

Lestari, A.F. 2013. *An Analysis of The Use of Punctuation in Written Comments on Yahoo! OMG!*

ABSTRACT

This research aims at investigating the uses of punctuation marks in the written comments on photo portal on Yahoo! OMG! It examines the marks that are mostly used and that violated the standard forms of English punctuation. In accordance with this purpose, the data are three hundred out of 4,659 written comments on Obama's picture. Those data are analysed using the standard of English punctuation marks. The result shows that the frequent punctuation used is the exclamation mark which shows strong emotion of anger, sarcasm, and support. On the contrary, the ellipsis is highly used to violate the standard functions that displays pause in the spoken language property. Far more, the other improper uses of punctuation marks led to the new functions that are likely to amalgamate the written and spoken language behaviours which are the characteristics of hybrid language. In addition, the use of punctuation marks might be seen as a simple case in writing whereas it is a crucial matter in the reading. It affects the risks of ambiguity and sense alteration that may appear within a sentence.

Keywords: *Asynchronous; Comment; Punctuation Mark; Standard.*