

Identity Representation and Linguistics Construction on Odonym in Palembang City: An Onomastic Study

Deti Lismayanti^{1*} , Multamia RMT Launder² , Sri Munawarah³ 

¹ Universitas Indonesia, INDONESIA

*Corresponding Author: detti.lismayanti@ui.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

Palembang is closely associated with its historical past, dating back to the Srivijaya Kingdom. Historically, the Srivijaya Kingdom rise to prominence was driven by the vital role of rivers in transportation, economic development, and the spread of religion. However, over time, many rivers have been covered, converted, or completely disappeared from the city's physical landscape. However, street names, or odonyms come from tributaries name, can represent the identity of the Palembang community. This situation prompted this study to document street, lane, and alley names derived from tributaries in Palembang using an onomastic study approach. This is because river names are important from both linguistic and historical perspectives. This study aims to explore the dominant meaning and form of odonyms in street, lane and alley names derived from tributaries in Palembang. Furthermore, this study also aims to reveal the representation of the identity of the Palembang community through their odonyms. The research method used a qualitative method with data collection techniques in the form of interviews with 10 informants representing various community stakeholders to explore their lexical meaning and linguistic construction. This study analyzes 44 odonyms in Palembang City, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia. The data source for the odonyms is taken from the names of rivers recorded on the Palembang City map in 1922. The data is analyzed using a semantic approach for identity representation and a morphological approach for linguistic construction. In semantic analysis, odonyms are interpreted etymologically, while morphological analysis includes zero derivation and affixation. The results show that the dominant etymological meaning of odonyms in Palembang is the category of plants, history, rivers, and geographical conditions. In addition, there are nine odonyms formed through the zero-derivation process, namely Gang Rengas, Lorong Gayam, Lorong Manggis, Lorong Sawah, Lorong Palembang, Lorong Sintren, Jalan Blabak Jalan Mahameru and Jalan Sekanak. For affixation construction, odonyms in Palembang City have affixes in the suffix -an, confix ke-an/pe-an and there is no prefix attested. This shows that the representation of identity from the community is more inclined towards maritime with the socio-economic practices of coastal communities.

Keywords: Identity Representation, Linguistic Construction, Odonym, Onomastics, Morphology

INTRODUCTION

The Palembang City is closely associated with its historical past, dating back to the Srivijaya Kingdom. This is because Palembang served as the capital of the Srivijaya Kingdom, a political and economic power in Southeast Asia at the time and respected throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Historically, the Srivijaya Kingdom's growth was driven by the vital role of rivers in transportation, economic development, and the spread of religion. According to local sources, the word *palembang* originates from the Malay words *pa* and *lembang*. *Pa* refers to a place, while *lembang* or *lembeng* means a pool of water, thus *Palembang* is interpreted as a place inundated with water. This condition led to the Srivijaya Kingdom being known as a

maritime kingdom. Furthermore, Palembang is also known as *Indisch Venetie*, the "Venice of the East," reflecting its character as a riverside city woven by the Musi River and its many tributaries that intersect with settlements (Munandar, 2003; Suwandi, 2005). This indicates that Palembang, as the center of the Srivijaya Kingdom in the past, benefited greatly from its geographical conditions, with life being very close to the river. According to Hanafiah (2012), these rivers and tributaries used to function not only as transportation routes, but also as regional boundaries, vital sources of livelihood, and markers of social identity for the communities along the riverbanks.

The community's close relationship with this river has naturally given rise to an inseparable relationship between the community and its history. According to Ainiala et al. (2012), specifically odonyms in circulation spaces such as roads, paths, or alleys, which not only function as navigation markers but also as identity markers closely linked to cultural history. This closeness also indirectly creates the distinctiveness of naming as a collective memory of the community. This is in line with Nyström (2016) which states that naming in society is a series of thought processes involving collective memory, linguistic abilities, emotions, and more. This condition makes the naming of streets, lanes and alleys adopted from the names of tributaries in Palembang City interesting to study. According to Ainiala, Saarelma, and Sjöblom (2012), odonyms refer specifically to street or road names. "The practice of adopting the names of tributaries as odonyms illustrates how deeply ecological and historical ties are ingrained in the urban landscape of Palembang (Pack, 2017). Besides the community's closeness to rivers, another reason why odonym research in Palembang City is necessary is that many rivers have been covered, converted, or disappeared completely from the city's physical landscape. According to Palembang City Government (2021) The massive conversion of rivers in Palembang into residential areas and other centers of economic activity has left rivers and tributaries no longer functioning as transportation, drainage, or water catchment areas. This situation can alienate communities from their identity, which is closely linked to rivers.

