

ABSTRACT

Internet language features are the recent phenomena which have drawn some new linguistic research. One of the sources of Internet language features is Kaskus. The aims of this study are to know the typical Internet language features used by male and female Kaskusers when they were giving comments, and also to compare those features which are used by male Kaskusers and those used by female Kaskusers. The Internet language features are analyzed according to Danet (2001) who classified the common features of digital writing into eleven features, they are multiple punctuations, eccentric spelling, capital letters, asterisks for emphasis, written-out laughter, music/noise, description of actions, emoticons, abbreviations, rebus writing, and all lower case, and one additional feature proposed by Crystal (2006) that is the ways of expressing emphasis (italics, boldface, etc). These twelve features are the foundation to analyze the data. This study used qualitative method as a tool of research in which the writer collected the data from Lounge forum in Kaskus and chose the pornography topic.

The results show that male Kaskusers most frequently use the Internet language feature which is called the ways of expressing emphasis (italics, boldface, etc). This may show that male Kaskusers like to use emphasis in giving comments. On the other hand, female Kaskusers most commonly use abbreviations because this feature can save the time in typing a message or information. Based on the results, there are similarities and differences between male and female Kaskusers in using the Internet language features. The similarities are both of the users use capital letters that are considered as all caps and they replace the word or syllable by using letters and number. Then, they tend to use multiple periods to express pause. Besides, they change asterisks symbol with parentheses symbol and use italics, boldface, font color, and font face effects for emphasis. Meanwhile, the differences shown in the use of eccentric spelling which male Kaskusers more extend the vowel and female Kaskusers tend to repeat the consonant. In addition, male Kaskusers use more varied emoticons than female Kaskusers in which these emoticons are not only used to express the emotional feeling but also to represent the actions as in the real life.

Keywords: Asterisks for emphasis, Description of actions, Emoticons, Internet language features, Kaskus, Kaskuser, Music/noise, Rebus writing, Thread.