



## ANALYSIS OF CLIPPING AS AN ELEMENT IN PHILIPPINE ENGLISH AND SINGAPOREAN ENGLISH: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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**Abstract** – This research study entitled *Analysis of Clipping as an Element in Philippine English and Singaporean English: A Comparative Study* compared the similarities and differences regarding the word-formation process of clipping in the case of two Outer Circle Englishes, the Philippine English and Singaporean English.

The writers were guided by the following questions: (1) What are the common clipped words in Philippine English and Singaporean English and their frequency of use; (2) What are the commonly occurring words before and after the clipped words in Philippine English and Singaporean English and their frequency of use and (3) What are the similarities and differences in Philippine English and Singaporean English.

Comparative method of research was employed in this study. The International Corpus of English served as the main data source. The researchers gathered thirty (30) clipped words from the two corpora using the digital concordancer AntConc.

It was found in the study that the clipped words that have the highest number of hits were “movies” from Philippine English and “ad” from Singaporean English. Also, it was found in the study that Philippine English used clipped words more often than Singaporean English. In terms of the words placed before the clipped words, the majority are determiners such as “the”, “a”, and “and” in the written or spoken discourse. Generally, the two Englishes have their unique way of using clipped words in communication leading to a conclusion that there was a considerable difference of the two. It is highly recommended that future researchers conduct study on other clipped words that this study did not cover.

**Keywords** – corpus linguistics, corpora, clipping, Philippine English, Singaporean English

### INTRODUCTION

English is also known as the international language. People who visit other countries and the native citizen of that country can make a conversation by the use of English. Philippines and Singapore are both Asian countries and the majority of their population have at least some degree of fluency in English. English as a second language of the given two Asian countries has great impact mostly when communicating, because of the language being diverse, most of the people are using clipped words now a days. Communicators cut a certain part of a word to make it short and for it to have an impact to other communicators.

Clipping is a word-formation process where in word is cut or trimmed in order to shorten the word. According to Marchand (1969) “clippings are not coined as words belonging to the standard vocabulary of a language”. Language is needed in order to convey thoughts and ideas but because language is dynamic the capacity of maintaining a language is rapidly slipping in the hands of all the speakers. Some of the clipped words

that are not accepted in formal writing in the past can now be accepted, whether in spoken or in written form. Most of the speakers of English are concern whether the clipped word still has the same value of meaning when it is cut or trimmed but according to Brewer (2007) “a clipped word maintains its original meaning”.

Aronoff (2013) stated that “A branch of linguistic that is focused on the internal structure of words is called morphology”. It tackles the internal structure of a word, how a certain word changes, the construction of a word and the effect of that word in the daily life of the communicators. It presupposes a word-based approach to the analysis of morphological structure of a clipped word.

Construction Morphology, Geert (2017) stated that it is a theory of word structure in which the complex words of a language are analysed as constructions, that is, systematic pairings of form and meaning. Clipped word changes the construction of the original word leading speakers confused to use these clipped words in formal discourse. Is the meaning of the original word

changes if it was cut or trimmed? Are there any clipped word that are already accepted in formal discourse?

In this study, Analysis of Clipping as an Element of Philippine English and Singaporean English: A Comparative Study, the researchers will give and compare 30 clipped words that are commonly used in the said Englishes. The researchers will identify and analyse how often the given 30 clipped words are used in both Philippine and Singaporean Corpora.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study sought to compare the use of clipping in Philippine English and Singaporean English. Specifically, it aimed to answer the following questions: What are the common clipped words in Philippine English and Singaporean English and their frequency of use? What are the commonly occurring words before and after the clipped words in Philippine English and Singaporean English and their frequency of use? What are the similarities and differences in Philippine English and Singaporean English?

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The paper is quantitative study based on numerical data which are the thirty (30) commonly used clipped words. After identifying the clipped words, the writers used a simple statistical method to determine how often the clipped words occurred and are used in both corpora. The main source of this study is the International Corpus of English ICE, Philippine Component and Singaporean Component.

The researchers used the corpus to explore the content using basic frequency count with the employment of the concordancing software AntConc. The words before and after the clipped words were determined also by the help of AntConc.