In this regard, this study attempts to document the names of streets, lanes and alleys adopted from the names of tributaries in Palembang City using an onomastic study approach. This is in accordance with Hough (2016) that onomastics studies names and naming, both individual names and place names. In addition, Kadmon (2000) also defines toponymy as a branch of onomastics that studies the origins, forms, functions, and meanings of place names, which is relevant to this research. This research aims to explore the dominant meanings and odonymous forms of street, lanes and alley names adopted from the names of tributaries in Palembang City. This refers to Tent & Blair (2009) which states that the name of this waterway persists through street names, functioning as a collective memory tool that maintains the community's connection to its hydrological heritage. Furthermore, this study also aims to reveal the representation of identity of the people of Palembang City through their odonyms. This is useful for strengthening the identity of the people of Palembang City as a maritime society close to water and rivers. If this representation of identity through odonyms were not carried out, the community today may not know and recognize their maritime identity. This is because the current direction of development in Palembang City is often directed towards highways far from rivers. This is also in line with Spolsky (2008) which states that the informative content of the words used reflects the symbolic values held by the local community. Furthermore, the research is also useful as a basis for language preservation policies through odonyms, thus raising public awareness of the importance of protecting rivers and tributaries from the current rampant conversion of river functions.

In this case, research on odonyms in Palembang City is unprecedented. This makes this study highly novel and worthy of further investigation. Several related studies are included. Match (2020), Budiono et al. (2023), Harini & Munawarah (2024), and Kumala et al. (2025). This research has similarities with research Match (2020) because the data source is an odonym, with data collection consisting of interviews and secondary literature. However, odonym research has never been conducted in Palembang City, thus increasing the number of odonym studies, especially in Indonesia. In addition, this research is also related to Budiono et al. (2023) because the research not only reveals the etymological meaning as a representation of identity but also analyzes it from other aspects. This research adds to the analysis with morphological analysis, while Budiono et al. (2023) adds sociolinguistic analysis as a representation of identity in addition to revealing etymological meaning.

In terms of morphological analysis, this research is close to Harini & Munawarah (2024) because it reveals the morphological process in analysis starting from zero derivation, affixation, reduplication, abbreviation, and composition. What distinguishes this research is that the morphological analysis only consists of zero derivation and affixation. Next, research related to identity preservation is Kumala et al. (2025). The thing that differentiates this research is that it is more directed at analysis of Kumala et al. (2025) which also involves phonological analysis in addition to morphological and semantic analysis. From the data sources, the research Budiono et al. (2023) and Harini & Munawarah (2024) taken from the name of a place or toponym of a region, while Kumala et al. (2025) using cemetery name data or necronyms. This confirms that odonym research is still relatively under-conducted. In fact, research on hydronyms already exists, but most only analyze etymological meanings and thus is not included in previous research that involves other linguistic units of analysis.

METHODS

This research uses qualitative methods in conducting data analysis. This refers to Creswell & Creswell (2018) which reveals that qualitative methods are invaluable in providing in-depth data. Furthermore, this qualitative approach is more appropriate for this research because qualitative

interpretation can aid in understanding an object, and qualitative approaches are also considered more appropriately based on natural data existing in society compared to quantitative approaches

Data Collection Technique

The data collection technique in this study involved interviews with ten informants representing various community stakeholders to explore lexical meanings and linguistic constructions. In linguistics, data collection is divided into two types: surveys and interviews Litosseliti (2010). Surveys are more suitable for quantitative approaches, while interviews are more suitable for qualitative approaches. National Agency for Language Development and Cultivation (2021) also explains that data collection techniques can include secondary data collection, questionnaires or surveys, and in-depth interviews. This is why the study employed interviews as a data collection method, as this technique aligns with the qualitative research approach.

