SOUND CHANGE IN JAPANESE WAKAMONO KOTOBA: MORPHOPHONEMIC AND SEMANTIC STUDY

Julia Angelina[1], Utari Novella[2]

Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Bina Nusantara
[1] e-mail: ange.july1807@gmail.com, [2] e-mail: utari.novella@binus.edu

Abstract

Wakamono kotoba is a language that always change. In wakamono kotoba, sound change phenomenon could be found and affected the word class and word meaning. The purpose of this research is to understand what kind of sound change that occurred to wakamono kotoba, word formation and meaning change happened. The research used qualitative research methodology from library study with descriptive analysis method. Theories used were morphophonemic theory stated by Koizumi (1993) and Suzuki (1975), word formation theory stated by Sakuma (2008), denotative and connotative meaning stated by Sakuma (2008) and meaning expansion-reduction by Saito (2013). The data was taken from a ranking article of wakamono kotoba in Jikitourai website. From this research, it can be concluded that in wakamono kotoba, there are 9 patterns of sound change in which 5 are new patterns, 7 types of word formation with one new formation, and not all wakamono kotoba undergo meaning change.

INTRODUCTION

People around the world nowadays can communicate with people from other parts of the world as technology advances. Language we use daily is also a part of this advancement. As days passed, we kept hearing words we never heard of. This advancement led to the creation of new words between the youths, which is known as slang language. Slang language could be found in Japanese language known as *wakamono kotoba*. According to Inoue (1988), Koyano (2006), and Yonekawa (2009) in Kim (2018), *wakamono kotoba* is words used by 10~30 years old youths that showed group individuality and used as a secret language in the group. However, *wakamono kotoba* nowadays is well-known by people outside that age range, so the language is used by younger and older generations (Kim, 2018).

Research about *wakamono kotoba* has been conducted since long ago, and there are some theories that explain about *wakamono kotoba* and their types. However, there has not been any research that explains how *wakamono kotoba* is formed, especially from a phonemic perspective. Like how to create word *tapiru*, origin word *tapioka* undergo phoneme reduction process, sound change occurred on *wakamono kotoba* creation process. This sound change phenomenon also occurred in standard Japanese language, also known as morphophonemic (*keitaioninron*).

Morphophonemic in Japanese language is also known as *onhenka* (Saito, 2013) and *igyoutai no koutai* (Koizumi, 1993) as well. According to Yanagisawa (in Nasution, 2017) and Nomura (in Santoso, 2015), morphophonemic is a linguistic branch explaining changes in morpheme due to the appearance of phoneme because of phonological or grammatical factors.

There are two morphophonemic theories in Japanese language, stated by Koizumi (1993) and Suzuki (1975) in Santoso (2015). Koizumi (1993) said that there are six types of

phoneme change that occurred in Japanese language: addition (*fuka*), reduction (*sakujo*), substitution (*chikan*), zero affixation (*zero setsuji*), reduplication (*juufuku*), and fusion (*yuugou*). Meanwhile, Suzuki (1975) also said there are six types of morphophonemic: phonemic desertion (*on-in-datsuraku*), phonemic contraction (*on-in-shukuyaku*), phonemic substitution (*on-in-koutai*), phonemic conversion (*on-in-tenkan*), phonemic fusion (*on-in-yuugou*) and fonemic addition (*on-in-tenka*).

Beside sound change, Kuwamoto (2013) said that one of the characteristics of *wakamono kotoba* is its derivation. Sakuma (2008) said that there are 10 types of formation in Japanese language: compounding (*fukugougo*), derivation (*haseigo*), blending (*konseigo*), clipping (*karikomi*), acronym (*toujigo*), loaning (*shakuyougo*), loan translation (*honyaku shakuyou*), word coinage (*shinzougo*), back formation (*gyakukeisei*), and reduplication (*hanpuku*). As it is suspected that *wakamono kotoba* undergoes sound change, it is possible that *wakamono kotoba* have different word formation compared to their origin word.

Kuwamoto (2013) also stated that one of *wakamono kotoba* characteristics is having their meaning changed from their origin word. In Japanese language, there are some variants of Japanese language, like how there are words which meaning changed from denotative meaning to connotative meaning (Sakuma, 2008). Also, based on the word usage scope, meaning broadening and narrowing also happened, as an example, *tsuma* is originally means husband-wife couple, but nowadays, it is used to refer the wife of the relationship (Saito, 2013). Like this, it is possible that *wakamono kotoba* also undergoes meaning change process as their word formation changed.

