

ABSTRACT

Noormasfufah, Luthfi R. 2008. *A Study of Online Identity Reveals in Friendster.com and The Relation towards The User's Real Life*. A Thesis Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Airlangga University, Surabaya.

Originally, blog—which is derived from weblog—is used to identify web user or user who continually updates their websites by writing about their personal experience and information about their favourite link to other websites. The function then changed, it becomes an online diary which allows the user to write and share a story about their life or their personal experience. The writer takes Friendster as the object of her research because Friendster is an online diary which can be personalized the way the member likes. This study is intended to investigate the appearance of the user's identity in Friendster's profile, and to analyze the gender similarities and differences among weblogs which is created by youngsters.

In this thesis, the writer is using Sociolinguistics as the theory to analyze the users' identity as in: Disclosure of Personal Information; the coders which are referred to romantic relationships; the use of emoticons or smileys; and the language used in online setting. The writer finds that in their profile, Kelzagain and Akudenan choose to reveal their online identity as in their real life because they want to have some interaction. They provide personal information, status, emotive feature, and blog to make the interaction works. The writer also finds that the relationship is shown between the users identity in online setting and offline setting from the way they create their profile, use emotive feature and create blog.

Keywords : *Blogs, Netspeak, Identity, CMC, Emoticon, Users, Friendster*

