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# TheGIST

Jurnal Sastra dan Bahasa



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# TheGIST

Jurnal Sastra dan Bahasa

Jurnal The Gist adalah jurnal yang memuat karya ilmiah berupa artikel di bidang Ilmu sastra dan Bahasa. Jurnal The Gist diterbitkan 2 kali dalam setahun oleh Fakultas Sastra Universitas Alghifari sebagai media untuk menampung karya ilmiah sivitas akademika di lingkungan Fakultas Sastra Universitas Alghifari. Jurnal ini juga membuka peluang bagi penulis dari luar lembaga untuk berkontribusi dalam penulisan karya ilmiah selama masih memiliki bidang ilmu yang sama.

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# REGISTER IN WHATSAPP TEXT: A LANGUAGE VARIATION OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING INDONESIANS BASED ON ABBREVIATION ANALYSIS

*A Study of Sociolinguistics*

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**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini menjelaskan bentuk-bentuk kata berdasarkan cirinya yang menonjol sebagai *Register* dan bagian dari variasi bahasa dalam *Sociolinguistik*, yang bertujuan untuk menemukan bentuk-bentuk Register dan penggunaannya dalam WhatsApp oleh pengguna Indonesia berbahasa Inggris. Obyek penelitian ini adalah bentuk-bentuk Register, terutama yang berbentuk singkatan dalam komunikasi tekstual WhatsApp dengan responden, sehingga ciri *sociolinguistik* pada penggunaan Register dianalisa melalui informasi latar belakang responden. Makna kata yang dimaksud didapatkan dari kamus Merriam-Webster, kamus Oxford, kamus Cambridge, dan Kamus Inggris-Indonesia. Terdapat enam cara umum penulisan register dalam WhatsApp, yaitu: *pilihan kata*, *pengurangan bagian kata*, *perubahan suara*, *pemendekan kata*, *huruf tunggal*, dan *symbol*, untuk menjelaskan empat bentuk penggunaan kata pada register, yaitu: *standar*, *formal-kasual*, *teknis*, dan *penyederhanaan*. Bentuk singkatan kerap digunakan sebagai variasi bahasa untuk mempersingkat waktu dan kalimat yang panjang dalam aplikasi WhatsApp, namun perlu diperhatikan bahwa penggunaannya harus sesuai dengan situasi dan konteks kalimatnya, terutama untuk penggunaan formal dan casual.

**Kata Kunci:** *sociolinguistik; variasi bahasa; register; singkatan; aplikasi WhatsApp*

*Abstract: This research explained the forms of words by its prominent features of Register as language variation in Sociolinguistics, by finding out the forms of the Register and Register's form of usage used in WhatsApp by English-speaking Indonesians. The objects of the study were the forms of Register in simplified words that usually used in textual communication in WhatsApp, taken from daily conversation with the respondents. Therefore, the sociolinguistics feature of Register usage were analyzed through respondent's background information. The meaning of the words were collected from Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Oxford Advanced Dictionary, Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, and English-Indonesian Dictionary. There are six common written forms of Register used in WhatsApp, namely: word choice, Omission, Voice Changing, shorten-ing, single letter, and symbol; to explain four register forms of usage, namely: standard, formal-casual, technical, and simplified. Abbreviation has been used to reduce time and longer sentences in WhatsApp, and*

*it should be considered that the use is still related to the situation and the context of the message, especially in the formal and casual situation.*

**Keywords:** *sociolinguistics; language variation; register; abbreviation; WhatsApp application*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This research explained a phenomenon of language variation that happens in the society through social media by sociolinguistics study. As it was stated by Southerland and Katamba in O'Grady et.al (1987 p. 540), that Sociolinguistics is a sub-discipline of linguistics which studies about the social aspect of language. Sociolinguistics studies the effect of all aspects of society to the language used, the influence of cultural norms, the expectations and context in which the language is used, the way the language is used in the society, and the society's effect on the language itself.

Since language always develops along with human existence, it creates language variation in the community. People use different ways in delivering their ideas and expression. Halliday (1978 p. 33), argued that the variety of words are related to the context of situation, which consist of field, mode, and tenor. The field is about "why" and "about what" the conversation happens; the mode is about "how" the language is used; and the tenor is about "to whom" the conversation is done. Examples of this language variation are when people use the words 'thanks' instead of 'thank you', and the words 'buddy' and 'bro' to greet their close friends. Also, the use of "I want to ..." and "I would like to ..." by one same

person in different occasions or to different other persons. Language variations are also distinguished based on the standard rules of structure and grammar (standard), the users (sociolects), the location where they are used (regional varieties), and the use of them (registers), as it was stated by Southerland and Katamba in O'Grady et.al (1987 p. 540).

Register as one of the language variation, deals with the word varieties according to the use not the user. Holmes (1992 p. 246) argued that the term Register describes the language of groups of people with common interest or jobs, or the language used in situational associated with such groups. In Register, there are four types of using the forms of word in communication, namely: casual, formal, technical and simplified.

Abbreviation is one way of simplified register which is often used in written communication. According to David Crystal (2012), abbreviation is a shortened form of a word. This form of simplified register is widely used in textual social media nowadays. The words in texting are often derived from spoken language. Therefore, although they are written in abbreviations like 'lol', 'omg', 'Ms.' or 'thx', some of them are read as full forms. Some words are not appropriate in more formal

situation as when they write letters or messages to, for instance, their supervisors. These examples show how certain contexts influence the way speakers or writers express their ideas in choosing their words and their language variation of communication, and how English speaking people choose different language variations according to where they will use it and to whom they speak or write to.

WhatsApp was chosen as the media for the study since nowadays many people used this application for communication, and language variations usually happen in written communication between users in this application. WhatsApp provides longer characters in its messaging feature than other textual message applications that make the users are capable of writing longer messages. Yet, the users still simplify their words and shorten their textual messages, and use a lot of abbreviations in texting their messages.

This phenomenon led the study to analyze the use of shortened Registers in WhatsApp text by English-Speaking Indonesians, and whether the usage of the words used are suitable with the situation and context of the message.

