528

There are 23 alphabetisms in Indonesian newspapers, nine of them originate from the Indonesian language, while the other 14 come from English. Abbreviations originally derived from English appeared frequently in both Japanese and Indonesian newspapers. IHR (*International Health Regulations*) is an abbreviation found in Japanese newspapers but did not appear in Indonesian newspapers. On the other hand, five abbreviations were found in Indonesian newspapers but not in Japanese newspapers, they are ICVC (*International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate*), PCR-SGTF (*Polymerase Chain Reaction-S-Gene Target Failure*), RDT (*Rapid Diagnostic Test*), RRT-PCR (*Real-time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction*), WFO (*Work from Office*).

TABLE 4  
ALPHABETISMS AND INITIALISMS IN INDONESIAN NEWSPAPERS

	Abbreviations	Meaning	Frequency
1	APD	<i>Alat Pelindung Diri</i> 'Personal Protective Equipment'	208
2	ODP	<i>Orang dalam Pemantauan</i> 'Person under surveillance'	206
3	OTG	<i>Orang tanpa Gejala</i> 'Asymptomatic person'	119
4	PDP	<i>Pasien dalam Pengawasan</i> 'Patient under surveillance'	158
5	PJJ	<i>Pembelajaran Jarak Jauh</i> 'Long distance learning'	312
6	PPKM	<i>Pemberlakuan Pembatasan Kegiatan Masyarakat</i> 'Enforcement Community Activity Restrictions'	2.032
7	PPLN	<i>Pelaku Perjalanan Luar Negeri</i> 'Overseas traveller'	85
8	PSBB	<i>Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar</i> 'Large scale social distancing'	750
9	PTM	<i>Pembelajaran Tatap Muka</i> 'Face to face learning'	1.543
10	CDC	Center for Disease Control	176
11	DNA	Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid	90
12	ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	3
13	ICVC	International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate	2
14	mRNA	messenger Ribo Nucleic Acid	176
15	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction	1147
16	PCR-SGTF	Polymerase Chain Reaction-S-Gene Target Failure	5
17	RDT	Rapid Diagnostic Test	25
18	RNA	Ribo Nucleic Acid	118
19	RT-PCR	Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction	271
20	RRT-PCR	Real-time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction	8
21	WFH	Work from Home	200
22	WFO	Work from Office	199
23	WHO	World Health Organization	150

The alphabetisms found in English and Indonesian newspapers generally follow similar abbreviation patterns. The initial letter of a preposition within a phrase is sometimes included in the alphabetism. The examples include ODP (*Orang dalam Pemantauan*) 'The person under surveillance' or PDP (*Pasien dalam Pengawasan*) 'patient under surveillance' in Indonesian language and WFH (*Work from Home*) or WFO (*Work from Office*) in English. These abbreviations take the

initial letter of the preposition *dalam* ‘in’ in Indonesian and *from* in English. However, in English, some examples show that the initial letter of a preposition is not always included in the abbreviation. It can be seen in the alphabetisms of the CDC (*Center for Disease Control*) and ECDC (*European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control*), where the words ‘for’ and ‘and’ are not abbreviated.

### B. Acronyms

There are four acronyms found in Japanese newspapers. Those are エクモ ekumo, ECMO, SARS, and MERS. エクモ ekumo and ECMO have the same meaning. This is the acronym of *ExtraCorporeal Membrane Oxygenation*. The エクモ ekumo and ECMO forms compete because their frequency is similar, 76 for エクモ ekumo and 57 for ECMO. The エクモ ekumo acronym shows how the Japanese people pronounce the ECMO acronym.

TABLE 5  
ACRONYMS IN JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS

	Acronyms	Meaning	Frequency
1	エクモ ekumo	ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation)	76
2	ECMO	Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation	57
3	SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome	65
4	MERS	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome	46

There are three acronyms found in Indonesian newspapers. One acronym is Indonesian acronym, such as *KIPI* (*Kejadian Ikutan Pasca-Imunisasi*) ‘Post-Immunization Adverse Events’ and the other two acronyms are initially from English: SARS and MERS. The complete examples for those acronyms are available in Table 6.

TABLE 6  
ACRONYMS IN INDONESIAN NEWSPAPERS

	Acronyms	Meaning	Frequency
1	KIPI	<i>Kejadian Ikutan Pasca-Imunisasi</i> ‘Post-Immunization Adverse Events’	83
2	SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome	107
3	MERS	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome	25

### C. Clippings

The word COVID was found in both Japanese and Indonesian newspapers. The word is made through the clipping process. The original word is English language and it is formed by taking the first syllable from the first word *Corona* and the second word *Virus* as well as the initial alphabet of the third word *Disease*.