Data Analysis

This study uses semantic and morphological analysis. This semantic analysis is based on the etymological meaning of toponyms in Palembang City. This refers to Tent (2015) which distinguishes analysis in toponyms into two things: research that concentrates on etymological meaning such as the meaning and origin of names and research that focuses on analyzing the patterns of these names. In addition, morphological analysis includes zero derivation and affixation. This refers to Kridalaksana (2007) which explains that morphological analysis examines word structure and word formation processes, including zero derivation (using root words without modification), affixation (adding affixes), composition (combining two or more lexemes), abbreviation (shortening of word forms), and reduplication (repetition of word forms). In this case, toponyms in Palembang City will only be viewed in terms of zero derivation and affixation. This is because these two things are dominant in naming toponyms in Palembang City.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, this study discusses the representation of identity and the linguistic construction of toponyms in Palembang City. Both aspects are examined from 44 toponyms in Palembang City, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia. The data source for the toponyms was taken from the names of rivers recorded on the Palembang City map in 1922. The results of the study were obtained from interviews with ten informants representing various community stakeholders to explore the lexical meanings and linguistic constructions of the toponyms. The interview data were analyzed using a semantic approach for identity representation and a morphological approach for linguistic construction. In semantic analysis, toponyms are interpreted etymologically, including lexical meaning and narrative description. Meanwhile, the morphological analysis includes zero derivation by mentioning nine toponyms included in this category and the mention of toponym affixations consisting of suffixes and infixes.

Identity Representation

The discussion of identity representation in this section focuses on identifying toponyms based on generic elements, specific elements, lexical meaning, and narrative description. Lexical meaning is derived from specific elements, while narrative description is derived from informant interviews combined with their etymological meanings. The 44 toponyms are presented in a table to facilitate the data analysis. The following table lists the toponyms and their meaning classifications.

Table 1. List of Classifications of Toponyms Based on Etymological Meaning

No	Toponym	Generic Element	Specific Element	Lexical Meaning	Narrative Description
1	Gang Rengas	gang: alley	rengas	rengas: a type of resinous hardwood	Many rengas trees used to grow around the tributary of the Musi River, serving as natural location markers.
2	Lorong Gayam	lorong: lane	gayam	gayam: an aquatic tree known for its large seeds	Numerous gayam trees grew along the riverbanks, giving the river its name, which was later used as a street name
3	Lorong Manggis	lorong: lane	manggis	manggis: mangosteen tree, a tropical fruit-	The area was once filled with wild mangosteen trees, inspiring the name of the river and subsequently the

