CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Word formation has been an area of great interest in the study of morphology. This area includes examination of changes in word forms to signal different meanings of the new words. Morphology itself refers to the mental system involved in word formation or to the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed (Mark Aronoff and Kristen Fudeman, 2010:1).

Studies have also been conducted to identify different types of word formation processes and the kinds of meanings and word categories that are resulted from the processes. The emergence of new words usually is formed by any form of word formation processes, Bauer (1983:9) explains the word formation as follows,

> *"Word formation is a traditional label and one which is useful, but it does not generally cover all possible ways of forming everything that can be called a word"*

Morphology seems to be a relevant study for analyzing how people use language in their lifestyle nowadays that cannot be separated from technology. People, from young to old, use technology to get information or even get connected to each other by phone or internet. Nowadays, one of the most popular phenomena in the internet is the use of Social Network Service (SNS), also called

Social Media, to get connected or get friends with people around the world. Many people around the world have some account of SNS to get connected with others. Technologies have dramatically transformed young people's relationships with one another, their families and communities. Young people's online behaviour is often not well understood resulting in a digital disconnect between young people's use of technology and the knowledge and concerns that parents, professionals and community members share about this use. (Collin et al, 2011:3)

The trend of social networking makes people being creative to use and make the new term. The productivity is the manipulation of linguistic resource by language user to produce new expressions and sentences or in different variation for the some purpose or meaning (Yule, 1998:12). Productivity is one of defining features of human language which allows a native speaker to produce an infinitely large number of sentences; many of which have never been produced before. On the other hand creativity is the native speaker's unpredictable way. However, productivity and creativity cannot stand alone because they support each other, there is no productivity if there is not creativity in human beings (Lyons,1997:594)

There are many kinds of SNS in this era such as Twitter, Facebook, Path, Instagram, and many more. One of the most famous and phenomenal social networking service is Twitter. This social networking service is created by Jack Dorsey, Evan Williams, Biz Stone and Noah Glass in March 2006. The message or the status that is written in the twitter is called tweets, and the term for people who use twitter are called *tweeps*.

There are many activities can be found in twitter, including:

- Home, this menu displays the Twitter feed of all the users that you follow.

- Connect, to see people who mention you in their tweets.

- Discover, to see what are trends and to see the tweets with the hashtags.

- Activity, to see what your follower do such as following people, or favorites people's tweets.

- Direct Messages' to see who messages you in private.

- Search, To find people, or words in twitter.

Unlike the other social networking service, twitter restricts tweets from users only up to 140 characters. So people usually use abbreviation to express their feelings on twitter. There are many abbreviations can be found in twitter, but there are some popular abbreviations among them, such as *LOL* (Laugh Out Loud), *BTW* (By The Way), *OMG* (Oh My God), *Attn* (Attention), *CU* (See You). These abbreviations are used in, for example, the tweet from the popular twitter account @britneyspears:

(1) "The handsome fan that stole a kiss. *LOL* I have the greatest fans!"

This tweet was tweeted on 13th September 2014 on 03.55 AM. This user is using the term *LOL* to express her feeling that she is laughing in her tweet. The abbreviation here *LOL* stands for *Laugh Out Loud*. LOL here is formed of three letters which are the first letter of each word, L stand for Laugh, O stands for Out, and the second L stands for Laugh. So, considering the way this abbreviation is formed, it is formed by taking the initial letters of the full forms.

This study focuses on the formation proccesses of abbreviation. Abbreviations are similar in nature to blends, because both blends and abbreviations are amalgamations of parts of different words (Plag, 2002:160-161). Blend is taking by two or more words and combine it become one word. For example breath + analyzer become breathalyzer, boat hotel become boatel. While abbreviation use one or more words by taking the letters of the words to create a new word. For example, BA (Bachelor of Arts), FAQ (Frequently Asked Question), etc.

Abbreviation has also features in common with truncation and blending that it involves loss of material (not addition of material, as with affixation), but differs from truncation and blending in that prosodic categories do not play a prominent role. Rather, orthography is of central importance (Plag, 2002:160-161). It is clear that abbreviations are most commonly formed by taking initial letters of multiword sequences to make up a new word. one can also find abbreviations that incorporate non-initial letters.

For the purpose of the present study, the data are taken from twitter. The reasons for choosing the data source is because the tweets that are written by people around the world use many popular abbreviations. Considering that the abbreviations that are used in twitter are the use of language in real situation, it seems that they can be used as the research material for the present study. in this study, the abbreviations will be examined to identify their formation processes and categories.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the problems discussed in the study are formulated as follow:

1. What are the word formation processes of the abbreviation that are found in twitter?

2. What are the categories of abbreviations that are found in twitter?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the present study are to identify the the word formation processes and the categories of abbreviations that are found in twitter

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study discusses the abbreviation formation processes and the categories of abbreviations that are found in twitter. The significance of the study is that it provides more information on the formation and categories of abbreviation that are used in real communication situation.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study is the abbreviation formation processes and the categories of abbreviations. The limitation of the study is that the data are written abbreviations from Twitter, particularly the common abbreviation that are usually used by the tweeps nowadays.

1.6 Organization Of the Study

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction of the study, which is the outline this research and consists of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study. Chapter II contains the review of related literature that describes the theory of abbreviation. Chapter III is the research method of the study illustrating the ways in get the data collection also methods used, including: the research design, the source of the data, and the instrument of the data, and the data collection procedure.