Clippings in Japanese newspapers are words initially from English and primarily written in katakana, except for the *COVID*. The clippings written in katakana are アベノミクス *abonomikusu*, インフォデミック *infodemikku*, ウェビナー *webinā* リスコミ *risukomi*, ワークেশョン *wākēshon*, and COVID.

The clippings in Japanese could take the initial *mora* from each word in a compound like in the *risukomi* or take several initial *mora* of the first word with several final *mora* of the second word, as seen in the *abonomikusu*, *infodemikku*, *webinā*, and *wākēshon*. The meaning of each clipping can be found in the Table 7.

Shibatani (1996) proposed three types of clipping, as mentioned in the literature review. From this point of view, the data considered as clipping can be nearly classified into the third type: selecting a *mora* or two from each compound member. Based on the number of *mora*, only ウェビナー *webinā* and リスコミ *risukomi* meet the criteria, as both are formed by taking two *mora* from each being abbreviated. *Abonomikusu* is made by taking the entire first word (安倍 *Abe*), which happens to consist of two *mora* (ア a・ベ be), and four *mora* (ノ no・ミ mi・ク ku・ス su) from the second word (エコノミクス *ekonomikusu* ‘economics’). This case can be considered as a partial clipping.

Another three clippings are forms through the following processes. *Infodemikku* is made by taking three *mora* (イ i・ン n・フォ fo) from the first word (インフォメーション *infomēshon* ‘information’) and four *mora* (デ de・ミ mi・ツ tsu・ク ku) from the second word (パンデミック *pandemikku* ‘pandemic’). Note that half-width ツ *tsu* is used as the marker that doubles the following consonant and is considered one *mora*. *Wākēshon* is made by taking the first two *mora* (ワ wa・ー) from the first word (ワーク *wāku* ‘work’) and taking the last four *mora* (ケ ke・ー・シヨ sho・ン n) from the second word (バケーション *bakēshon* ‘vacation’). In Japanese, the *chōonpu* (ー), which lengthens the preceding vowel, is considered one *mora*.

TABLE 7  
CLIPPINGS IN JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS

	Acronyms	Meaning	Frequency
1	アベノミクス abenomikusu	安倍 and エコノミクス <i>Abe and ekonomikusu</i> 'Abenomics (Economic policy of the Cabinet of Shinzo Abe, born in December 2012)'	37
2	インフォデミック infodemikku	インフォメーション and パンデミック <i>infomēshon and pandemikku</i> 'Information and pandemic'	16
3	ウェビナー webinā	ウェブ and セミナー <i>uebu and seminā</i> 'Web and seminar (Webinar: Seminar held online)'	62
4	リスクコミ risukomi	リスクコミュニケーション <i>risuku komyunikēshon</i> 'risk communication'	40
5	ワーケーション wākēshon	ワーク and バケーション <i>wāku and bakēshon</i> 'work and vacation'	187
6	COVID	Corona Virus Disease	16

In Indonesian newspapers, eight clippings were found, including the word 'COVID' which is originally from an English phrase. Another seven clippings are initially made in Indonesian. The clipping is made by finding the pleasing sound of the clipping without considering whether the parts taken are syllables or not. This can be seen in *alkes*, *prokes*, and *satgas*. *Alkes* are made by taking the first two alphabets (*al*) of the first word (*alat* 'device') and the first three alphabets (*kes*) of the second word (*kesehatan* 'health'). *Prokes* and *satgas* are made by taking the first three alphabets from each compound word. The *pro* part in *prokes* and the *gas* part in *satgas* can be considered a syllable, while the *kes* in *prokes* and *sat* in *satgas* cannot be considered a syllable.

A different pattern was found in *isoman*. This clipping is made by taking the first three alphabets of the first word (*isolasi* 'isolation') which can be considered as two syllables (*i* and *so*), and the first three alphabets of the second word (*mandiri* 'independently') which can be regarded as one syllable (*man*). Like in *alkes* and *prokes*, the *kes* in *Kemenkes* stands for the word *kesehatan* 'health', and this is not a syllable, while the *kemen* part which stands for *Kementerian* 'ministry' consists of two syllables (*ke* and *men*).

Another pattern was found in *daring* and *luring*. The *ring* part of these clipping is taken from the middle syllable of the word *jaringan* 'network', while the *da* and *lu* are taken from the first two alphabets of the preposition words *dalam* 'in' and *luar* 'out', respectively, and are considered as syllables.