				bearing plant	street
4	Lorong Sawah	lorong: lane	sawah	sawah: irrigated rice field	The name Sawah River derives from the area's transformation from wetland into community rice paddies
5	Jalan Blabak	jalan: street	blabak	blabak: water overflow	The flat and low-lying area is prone to flooding due to water overflow, hence the name
6	Jalan Sayangan	jalan: street	sayang	sayang: love, affection, to be cherished	Refers to a group of copper artisans protected by local nobility
7	Jalan Segaran	jalan: street	segar	segar: refreshing	Marks an area that used to be a public bathing site or refreshing place
8	Jalan Sekanak	jalan: street	sanak	sanak: close relatives	Emphasizes the kinship ties of residents near the Sekanak River
9	Lorong Kapuran	lorong: lane	kapur	kapur: white mineral substance used in construction	A storage site for lime used to build Kuto Besak Fort during the colonial era
10	Lorong Kedemangan	lorong: lane	demang	demang: traditional local chief	Indicates an area once ruled by a demang
11	Lorong Kenduruan	lorong: lane	kenduru	kenduru: communal feast or ritual banquet	Area commonly used for community feasts or local rituals
12	Lorong Ketandan	lorong: lane	tandha	tandha: in local context, a colonial tax officer	Designates a colonial era tax collector's zone
13	Lorong Pekapuran	lorong: lane	kapur	kapur: a white mineral substance	A site for lime-burning activities for colonial construction needs
14	Lorong Temenggungan	lorong: lane	temenggung	temenggung: noble or high court official	An area once ruled by nobility or royal court officials
15	Lorong Palembang	lorong: lane	lembeng	lembeng: lowland or flooded area	The name reflects the geographical condition of Palembang, which is predominantly wetlands and swampy land
16	Jalan Mahameru	jalan: street	mahameru	maha: great; meru: sacred mountain	Represents a mythological sacred mountain in Hindu-Buddhist cosmology, localized in naming
17	Jalan Sei Rendang	jalan: street	sei rendang	sei: river; rendang: to burn	River where traditional pottery firing once took place
18	Jalan Sei Tawar	jalan: street	sei tawar	Sei: river; tawar: neutral	River believed to neutralize spiritual influences
19	Jalan Sungai Sahang	jalan: street	sahang	sahang: pepper	Linked to pepper trade since the Sultanate era
20	Jalan Tembok Baru	jalan: street	tembok baru	tembok: wall baru: newly built	Flood barrier built during colonial times
21	Jalan Tengkuruk Permai	jalan: street	tengkuruk permai	keruk: digging permai: beautiful	River formed by digging, later beautified
22	Lorong Karang Bengkuang	lorong: lane	karang bengkuang	karang: hardened soil; bengkuang: yam plant	Hardened soil planted with yam (bengkuang)
23	Lorong Lebak Keranji	lorong: lane	lebak keranji	lebak: lowland; keranji: tree	Swamp area with many keranji trees
24	Lorong Perigi Darat/Laut	lorong: lane	perigi darat/Laut	perigi: well; darat/laut: land/sea location near the Musi River	Natural wells marking land/sea boundaries
25	Lorong Saudagar Yucing	lorong: lane	saudagar yucing	saudagar: merchant; yucing: personal name	Named after a respected Chinese Muslim merchant

26	Lorong Sungai Aur	lorong: lane	sungai aur	sungai: river; aur: a type of bamboo	River bordered by dense aur bamboo
27	Lorong Sungai Bayas	lorong: lane	sungai bayas	sungai: river; bayas: a type of wild palm	River with bayas palm vegetation
28	Lorong Tangga Panjang	lorong: lane	tangga panjang	tangga: stairs; panjang: long	Long staircase built to connect across the river for the Sultan's access
29	Lorong Tapak Nyari	lorong: lane	tapak nyari	tapak: footprint; nyari: person's name	Commemorates the footprint of a local hero
30	Lorong Tuan Kapar	lorong: lane	tuan kapar	tuan: honorific title; kapar: collapsed	Refers to an unknown figure found collapsed on the riverbank
31	Lorong Tuan Putri	lorong: lane	Tuan Putri	tuan: noble title; putri: noblewoman	Refers to the residence of a noblewoman from Java
32	Lorong Demang Jambul Laut/Darat	lorong: lane	demang jambul laut/darat	demang: a traditional leader; jambul: crest; laut/darat: spatial orientation	Former domain of Demang leader, divided towards the river (laut) or inland (darat) side of the Musi River
33	Lorong Kebun Gede I/II	lorong: lane	kebun gede I/II	kebun: garden; gede: large; I/II: lane number	Large communal garden area divided into separate lanes
34	Lorong Kedukan Bukit I/II	lorong: lane	kedukan bukit I/II	keduk: river dredged; bukit: hill; I/II: lane number	An artificial river created through dredging, with small mounds along its banks
35	Lorong Lawang Kidul Laut/Darat	lorong: lane	lawang kidul laut/darat	lawang: gate; kidul: south; laut/darat: spatial orientation	Entranceway on the southern side connected to both land and river
36	Lorong Sei Jeruju I/II/III	lorong: lane	sei jeruju I/II/III	sei: river; jeruju: thorny aquatic plant; I/II/III: lane numbers	A small stream in an area covered with jeruju vegetation, divided into three lanes
37	Lorong Sei Goren I/II	lorong: lane	sei goren I/II	sei: river; goren: name of a local figure; I/II: lane number	Named after Sunan Goren, a respected spiritual figure in local oral tradition
38	Lorong Masjid Jami' Sungai Lumpur Laut	lorong: lane	masjid jami' sungai lumpur laut	masjid: mosque; jami': central sungai Lumpur Laut: a river with sea mud	Refers to a center of Islamic propagation located on the banks of Sungai Lumpur Laut, flowing into the Musi River
39	Lorong Serengam I and II	lorong: lane	serengam I/II	rengam: lowland submerged in water; I/II: lane number	An area entirely submerged in water
40	Lorong Terusan Darat, Tengah, Laut	lorong: lane	terusan darat, tengah, laut	terusan: water canal; darat, tengah, laut: spatial orientation or location referring to the Musi River	A water canal dug to connect rivers and to the Musi River
41	Lorong Sintren	lorong: lane	sintren	sintren: Islamic boarding school	The early history of the arrival of Chinese Muslim communities in Palembang and the place where Chinese Muslim from China established an Islamic boarding school (<i>pesantren</i>)
42	Jalan Soak Bato	jalan: street	soak bato	soak: small pond; bato: coconut shell	The area resembles a small hollow shaped like a coconut shell
43	Lorong Sei Semajid	lorong: lane	sei semajid	sei: river; semajid: row of	A row of mosque is located along the river (referred to as the Semajid River)