There are several past research has been conducted about *wakamono kotoba*. One of them is "Analisis Penggunaan *Wakamono Kotoba* yang Populer di Kalangan Wanita Jepang dalam Media Sosial Twitter" by Sayekti, et al (2020). The research studied about the classification of *wakamono kotoba* seen from word formation theory and meaning change, but it does not study about the sound change in *wakamono kotoba*. The other similar research is conducted by Kim (2018) titled "A Comparative Analysis on Young People's Language on Modern Japanese and Korean for the Investigation of Structure and Classification by Word-formation". This research is also studied *wakamono kotoba* from their word formation and meaning while comparing with Korean language. This research too, however, does not study about the sound change in *wakamono kotoba*.

Thus, this research is conducted to understand what kind of sound change occurred on *wakamono kotoba* and how this change affects the word formation and the meaning by using morphophonemic theory by Koizumi (1993) and Suzuki (1975), word formation theory and denotative-connotative theory by Sakuma (2008), and semantic broadening-narrowing by Saito (2013). By conducting this study, it is hoped for people who study Japanese language to be able to understand differences between *wakamono kotoba* and standard Japanese language and contribute further to the understanding of *wakamono kotoba* from linguistics perspective.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a qualitative approach to provide the best result based on the purpose of the research. The method used to collect the data was through literature study, a method which collects data from various reading sources or literatures (Zestika, 2016). Analysis descriptive method was used to analyze the data using the theories suitable to the research.

The data that was analyzed in this research was *wakamono kotoba* that is popular among younger generations of Japanese from 2017 to 2020. The main data was taken from an article from a website called Jikitourai.net, titled "*[JKgo] 2020nenhan! SNS de yoku tsukau hayari no wakamono kotoba rankingu zen 130shuu [gyarugo]* (【JK 語】2020 年版！SNS でよく使う流行りの若者言葉ランキング全 130 選【ギャル語】)" and several websites

provided some additional *wakamono kotoba* to support the analysis. This article talked about the most popular *wakamono kotoba* used in 2020 in social media Twitter, included every word that entered the list since 2017 and has been updated every year since then.

Data corpus was created by creating a list consisting of *wakamono kotoba* written in the article. After the list was created, the list was completed by adding the meaning, *hiragana* writing form and origin word of each *wakamono kotoba* searched in dictionaries or websites that provided information about *wakamono kotoba* like *Numan* or *Kotobank*. Then, the words were categorized based on whether they undergo sound change or not, what kind of sound change happened, types of word formation, and whether meaning change happened or not. After categorization, each word was analyzed from their *hiragana* writing and origin word to figure what kind of sound change and word formation occurred in *wakamono kotoba*.

In addition, to find out if meaning change happened from their origin word, secondary data was used. The secondary data was sentences containing each of *wakamono kotoba* taken from social media Twitter. The sentence was used to understand the usage of *wakamono kotoba* and how meaning changes from the original word.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the websites, there are 139 words of *wakamono kotoba* collected and after categorization, it is found that 100 words undergo sound change process from their origin word and 39 words did not undergo sound change process. Further on, the analysis will be focusing on these 100 words.

Sound Change in *Wakamono Kotoba*

Using both Koizumi (1993) and Suzuki (1975) theories, there are 9 types of sound change happened to *wakamono kotoba*, which is explained further in table below.

Tabel 1. List of Sound Change Occurred on *Wakamono Kotoba*

No.	Type of Sound Change	Number of Words Included	Total Occurred Patterns
1.	Addition	9	4
2.	Reduction	17	6
3.	Contraction	46	5
4.	Substitution	8	4
5.	Reduction-Reduplication	1	1
6.	Contraction-Substitution	3	1
7.	Reduction-Addition	12	2
8.	Contraction-Addition	2	1
9.	Reduction-Substitution	2	1
	Total	**100**	**25**

As seen in Table 1, the first four types (addition, reduction, contraction and substitution) are types of sound change that happened in standard Japanese language. However, there are types that could not be explained using morphophonemic. Below is an explanation for each sound change that happened in the data along with what kind of word formation patterns occurred in each type.

1. **Phoneme Addition (*fuka*)**

    Phoneme addition is a process which adds a new phoneme outside the origin word during word formation process. In the data, there are 9 words that have an additional phoneme and divided into four patterns.

(1) 泣く(*naku*) → 泣いた (*naita*) → /naita/ + /a/ → /naita:/ → ないたー(*naitaa*)

Pattern (1) is one of phoneme addition patterns, which adds a new phoneme in the end of the word as seen in word *naitaa*. The origin word *naku* is changing its form first into past tense form, which is *naita*, before adding a new phoneme /a/ at the end of the word. The other patterns are adding new phonemes in the middle of word structure, adding new phonemes after the form change, and adding new phonemes before the last phoneme of the word.

2. Phoneme Reduction (*sakujo*)

Phoneme reduction is a process which reduces phoneme in origin word during the word formation process. In the data, this process happened to 17 words and divided into 6 patterns.

