ABSTRACT

To communicate effectively in hospitals, doctors and nurses use a variety which is in their linguistic repertoire and sometimes hard to be recognized by the outsiders, namely register. This study aims at identifying the vocabulary and the morphological features of the register used by the doctors and the nurses at Adi Husada Undaan Wetan hospital, Surabaya. This study also describes how the features marked as register used in context by using Holmes’ theory (2013) on social factors. By using qualitative approach, 72 doctor-nurse conversations with 305 utterances were observed and recorded in five clinics at Adi Husada Undaan Wetan hospital during their work hours. The data were then analyzed using some theories proposed by Bauer (2003), Yule (2010), and Kridalaksana (1992). Note taking was pivotal to be carried out for context analysis. The findings of the study show that the vocabulary features uttered by doctors and nurses in their conversation are obviously distinguishable from the language used in other contexts. Some vocabularies are in English, in Indonesian language and there is also vocabulary found in Latin. The use of the vocabulary features of register in the data are understood in the context by the participants. Furthermore, the morphological features that occurred are mostly the shortening processes which are clipping and abbreviation. Then, the morphological features of register in the data are used in order to have an effective and efficient communication. In brief, the conversations between doctors and nurses adopt certain linguistic features by using particular vocabulary features and morphological features. The findings indicated that in doctors and nurses’ conversations there are a limited range of vocabulary features and also contain some morphological structure of words in morphological features.

Key Words: morphological features, register, social factors, vocabulary features