

**An Analysis of Clipping in 71 BBC Technology Articles Released from
22 October to 14 November 2025
(A Morphological Study)**

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Abstract

This study examines how clipping is used in 71 BBC Technology articles published between October 22 and November 14, 2025. The study uses a qualitative descriptive approach by closely reading each article and noting every shortened word. These clipped forms were then grouped according to Hosseinzadeh's classification, which includes back clipping, fore clipping, and complex clipping. The results show that back clipping and fore clipping are used much more often than complex clipping. This pattern suggests that writers in technology journalism prefer simple and direct word shortening. They want their language to be brief yet clear, without altering the original meaning or grammatical function of the words. Overall, the findings highlight that clipping is not just a stylistic choice. It plays an important role in making technological information easier and faster to communicate.

Keywords: Morphology, clipping, BBC Technology, word formation, technological journalism

Introduction

Language is a dynamic and arbitrary system of human communication. According to Noam Chomsky (Fromkin et al., 2014), language represents the "human essence" used to express mental capacities. In linguistic studies, language is examined scientifically, systematically, and objectively (Todd, 1995). Linguistics consists of several main branches, one of which is morphology, which studies word structure and word-formation processes.

Tumewan (2013) explains that word formation refers to the process by which new words are created in a language. In other words, it is about how people produce words that did not exist before. Yule also points out that word formation is important because it helps us understand unfamiliar words through the different forms they take. When we look at how words are formed, we can find several common patterns. Some words are created through blending, or clipping, others through compounding or derivation, and there are also processes such as back-formation. These patterns make it easier to see how English continues to grow.

One common word-formation process in English is clipping. Clipping refers to the formation of a word by shortening an existing word without changing its meaning or grammatical category (Bauer, 2003). This process frequently occurs in both scientific and informal contexts (O'Grady et al., 1997).

Hosseinzadeh (2014, p. 19) classifies clipping into four main types, namely back clipping, fore clipping, middle clipping, and complex clipping. At first, this sounds quite technical, but the idea is actually simple. In back clipping, the end part of a word is removed, for example, examination becomes exam, and taximeter becomes taxi. Fore clipping works in the opposite way because the beginning part is deleted. This is why the word airplane is shortened to plane, and the word telephone becomes phone (Ikhsan et al., 2021).

Several studies have examined word-formation processes, especially clipping, across different media. Verlin (2025) conducted a morphological analysis of shortened forms on Instagram and found them to be a useful resource for learning Indonesian. The study shows that social media plays an important role in the development of shortened words because users tend to simplify language to communicate more quickly.

A similar focus on informal language can be found in the study by Norah et al. (2021), which analyzed slang used by characters in the movie *Ralph Breaks the Internet*. Their research highlights how clipping is frequently used in spoken language to make expressions shorter and more natural in daily conversations, especially in entertainment media.

Clipping in online communication was also examined by Ikhsan, Fitriasia, and Nasir in their study *An Analysis of Clipping Words on WhatsApp Group Chat*. This research aimed to identify the types of clipping words commonly used by Indonesian WhatsApp users. The findings show that complex clipping was the most dominant type, accounting for 61.7%, followed by back clipping at 28%, fore clipping at 8.7%, and middle clipping at 1.6%. From these results, the researchers concluded that complex clipping is the most frequently used form in Indonesian WhatsApp communication.

Another related study was conducted by Annisa Nur Fitriani titled "Analysis of Clipping Words Through Translation Techniques in Sherlock Holmes Books by Sir A. C. Doyle." This research did not only focus on the clipping forms, but also on how those forms were translated from English into Indonesian. The results revealed that several translation techniques were used, with transposition being the most dominant at 35%, followed by modulation at 30% and contextual conditioning at 15%. Other techniques, such as phonological translation, official or standard translation, and not-given-equivalent, were found in smaller numbers.

Overall, these studies show that clipping appears in many contexts, ranging from social media and messaging applications to movies and literary translations. However, most previous research either focuses on Indonesian social media or on translation techniques, indicating that further studies on clipping in other media are still needed. Therefore, this study focuses on analyzing clipping in news articles.

As an international media organization, the BBC provides a Technology section that publishes articles on global technological developments. These articles demonstrate frequent use of clipping, such as lab, phone, email, and app. This phenomenon is significant because it illustrates how morphological processes operate in technological journalism. Based on this background, this study aims to analyze the types of clipping found in BBC Technology articles and to identify the most dominant type.

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method. The data consist of clipped words found in 71 articles published in the BBC Technology section between October 22 and November 14, 2025. Data were collected through documentation by reading the articles and identifying words formed through clipping.