(2) エンカウンター (*enkauntaa*)→ /eNkauNta:/ → /enka/ → エンカ (*enka*)

Pattern (2) explained about how word *enkauntaa* which is a Japanese loan word from English word "encounter" getting phoneme reduction for almost half part of the whole word, leaving only four phonemes /eNka/. Other than pattern explained above, there are other patterns that directly removed phonemes from origin word, like only one phoneme reduction, more than one phoneme reduction in the middle of phonemic structure, phoneme reduction on suffix after word formation.

Interestingly, there are two other patterns that have phoneme reduction but is not included in the word formation of standard Japanese language.

(3) 4649 (*yon-roku-shi-ku*) → /yon/ + /roku/ + /si/ + /ku/ → /yo/ + /ro/ + /si/ + /ku/ → /yorosiku/ → 4649 (*yoroshiku*)

Word used in pattern (3) is known as number slang. According to Cyber Definitions (2016), number slang is written numbers that are read similarly like a word in the original language. In pattern (3), number 4649 (read as *yon, roku, shi, kyuu* or *ku* on normal occasions) undergo phoneme reduction for each word to create a Japanese word, *yoroshiku*. This number slang used both *kunyomi* and *onyomi* reading style of each number, and removing phoneme /n/, /k/ and /u/ to create word *yoroshiku* from numbers.

(4) 乾杯 (*kanpai*) → /kaNpai/ → /kp/ → KP

The other unique pattern is an acronym pattern. Pattern (4) showed an acronym word *KP* that is created from a word in Japanese language, *kanpai* by removing two phonemes /a/, /N/ and /i/. There is another word that has a similar pattern to KP, which is MJK from the word *majika*, thus showing how acronyms in *wakamono kotoba* also happen to syllables.

3. Phoneme Contraction (*shukuyaku*)

Phoneme contraction is a process where phoneme reduction occurs due to compounding in the word formation process. As compounding needs to happen, most of the words are created from two words or more. This type of sound change has the most words included in it with 46 words and 5 patterns, showing there is a tendency to shortened phrases in *wakamono kotoba* creation.

(5) お風呂 (*ofuro*) + 離脱 (*ridatsu*) → /oφuro/ + /ridacu/ → /φuro/ + /rida/ → /φurorida/ → フロリダ (*furorida*)

Most phoneme contraction patterns are connected to the number of phonemes left after the compounding process. Pattern (5) is the most common pattern among phoneme contraction words. Pattern (5) is a compound pattern between two origin words, each leaving only three phonemes or more, creating a new word with 7 or 8 phonemes in it. Word *ofuro* and *ridatsu* reduced each phoneme to /furo/ and /rida/ before the compound process, creating /furorida/ that consisted of 8 phonemes in it.

The other patterns that are included in phoneme contraction are contraction process from two words that leave 3 phonemes or less from each origin word, contraction process happening to one origin word only, contraction process with more than two origin words and acronym creation from a phrase.

4. Phoneme Substitution (*chikan*)

Phoneme substitution is a phoneme change phenomenon inside origin word without removing or adding phoneme. The number of phonemes in phonemic structure does not change. There are 8 words that went through the phoneme substitution process, with 4 different patterns.

(6) 最高 (*saikou*) → /saiko:/ → /saiku:/ → さいくぅ (*saikuu*)

Like Pattern (6), there are no phoneme reduction or addition happening in this sound change. Words explained in Pattern (6), *saikuu*, have one vocal phoneme changed during word creation formation, which is the change from /o/ phoneme to /u/ phoneme. Other than Pattern (6), the other patterns in this sound change are consonant phoneme substitution, vocal and consonant phoneme substitution, and phoneme substitution in compounded words.

5. Phoneme Reduction-Reduplication (*sakujo-juufuku*)

In the data, there is no phoneme reduplication process. However, there is data that undergo phoneme reduction first and went through phoneme reduplication process.

(7) エッチ (*ecchi*) → /eQci/ → /eci/ → /ecieci/ → エチエチ (*echiechi*)

Word *echiechi* as explained above undergo two continuous sound change processes, reduction and reduplication. Origin word *ecchi* has phoneme /Q/ removed before undergoing a reduplication process, creating /ecieci/ word. Only one data that undergoes this continuous sound change pattern.

6. Phoneme Contraction-Substitution (*shukuyaku-chikan*)

Phoneme contraction-substitution is a sound change process where origin words undergo a contraction process, then after word formation, go through the substitution process to finish the process. There are three data that undergo this process, however, all of them have one similarity.