The researchers gathered thirty (30) commonly used clipped words that are used in Philippine English and Singaporean English, identified all the words used before and after the clipped word, and analyzed the results in terms of comparison and contrast.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Table 1 presents the clipped words in Philippine English arranged from the highest to the lowest frequency. Topping the list is *movie* (moving pictures)

with a total of 213 coming from 67 hits in the written register and 146 hits in the spoken register. Next is *phone* (telephone) with total hits of 137 followed by *lunch* (luncheon) hits 100. Succeeding data shows two-digit numbers of hits, *plane* (airplane) with 74 hits. Next is the *exam* (examination) with the 41 hits, *pro* (professional) hitting 33, 32 hits for *gas* (gasoline), *tie* (necktie) with 26 hits, *ad* (advertisement) and *gym* (gymnasium) with the same number of hits of 20, followed by *lab* (laboratory) with 19. There were 18 hits for *fan* (fanatic), 16 hits for both *prof* (professor) and *memo* (memorandum).

There are the same 14 hits for both *bro* (brother) and *vet* (veterinarian). The next is *con* (convict) which has 13 hits, 11 hits for the *ref* (referee) and last for the two-digit number is *iron* (flatiron) with 10 hits. The words that have the least hits were the following: first is the *flu* (Influenza) with 7 hits, 5 hits for both *teen* (teenager) and *prom* (promenade), 4 hits for both *mike* (microphone) and *fridge* (refrigerator), 3 hits for *auto* (automatic), 2 hits for *burger* (hamburger), *deli* (delicatessen) and *zoo* (zoological garden), and 1 hit for *chem* (chemistry) and *champ* (champion).

**Table 1**  
**Some Clipped Words in Philippine English**

Clipped Word	Philippine English		
	Written	Spoken	Total
movie	67	146	213
phone	65	72	137
lunch	28	72	100
plane	43	31	74
exam	17	30	41
pro	15	18	33
gas	21	11	32
tie	3	23	26
ad	16	4	20
gym	3	17	20
lab	9	10	19
fan	9	9	18
prof	14	2	16
memo	13	3	16
bro	1	13	14
vet	1	13	14
con	10	3	13
ref	9	2	11
iron	3	7	10
flu	5	2	7
teen	2	3	5
prom	0	5	5

mike	0	4	4
fridge	0	4	4
auto	1	2	3
burger	2	0	2
deli	0	2	2
zoo	0	2	2
chem	1	0	1
champ	0	1	1

Table 2 presents the 30 selected clipped words used in Singaporean English. Topping the list is the clipped word *ad* (advertisement) containing with a total of 162 hits from both the spoken and written register, 82 for *lunch* (luncheon), 67 for *phone* (telephone), 46 for *exam* (examination), 35 for *movie* (moving pictures), 32 for *gas* (gasoline) and *pro* (professional), 27 for *con* (convict), 25 for *tie* (neck tie), 22 for *plane* (airplane), 21 for *lab* (laboratory), 13 for *prof* (professional) and 10 hits for *fridge* (refrigerator) and *fan* (fanatic).

Clipped words in Singaporean English with one-digit hits are *iron* (flat iron) with 8 hits, *mike* (microphone), *flu* (influenza) and *auto* (automobile) with 6 hits each, *memo* (memorandum), *teen* (teenager), *vet* (veterinarian) and *ref* (referee) with 3 hits each, *burger* (hamburger) and *bro* (brother) with 2 hits each, and *deli* (delicacy) and *gym* (gymnasium) with 1 hit each.

The clipped words *zoo* (zoology), *chem* (chemistry), *champ* (champion) and *prom* (promenade) had no hits from AntConc.

Singaporean English seldom used clipped words in written discourse except for the clipped word *Ad*.

