

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses the theoretical framework on word formation that is necessary for conducting the study on the abbreviation. This chapter will be divided into two subchapters: word formation and abbreviation.

2.1 Word Formation

There is a host of possibilities speakers of a language have at their disposal (or had so in the past, when the words were first coined) to create new words on the basis of existing ones, including the addition and subtraction of phonetic (or orthographic) material. The study of word-formation can thus be defined as the study of the ways in which new complex words are built on the basis of other words or morphemes (Plag, 2001:17). In other words, word formation means creating a new word by using the other words or morphemes.

If there is a new thing and the language community has no word for it, there are several options to create a new one. In the past and the present, people used – and still use – a variety of methods to create new words, such as compounding, derivation or coinage (Wagner, 2010 : 3). Words can be composed of smaller units, called morphemes, and that there are many different ways to create new words from existing ones by affixational, non-affixational and compounding processes. Furthermore, it became clear that there are remarkable differences between different types of morphological processes, which has led us

to the postulation of the distinction between inflection and word-formation (Plag, 2001:23). The difference between inflection and word formation is that word formation is a process where one combines two complete words whereas with inflection you can combine a suffix with some verb to change its form to subject of the sentence.

In the following, some of these word formation processes are illustrated and examples for their use are given. In order to understand word formation fully, the process of abbreviation, acronym, and eponym need to be included. So this study focused on Abbreviation to creating the new word.

2.2 Abbreviation

Abbreviations are similar in nature to blends because both blends and abbreviations are amalgamations of parts of different words. Abbreviation has 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. Abbreviations are most commonly formed by taking initial letters of multiword sequences to make up a new word. Apart from words composed of initial letters, one can also find abbreviations that incorporate non-initial letters (Plag, 2002:160-161). In other words, the important elements in studying abbreviation are truncation, blending, and taking initial.

The use of abbreviations and signs is often a convenience and sometimes a temptation. It is a saving of time and labor which is entirely justifiable under certain conditions (Hamilton,1918 in Cannon 1989:102-103). It shows that abbreviation is used to save the time. Based on the position of the letters in the words being taken into the abbreviation, abbreviations are divided into at least four categories, such as: initial, non-initial, pseudo-initialism and acronym.

2.2.1 Initial Letters

Abbreviations are most commonly formed by taking initial letters of multiword sequences to make up a new word (Plag, 2002: 161). Shortenings, build from the initial letters in a phrase or name (Wagner, 2010:5). as illustrated below:

- (1) a. BA: Bachelor of Arts
- b. DC: District of Columbia
- c. EC: European Community
- d. FAQ: Frequently Asked Question

Initial is a minor lexical process which mainly produces proper names that are a minor source of new words peripheral to the general vocabulary (Robbins, 1951, in Cannon 1989: 102). Crowley and Sheppard's 1987 edition of Gale's *Acronyms, Initialisms, & Abbreviations Dictionary* had the subtitle "A guide to more than 400,000 acronyms, initialisms, abbreviations, contractions, alphabetic symbols, and similar condensed appellations," most of which were identified with the United States. Today, every person is skillfully creating initialisms with gusto

(Cannon 1989:102). This phenomena shows that initialism is a common feature of language in actual use.

2.2.2 Non Initial Letters

Apart from words composed of initial letters, one can also find abbreviations that incorporate non-initial letters. Formally, some abbreviations may come to resemble blends by combining larger sets of initial and non-initial letters. However, such forms still differ crucially from proper blends in that they do neither obey the three pertinent prosodic constraints, nor do they necessarily conform to the semantic property of blends described above (Plag, 2002: 161).

Non Initial letters are divided into two categories:

2.2.2.1 Contraction

A word is abbreviated by contraction when one or more of the letters are missing. Such an omission is indicated by one or the general signs of abbreviation. Such abbreviations (Capelli, 1982: 7). Contraction can be preserve the first and last letters of the contracted word, omitting all the middle letters. For example: oa = omnia; pns = praesens; dno = domino; dia = dimidia; epo = episcopo; etc. It can also be preserve by taking some letters without the last letters. For example: Attn = attention, elm = element, etc.

2.2.2.2 Shortening

Shortenings of words usually consist of the first few letters of the full form and are usually spelled with a final period when they are still regarded as abbreviations (<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Abbreviation>) for example, cont. = continued, in = inch. In the cases when they form words in their own right, the period is omitted, for example, hippo = hippopotamus, limo = limousine.

2.2.3 Pseudo-Initialism

Pseudo-initialisms, which consist of a sequence of characters that, when pronounced as intended, invoke other, longer words.

For Example:

(3) CU (See You)

OIC (Oh I See)

This kind of initialism is frequently seen on the internet (Wagner, 2010: 6).

2.2.4 Acronym

Acronyms is shortenings, build from the initial letters in a phrase or name. While acronyms are pronounced as single words (*NASA, AIDS*), initialisms are pronounced "as a sequence of letters" (*DNA, USA*). (Finegan, 2007 in Wagner, 2010:5-6). Acronyms are abbreviations made up of the first letters of several words. They replace longer terms with simpler ones. In the English language, the widespread use of acronyms and initialisms is a relatively new linguistic

phenomenon. As literacy rose, and as advances in science and technology brought with them more complicated terms and concepts, the practice of abbreviating terms became increasingly convenient (Mirabela, 2009: 557)

Acronym-producers claim that the item can be "a convenient code for some particularly lengthy or cumbersome phrase," whereas it is likely to be meaningless, often ambiguous, sometimes unpronounceable, and ugly instead of euphonic (Cannon, 1989:103-104). For example:

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|-----------------------|--|
| (4) a. ASAP, a.s.a.p. | As Soon As Possible |
| b. CARE | Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere |
| c. NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organization |
| d. VAT, vat | Value Added Tax |

The above categories and classification of abbreviation are to identify and classify the types of abbreviation found in the data. It is also possible that the data will display morphological features other than these mentioned above. It is the aim of the present study to identify and examine the processes of abbreviation found in twitter and to classify the processes based on the features of formation.