(8) インスタグラム (*insutaguramu*) + 映える (*haeru*) → /iNsutaguramu/ + /haeru/ → /iNsuta/ + /hae/ → /iNsutahae/ → インスタ映え (*insutabae*)

As seen in Pattern (8), origin words *insutaguramu* and *haeru* undergo phoneme contraction process. Each word leaves /insuta/ and /hae/, then compounded into one word that is /insutahae/. However, /h/ phoneme is substituted with phoneme /b/, creating the final word *insutabae*. This consonant phoneme change after the compounding process is known as *rendaku* phenomenon. Explained by Mc Cawley et al in Kumagai & Kawahara

(2018), *rendaku* is a phenomenon where the first phoneme of second compounded word changed from voiced (*yuuseion*) into unvoiced phoneme (*museion*).

7. Phoneme Reduction-Addition (*sakujo-fuka*)

Among words that undergo continuous sound change phenomenon, most words go through phoneme reduction and then get a new phoneme outside their original words. This sound change can be called phoneme reduction-addition. There are 12 words that undergo this process with 2 patterns.

(9) タピオカ (*tapioka*) → /tapioka/ → /tapi/ + /ru/ → /tapiru/ → タピる (*tapiru*)

The words in this sound change are divided into two patterns by their affix. The first one is the addition of a new affix that is not in standard Japanese language. The second one is a change from origin word classification changed into other classification. Pattern (9) is an example from the second pattern, where the origin word *tapioka* removed /o/, /k/ and /a/ phonemes before adding /ru/ phonemes to its phonemic structure. This changed the word classification of *tapiru*, from noun to verb.

8. Phoneme Contraction-Addition (*shukuyaku-fuka*)

Another continuous sound change found in the data is phoneme contraction-addition. Origin words undergo phoneme contraction and after word formation process, a phoneme outside is added to complete the final word. In the data, there are two words that undergo this process.

(10) 絶望の起床 (*zetsubou no kishou*) → /zecubo:/ + / kisyo:/ → /ze/ + /ki/ → /zeki/ + /Q/ →   /zeQki/ → 絶起 (*zekk*i)

Words explained in Pattern (8) went through a contraction process by each origin word giving two phonemes during word formation process, /ze/ and /ki/. However, after compounding, an additional /Q/ that worked as the second /k/ phoneme is added. Unlike the phoneme contraction-change situation, it is unclear why another phoneme is added after the compound process.

9. Phoneme Reduction-Substitution (*sakujo-chikan*)

Phoneme reduction-substitution that happened in the data is different from other sound changes mentioned above, as two data that is included in this category is uncommon in standard Japanese language. The words undergo a reduction process, and then one of the phonemes is substituted.

(11)   favorite → /ɸavorite/ → /ɸavo/ → /ɸabo/ → ふぁぼ

Word *fabo* originated from an English word "favorite". Word "favorite" went through the phoneme reduction process and left /favo/ to go through the substitution process. However, it needs to be noted that this version of *wakamono kotoba*, the word is read like how they are written, unlike how the origin pronunciation in English or the adapted Japanese version (フェイバリット, *feibaritto*), thus when written into phonemic structure, the written version of the word is used rather than the origin pronunciation. As there is no /v/ phoneme in Japanese, phoneme /v/ is changed into phoneme /b/, creating the word *fabo*.

Like explained before, unlike sound changes in standard Japanese language that only occurred once, there is some data which in their creation process needs more than one sound change process. This process happens continuously, thus this process can be

called 'continuous sound change'. As these sound changes are not explained in theories used in this study, it showed how *wakamono kotoba* is different and derived from standard Japanese language.

Word Formation after Sound Change in *Wakamono Kotoba*

After analyzing the sound change in *wakamono kotoba*, it can be concluded that there are some sound change processes that affected the word formation. Thus, word formation after sound change is analyzed as well. Using word formation theory by Sakuma (2008), there are 7 types of word formation found after sound change. Table below explains the type of word formation and distribution of words.

Tabel 2. List of Word Formation after Sound Change in *Wakamono Kotoba*

No.	Type of Word Formation	Number of Words Included
1.	Compounding	5
2.	Derivation	28
3.	Blending	44
4.	Clipping	9
5.	Reduplication	2
6.	Acronym	6
7.	Specialized Word Formation in *Wakamono Kotoba*	6
	Total	**100**

As seen in the table above, the most occurring word formation is the blending process, followed by the word derivation. Despite that, there are also some word formations that cannot be explained using word formation theory, which is summed up in Specialized Word Formation in the Wakamono *Kotoba* section.

1. Compounding (*Fukugougo*)

Compounding process in *wakamono kotoba* is not that different from standard Japanese language, where two words are compounded together without removing any syllable during word formation process (Sakuma, 2008). The compounding process in *wakamono kotoba* mostly occurred between nouns (*fukugou meishi*), thus the results are nouns.