TABLE 8  
CLIPPINGS IN INDONESIAN NEWSPAPERS

	Acronyms	Meaning	Frequency
1	<i>alkes</i>	<i>alat kesehatan</i> 'medical devices'	1
2	<i>daring</i>	<i>dalam jaringan</i> 'online'	687
3	<i>luring</i>	<i>luar jaringan</i> 'offline'	309
4	<i>isoman</i>	<i>isolasi mandiri</i> 'self-isolation'	254
5	<i>Kemenkes</i>	<i>Kementerian Kesehatan</i> 'Ministry of Health'	521
6	<i>prokes</i>	<i>protokol kesehatan</i> 'health protocol'	404
7	<i>Satgas</i>	<i>satuan tugas</i> 'task force'	556
8	COVID	Corona Virus Disease	475

#### D. Mixed Type

Table 9 shows the abbreviations of mixed type. The table shows the data taken from Japanese and Indonesian newspapers. Six abbreviations can be classified into this group: 転売ヤー *tenbaiyā*, MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2, nCoV, RT-Antigen, and BBIBP-CorV. However, only two data were found in Indonesian newspapers: MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2. One abbreviation is built from Japanese and English words, and the other five are initially from English. All of these five abbreviations are related to disease and prevention.

TABLE 9  
MIXED-TYPE ABBREVIATIONS IN JAPANESE AND INDONESIAN NEWSPAPERS

	Abbreviations	Meaning	Frequency	
			Japanese Newspaper	Indonesian Newspaper
1	転売ヤー <i>tenbaiyā</i>	転売 and バイヤー <i>tenbai</i> and <i>baiyā</i> 'reseller and buyer'	4	0
2	MERS-CoV	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus	2	9
3	SARS-CoV-2	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus-2	237	15
4	RT-Antigen	Rapid Test-Antigen	0	3
5	nCoV	novel Coronavirus	0	2
6	BBIBP-CorV	Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products-Corona Vaccine	0	8

These abbreviations include alphabetisms, acronyms, and clippings. Clipping was only found when an abbreviation of Corona from the Coronavirus has become CoV—for example, MERS-CoV. MERS is the acronym of the initial letter of *Middle East Respiratory Syndrome*, while CoV is a clipping from Coronavirus. Such a system of abbreviation is also applied in SARS-CoV-2.

In RT-Antigen, the abbreviation is only applied on the first two words by taking the initial letter of *Rapid* and *Test*. The last word *antigen* is not abbreviated. It differs from the word *tenbaiyā* that is composed from *tenbai* 'reseller' and *baiya* 'buyer'. The first word *tenbai* 'reseller' is not abbreviated, and the second word *baiya* 'buyer' is abbreviated by taking the last two mora: ヤ *ya* and the long vowel marked by *chōonpu* (ー). This kind of abbreviation is called a partial blend (McCarthy, 2002).

The nCoV and BBIBP-CorV are formed in similar ways. The nCoV is abbreviated from the compound *novel Coronavirus*. This abbreviation is a mixed type of alphabetism and clipping. The *n* part is an alphabetism from the word *novel*, and CoV is clipping from the compound *Coronavirus*. This kind of abbreviation can also be seen in BBIBP-CorV. The BBIBP is the alphabetism which takes the first letter of each word in the phrase *Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products*, and the CorV is clipping and alphabetism of the *Corona Vaccine*.

Let us compare the abbreviations of *Coronavirus* and *Corona Vaccine*. We can see that the word *corona* can be abbreviated into *Co* or *Cor*. The presence or absence of the letter *r* indicates the meaning of the letter *V* following the abbreviation. When the letter *r* is absent, the meaning of the letter *V* will be *virus*, but when it is present, the meaning of the letter *V* will be the *vaccine*.

#### E. English Abbreviations in Japanese and Indonesian Newspapers

Based on the analysis results, we found that the types of abbreviations in both Japanese and Indonesian newspapers are alphabetisms and/or initialisms, acronyms, clippings, and mixed type. The words abbreviated in Japanese newspapers could be Japanese and English words, and in Indonesian newspapers could be Indonesian and English words. However, not all English abbreviations can be found in both Japanese and Indonesian newspapers. We can discover WHO in Indonesian newspapers but not in Japanese newspapers. However, we can find nCoV, RT-Antigen, BBIBP-CorV, and ECMO (sometimes written in katakana as エクモ *ekumo*) in Japanese newspapers but not in Indonesian newspapers. Table 10 shows how the English abbreviations appear in Japanese and Indonesian newspapers.