The objectives of the study for the analysis upon the usage of shortened Register in WhatsApp, were: to find out the forms of the register which were commonly used in WhatsApp, and explain the usage in WhatsApp application, based on casual, formal, technical, and simplified form of register.

The result of this study is expected to give theoretical benefits for

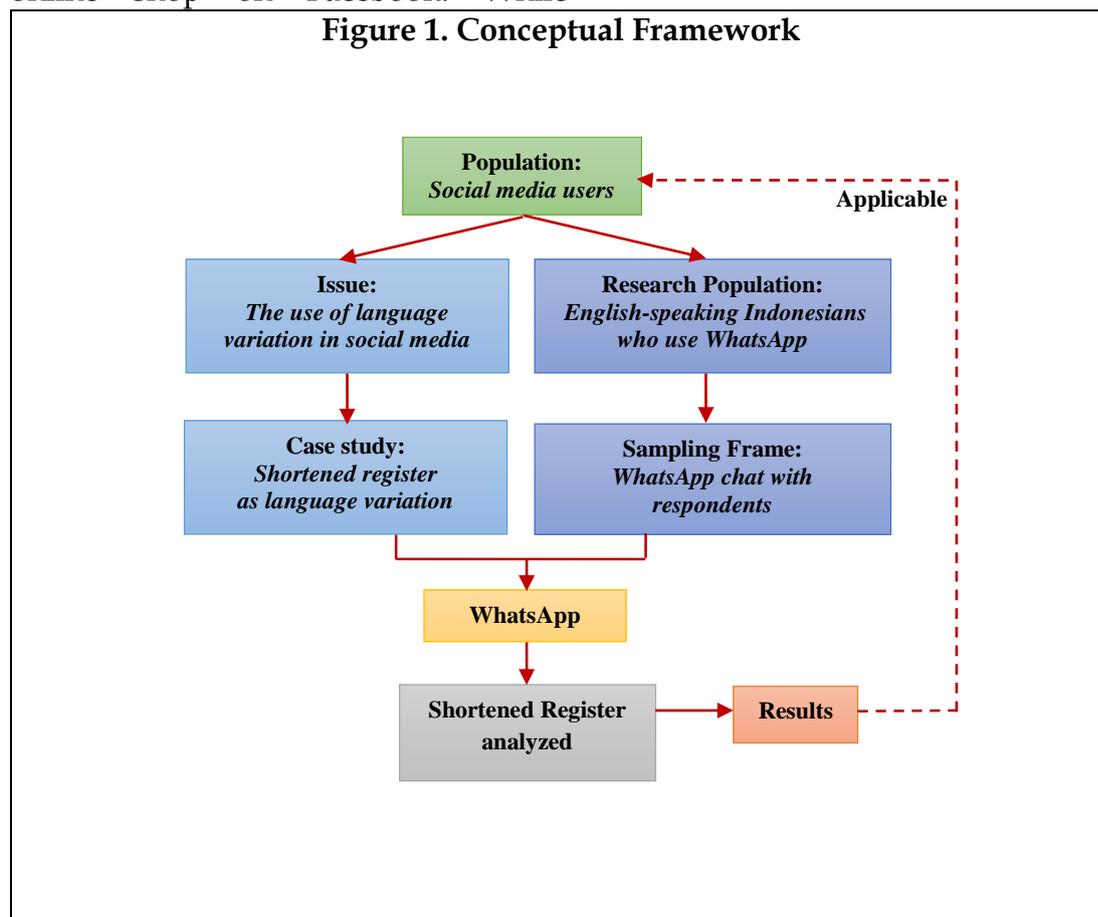
those who learn Sociolinguistics especially in the related topic, or those who want to make similar research or to continue this research about language variation, and to give practical benefits for the users of the language variation, especially about the use of Register.

As the conceptual framework of the study, a hypothesis was made upon the phenomenon that the social media users would change the way they deliver their ideas and expression to the chat partners according to the situation of the conversation. Since the respondents came from different backgrounds and situations, the researcher suspected that it would influence the choice of words and the way they wrote messages due to the use of the register. Using the relation between the researcher and each of the respondent and considering the respondents' backgrounds and the context of situation, the researcher tried to find the characteristics of register as one of language variations which appeared in the conversation, to find the forms and the meaning, compared the similarities and the differences among the same words and expression found, and drew the conclusion. By this effort, it was hoped that the result would be useful for the linguistics field and gave further information to the readers or the society about registers as the language variation used in the daily text messaging, especially in the WhatsApp application.

Register has been an interesting topic of studies, proven by some previous studies that have analyzed register upon different objects on

different media. Farikha Nur Alfi (2013) and Corrie Yuliana Lubis (2016) conducted researches upon register in online shop on Facebook. While

Jocelyne Daems (2013) conducted research upon register in personal blogs.

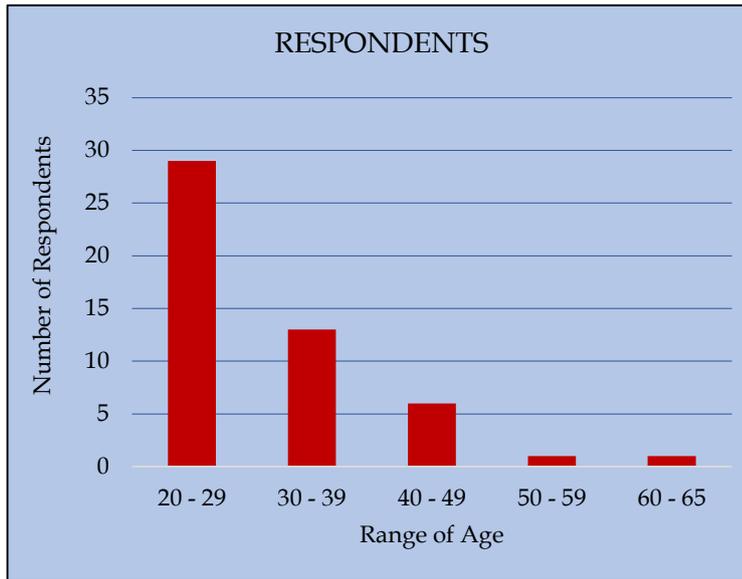


## 2. METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative method through Literary analysis upon the text messaging on WhatsApp application which were delivered in English between the researcher and some respondents, taken from May 2017 until July 2018. Due to the limitation of the research time, and also the limited resources and workforce of the researcher, the researcher used the most accessible participants for the research population.