The data were analyzed by classifying the clipped words into types based on Hosseinzadeh's theory: back clipping, fore clipping, middle clipping, and complex clipping (Hosseinzadeh, 2014). The analysis then focused on identifying patterns and tendencies in the use of each clipping type.

Results

The analysis shows that various clipped words are used in 71 BBC Technology articles. The types of clippings found include back, fore, and complex clippings.

Back clippings are the most dominant type, for example, "lab" from "laboratory" and "prof" from "professor". This type is widely used because it retains the beginning of the word, which is considered the most informative part.

Fore clipping was also found, although in smaller numbers, such as "phone" from "telephone." Meanwhile, complex clipping appeared as a combination of two shortened words, for example, 'email' from "electronic mail" and "sci-fi" from "science fiction."

The dominance of back clipping shows that technology article writers tend to choose short forms of words that are still easily recognizable to readers

Table 1. The Finding of Clipping Words in a BBC Article

No	Clipping Words	Root
1	Tech	Technology
2	Prof	Professor
3	Mr	Mister
4	Apps	Applications
5	App	Application
6	Sync	Synchronization

7	Sci-Fi	Science Fiction
8	Phone	Telephone
9	Photos	Photographs
10	Phones	Telephone
11	Photo	Photograph
12	Ms	Mistress
13	Admin	Administration
14	Bot	Robot
15	Lab	Laboratory
16	Chip	Microchip
17	Web	Website
18	Demo	Demonstration
19	Porn	Pornography
20	Email	Electronic Mail
21	Stats	Statistics
22	Doge	Dogecoin
23	Bro	Brother
24	Dr	Doctor
25	Fans	Fanatics
26	Bots	Robots
27	Droid	Android
28	Dim	Dimmer/Dimmed
29	Cyber	Cybernetic
30	Capt	Captain
31	Blog	Weblog

Data I: Prof

Morphological Rule: Professor (n) back clipping (-essor) prof (n)

The word prof comes from professor. Instead of saying the full word, the last part is simply cut off, leaving a much shorter form. This is an example of back clipping. Even though the word becomes shorter, its meaning stays the same, and it remains polite to use. Similar shortened words in the article include doge, bro, dr, fans, dim, cyber, and capt.

Data II: Lab

Morphological Rule: Laboratory (n) back clipping (-oratory) lab (n)

Another example is lab, which is taken from the word laboratory. Here, the ending part of the word is removed, so this also belongs to back clipping. People still understand it easily because the meaning does not change. Other clipped words in the same article include tech, prof, mr, apps, sync, photos, ms, admin, web, chief, demo, porn, and stats.

Data III: Phone

Morphological Rule: Telephone (n) fore clipping (-tele) phone (n)

The word phone is different because it comes from telephone. Instead of cutting the end, the beginning part tele- is removed. This process is known as fore clipping. Even after being shortened, the phone still works as a noun and keeps the same meaning. Other examples found in the article are phones, bots, and chips.

Data IV: Droid

Morphological Rule: Android (n) fore clipping (-and) droid (n)

In the same way, droid is derived from android by deleting the first part of the word. This is also a case of fore clipping. The shortened form is widely used and still refers to the same concept. Other clipped forms found in the text include 'bots' and 'web'.

Data V: Sci-fi

Morphological Rule: Science fiction (n) complex clipping sci-fi (n)

The term sci-fi is a little more interesting. It comes from science fiction, but instead of cutting only one part, both words are shortened and combined. Because of this, it is categorized as complex clipping. Even in its shorter form, sci-fi clearly represents the original phrase and is commonly used in everyday language.

Data VI: Email

Morphological Rule: Electronic mail (n) complex clipping email (n)

Finally, email is taken from electronic mail. This is also an example of complex clipping, in which both words are reduced to a single, compact form. Today, email is used as a normal noun, and everyone understands what it means, even though the original phrase is rarely used anymore.

Conclusion(s)

Based on this study's findings, it can be concluded that clipping is a frequently used word-formation process in BBC Technology articles. The use of clipping simplifies technical terms, enabling information to be conveyed more concisely, efficiently, and clearly to readers.

The analysis shows that the types of clipping found include back clipping, fore clipping, and complex clipping. Among these, back clipping and fore clipping are the most dominant types, as

they produce shorter word forms while preserving the original meaning and grammatical category. This indicates that technological journalism prioritizes linguistic efficiency and readability.

Therefore, the use of clipping in BBC Technology articles reflects the important role of morphological processes in facilitating effective communication in the field of technology and contributes to the study of morphology in linguistics.

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