ABSTRACT


People’s names and nicknames have important roles in depicting their identities. Some people intentionally change their names in order to show different identities or impressions about them. This case is common in Internet chatting, because people are given the options to alter their names as they wish. Their sign-in names or the nicknames they create are used not only to identify themselves but also to reflect their personalities. In this study, the writer collects the nicknames used by the chatters in the Surabaya Room of Yahoo! Chat as the data. The total number of nicknames collected is 223, of which 64 nicknames were from 12.00-13.00, 77 from 17.00-18.00, and 82 from 23.00-00.00. Based on the data collected, the writer managed to produce a new classification comprising twelve main categories and one category of nicknames using real names. The twelve categories are nicknames related to gender; places, physical appearances and adjectives; famous names; flora and fauna; sex motives; punning on language, typography and sounds; professions or magical beings; provocative or swear words; internet or computer terms; and characters in TVs, films or fairytales. The three different times – in the afternoon, in the evening, and at night – also show some differences in the nicknames used by the chatters. The nicknames commonly used by chatters in the afternoon are those related to physical appearances or adjectives. They use nice adjectives in their nicknames to reflect their physical appearances and to attract other chatters to chat with them. It is different from the evening where the highest number is in the category of punning on language, typography and sounds. The leisure evening time enables the chatters to create eye-catching nicknames using symbols. The feature shown at night is also different from the other times especially in the use of nicknames related to sex motives.

Keywords: nickname, lexical semantics, internet chat, Yahoo! Chat, Chat Room