There were fifty respondents involved in the research, taken from friends, colleagues and relatives of the researcher. These respondents were carefully selected among others, with specific criteria: they should be between twenty to sixty-five years old, they were using WhatsApp application as their daily social media of communication, and they should be Indonesians who were using English as their spoken or written foreign language.

**Tabel 1. Participants of the Research**



Through the cyberspace of WhatsApp, the researcher did not have to meet with each of the respondent in person, which would require more time and energy to do so. By this process, the researcher could make more than one conversation with different respondents at different places at the same time. The data collected were saved in different folders in screenshot digital pictures, to make them easier to be sorted and analyzed as the Primary Data. The Secondary Data were obtained from the respondents' background information through questionnaire and real life chat.

This research did not consider the result in statistical percentage and not consider the parameter of the entire population. The result of this research was expected to develop hypothesis which could be used as pilot study to

the next research upon the same study or upon the problems found in the research. Therefore, the non-probability sampling techniques of purposive sampling and snowball sampling are the most suitable technique samplings to collect the data from whoever available as the research respondents.

The analysis was started by collecting all the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data were analyzed through literary analysis and the secondary data were used to determine the use of register the suitable meaning according to the context of the conversation. The data analysis were divided into the written form of register which were commonly used in the WhatsApp represented by the data collected, and its analysis upon the usage in the textual conversation.

There were also the analysis about the suitable words that could replace them in conversation whenever possible, and the possible factors which influenced the use of the word chosen.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the data that had been collected, the researcher had found that not all of the respondents used shortened word or abbreviation as word register. The word registers were written in various forms, in full sentences, full phrases, in shortened forms, or in abbreviations. This situation was probably due to the different backgrounds of the respondents, different situations in which the conversation happened, and the use of the register chosen.

There are 85 data that were collected for Register analysis in this research, namely: (1) okay, (2) urwell, (3) dunno, (4) ok, (5) no prob, (6) gonna,

(7) hv, (8) anw, (9) cz, (10) ppl, (11) n, (12) bcs, (13) ms, (14) wanna, (15) sth, (16) pred, (17) till, (18) mybe, (19) jst, (20) cause, (21) stdy, (22) thts, (23) c, (24) u're, (25) d, (26) i'll not, (27) diz, (28) congratz, (29) tq, (30) sched, (31) thursnite, (32) boardhoz, (33) sudnly, (34) i'll, (35) u'time, (36) u'fam, (37) r, (38) r u not okay?, (39) socio, (40) buk, (41) prev, (42) abbre, (43) abrev, (44) bot, (45) #, (46) wokkaay, (47) mntion, (48) tht, (49) i've, (50) masist, (51) javanglish, (52) nite, (53) omg, (54) ur, (55) obgyn, (56) i see, (57) tho, (58) pic, (59) id, (60) tqvm, (61) vocab, (62) w/, (63) idk, (64) ofc, (65) u re, (66) pro, (67) bout, (68) lil, (69) @, (70) 'bout, (71) sist, (72) otw, (73) abt, (74) cos, (75) w, (76) inet, (77) thx, (78) ty, (79) lotta, (80) exam, (81) cont, (82) okeh, (83) gimme, (84) need'em, and (85) lemme.

These word registers were analyzed according to the written forms and the forms of usage.

**Tabel 2. Data of Shortened Register**

| NO  | DATA                                                              | WORD REGISTER  |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| (1) | (2)                                                               | (3)            |
| 1   | <i>Okay thanks to worried me</i>                                  | <i>okay</i>    |
| 2   | <i>Urwell, I hope I can help and make u get better and better</i> | <i>urwell</i>  |
| 3   | <i>I dunno</i>                                                    | <i>dunno</i>   |
| 4   | <i>Oh ok no prob. ..ok thanks</i>                                 | <i>ok</i>      |
| 5   | <i>Oh ok no prob. ..ok thanks</i>                                 | <i>no prob</i> |
| 6   | <i>Coz we are gonna hav mid test</i>                              | <i>gonna</i>   |

|    |                                                                             |           |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 7  | Only on Thursday actually but, next week I <b>hw</b> trial class on tuesday | hw        |
| 8  | No, I'm from Cilegon <b>anw</b>                                             | anw       |
| 9  | Haha <b>cz</b> many ppl still don't know                                    | cz        |
| 10 | Haha cz many <b>ppl</b> still don't know                                    | ppl       |
| 11 | I got stuck in cikarang <b>n</b> Jakarta bcs of the traffic all the time    | n         |
| 12 | I got stuck in cikarang n Jakarta <b>bcs</b> of the traffic all the time    | bcs       |
| 13 | <b>Ms</b> I forgot I wanna ask u sth                                        | ms        |
| 14 | Ms I forgot I <b>wanna</b> ask u sth                                        | wanna     |
| 15 | Ms I forgot I wanna ask u <b>sth</b>                                        | sth       |
| 16 | Misss I think I'll take the ielts <b>pred.</b> test next Tuesday            | pred      |
| 17 | <b>Till</b> 10.15 pm                                                        | till      |
| 18 | <b>Mybe</b> ms, but still dunno                                             | mybe      |
| 19 | Before, I learnt about it <b>jst</b> like little bit so I forget hahaha     | jst       |
| 20 | Jst work ms <b>cause</b> for now I don't think to continue my stdy          | cause     |
| 21 | Jst work ms cause for now I don't think to continue my <b>stdy</b>          | stdy      |
| 22 | <b>Thts</b> true ms                                                         | thts      |
| 23 | Heehm I <b>c</b>                                                            | c         |
| 24 | <b>U're</b> welcome                                                         | u're      |
| 25 | Wish u all <b>d</b> best too                                                | d         |
| 26 | <b>I'll not</b> come to campus for diz long holiday                         | i'll not  |
| 27 | I'll not come to campus for <b>diz</b> long holiday                         | diz       |
| 28 | Yeaay <b>congratz</b>                                                       | congratz  |
| 29 | Yuupz <b>tq</b> so million                                                  | tq        |
| 30 | Maybe we could move the <b>sched</b> to other days or other hours           | sched     |
| 31 | If thereis class on <b>thursnite</b> , could we move?                       | thursnite |
| 32 | I have just arrived in my <b>boardhoz</b> , sudnly I get dizzy              | boardhoz  |
| 33 | I have just arrived in my boardhoz, <b>sudnly</b> I get dizzy               | sudnly    |