However, there are some special cases in the data that do not match the theory. Word *daijyoubuso* is a compound word between word *daijyoubu* and particle *-sou*. This word is meant to be a question word. There is also another word, 最＆高 (*saiandokou*), which having a symbol added in the middle of origin word. This kind of compound pattern is new, leaving a possibility that there might be more new compound patterns outside the data.

2. Derivation

Derivation in standard Japanese language means addition of affixes, either prefixes, suffixes, or both (Sakuma, 2008). In *wakamono kotoba*, however, the word derivation does not just explain words that get an addition of affix, but also words that have phoneme added, removed, or substitute, which can be called structural change. There are also new suffixes in *wakamono kotoba* that are still needed to be researched further. Below is the explanation for derivation patterns that happened in *wakamono kotoba*.

(13)   ほかほか (*hokahoka*) + 〜る (*-ru* suffix) → ほかる (*hokaru*)

In Pattern (11), the origin word *hokahoka* removed two syllables 'ho' and 'ka' and gained affix *–ru* to create the word *hokaru*. As it could be seen, *hokahoka* is an onomatopoeia in standard Japanese language. With the addition of affix *–ru*, *hokaru* is created to be a verb. This word itself means to warm oneself. Other than the creation of verbs, there is also the creation of adjective words from noun patterns by adding the suffix '-i' to the origin word.

Another similar pattern is the creation of nouns by adding the suffix '-mi'. This addition of '-mi' suffix is aligned with standard Japanese language, as there are words that have '-mi' suffix like *tanoshimi*. However, Kageyama (1993) in Mizuno (2017) also stated that '-mi' suffix could not be added to certain word classification, while Sugioka (2005) in Mizuno (2017) stated that in *wakamono kotoba*, this suffix is added to adjective noun, copula verb, noun, verb and mimic word, thus explaining the derivation from standard Japanese language in *wakamono kotoba*.

(14)   あげる (*ageru*) + 〜ぽよ (*-poyo* suffix) → あげぽよ (*agepoyo*)

Other than suffixes mentioned above, there are also new suffixes like shown in Pattern (12). These new suffixes are *–poyo, -piyo, -tan, -ngo,* and *–mizawa*. These suffixes are used in verbs and adjectives, mostly to verb *ageru*. This addition of new suffixes showed there is a clear change in *wakamono kotoba* from standard Japanese language, where it is allowed to create new suffixes as it seems fit. There is no change in word classification from original word.

(15)   好き (*suki*) → すこ (*suko*)

As explained in the beginning, there is also a phenomenon where a phoneme is added, reduced or substituted with other words. Pattern (13) is an example of this phenomenon, where the origin word *suki* has their last vocal changed into *o*, created word *suko*. This phenomenon indeed existed in standard Japanese language, like how *atsumaru* changed into *atsumeru* based on whether they are intransitive or transitive (Koizumi, 1993). There is no change in word classification from the original word. However, it needs to be noted that in *wakamono kotoba*, most words that have their structure changed do not have their meaning changed, or even verbs like the *atsumaru* case. It is possible this word change is a new derivational pattern other than addition of suffixes, especially when the changed structure is mostly at the end of the word. This case will be explained further later.

3. Blending

Blending is a compound process where the origin words lose some syllables during the word formation process. In *wakamono kotoba*, blending is the most occurring word formation with 44 words included. Most of the words in this process are also included in the phoneme contraction process.

(16)   *egoisuto* (エゴイスト) + *saachi* (サーチ) → *ego* (エゴ) + *sa* (サ) → *egosa* (エゴサ)

In *wakamono kotoba*, there are several patterns of blending happening from the number of origin words used for the blending process. In Pattern (16), it can be seen that *egosa* is a word created by blending two words together. Two blended words pattern is divided again into four types based on the syllables given by each origin words: 1) each two syllables from first and second word, 2) two syllables from first word and one

syllables from second word, 3) each one syllables from first and second word, 4) combination between one or two syllables from first word and unchanged second word, and 5) each words gave two or more syllables. Pattern (16) is an example of combination between two syllables from the first word (*egoisuto*) and one syllables from second word (*saachi*), while word *furorida* in Pattern (5) is an example of combination of two syllables from first and second word.

(17)   *Biryuushi* (微粒子) + *Reberu* (レベル) + *Sonzai* (存在) → *bi* (微) + *re* (レ) + *zon* (存) → *birezon* (微レ存)

There are also blended words from three origin words, like *birezon* in Pattern (17). Origin words *biryuushi, reberu* and *sonzai* each gave one syllable to create the *wakamono kotoba*. There are only three words in this category: *birezon, yoichomaru* and *asamarusuisan*.

