

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Communication is very important in human daily life. Human communicate to each other to share the information. Today, human can easily transfer the information through the media, such as printed media and telecommunication media. Internet now becomes the most popular media to get the information and primary resources (Villafane, 2011). One of communication features in internet is the discussion forum where people can discuss everything. According to Boyd (2005), Discussion Forum refers to a piece of software that can be added to websites to allow visitors to register, create personal profiles and hold discussions with other visitors. Discussion forum contains several categories, thread, and post. Thread is a conversation between members or guests. Post is the user submitted the message in the thread (Boyd, 2005).

Forum site is open to anyone to join or participate in discussion forum. According to Crystal (2006) forum refers to bulletin board, where the participant can freely choose the topic and comment the topic as they wish. In a discussion forum, there are various categories available to facilitate the users of internet. There are forum for hobbies, sports, gamers community, and trades.

One of the forum sites which was designed for gamer community is *Airsoft gun* community gaming forum. In this forum site, the Airsoft gun community can freely discuss about Airsoft gun. Ungier (2006) said that Airsoft gun itself reflects to the military theme and one of the simulated wargames on large field or small skirmish (Matches in the game) in backyard and indoor place. Airsoft gun was originated in Japan during the mid 1970s (Annely, 2006). The gun spread to China, Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, and Philippines and became very popular because the weapon is restricted in these countries. The toy companies have made Airsoft Gun become even more popular which made the writer interested in holding the study.

Airsoft gun has become a new trend among the devotees of simulation fight and weapon in Indonesia (Latief, 2004). The main item in Airsoft gun is the toy weapon or replica; it is very similar to the gun used in military world. An Airsoft gun is not a real gun. However, they look and feel like real guns, even shoot like ones. But actually, Airsoft gun is considered as a dream gun which provides the player with realistic replica look (Sobchack, 2007). Larsen (2008) stated that it is kind of MilSim (Military Simulation) game, with which people are supposed to have fun. Airsoft gun is for the people who would like to build the replica of video game level of "Counter Strike" to delight the opportunity to live out their video game fantasies in real life (Waithe, 2010).

Airsoft gun players in Indonesia also use internet forum to communicate to each other. The Airsoft Gun players make conversation about airsoft gun on the gaming field and discussion board (Larsen, 2008). Members of other groups or

clubs and the newbie (a person who doesn't know about airsoft gun and wants to know about airsoft gun farther), can freely ask and discuss all about airsoft gun in this forum: they can ask about how to buy good airsoft at the low price until what to do if they have an airsoft gun (code of ethic of the owner of airsoft gun). It creates limited access towards the person who wants to know about Airsoft gun community.

The communication in the discussion forum is always done in texts and everyone can catch up with the discussion or respond to it at anytime because it is not limited by the time and space (Crystal, 2006). They can reply the topic in discussion forum at that time, and other users may reply after it as they wish. Discussion forum is a place to recognize the member of community through their communication (Hanna, 2009).

Many new words have emerged and are also used in the discussion forum and the skirmish (matches in the game) becomes the new words which are most frequently used by Airsoft Gun community in discussion forum. The special words which are used in the discussion forum of Airsoft gun community forum is *Gaming Words*. Gaming words are unique words which have been created by the players of a particular game; gaming words are used by the player in the same game via internet connection such as in the discussion forum (Wright, 2002. Boria, 2002. Breidenbach, 2002). Gaming words are jargons used in special activity in a group. Gaming words are same as a jargon which is used in special activity or a group. According to Claudle (1999) Jargon is an outlandish of technical language of a particular profession, group, or trade which used by

people that have a similar interest. In airsoft gun community, the members have their own jargon of the Airsoft Gun community member.

In the discussion forum, the players usually use their own jargon to communicate with another. For example : “*Zombie*” means someone who does not have a feeling when the pellets hit their body; “*Superman*” means someone who does not surrender when they have already been shot by their foes. Other words which emerge in the forum are: *AEG* which is one of the word formation types called *Acronyms* which refers to *Auto-Electric Gun*; *Mag* which is one of the word formation types called *clipping* which refers to *Magazine*, usually people understand the meaning of *Magazine*, here the meaning of *Magazine* is the place of bullet.

This study will use the theory of word-formation processes proposed by Bauer (1988). The process of creation of the new words above is called Word Formation Process. The various word-formation processes in which new words can be built has been divided by Bauer (1988) into nine processes namely using affixes, reduplication, modification of the base, relationships with no change of form, cases involving shortening base, processes involving several lexemes, alphabet-based formation, unique morph, and suppletion. Bauer’s classification is adequate to be used to investigate the phenomenon.

The theory is complete and clear enough to explain the word-formation processes used by the players in the *bursa-airsoft*. Another reason the writer chooses the theory is that because Bauer’s theory (1988) is universal such as in

giving the examples in various languages and is also easy to understand. Word formation processes always deal with modification of the existed words. Modification 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 chooses Airsoft gun internet community forum in Bursa-airsoft because of some reasons: (1) There are more chances to find out the gaming words in the forum site rather than in gaming field, since the writer already interviewed several player in Airsoft Gun community forum site. First, Airsoft Gun is the game with military theme, not military training. Second, the player uses native language because it is seemed more familiar among the player. Third, the player are too busy to the game than to discuss the gaming words in gaming field. (2) Gaming community becomes new hobby and social life. (3) The data is purely made by the users who use the discussion forum and discuss in forum because the discussion in the forum site which is observed is in the third person perspective.

The phenomenon inspired the writer to study word formation of Airsoft gun community in the discussion forum. The writer hopes that this study can give better communication through word formation process of the persons who want to know Airsoft Gun community further in the discussion forum.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

As we seen in the background of the study, this study focuses on the word formation processes to find out the gamer's language in the Internet discussion forum which exists in the *Airsoft gun* internet community forum. Therefore, the writer states the problem as follow:

1. What words are classified as gaming words in Airsoft Gun community internet forum?
2. How are the gaming words in *Airsoft gun* community Internet forum formed according to word formation processes theory?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statements of the problem above, this study focus on :

1. Classifying the Gaming Words in *Airsoft gun* community forum.
2. Describing how the gaming words in *Airsoft gun* community forum site are formed through word formation processes.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study can contribute to one of the linguistic fields, morphology, and may give better understanding for users on how words are formed through word formation process. This study will also help the users to know the terms and the most frequent words which used in *Airsoft gun* community internet forum, because the writer assumes of this study may become one of the guide to describe

about Airsoft gun jargon. So, the writer categorizing the jargon into one in the table. Therefore, the people, especially the Airsoft Gun users could communicate better to each other.

1.5 Definitions of Keyterms

Word-formation processes : The various processes in which new words are built (Bauer, 1988).

Gaming Words : Gaming words are unique words which have been created by the players of a particular game; gaming words are used by the player in the same game via internet connection such as in the discussion forum (Wright et al, 2002)

Airsoft Gun : The military theme games which the player is holding and shooting their opponent in a safe and exciting way, using the replica toys weapon in the gaming field (Ungier, 2006).

Discussion Forum : Discussion Forum refers to a piece of software that can be added to websites to allow visitors to register, create personal profiles and hold discussions with other visitors (Boyd, 2005)