|     |                                                                                    |                      |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 34  | Yes <i>i'll</i>                                                                    | <i>i'll</i>          |
| 35  | Enjoy <i>u'time</i> with <i>u'fam</i>                                              | <i>u'time</i>        |
| 36  | Enjoy <i>u'time</i> with <i>u'fam</i>                                              | <i>u'fam</i>         |
| 37  | <b>R</b> <i>u not okay?</i>                                                        | <i>r</i>             |
| 38  | <b>R</b> <i>u not okay?</i>                                                        | <i>r u not okay?</i> |
| 39  | Have <i>u found socio buk?</i>                                                     | <i>socio</i>         |
| 40  | Have <i>u found socio buk?</i>                                                     | <i>buk</i>           |
| 41  | Ok.. for now. Pliz just find <b>prev</b> researches which relates to <i>socio</i>  | <i>prev</i>          |
| 42  | The use of <b>abbre</b> and the relation to <i>socio</i>                           | <i>abbre</i>         |
| 43  | How they use <b>abrev</b> in society                                               | <i>abrev</i>         |
| (1) | (2)                                                                                | (3)                  |
| 44  | Lets share <b>bot</b> it                                                           | <i>bot</i>           |
| 45  | <b>U#</b>                                                                          | <b>#</b>             |
| 46  | <b>Wokkaay</b>                                                                     | <i>wokkaay</i>       |
| 47  | Dont <b>mntion</b> <i>tht</i>                                                      | <i>mntion</i>        |
| 48  | Dont <b>mntion</b> <i>tht</i>                                                      | <i>tht</i>           |
| 49  | Actually <b>i've</b> 2 ID...so <i>i'll</i> join the election here                  | <i>i've</i>          |
| 50  | Of course <b>masist</b>                                                            | <i>masist</i>        |
| 51  | But don't laugh when I do the <b>javanglish</b>                                    | <i>javanglish</i>    |
| 52  | <b>Nite</b> <i>dear</i>                                                            | <i>nite</i>          |
| 53  | <b>Omg</b> thanks very much you are smart girl, strong girl, and I like <i>it</i>  | <i>Omg</i>           |
| 54  | <b>Ur</b> right..same with <i>u..</i>                                              | <i>Ur</i>            |
| 55  | My <b>obgyn</b> said it can be around may 20 <sup>th</sup> to june 7 <sup>th</sup> | <i>Obgyn</i>         |
| 56  | Ah <b>I see</b>                                                                    | <i>i see</i>         |
| 57  | I'm not fully prepared <b>tho</b>                                                  | <i>Tho</i>           |
| 58  | <b>U</b> made that <b>pic?</b>                                                     | <i>Pic</i>           |
| 59  | What the <b>id?</b>                                                                | <i>Id</i>            |

|    |                                                                                                    |       |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 60 | Good idea.. <b>Tqvm</b> kk                                                                         | Tqvm  |
| 61 | I ask to my friend in UK, n she tell me that in English there is no <b>vocab</b> about masuk angin | Vocab |
| 62 | I also headache <b>w/</b> toefl                                                                    | w/    |
| 63 | But <b>idk</b> if someday I'll work at ispeak again                                                | Idk   |
| 64 | Yes <b>ofc!!</b>                                                                                   | Ofc   |
| 65 | Bet <b>u re</b> better                                                                             | u re  |
| 66 | Well, when I'm at work, actually I prefer using office's number.. it gives me " <b>pro</b> " vibes | Pro   |
| 67 | Btw, we just chit chat <b>bout</b> me, how <b>bout</b> u?                                          | Bout  |
| 68 | Just a <b>lil</b> bit holiday                                                                      | Lil   |
| 69 | I'm @ <b>Cimahi</b> right now.                                                                     | @     |
| 70 | How <b>'bout</b> you..?                                                                            | 'bout |
| 71 | Good luck, <b>Sist...!</b>                                                                         | sist  |
| 72 | Sory slow respond, I'm <b>otw</b> now.                                                             | Otw   |
| 73 | We need talking <b>abt</b> it                                                                      | abt   |
| 74 | I can't accompany her also <b>cos</b> I must attend inauguration ceremony at the foundation        | cos   |
| 75 | iam available at campus today, just in case if u have something to discuss <b>w</b> me             | W     |
| 76 | Just click next without connect to <b>inet</b>                                                     | inet  |
| 77 | That sounds good, but now unfortunately I am away from my home, <b>thx</b> for reminding me        | Thx   |
| 78 | Thats fine <b>ty</b>                                                                               | ty    |
| 79 | <b>Lotta</b> things to do                                                                          | lotta |
| 80 | No supervisor doesn't mean you all can cheat on your <b>exam</b>                                   | Exam  |
| 81 | Yes, <b>cont</b> it tomorrow.                                                                      | Cont  |
| 82 | <b>Okeh..</b> it's a beautiful day to sleep                                                        | Okeh  |

|    |                                                                                             |                |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 83 | <i>Could you <b>gimme</b> more specific information bout English teaching assignment..?</i> | <i>Gimme</i>   |
| 84 | <i>Everything needs process.. But yes, I <b>need'em</b></i>                                 | <i>need'em</i> |
| 85 | <i>Well.. <b>Lemme</b> think.. just wanna close maeyes for a while.</i>                     | <i>Lemme</i>   |

### 3.1 Written Forms Of Register Used In WhatsApp

The word register were divided into six written forms of register, namely: (1) word choice, (2) Omission, (3) Voice Changing, (4) shorten-ing, (5) single letter, and (6) symbol. The classification of the written forms is important to determine the register forms of usage used in WhatsApp. The explanations are as follows:

#### 3.1.1 Word Choice

Word choice is the register which is used according to the act of selecting word in different possible situations (Southerland and Katamba, in O'Grady et.al., 1987 p. 540). Some of these word in the data were used to replace other possible words in similar meaning or in different written form, which could be used depend on the situations.