				mosque	
44	Jalan Sekip Bendung	jalan: street	sekip bendung	sekip: to shoot; bendung: dam	Irrigation reservoir area near a colonial military shooting range

Based on Table 1 above, the classification of odonym categories in Palembang City is dominated by the categories of trees or plants, history, rivers, and geographical conditions. Other categories, such as adjectives and places of worship, are not as significant compared to the others. In this case, the tree category refers to the types of trees or plants that grow around rivers. These include rengas trees, gayam trees, mangosteen trees, and so on. These various trees grow near rivers, so their odonyms are also named after these tree categories. Another category that is no less numerous is the river category. For this category, the underlying reason for naming a river or *sei* is its odonym. The words that follow the name of a river or *sei* also vary, including combinations of tradition, function, or tree or plant. For example, the odonym *Jalan Sei Rendang*, which means the river where traditional pottery is fired, combines the river with tradition. The odonym *Jalan Sei Tamar*, which means a river believed to neutralize spiritual influences. This odonym combines the river with its function in community life. The odonym *Lorong Sungai Aur* means a river tightly bordered by bamboo. This odonym combines the name of the river with a plant typical of the area.

From a historical perspective, odonyms in Palembang can be divided into those referring to the kingdom era, the colonial era, the names of prominent figures, and local customs. For example, the odonym *Lorong Kenduruan* has the meaning a place commonly used for community celebrations or local rituals. The odonym *Lorong Kedemangan* refers to an area once ruled by a *demang* (leader). In this case, the *demang* is the local traditional leader. Other terms still associated with the kingdom era include the odonym *Lorong Temenggungan*. The odonym *Lorong Temenggungan* refers to an area once ruled by a nobleman or royal court official. The odonym *Lorong Tuan Putri* indicates the residence of a Javanese noblewoman. There is also a unique historical odonym, *Lorong Saudagar Yucing*, named after a respected Chinese Muslim trader in the past. Furthermore, there are also historical references to the colonial era. For example, the odonym *Lorong Ketandan* refers to a place designated as a colonial-era tax collection zone.

On the other hand, odonyms in Palembang City also predominantly refer to geographic conditions. Some types of geographic conditions refer to lowlands, gardens, and riverbanks. The odonym *Jalan Blabak* means lowland or flat area. This name is inseparable from the geographical conditions. This flat, low-lying area is highly prone to flooding due to overflowing water. Additionally, there are also odes that combine geographical conditions with local trees or plants. For example, the odonym *Lorong Lebak Keranji* means lowland or swampy area with lots of *keranji* trees around it. Next, there are odonyms which express changes in geographical conditions such as *Lorong Sawah*. The odonym has meaning the word "river sawah" originates from the area's transformation from wetlands or swamps to rice fields for the local community. Not only rice fields, but the geographical changes in the odonym also include a name meaning 'root vegetable garden' in the odonym *Lorong Karang Bengkuang*. This indicates that the area was originally lowland land that was then hardened to be planted with yams. In fact, there is also an odonym that refers to the riverbank in the odonym *Lorong Kedukan Bukit I/II*. This odonym means a dredged river with small mounds divided into two areas.