TABLE 10  
TYPES OF ENGLISH ABBREVIATIONS IN JAPANESE AND INDONESIAN NEWSPAPERS

	English Abbreviations	Types of abbreviations	Japanese Newspapers	Indonesian newspapers
1	CDC	alphabetism	√	√
2	DNA	alphabetism	√	√
3	ECDC	alphabetism	√	√
4	mRNA	alphabetism	√	√
5	PCR	alphabetism	√	√
6	RNA	alphabetism	√	√
7	RT-PCR	alphabetism	√	√
8	WFH	alphabetism	√	√
9	WHO	alphabetism	√	√
10	IHR	alphabetism	√	—
11	ICVC	alphabetism	—	√
12	PCR-SGTF	alphabetism	—	√
13	RDT	alphabetism	—	√
14	RRT-PCR	alphabetism	—	√
15	WFO	alphabetism	—	√
16	ECMO	acronym	√	—
17	COVID	clipping	√	√
18	MERS-CoV	mixed type (acronym & clipping)	√	√
19	SARS-CoV-2	mixed type (acronym & clipping)	√	√
20	nCoV	mixed type (alphabetism & clipping)	—	√
21	RT-Antigen	mixed type (alphabetism & not abbreviated)	—	√
22	BBIBP-CorV	mixed type (alphabetism & clipping)	—	√

In this study, the abbreviations in *katakana* are excluded from the category of English abbreviations, even if their origin words are English compounds or phrases. Abbreviations such as エクモ *ekumo* and ウェビナー *webinā*, among others, do not fall in to this category. If such abbreviations are excluded, we have 22 English abbreviations. However, some abbreviations do not appear in Japanese newspapers, and some others absent in Indonesian newspapers. In Japanese newspapers, there are only 14 English abbreviations, while in Indonesian newspapers there are 20 abbreviations found. This leads us to the conclusion that Indonesian language incorporates more English terms than Japanese language does.

Based on the types, from 22 English abbreviations, fifteen are alphabetisms. Clippings and acronyms are represented by one abbreviation for each type. Another five abbreviations are the mixed type of alphabetism, acronym, clipping, and not abbreviated.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

The discussions above highlight the phenomenon of abbreviations related to the COVID-19 outbreak in both Japanese and Indonesian newspapers. These abbreviations can take the form of alphabetisms (or initialisms), acronyms, clippings, or a combination of two abbreviations types. Some may also be a mix of an unabbreviated word and a type of abbreviation. This indicates that language users have flexibility in abbreviating compound words or phrases.

However, after all, the writing system of a language ultimately influences how its users create abbreviations. For example, it is impossible to form abbreviations in the alphabetism type for Japanese language which does not use Latin letters. This writing system also affects how phrases derived from English are abbreviated, particularly in terms of clipping. In Japanese, clipping of English-derived words adapts to the Japanese pronunciation system and is based on the *mora* structure of the words. This differs from clipping in Indonesian language which prioritizes sound harmony rather than strict syllabic division. Since Indonesian language does not use *mora*, clipping is performed by selecting a syllable and/or one or more letters.

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**Ketut Widya Purnawati** earned her Bachelor's degree in 2000 from the Department of Japanese Literature at Padjadjaran University. She continued her graduate studies in Linguistics at Udayana University, completing her Master's degree in 2009 and her Doctorate in 2018.

She has been a lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities, Udayana University since 2001. From 2005 to 2006, she participated in the Long-term Training for Japanese Language Teachers at the Japan Foundation in Saitama, Japan. In 2015, she was awarded a Research Grant from the Hyogo Overseas Research Network to conduct joint research at Kobe Women's University. She served as Chair of the Department of Japanese at Udayana University from 2010 to 2014. Since 2022, she is the Chair of the Master's Program in Linguistics at the Faculty of Humanities, Udayana University. Her research interests are in linguistics, focusing on linguistic typology, syntax, and landscape linguistics. ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1710-4693> Email: [tuti@unud.ac.id](mailto:tuti@unud.ac.id)



**I Nyoman Kardana** earned his Bachelor's degree from Department of English at Warmadewa University, Denpasar-Bali in 1992. Then he received his Master Degree in Linguistics from Padjadjaran University, Bandung in 1998. He continued his doctoral study at Department of Linguistics, Udayana University and he got his doctorate degree in Linguistics in 2004. He is now a professor of linguistics at Faculty of Letters, Warmadewa University, Bali-Indonesia. He has been doing some researches related to the topics: morpho-syntax, semantics, and eco-linguistics. He also has supervised many papers and thesis. He has written a lot of articles published in national and international journals. He has participated as a guest and invited speaker in several national and international conferences. ORCID iD: 0009-0002-3387-2449 Email: [ikardana@yahoo.com](mailto:ikardana@yahoo.com)



**Silvia Damayanti** earned her Bachelor's degree from the Department of Japanese Literature at Padjadjaran University in 2005. She obtained her Master's degree in Linguistics from Udayana University in 2013 and her Doctorate in Linguistics from Udayana University, specializing in discourse studies. She has been a lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities, Udayana University, since 2008. Her research interests focus on the Japanese language and literature, particularly in linguistics (discourse analysis) and literature (children's literature). ORCID iD: 0000-0001-7309-1466 Email: [silvia\\_damayanti@unud.ac.id](mailto:silvia_damayanti@unud.ac.id)