Data samples:

- (1) Oh ok no prob...ok thanks (data 4)
- (2) Till 10.15 pm. (data 17)

In the data, 'ok' might replace 'all right'. They have the similar meaning to express 'understanding', and used interchangeable. Meanwhile, 'till' might replace 'until'. However, as the variation of 'until', 'till' is more familiar in poem writing.

#### 3.1.2 Omission

Omission is the elimination of 'unnecessary' parts of the word or word group, could be the consonants, vowels, or both, or half of the word. Omission in this research was divided into 5 processes, namely: (1) Full Vowel Omission (FVO), (2) Semi Vowel Omission (SVO), (3) Full Vowel Omission and Semi Word Omission (FVO + SWO), (4) Semi Word Omission (SWO), and (5) Written Sound and Semi Word Omission (WS + SWO). The terms and symbols were made merely to facilitate the classification. The explanations are as follows:

##### 3.1.2.1 Full Vowel Omission (FVO)

Full Vowel Omission is the process in which the word or phrase is subtracted to become smaller by eliminating all the vowels in the word (or phrase). This process leaves only the consonant part, but the word still can be read by guessing the remaining part.

Data samples:

- (3) Only on Thursday actually but, next week I hv trial class on Tuesday. (data 7)
- (4) I got stuck in cikarang n Jakarta bcs of the traffic all the time. (data 12)

In the data, the words which were included in this process had lost all of their vowels. By guessing the

composition of the consonants, and by considering the context, the reader still can obtain the full words which were intended by the writer of the words. 'Hv' and 'bcs' were derived from 'have' and 'because' respectively.

### 3.1.2.2 Semi Vowel Omission (SVO)

Semi Vowel Omission is the process in which the word or phrase is subtracted to become smaller by eliminating some vowels in the word (or phrase) which have the weakest sound, with the assumption that it will not change the meaning and the way the word is pronounced. This process leaves the consonant part and only a part (or parts) of the vowels, but the word still can be read by guessing the remaining part.

Data samples:

- (5) Mybe ms, but still dunno. (Data 18)
- (6) Dont mntion tht. (Data 47)

Similar with 'Full Vowel Omission', the words included in this process had lost the weakest sound of their vowels. By guessing the composition of the consonants and the remaining vowels, and especially by considering the context, the reader still can obtain the full words which were intended by the writer of the words. In the data, 'mybe' and 'mntion' are derived from 'maybe' and 'mention' respectively.

### 3.1.2.3 Full Vowel Omission and Semi Word Omission (FVO + SWO)

Full Vowel Omission and Semi Word Omission is the process in which the word or phrase is subtracted to

become smaller by eliminating all the vowels in the word (or phrase) and most parts of the words in the phrase. This process leaves only the first letters of each word in the word group, similar to graphical abbreviation or initialism, but it is not.

Data samples:

- (7) But idk if someday I'll work at ispeak again. (Data 63)
- (8) Thats fine ty. (Data 78)

In the data, the words which are included in this form had lost most parts of their words. However, since some the results of this process have been used widely by society, and especially by considering the context, the reader still can obtain the full words which are intended by the writer of the words.

'Idk' and 'ty' are derived from 'I don't know' and 'thank you' respectively. The vowel 'I' could not be eliminated since it represents the whole word.

### 3.1.2.4 Semi Word Omission (SWO)

Semi Word Omission is the process in which the word is subtracted to become smaller by eliminating, usually the last part of the word, with the assumption that it will not change the meaning and the way the word is pronounced. This process leaves the first part of the word. Some of the processes in this section were detected as clipping or truncation, in which the words were subtracted by eliminating the last part of the word and leaving only the first part (the beginning) of the word.

Data samples:

(9) No, I'm from Cilegon anw. (Data 8)

(10) Maybe we could move the sched to other days or other hours. (Data 30)

In the data, 'anw' and 'sched' had lost most parts of their words, and were actually derived from 'anyway' and 'schedule' respectively.

### 3.1.2.5 Written Sound and Semi Word Omission (WS + SWO)

Written Sound and Semi Word Omission is the process in which the word is subtracted to become smaller by eliminating, usually the last part of the word, and combined with the process of transforming the sound in spoken language into the written language. By this process, it was assumed that it would not change the meaning and the way the word was pronounced.

Data samples:

(11) Urwell, I hope I can help and make u get better and better. (Data 2)

(12) I'm not fully prepared tho. (Data 57)

In the data, it can be seen that the register mostly emphasizes on the written sound. The elimination of part of the word is another process of simplification.

'Urwell' was actually derived from 'you are welcome'. The letter 'u' and 'r' had the similar pronunciation with the word 'you' and 'are' respectively. The word 'welcome' had lost part of the word, leaving 'well' which was attached to the letters 'u' and 'r'.

Meanwhile, the word 'tho' was derived from 'though'. The last part of the word was eliminated, leaving the new register form which had the similar pronunciation with the original word.

### 3.1.3 Voice Changing

Voice Changing is the change of parts of the word, could be the consonants or the vowels in the word. Voice changing was divided into 2 types, namely: (1) Consonant Change, and (2) Vowel Change. The terms and symbols were made merely to facilitate the classification. The explanations are as follows:

#### 3.1.3.1 Consonant Change (CC)

Consonant Change is the process of shorten-ing which is marked mostly by the change of consonant used in the word.