From several dominant patterns of odonyms in Palembang, the characteristics of rivers and lowlands are inseparable from the city's geographic conditions. This indicates that the people of Palembang have a very strong maritime identity. This condition is further clarified by the presence of odonyms related to history. These include references to the kingdom era, the colonial era, the names of prominent figures, and local customs. Furthermore, changes in geographical conditions are also evident in odonyms, such as the shift from lowland areas to rice fields or plantations. This demonstrates that these changes have been present for a long time, but not as widespread as they are today. This phenomenon of changing geographical conditions requires serious attention from both the local government and the community. The geographical conditions, which are largely lowland areas surrounded by rivers, have the potential to cause flooding if the water flow is replaced by various developments that cannot accommodate the water. Furthermore, changes in geographical conditions also have the potential to alter the representation of the identity of the people of Palembang City. Therefore, efforts are needed to preserve odonyms, toponyms, and names that still have a strong maritime cultural identity so that the younger generation can still recognize the representation of their identity from their ancestors.

Linguistics Construction

This study of the linguistic construction of odonyms focuses on the linguistic construction of odonyms derived from the names of tributaries of the Musi River. This research is directed at examining the linguistic elements in street, lane and alley names, with a focus on the lexical elements that form the core of place names, especially words with referential and historical content. In this study, generic word elements such as alley (*gang*), lane (*lorong*) street (*jalan*), river (*sungai, sei*), hardened soil (*karang*) and low land (*lebak*) that appear in many odonym names are not discussed as part of the core construction. These generic elements are treated as markers of lexical classes (generics) that are fixed and not as part of the analysis of the main linguistic structure of the odonym name. The focus of the analysis is directed at the lexical forms that make up the distinctive name elements of the odonym. In this context, the term toponymic noun is used to refer to nouns that lexically refer to real objects, such as plants or landforms, but in the context of toponymy undergo a change in function to become markers of place names without any change in form.

Zero Derivation

In the study of toponymy, one of the simplest forms of odonym formation morphologically is through the process of zero derivation. This process refers to the formation of a new word without the addition of affixes, reduplication, or composition, but still contains a shift in lexical function from its original form to a new grammatical form without any change in formal form (Kridalaksana, 2007; Katamba, 1993). In the context of odonymy, zero derivation occurs when a lexeme that previously functioned as a referential noun in the general vocabulary system is shifted to become a place name or toponymic marker, without undergoing any morphemic transformation.

This phenomenon can be observed in a few odonyms in Palembang which are formed from common words known to the public as names of plants, geographical elements, or landforms, but now function as names of streets, lane or alleys. Odonyms that are formed through the zero-derivation process are:

Table 2. Construction of Street Names in the Form of Zero Derivatives

No	Street Name	Zero Derivation
1	Gang Rengas	rengas 'hardwood'
2	Lorong Gayam	gayam 'tree'
3	Lorong Manggis	manggis 'mangosteen'
4	Lorong Sawah	Sawah 'ricefield'
5	Lorong Palembang	palembang 'name of city'
6	Lorong Sintren	sintren 'Islamic boarding school'
7	Jalan Blabak	blabak 'overflowing water'
8	Jalan Mahameru	mahameru 'great sacred mountain'
9	Jalan Sekanak	sekanak 'close relatives'

The phenomenon of zero derivation in street naming was found in nine odonyms in Palembang. Many street names use lexemes from common vocabulary, such as plant names, geographical elements, or environmental conditions, which are retained in their original form but undergo a shift in function to become location markers. This process is not accompanied by morphological changes such as affixation but indicates a semantic and syntactic shift in function. In this context, these lexemes transform from lexical words into toponyms through the mechanism of zero derivation. This demonstrates how language is used to record local knowledge and ecological identity through spatial naming systems.

Through these forms, it appears that the zero-derivation process in naming odonyms in Palembang plays an important role in expanding the function of words already known by the community into the spatial naming system. This process also reflects the close relationship between language forms and local socio-ecological realities, where street names represent elements close to people's lives, such as vegetation, landscapes, or geographical conditions. In his findings, lanes were more often found in the use of odonyms derived from tributaries of the Musi River because geographically lanes are closer to the Musi River.