**Table 2**  
Some Clipped Words in Singaporean English

Clipped Word	Singaporean English		
	Written	Spoken	Total
ad	127	35	162
lunch	0	82	82
phone	0	67	67
exam	0	46	46
movie	0	35	35
gas	0	32	32
pro	2	30	32
con	7	20	27
tie	3	22	25
plane	0	22	22

lab	0	21	21
prof	0	13	13
fridge	0	10	10
fan	3	7	10
iron	0	8	8
mike	0	6	6
flu	3	3	6
auto	0	6	6
memo	0	3	3
teen	0	3	3
vet	1	2	3
ref	2	1	3
burger	0	2	2
bro	0	1	2
deli	0	1	1
gym	0	1	1
zoo	0	0	0
Chem	0	0	0
champ	0	0	0
Prom	0	0	0

### Words before the Clipped Words in Philippine English

The words “*the*”, “*a*” and “*and*” occur several times as words appearing before the clipped words in the Philippine English data. These articles can be considered as collocates of clipped words. Some of the occurring instances are given as follows. For the determiner *the*: (1) And I think that you know if I pass *the exam* I might as well I mean I can I can cope with this I can I can surpass or I can survive this you know <ICE-PHI:S1A-075#111:1:B>;(2) I miss the days when the rain was pouring and we’d just talk on *the phone* about anything at all. <ICE-PHI:W1B-015#142:8>. For the article *a*: (1) We have learned that <@> Florentino Tower </@> , which has a big lobby, a beautiful swimming pool, *a gym*, a function room, and three elevators, charges &peso;42.00 per square meter, while <@> Topaz Balconies</@> , also with a lobby, a swimming pool, *a gym*, a game room, a function room, and three elevators, charges &peso;35.00 per square meter. <ICE-PHI:W1B-028#82:4>;(2) Is there a vaccine being uh made for this 'cause I know there 's *a flu* vaccine and there 's hepa <&> =hepatitis </&> so is there a vaccine being<\$E> <ICE-PHI:S1B-045#71:1:E>. For the conjunction *and*: (1) Six

states including the Philippines claim the Spratlys some sixty rocky atolls in the South China Sea because they are believed to contain as much as one trillion U S dollars in oil **and gas** deposits<ICE-PHI:S2B-036#76:1:A>; (2) The system, which resembles the service contract scheme of oil **and gas** producers will open opportunities to the private sector. <p> <ICE-PHI:W2B-032#57:1>.

### Words after the Clipped Words in Philippine English

The words “and”, “in” “but” and “a” occur a lot of times as words appearing after the clipped words for the Philippine English. Some of the occurring instances are listed. For the conjunction **and**: (1) When our flight was called, we walked out of the terminal, towards the **plane, and** again, the view was breathtaking. <ICE-PHI:W1B-011#105:1> (2) Uh I've been busy reviewing for Dr Isagani's oral **exam and** I'm glad it's over<\$A> <ICE-PHI:S1A-020#3:1:A>. For the preposition **in**: (1) Uh did you take any **exam in** applying <{> <[> for </[> this job<\$A><ICE-PHI:S1A-072#16:1:A>; (2) The creaky old **fan in** the corner did little to cool the mid-afternoon heat. <ICE-PHI:W2F-018#14:1>. For the conjunction **but**: (1) I've seen the **movie but** I can't remember<\$A> <ICE-PHI:S1B-037#40:1:A>; That might be true from the theoretical **plane, but** in reality the soldiers cannot use up all the ammunition they want without considering that every round costs money - taxpayer's money - and that the national treasury is not inexhaustible. <ICE-PHI:W2E-008#61:4>. For the article **a**: (1) We have learned that <@> Florentino Tower </@>, which has a big lobby, a beautiful swimming pool, a **gym, a** function room, and three elevators, charges &peso;42.00 per square meter, while <@> Topaz Balconies </@>, also with a lobby, a swimming pool, a **gym, a** game room, a function room, and three elevators, charges &peso;35.00 per square meter. <ICE-PHI:W1B-028#82:4>; (2) I find this **movie a** great teaching aid for our philosophy classes <indig> 'di ba </indig> ? <ICE-PHI:W1B-005#125:2>.