From this explanation, it is clear that Japanese people have a tendency to shorten phrases into one short word that is easier to use.

4. Clipping

Clipping process in standard Japanese language is much easier than the spelling of long words. There are 9 words in which the clipping process happened, with half of the data being foreign words like *enka* and *fabo* explained in Pattern (2) and Pattern (11) above. In these two patterns, it could be seen that in *wakamono kotoba*, almost half syllables are cut, leaving only two or three syllables.

5. Reduplication

Reduplication is a process where the origin word is repeated to create one word. This reduplication process is aligned with phoneme reduplication in sound change. There are two words that have this word formation, one being *echiechi* explained in Pattern (7), while the other one being *achiachi* from the origin word *atsui*. The origin word *atsuatsu* is a reduplicated word from *atsui*, thus *achiachi* can be included in the reduplication process of word formation.

6. Acronym

Acronym in standard Japanese language means abbreviation of compound words by taking the first alphabet from each word in the phrase. However, in *wakamono kotoba*, there are acronym words that are created by taking the first alphabet from syllables like word KP as explained in Pattern (4). Other than KP, there are also *ggrks* which is an abbreviation of "*jibun de gugure kasu yarou*", translated as "search in Google by yourself, fool" and JK *burando* which is a compound word between acronym JK (from *joshikousei*) and *burando*. These three patterns showed that in *wakamono kotoba*, almost anything could be abbreviated other than abbreviation from phrases, such as abbreviation of a sentence, syllables, or compounding acronyms with another word.

7. Specialized Word Formation in *Wakamono Kotoba*

Other than word formation explained above, there are several words in the data that could not be included in any of the word formation theories explained by Sakuma (2008). This word formation is entirely new or already existed, but cannot be explained using word formation theory in standard Japanese language. The example of those patterns is explained further below.

(18)   (ノ ω≦。)ﾋﾟｴｰﾝ → *pieen* (ピエーン) → *pien* (ピエン) → *pien* (ぴえん)

The word explained in Pattern (17), *pien*, is a word created from a word that followed *kaomoji*. The word written after (ノ ω≦。) *kaomoji* is actually an onomatopiea. However, this word undergoes a sound change process and is given a meaning, creating word *pien*. *Pien* itself means pleading, which is an interjection in standard Japanese language. The meaning of the newly created word reflected the *kaomoji*, showing how there is a word formation process from onomatopiea of a *kaomoji* into a new interjection word.

(19)   *Kigasuru* (気がする) → *kigasuru* (きがす) → *kigasu* (きがす) → *kigasu* (希ガス)

Another new word formation found in the data is how in *wakamono kotoba*, it is possible to change the *kanji* of a word just because they are similar to the spelling of a word. This happened to the word *kigasu*. As could be seen above, *kigasu* is a clipped word from *kigasuru* with *kanji* 「気がする」. However, after sound change occurred which removed –ru suffix in the word, the leftover *kigasu* have *kanji* change into 「希ガス」. It needs to be noted that the new *kigasu kanji* actually have a meaning which is noble gas. That means in *wakamono kotoba*, there is a word that has its original meaning changed to another word just because how a word is spelled is similar to another word. This word formation could not be included into any of the word formations mentioned by Sakuma (2008) as well.

There is also number slang as new word formation that could not be included in any of the word formations mentioned by Sakuma (2008). Like word 4649 mentioned in Pattern (4), number slang is a written number that, if pronounced, sounds similar to a word in standard Japanese language. This word formation is also one of internet slang, thus making it a new word formation.

From this analysis, it can be concluded that word formation of *wakamono kotoba* can be explained using standard Japanese language theory, but they are not one hundred percent similar or need to be researched further to see the similarity. Other than that, there are also words that cannot be explained using standard Japanese language theory, setting a clear difference between standard Japanese language and *wakamono kotoba*.

Meaning Change after Sound Change in *Wakamono Kotoba*
As it is suspected that it is possible that sound change also affected the meaning, the meaning of *wakamono kotoba* from their origin meaning is also analyzed and out of 100 words, only 30 words that have their meaning slightly changed or entirely changed. As most of the words in *wakamono kotoba* are blended words, most of the words did not differ far from their original words. For this analysis, the meaning change will be analyzed by looking at their denotative meaning and see if connotative meaning appeared or not using theory from Sakuma (2008). Then, the data will be analyzed as well using semantic broadening-narrowing theory by Saito (2013).

1. **Change from Denotative to Connotative Meaning**
In the data, there are some words whose original meaning changed after sound change. In this study, the origin meaning means the meaning from their origin words before sound change happened. To understand the connotative meaning of some words, there are some things that need to be considered.

