

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Problem

Communication is one way of expressing idea, feeling, or giving information for the people. This activity cannot be performed without one essential tool that can mediate it. It is called language. Language is a tool of communication which has system and rules inside. Language has become widely used as a means of human communication. Wardhaugh (1972:3) says that "language is an arbitrary system vocal symbol used for human communication". Further, according to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (1981:641), "Language is a systematic means of communicating ideas of feeling by the use of conventional signs, sounds, gestures, or mark, having understood meanings."

Nowadays, since technology develops rapidly, people can communicate each other by many kinds of media. The technology which is used to communicate by a few people in the world today is Computer Mediated Communication (CMC). CMC is a term that is used to communicate two persons or more by using application program in that computer. Baron divides CMC into two parameters, they are synchronous and asynchronous (2009:1)

Synchronous can receive message directly and simultaneously such as instant messaging and chat groups. Asynchronous cannot receive message directly and simultaneously such as email, mobile phones, blog, and social network. It can

be exemplified when someone use the instant messaging and chat groups (synchronous), he can receive the information or communicate directly at that time. But in asynchronous, the people cannot receive the information or communicate directly but must wait till the people come online.

In this study, the researcher will focus on synchronous CMC, especially instant message of *Yahoo! Messenger*. *Yahoo! Messenger* is one of Yahoo! service program that allows electronic conversations between people either know or not (unknown) to take place in real time. In *Yahoo! Messenger*, people can communicate one to another, moreover we can see the people who chat with them by webcam (webcam is a camera that attached in or on Personal Computer, notebook, etc., and usually connected to internet) and can hear them by earphone.

More recently, with the rise of Computer-Mediated Communication (including instant messaging of *Yahoo! Messenger*), the people has become increasingly curiosity about the relationship between spoken and written language. People now sometimes use internet abbreviation and acronym in spoken communication as well as in written, for example, ppl for people and LOL for Laugh out Loud. Graffiestern (2010: 46) says, “most of people use abbreviation to save the times and space, especially teenagers today often use abbreviations in their message e.g., k for “okay” and acronyms (e.g., TTYL for “Talk To You later”).”

According to Wilton (2010, 9), “abbreviation is shorten lengthy words or phrase”. And later abbreviation develops become clipping, blending, and acronym

(in Graffestern, 2010:46). Quirk and Greenbaum say,” acronym are words formed from initial letters (or larger parts) of words (1973: 449). Studying abbreviation and acronym can not be separated from the study of morphology, because they are one of morphological investigation.

Broadly speaking, morphology is a branch of linguistics. In order to study language we must concern on linguistics because linguistics is scientific study of language. In Webster’s Dictionary (1996:768), “Linguistics is the science of language, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantic, sometimes subdivided in descriptive, historical, comparative, theoretical, comparative, historical, and geographical linguistics.” Language contains of structure and word formation especially in morphology aspect. While morphology itself is the study about word and morphemes formation as Chaer’s opinion “morphology is the study about the process of morphemes formation. It talks about details of morpheme and how is the process of the morphemes construct words as the smallest unit of syntax (1994:146).”

Every language has its own rule especially regarding the aspect of morphology itself, but today the people do not really care about it. That situation is proved that people today prefer to use the informal language to formal language in conversation especially in chatting because it can describe what in their mind directly.

“Language used in chat rooms is often delightfully informal, complete strangers are addressed as bosom buddies. While many of our patrons may employ such standard chat conventions, we should avoid employing them ourselves. Without the artifice of a building around us, a position at a desk, the clothes we wear, etc., the only

thing we have to present our authority are the words we use... On the other hand, don't sweat it out too much. If a misspelling or two creeps through, or your sentence structure isn't perfect, no one is going to hold it against you. You don't really have the luxury of time to compose a perfect response—it is more important to get your response back to the patron. “(In Mc. Manees, 2005:11)

The above statement is in line with Dietszel's opinion who says that the use of short form of the word is more informal social setting (2007:5). Abbreviation and acronym are one of short form words. On the other hand, abbreviation and acronym have become a part of important things as one of branch of linguistic in communication, but many people do not understand about them, especially certain acronym and abbreviation which always grows years after years.

