CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I. Background of Study

Internet now becomes one of the primary medium of communication. Many communications can be done via internet. One of the communication features that can be done via internet connection is forum discussion. The discussions take place in the forum site. Forum site is the site for online discussion. The forum site contains several categories such as forums, threads, and posts (http://www.vbulletin.com).

In forum site, the users who belong to the forum can participate in the forum discussions. Crystal (2001) refers to forum as bulletin board; where it describes on how the forum site works; a user freely chooses the topic and they can comment on them as they wish. Forum discussions are various. There are forums for trade, for movie mania, and for gamer community.

One of the forum sites which has been designed for gamer community is *Point Blank* gaming community forum. This forum is dedicated for the players of *Point Blank* online shooter game. The Point Blank itself is an online action game which portrays the conflict between Free Rebels faction (the antagonist side/ Red Team) and CT Forces faction (Counter Terrorism Police squad, the protagonist side/ Blue Team), in short, this game is about the battle between Police squad and Terrorist squad. In *Point Blank*, as well as another action shooter game, the players can choose to which side he/ she wants to belong to, and then engage in a battle arena in which each player tries to shoot their foes and to score kill as much as possible, while evading enemy attacks. The game maps

are ranging from library hall, Downtown area, suburban area, subways, etc. There are many different game modes, such as bomb defusion, death match, and last man standing. This game is a shooter game which employs many authentic firearms from around the worlds, such as M4A1, AK47, FN FAL, etc. Equipments can be bought by collecting points after accomplishing missions, or via pre paid voucher. Before being able to access this game, the player has to register an account in the game database. This game has been launched on March 2008 in South Korea by NCSoft, on February 2009 in Thailand by NCTrue, and then in Indonesia on July 2009, published by PT. Kreon (http:// pb.gemscool.com). Point Blank is popular because of its genre, in which the most online games are dominated by MMORPGs at that time.

Like another online game, while the players are playing with other players, they also communicate with each other. But as the nature of this game as an action shooter game, everything is done directly, and the player must act and decide quickly while they are playing. So they often sacrifice communication for concentration. In communicating via game chat, they only type single word, and even acronym or abbreviation.

To facilitate the gamers in order to gain information, to discuss the game, and to gain the latest issues, therefore, PT.Kreon, as the official licensor of Point Blank Indonesia has been established the Point Blank internet gaming forum site which has been compiled in Gemscool portal forum. In the forum site, the player can communicate with other players. This forum site is exclusively dedicated for Point Blank gamers. In this forum, the Point Blank gamers can communicate with other gamers, discuss the latest weapons and items, talk about maps, and do other miscellaneous things such as gossiping or requesting for new items. The mechanism of discussion in Point Blank forum site is similar with other forum sites; there is a user who starts the discussion and other users reply the topic if they are interested.

Since the forum discussion is done through internet connection, the form of discussion is always in written text (Crystal, 2001). The communication is done in forum discussion which has not been limited by time and space. A topic may be replied by the other users in different times. They may reply it as soon as the topic is posted, but other users can reply it as they wish. In short, forum discussion in forum site has an unlimited time.

Uniquely, in this forum, many new words have emerged. The new words are also used in the game as well. The new words indicate that the users of the Point Blank forum site are sharing similar interest. Because of that, the gaming words are also considered as jargon. According to Crystal (1995), jargon is the technical vocabulary of a special activity or group. All hobbies require mastery of jargon; even sports and games have their jargon. Furthermore, every group or society has its jargon. The examples of these words are "*Dual Uzi*" which means a kind of weapon which is wielded by two hands; "*SMGer*" which means a player who prefers to use *SMG* (Submachine Gun) weapon class when playing the game, and "*Robot*" which means a character of this game with high defensive status.

The examples above are viewed from linguistic side which is created by modifying the pre-existed words. The word *Dual Uzi* is created by combining adjective Dual with noun *Uzi*, word *SMGer* is created by adding suffix –er to the word *SMG*. The last, *Robot* is modified in its meaning; the meaning is shifted from a mechanical body to a character with high defensive status. The process of creation of the new words above is called Word Formation Process. According to Bauer (1988) Word formation process is the various processes in which new words are built. While according to Yule (2006), word formation processes are the basic processes in which new words are created.

Word formation processes always deal with modification of the existed words. Modifications can be done in various ways such as by shortening some parts of the words, combining two words to create a new word, and even creating acronym which is counted as one fully new word. The processes always result in meaningful words, whether totally new term or only modifying the form without changing its real meaning.

The writer is going to explore the word formation processes of gaming words in Point Blank forum site. He chooses word formation theory because of some reasons; (1) the uniqueness of the gaming words which is used in Point Blank gaming forum, as mostly, it only involves shortened words and acronyms (2) to gain comprehension of how the gaming words are formed, (3) to understand the meaning and the usage of gaming words in Point Blank game.

The writer chooses Point Blank forum site as his object because of some reasons; (1) there are more chances to find the gaming words in the forum site rather than in the game itself, (2) gaming community is growing bigger and gaming itself becomes new hobby and social life, (3) the discussion in the forum site is observed with third person perspective to ensure the data is purely made by the users who discuss the topic.

II.   Statement of the Problems

As can be seen in the background of the study, this study investigates the word-formation processes to examine gamer language in the communication which occur in *Point Blank* Internet Gaming Community forum. Therefore, the writer states the problems as follow:

1. How the word formation processes of gaming words are used in *Point*

Blank Internet Gaming Community forum*?*

2. What is the most frequent word formation process of the gaming words which is

used in *Point Blank* Internet Gaming Community forum?

III.   Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of problems above, this study is aimed:

1.   To describe how word formation processes of the gaming words are used

in *Point Blank* gaming forum site.

2. To find out the most frequent word formation process of the gaming words

which is used in Point Blank gaming community forum.

IV.   Significance of the Study

The writer wishes that this study can contribute something into one of the
linguistics fields, morphology; to provide the new knowledge of gaming terms that are
commonly used by gamer community. The writer hopes that this study will increase the
reader's knowledge about gaming words, especially for those who belong to gaming
communities; this study will improve their gaming vocabulary. The writer also hopes that
this study will encourage further research for linguistic or for researchers who interest to
study the similar topic as a comparative study.

V. Definitions of Keyterms

Word-formation processes : The various processes in which new

words are built (Bauer, 1988)

Point Blank : a popular online action shooting game

between Police squad and Terrorist squad. It

is first published in 2008

Internet Forum site : an internet site that is designed for

communication media among internet

users. In forum sites, users can

conduct communication to each other,

discuss something or commence trade.