Data samples:

(13) I'll not come to campus for diz long holiday. (Data 27)

(14) That sounds good, but now unfortunately I am away from my home, thx for reminding me. (Data 77)

In the data, it can be seen that the consonants in the data were changed into different consonants which had the similar pronunciation with the original consonants used in the word.

The word 'diz' was derived from the word 'this' that had changed the 'th' into 'd' for it sounded like [ð], and changed the 's' into 'z' since the 's' sounded like [z] in pronunciation.

Meanwhile, the word 'thx' was derived from the word 'thanks', a simplification of the phrase 'thank you'. The simplified register eliminated the vowel and only used the consonants of the words. However, the letter 'x' was used by the similarity with the pronunciation of 'ks' at the end of the word 'thanks'.

### 3.1.3.2 Vowel Change (VC)

Vowel Change is the process of shorten-ing which is marked mostly by the change of vowel used in the word.

Data samples:

(15) Have u found socio buk? (Data 40)

(16) Lets share bot it. (Data 44)

In the data, it can be seen that the vowels in the data were changed into different vowels which had the similar pronunciation with the original vowels used in the word.

The word 'buk' had changed all of the vowels in the word. The word 'buk' was derived from the word 'book'. The 'double o' in the word 'book' was replaced by the vowel 'u' which, in some cases, had the similar pronunciation with [ʊ].

Meanwhile, the word 'bot' had eliminated the vowel 'u' in the word. The word 'bot' was derived from the word 'bout', a simplification of the word 'about'. The vowel 'ou' in the word 'bout' was replaced by the single vowel 'o' which, in some cases, has the similar pronunciation with [aʊ].

### 3.1.4 Shorten-ing

Shorten-ing is the process of substracting phonemes and / or

morhemes from words and word-groups to become smaller, without changing their lexico-grammatical meaning, and results in new lexical items (Ginzburg, 1979 p. 188). In this section, the researcher divided the forms of shortened register in the data into 3 ways of processes, namely: (1) Contraction, and (2) Blending, and (3) Abbreviation. The explanation of these processes are as follows:

#### 3.1.4.1 Contraction

Contraction is a shortened version of the written and spoken forms of a word, syllable, or word group, created by omission of internal letters and sounds, mostly involving the elision of a vowel (which is replaced by an apostrophe in writing), as in "I'm" for "I am", and sometimes other changes as well, as in "I won't" for "I will not". In this research this process was divided into 2 types, namely: (1) Informal Contraction, and (2) Non-standard Contraction. The symbols were made merely to facilitate the classification. The explanations of this process are explained as follows:

##### 3.1.4.1.1 Informal Contraction (IC)

Informal Contraction is the contraction which is used in informal communication (Crystal, 2003 p. 185).

Sometimes, this kind of words are confused with Slang language, because they are used mostly by those who use slang language (ESLTeam.com, 2015). Slang is special vocabulary which is often applied to aspects of language of young people or others and is used in

non-standard varieties of the language (Southerland and Katamba, in O'Grady et.al., 1987 p. 555). Some registers found as the data in this research used the aspects of informal contraction. These Informal Contractions were used by Indonesians derived from the native speakers.

Data samples:

(17) I dunno. (Data 3)

(18) Coz we are gonna hav mid test. (Data 6)

In the data, the words or phrases in the data mostly were derived from the way they sound in spoken language which were transformed into written language. Each of the samples which was taken, showing the various ways the register took its form with no pattern. 'Dunno' and 'gonna' were derived from 'don't know' and 'going to' respectively.

#### 3.1.4.1.2 Non-Standard Contraction (NSC)

Non-Standard Contraction is the process in which the register is obtained without considering the grammatical rules of creating contractions.

Data samples:

(19) I'll not come to campus for diz long holiday. (Data 26)

(20) Actually i've 2 ID...so i'll join the election here (Data 49)

In the data, the form 'I'll not' was not a common contraction that is usually used in grammatical rules. The form 'I'll not' was derived from 'I will not', which was supposed to be contracted as 'I won't' in textual messages. Meanwhile, the word 'I've' which was

derived from 'I have'. The word 'I've' without certain past participle verb following it made the sentence awkward if the 'have' in the sentence was intended to have the meaning as 'to hold or to maintain as a possession, privilege, or entitlement' [Merriam-Webster].

#### 3.1.4.2 Blending

As O'Grady (1987, pg. 158) defined: "Blends are words that are created from non-morphemic parts of two already existing items". Examples of this process are: smog (smoke + fog), brunch (breakfast + lunch), etc. In blending, the word group is subtracted to become smaller mostly by taking the beginning part of the first word and combining it with the last part of the second, and creates new lexical item.

Data sample:

(21) But don't laugh when I do the javanglish. (Data 51)

In the data, the word 'javanglish' was actually obtained by combining two words. The first word 'japanese' was subtracted into 'java' and was attached to the second subtracted word 'english' that had lost the beginning 'e'.

#### 3.1.4.3 Abbreviation

As it was stated by David Crystal (2012) that, abbreviation is a shortened form of a word, as it is defined in Merriam-Webster Dictionary that abbreviation is "a shorten form of a written word or phrase used in place of the full word or name". In this section, the words that were classified as abbreviation form were explained

only as comparison to the similar simplified written forms in word register, since abbreviation has its own standardized classification.

Data samples:

(22) Ms I forgot I wanna ask u sth. (Data 15)

(23) Omg thanks very much you are smart girl, strong girl, and I like it. (Data 53)

In the data, 'sth' and 'omg' are derived from 'something' (Cambridge Dictionary) and an exclamation 'oh my God' respectively.

### 3.1.5 Single Letter

Single Letter is register form which uses one letter that has similar pronunciation to a word and has a function to replace the word, or represents one word in textual communication.