This phenomenon becomes the background for the researcher to investigate the problem that appears in *Yahoo! Messenger* related to the abbreviation and acronym. The researcher analyze abbreviation and acronyms which are found in *Yahoo! Messenger*, the word formation of abbreviation and acronym, and YM user's reason in using abbreviation and acronym. Finally, for that reasons, the researcher proposes to conduct a research about the shortened writing of spoken communication that occurred in YM, entitled: “**The Use of Abbreviation and Acronym in Instant Message of *Yahoo! Messenger*.**”

1.2. Statements of Problem

The researcher investigates the use of abbreviation and acronym in *Yahoo! Messenger* (YM). This section contains instant message which is written by *Yahoo! Messenger* (YM) users. The members of worldwide, who commonly use English as their language, may express their feeling into words, especially in

chatting. They use the abbreviation and acronyms to make the conversations are easier as well as spoken language, so that they can type faster by using them. To elaborate the way of converting such words, the researcher formulates the research questions as follows:

1. What are the abbreviations and acronyms found in instant message of *Yahoo! Messenger*?
2. How are the formation process of the abbreviation and acronym in instant message of *Yahoo! Messenger*?
3. What are the *Yahoo! Messenger* users' reasons using abbreviation and acronym in their instant message?

1.3. Purpose and Significances of Research

The purposes of this research are:

1. To know the abbreviations and acronyms found in instant message of *Yahoo! Messenger*.
2. To explore the formation process of the abbreviations and acronym in instant message of *Yahoo! Messenger*.
3. To know of the *Yahoo! Messenger* user's reason in using abbreviation and acronym in their instant message.

There are two significances of this research, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it brings the researcher to the improvement of knowledge about morphology especially in word formation. In addition, the researcher gets the experience for analyzing and comprehending the morphological process of the word, especially in abbreviation and acronym. Practically, the researcher knows

the terms of word are usually found in instant message of YM, especially the use of abbreviation and acronym. It can be applied to our conversation in YM. It means that knowing the right abbreviation and acronym are important in our communication. Otherwise, there might be misunderstanding if the term which is used is not common, especially when the people chat with the foreigner. Those the researcher hopes that this research can give new insight to the YM users in their communication.

1.4. Clarification of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding on terms which is used in this paper; the researcher clarifies some term which often used. The terms that need to be clarified are:

1. CMC : The short form of Computer Mediated Communication
2. *Yahoo! Messenger* (YM) : One program of Yahoo! service whose advantage to communicate with people in long distance and completed by many features such as PC-to-Phone calling, PC-to-PC calling, plug-in, voicemail, file sharing, webcams, chat rooms, client customizations, and avatars.
3. Online : Connected to a computer or to internet
4. Offline : Disconnected to computer or internet
5. Instant Message (IM) : YM's facilities for chatting.

1.5. Organization Paper

This research is organized into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. This chapter consists of background of problem, statement of problem, purposes and significances of the research, clarification of key terms, organization paper.

The second chapter is theoretical bases of the use of instant message of *Yahoo! Messenger*. This chapter consists Computer Mediated Communication (CMC), *Yahoo! Messenger*, the features of Computer Mediated Communication (CMC), morphological process, the relation between abbreviation and acronym, and the concept of formation.

The third chapter is research methodology; this chapter consists of method of research, population and sample, object of the research, source of data, technique of collecting data, sample data, and technique of analysis data.

This next chapter is the result of research includes the occurrence of abbreviation and acronym, the formation of abbreviation and acronym, and *Yahoo! Messenger* user's reason in using the abbreviation and acronym.

The Last chapter is conclusion and recommendation; this chapter concludes the whole analysis and gives recommendation.