"帰宅からのフロリダからのほかいまよし"

(@kokekoke_1211, Twitter, 2015)

Translation: I'm feeling refreshed after warming myself in the bath after coming back home.

In standard Japanese language, *furorida* refers to Florida State in the United States. However, as seen in the sentence above, *furorida* is used in a sentence that talks about bathing. As explained in Pattern (5), the origin of *furorida* in *wakamono kotoba* comes from a sentence "*ofuro kara ridatsu suru koto*", which means "coming out from a bath". As these two words are written similarly, *furorida* has a connotative meaning that can only be understood by looking at the context of the sentence.

There are also words that can be understood without looking at the context of the sentence, yet these words do not make sense when we look at its origin words. One example is *chiigyuu*.

"やっぱり髪型って大事やなと思った瞬間でした。私が男の髪型すると<u>チー生</u>と
しかならない…"
(@jrw223fan, Twitter, 2020)

Translation: A moment where I think that hairstyle is indeed important. If I styled myself like a man, I will certainly become *chiigyuu*…

Chiigyuu originated from *chiizu* (cheese) and *gyuudon* (Japanese beef bowl meal), making its denotative meaning to be a food. The sentence above, however, does not talk about food but about hairstyle. Thus, the background of this *chiigyuu* usage as *wakamono kotoba* is searched, and it refers to an illustration of a boy with a certain image who ordered a bowl of cheese *gyuudon* (J-CAST News, 2020). This image is considered to be an introvert characteristic, thus when talking about *chiigyuu*, it talked about someone that is considered an introvert.

From these two analyses, it can be concluded that there are *wakamono kotoba* that have their connotative meaning created due to various reasons. Like the case of *furorida*, Japanese people have a tendency to create a similar word in standard Japanese words, thus creating a new meaning to another world coincidentally. And some of these meanings are not easy to figure out, as one also needs to understand how these words became *wakamono kotoba* in the first place, making them have a meaning that is not related to their origin word at all.

2. Semantic Broadening-Narrowing in *Wakamono Kotoba*

Other than change from denotative to connotative meaning, there are some words that have their meaning broadened or narrowed. This mostly occurred to derivation words, especially words that have their word classification changed to adjective, noun and structural change.

A word that happened to get a semantic broadening process is *egui*. The origin word for *egui* is *egumi* (えぐみ) which means "bitter taste". In the usage of *egui* itself, the origin meaning could not be found, which can be seen in the tweet below.

"えぐい量の差し入れきた wwwwwww
もう冷蔵庫の中モンスターだらけ wwww
ありがとう!!!!!www"
(@B18C_VTEC_typeR, Twitter, 2021)

Translation: I got refreshment in big quantity wwwwwww there's only Monster in my fridge www thank you!!!!!www

Tweet above is talking about getting a refreshment in such a quantity that filled up the fridge. Word *egui* is used together with a *kanji* read as '*ryou*' which means "quantity", thus showing that *egui* is used to express how much quantity the writer of this tweet got. It can be concluded *egui* here means "a lot", showing a different meaning than the origin word. Here is also another example of *egui* usage.

"今日のビジュえぐい… (˘ᴗ˘) ♡"

(@7__pyon, Twitter, 2021)

Translation: The visual today is amazing… (˘ᴗ˘) ♡

As seen in the tweet above, *egui* is used together with *bijyu*. *Bijyu* here is a clipped version of the word *bijyuaru* in Japanese, or "visual" in English, thus explaining that the writer of this tweet thinks that the visual of someone is "amazing" that day. This "amazing" feeling is expressed using the word *egui*, giving another meaning to this word.

From these two examples, it can be concluded that in the case of *egui*, after the sound change, the meaning also changed entirely, and this word can be used in more than one situation. Despite being a bit different from standard Japanese language, the usage scope of *egui* is broadened, making this word go through a semantic broadening process.

Aside from semantic broadening, there is also a semantic narrowing process in *wakamono kotoba*. One of the words that went through a semantic narrowing process is *tapiru*. The origin word of *tapiru* is *tapioka*, referring to a tapioca starch-made black bubble tea drink. This word went through a sound change process and had its classification changed from noun into verb. The usage of this word can be seen in the tweet below.

"そしてたまにタピる"

(@ulakanoel, Twitter, 2020)

Translation: Then, sometimes drink bubble tea.

As explained in Pattern (9), *tapioka* went through a sound change process that created *tapiru*. As seen in the tweet above, *tapiru* means drink bubble tea, or tapioca drink. This showed how the scope of the *tapioka* word which refers to a drink is reduced into drinking that drink, not allowing another usage of this word to interfere. That means, by adding an additional meaning to the origin word, it narrowed the usage scope of the word, thus showing that *tapiru* went through a semantic narrowing process as well.