### Words before the Clipped Words in Singaporean English

The Singaporean English has similar words occurring several times before the clipped words. The words “the”, “a” and “my” occur several times being collocates of clipped words. Some of the occurring instances are listed as follows. For the determiner **the**: (1) He was at **the gym**<ICE-SIN:S1A-081#95:1:B>; (2)

I don't know I remembered **the phone** bills you always picked up the the greater greater bulk of it<\$B> <ICE-SIN:S1A-050#218:1:B>. For the article **a**: (1) Then she was she had this gown with **a fan**<ICE-SIN:s1a-002#322:1:B>; (2) So any way they made one of his books into **a movie** and oh did you go to for the film festival<\$B> <ICE-SIN:S1A-100#248:1:B>. For the pronoun **my**: (1) This is a **my memo** and I'll like to type it to let's say my boss which is uh Casey Leman<ICE-SIN:S2A-053#83:1:A>; (2) He screens all **my phone** calls <unclear> word </unclear><\$B> <ICE-SIN:S1A-099#102:1:B>.

### Words after the Clipped Words in Singaporean English

The words “and”, “you” and “is” occurred several times as words appearing after the clipped words for Singaporean English. Some of the occurring instances are listed here. For the conjunction **and**: (1) It's only **iron and** steel mill we have and then the turnover is shockingly low<ICE-SIN:S1A-033#32:1:A>; (2) Because I got yah my **tie and** all that right<\$A> <ICE-SIN:S1A-080#191:1:A>. For the pronoun **you**: (1) And then this morning I saw Prof in the corridor and I waved to him and I said good morning **Prof you** know in my usual cheerful fashion<ICE-SIN:S1A-072#8:1:A>. For the verb **is**: (1) **Fridge is** important<\$A> <ICE-SIN:S1A-054#167:1:A>; (2) So what I'll do is that umh because the **pro is** really power-packed with features I can only I'll just show you some of these power-packed features<ICE-SIN:S2A-053#14:1:A>.

Of all the words placed before and after the clipped words in Philippine English and Singaporean English the article “the” and “for” appeared from both Englishes several times compared to other words and articles. But those words introduce different usages in sentences.

Both Philippine English and Singaporean English used the article “the” before the clipped word **exam** but notice that Singaporean English use it as a declarative sentence while Philippine English used it as interrogative sentence.

(1) Talking over **the phone** <ICE-PHI:S1B-071#48:1:C>; (2) Today however after five years I hope you will pick up **the phone** and order the P P A board to explain to you what they are doing or why <ICE-SIN:S1B-056#4:1:A>. Both “the” appeared before the clipped word phone but as evident of the examples above that the use is different. In Philippine English it is used

in a declarative sentence however, in Singaporean English it is used in an imperative sentence.

Lunch also uses the preposition “for” in both corpora. (1) We went *for lunch*. <ICE-SIN:S1A-067#127:1:B>; (2) Where are we eating later *for lunch* <ICE-PHI:S1A-086#194:1:A>. Singaporean English the article “for” is used in a declarative sentence while in Philippine English it is used in an imperative sentence.

Words occurring after used in both corpora are mostly verbs, adjective and nouns. The occurring instances are listed as follows: Verb, (1) For Emilie Vi&ntilde;a owner/instructor of <mention> Step in Life </mention> studio in Makati, the most important thing to consider in putting up a *gym is* finding the right location. <p> <ICE-PHI:W2D-018#85:2>, adjective, (2)The press <unclear> word </unclear> of India said the explosion from the two *gas cylinders* caused a roof in the middle to cave in <ICE-SIN:S2B-005#62:1>; noun, (3) And then and there’s also these slight distinctions like David Haselhoff no matter what he does will always look like a B movie actor <O> laughter </O><\$B> <ICE-PHI:S1B-037#151:1:B>. There are countless words occurred after the clipped words but the examples presented above are the indicators that most of the words after are parts of speech. In both corpora, after each clipped words, uses these parts speech as part of the sentences.

#### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

On the basis of the findings, the researchers conclude that there are similarities and differences in the usage of clipped words in Philippine English and Singaporean English. There are words used before and after the given clipped word and most of them are determiners. Philippine English uses clipped words more often compared to Singaporean English in terms of written and spoken discourse. This is merely because Singaporean communicators are strict in using clipping in their daily conversations.

The study only presented 30 clipped words out of numerous clipped words used in discourse, therefore the writers highly recommend future researchers to study other clipped words. The writers also recommend to future researchers to have a deeper analysis on why Singaporean English has few results of using clipping in written and spoken discourse.

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