Overall, the analysis results indicate that the morphological process of zero derivation in the formation of toponyms in Palembang occurs when generic elements such as lane, alley or street are combined with nouns that lexically refer to real objects such as plants, landforms, geographical conditions, physical entities and kinship. The process can be seen in the following diagram.c

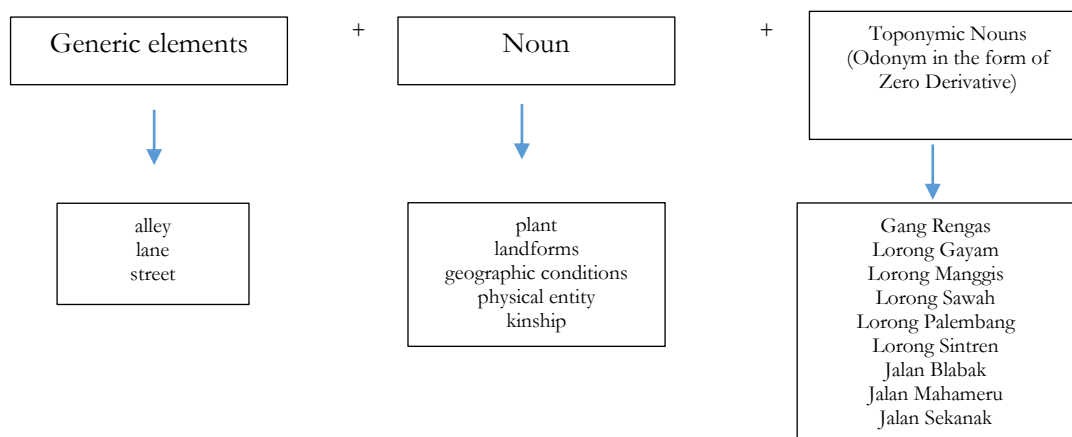


Figure 1. The morphological process of zero derivation in the formation of toponyms in Palembang

This combination produces toponymic nouns, word forms that have not undergone morphological changes (no affixation, reduplication, or composition), but have undergone a functional shift from referential nouns to place markers. This phenomenon reflects a naming strategy that maintains the original lexical form while simultaneously perpetuating the ecological, cultural, and historical memory of the local community.

Affixation

In addition to zero derivation and morphophonemic compounding, another prominent strategy in the construction of toponyms in Palembang is affixation. In morphology, affixation is a productive word-formation process in which prefixes, suffixes, or confixes are attached to a root word. In the context of place names, this morphological operation serves not only grammatically but also symbolic and historical functions—encoding layers of meaning related to social identity, power relations, economic activity, and spatial organization.

Odonyms formed through affixation frequently reflect localized knowledge systems. They may designate domains of authority (kedemangan, ketandan), areas of craft or production (sayangan, pekapuran) or ritual spaces (kenduruan). Affixation, in this case, expands the semantic scope of the base word by situating it within a specific sociogeographical frame. Thus, it operates as a linguistic mechanism for archiving communal memory.

The affixational patterns are diverse, ranging from suffixation (e.g., -an in sayangan) and confixation (e.g., ke-...-an in kedemangan). Each of these contributes meaningfully to the final form and function of the toponym. This is illustrated in the following table:

Table 3. Odonym Construction through Affixation

No	Street Name	Root Word	Affix
1	Jalan Sayangan	sayang	-an
2	Jalan Segaran	segar	-an
3	Lorong Kapuran	kapur	-an
4	Lorong Kedemangan	demang	ke-...-an
5	Lorong Kenduruan	kenduru	-an
6	Lorong Ketandan	tandha	ke-...-an
7	Lorong Pekapuran	kapur	pe-...-an
8	Lorong Temenggungan	temenggung	-an

The examples above show how affixation serves as a semantic bridge between base word and social context. However, to better understand the morphosyntactic process underlying this transformation—from root words into toponyms—it is useful to present a structural model. The following diagram outlines the affixational process, showing how base words evolve into fully meaningful spatial terms through the addition of affixes and their subsequent integration into endocentric noun phrases.