Data samples:

(24) I got stuck in cikarang n Jakarta bcs of the traffic all the time. (Data 11)

(25) Wish u all d best too. (Data 25)

In the data, the letter 'n' had the similar sound with the word 'and', and might represent the word as word-register in the sentence.

Meanwhile, the letter 'd' had the similar sound with the word 'the', and might represent the word as word-register in the sentence.

### 3.1.6 Symbol

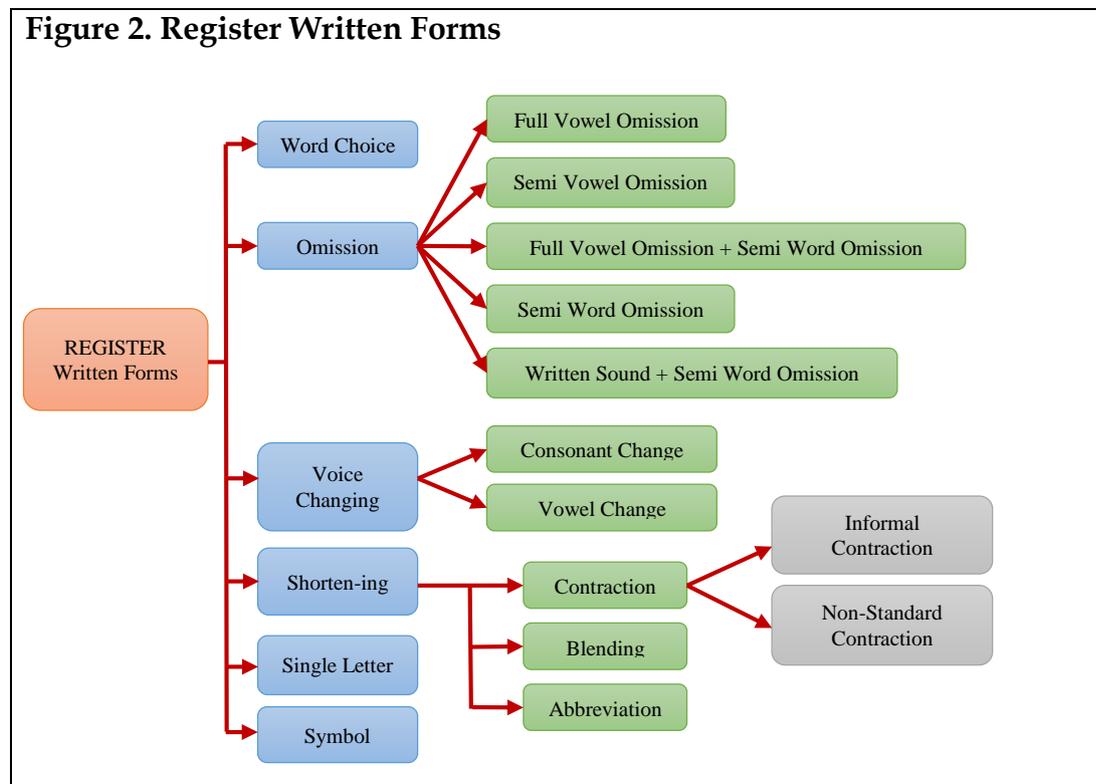
Symbol is register form which uses a letter, group of letters, character, or picture that is used instead of a word or group of words (Merriam-Webster).

Data samples:

(26) U# (Data 45)

(27) I'm @ Cimahi right now. (Data 69)

**Figure 2. Register Written Forms**



In the data, based on the context the symbol '#' represented 'welcome' so that the data can be read as 'you're welcome'.

Meanwhile, the symbol '@' is a symbol of 'commercial at' which is usually used to replace the preposition 'at'.

### 3.2 Register Forms of Usage

The 85 data which were collected in this research as registers were classified based on the way they were used. The data of word register were classified into 4 forms of usage, namely: (1) standard forms, (2) formal-casual forms, (3) technical forms, and (4) simplified forms.

Since formal and casual usually exist in opposite situation, they were placed in one type of usage. The standard forms were added in the

register forms of usage because mostly, shortened registers are used in non-standard forms and informal situations. The explanations of these forms of usage are as follows:

#### 3.2.1 Standard Forms

The standard and non-standard forms of the register used in textual messages were analyzed based on the grammatical rule of how the registers were written and created. Sometimes, the register did not follow the rule and merely as the efficiency of using the words.

Data samples:

(28) Yes i'll. (Data 34)

(29) R u not okay? (Data 38)

In the data, the word 'I'll' showed the non-standard feature of the form 'I will'. The word 'I'll' without certain

verb following it made the sentence awkward, especially whether the 'will' was intended to have the meaning of 'intention' instead of auxiliary verb form.

Meanwhile, the sentence 'R u not okay?' was a non-standard since it was probably influenced by Indonesian sentence 'Kamu sedang tidak sehat?'. In Indonesian, this sentence is used as a form of affirmation upon the previous statement of the other person.

Despite of the misuse of the word 'Ill' and the clause register 'r u not okay?', and the educational background of the respondents in English Department, the words were used probably due to the habit of the respondent to reduce word and to write them in the respondent's convenience, influenced by Indonesian language, and due to the informal situation with the chat partner in the conversation.

### 3.2.2 Formal - Casual Forms

The formal and casual forms of the register used in textual messages were analyzed based on the situation of where the registers were used. Most of the shorten forms in textual communication happened in casual situation. However, some shorten registers can be used both in formal and casual situation.

Data samples:

(30) Ms I forgot I wanna ask u sth.

(Data 14)

(31) What the id? (Data 59)

In the data, it can be seen that some registers could be used in formal, casual, or both. Normally, formal shorten register can be used in casual

situation as well, but not the other way around.

The word 'wanna' was derived from 'want to', and it should be used in less formal situation. This form was obtained from spoken language, which was later on used in casual written

language by writing the words the way they were pronounced. Despite of the educational background of the respondent, the words 'wanna', was used due to the young age of the respondent.

While 'id' can be used both in formal and informal situation. It was derived from 'identification', but written in casual form. The formal written form is 'ID', all with capital letters.