It can be concluded that in *wakamono kotoba*, despite being different from standard Japanese language, there is a need for additional meaning to broaden or narrow the usage scope.

3. **Meaning Change in Derivational Word**

Tapiru is one of *wakamono kotoba*, which word formation is derivation, thus allowing the assumption that there is probably a different type of meaning change to words that went through the derivation process. Because of this reason, words that are included in the derivation process are analyzed, and below is the result of that analysis.

For words whose classification is changed to adjective, there are words that have their meaning changed like *egui*, but there are also words whose meaning does not change, like *gesui*. *Gesui* is originated from word *gesu* (下衆). *Gesu* itself means 'lowlife', while *gesui* is used to describe oneself as unworthy. This showed that the meaning of *gesui* does not differ far from its origin word.

For words whose classification is changed to verb, most of the words have an action meaning added to its origin, like *tapiru*. However, there is also a case like *chikiru* in which the meaning differs from the original meaning. *Chikiru* is used to describe a coward, while its origin meaning is about a food (*chikin* or chicken in English). It is suspected that this meaning change has to do with the meaning of chicken in English that can be used to describe a coward. Then, for words that added '-mi' suffix, the meaning is just slightly changed to nominalize the origin meaning.

For words that have new suffixes, there is no meaning change occurring to the origin word, thus it is safe to assume that these suffixes do not change the meaning of the origin word. However, from the tweets used for analysis, there is an indication that these suffixes are used to portray a cute feeling from writings, as shown in the pictures attached in the tweets.

And for words that went through structural changes, there is an indication that these changes occurred due to the same reason as the appearance of new suffixes. The changes mostly do not change the origin meaning, only two words that went through meaning change, and some words also have pictures attached in the tweets that give a cute feeling. However, these are assumptions concluded according to the pictures, thus there is a need for further research.

CONCLUSION

From the result above, it can be concluded that out of nine sound changes found, there are five sound change types that are not mentioned in theory from Koizumi or Suzuki used in this study, called continuous sound change in *wakamono kotoba*. After sound change process, there is also a new word formation which is specialized only for *wakamono kotoba* and could not be found in standard Japanese language. And after sound change process, some meaning of *wakamono kotoba* are changed, which could only be seen by understanding the origin or the background of the word, then the context of the sentence. As *wakamono kotoba* is a language that keeps changing, it can be said as well that these words reflected the change in Japanese language from phonology, morphology and semantic perspectives.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ano Chiigyuu ni tsuite, Sukiya ni Kiitemita Netto de Naze ka Ryuukougoka. (2020, Juni 18). Diambil kembali dari J-CAST News: https://www.j-cast.com/2020/06/18388228.html?p=all

Kim, Y. (2018). A Comparative Analysis on Young People's Language on Modern Japanese and Korean for the Investigation of Structure and Classification by Word-formation. *Comparative Japanese Studies Annual Bulletin, 14*, 203-212.

Koizumi, T. (1993). *Nihongo kyoushi no tame no gengogaku nyuumon.* Tokyo: Taishuukan Shoten.

Kumagai, G., & Kawahara, S. (2018). Stochastic Phonological Knowledge and Word Formation in Japanese. *Gengo Kenkyu, 153*, 57-83. doi:10.11435/gengo.153.0_57

Kuwamoto, Y. (2013). A shift of morphological and semantic structures in ambiguous expression of Japanese youth jargons wakamono-kotoba: Approaching a diachronic study with a database of a TV drama. *Akita Kousen Kenkyuu Kiyou, 49*, 68-75. doi:https://www2.akita-nct.ac.jp/libra/report/49/49068.pdf

Mizuno, M. (2017). Expansion of Japanese Suffix "-mi" on Twitter. *Shigen: Tokyo University of Foreign Studies descriptive linguistic papers, 13*, 167-174. Retrieved from http://repository.tufs.ac.jp/handle/10108/90370

Nasution, S. (2017). Proses Morfofonemik dalam Bahasa Jepang. *LINGUA, 14*(2), 259-266. doi:https://doi.org/10.30957/lingua.v14i2.308

Saito, Y. (2013). *An Introduction to Linguistics: Gengogaku Nyuumon.* Tokyo: Sanseido.

Sakuma, J. (2008). *Gengogaku Nyuumon.* Tokyo: Kenkyusha.

Santoso, T. (2015). *Dasar-Dasar Morfologi Bahasa Jepang.* Yogyakarta: Morfalingua.

Text Speak Based on Numbers. (2016, Mei 19). Retrieved from Cyber Definitions: https://www.cyberdefinitions.com/text_speak_based_on_numbers.html

Zestika, M. (2018). *Metode Penelitian Kepustakaan* (5th ed.). Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.