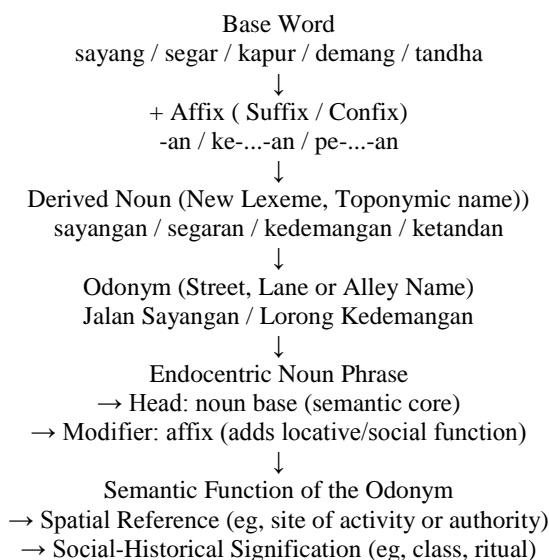


Diagram 2. General Construction of Odonym with Affixation Process

This diagram illustrates the layered linguistic process involved in the formation of affixed toponyms. The process begins with a base word, typically a noun or verb with cultural or functional significance (eg, *sayang*, *kapur*, *demang*). Through affixation, either in the form of a prefix, suffix, or confix, this base undergoes derivation into a new lexeme with an expanded or localized meaning (*sayangan*, *kedemangan*).

The derived lexeme is then integrated into a larger noun phrase by pairing it with a general category term like *jalan* 'street', or *lorong* 'lane' and *gang* 'alley'. This integration forms an endocentric noun phrase, in which the semantic head is the base noun (eg, *sayang*, *demang*), while the affix functions as a modifier that adds context—whether indicating collectivity (*sayang*) or administrative domain (*demang*).

In morphological terms, an endocentric noun phrase is a syntactic construction where the entire phrase retains the category and core meaning of its head. In the case of *Jalan Sayangan*, the head is the derived noun affection, which refers to a community or place associated with affection or artisanship, and the specifier street simply designates its physical form as a street. The phrase remains referentially "a place" but carries with it embedded social, historical, and spatial meanings shaped by the affixational process.

Thus, affixation not only derives new words but also structures them into syntactically coherent and semantically rich expressions. These expressions, when used as toponyms, serve as spatial narratives—encoding past identities, territorial jurisdictions, and communal memory into the everyday geography of the Musi River communities.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion in the previous section, it can be concluded that the representation of the identity of the people of Palembang City, as seen from their toponyms, tends to be maritime, with socio-economic practices of coastal communities. This is evident from the etymological meaning and morphological process of toponyms in Palembang City. The dominant etymological meaning of toponyms in Palembang City is the category of tree, history, river, and geographical conditions. The

category of trees refers to the type of tree or plant that grows around rivers, starting from the *rengas* tree, *gayam* tree, *mangosteen* tree, and so on. From a historical aspect, odonyms in Palembang City can be divided into history that refers to the kingdom era, the colonial era, the names of figures, and local customs. On the other hand, odonyms in Palembang City also predominantly refer to geographic conditions. Several types of geographic conditions refer to lowlands, gardens, and riverbanks. In addition, there are nine odonyms formed through the zero-derivation process, namely *Gang Rengas*, *Lorong Gayam*, *Lorong Manggis*, *Lorong Sawah*, *Lorong Palembang*, *Lorong Sintren*, *Jalan Blabak*, *Jalan Mahameru* and *Jalan Sekanak*. The morphological process of zero derivation in the formation of odonyms in Palembang occurs when generic elements such as alley, lane or street are combined with nouns that lexically refer to real objects such as plants, landforms, geographic conditions, physical entities and kinship. For affixation construction, odonyms in Palembang City have affixes in the prefix, suffix, and confix. No prefixes are attested in the odonyms of Palembang City, while the only suffix that appears is *-an*, as found in *sayangan*. Meanwhile, there are two confixes in odonyms in Palembang City, namely *ke-an* in *kedemangan* and *pe-an* in *pekapur*. All these affixes contribute significantly to the final form and function of odonyms.

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