These words were chosen probably due to informal situation used with the chat partner in the conversation, and due to the habit of the respondent to reduce word in the respondent's convenience.

### 3.2.3 Technical Forms

The technical and non-technical forms of the register used in textual messages were analyzed based on the terms used by the experts of certain fields, or on certain context where the registers were used. Most of the technical forms in textual communication can be used in formal and casual situation.

Data samples:

(32) Have u found socio buk? (Data 39)

(33) My obgyn said it can be around may 20th to june 7th. (Data 55)

In the data, the word 'socio' was derived from the word

'sociolinguistics', a technical term in linguistics. This term was used in the data between those who were in the same field of English Department. The writer of the shortened term assumed that the chat partner understands the term even it was written in a non-standard form.

Meanwhile, the word 'ob-gyn' was derived from 'obstetrician-gynecologist', a technical term in Medical and Health. This was a standard form in writing the word, but was used between people who were not in the field, and commonly used in the society.

Despite of the miswriting of the word 'socio' and 'obgyn' in the conversation, these words were used probably due to the habit of the respondents to reduce word and to write it in their convenience and due to the informal situation with the chat partner in the conversation.

#### 3.1.2.4 Simplified Forms

The simplified and non-simplified forms of the register used in textual messages were analyzed based on the simplification of the register used. Most of the simplified forms in textual communication were used in casual situation. However, there were simplified register which turned to non-simplified due to the use in casual form.

Data samples:

(34) Okay thanks to worried me. (Data 1)

Just click next without connect to inet. (Data 76)

(35) In the data, the word 'okay' was not used in standard simplified written form, which is 'ok'. The word became longer than the original word.

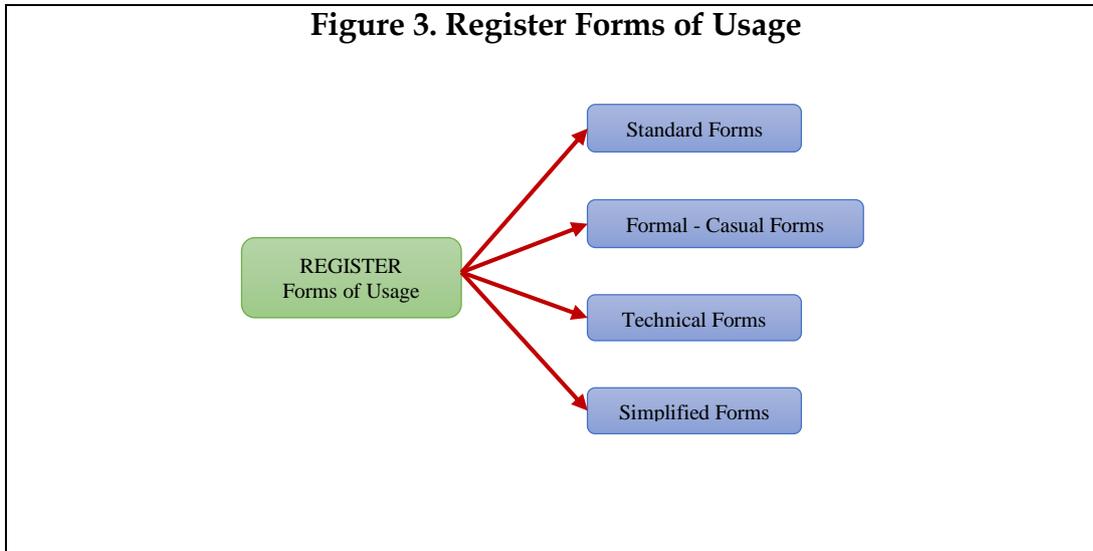
Meanwhile, the word 'inet' had been simplified twice since the word 'inet' was derived from the abbreviation 'internet' which means it had already been simplified. This abbreviation was reduced again into new form of register 'inet'.

Despite of use of the longer word 'okay' and the miswriting of the word 'internet' in the conversation and the educational background of the respondent, the word 'okay' was used probably due to habit of the respondent, and the word 'inet' was used probably due to the lack of time because of the respondent's activity, and the habit of the respondent to reduce word and to write it in his convenience and due to the informal situation with the chat partner in the conversation.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the data analysis, this research found that the forms of register and the use in the textual messages by WhatsApp users (especially by Indonesians) were vary. This fact occurred due to the

**Figure 3. Register Forms of Usage**



different background of the respondents and the different situation in which the conversation took place. Indonesian users had the tendency of simplifying the word they chose as the register used in their textual messages in their convenience. Parts of the forms of the registers they used sometimes did not follow the standard writing form due to the efforts of reducing the time and space, and the others derived from the way of native speakers do.

This research found at least 85 word register that were collected as the research data. These word registers were analyzed according to the written form and the form of usage.

In the written form, these word registers were divided into 6 written forms of register, namely: (1) word choice, (2) Omission, (3) Voice Changing, (4) shorten-ing, (5) single letter, and (6) symbol. Based on these forms, the Omission process was divided into 5 processes, namely: (1) Full Vowel Omission (FVO), (2) Semi Vowel Omission (SVO), (3) Full Vowel Omission and Semi Word Omission

(FVO + SWO), (4) Semi Word Omission (SWO), and (5) Written Sound and Semi Word Omission (WS + SWO).

The Voice Changing was divided into 2 types, namely: (1) Consonant Change, and (2) Vowel Change.

Meanwhile, the Shorten-ing form was divided into 3 ways of shorten-ing processes, namely: (1) Contraction, (2) Blending, and (3) Abbreviation. The abbreviation form in this register section was merely a part of simplified register forms.

In the shorten-ing process, the Contraction process was divided again into 2 types, namely: (1) Informal Contraction, and (2) Non-standard Contraction.

In the next section, the word register were classified based on the way they were used. This classification was divided into 4 forms of usage, namely: (1) standard forms, (2) formal-casual forms, (3) technical forms, and (4) simplified forms. The classification based on these forms of usage was also equipped by the secondary data which

were derived from the background information of the respondents.

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