



Linguistics

Non-Standard Spelling in Wattpad Comments

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SUBMISSION TRACK

Received: December 26, 2022
 Final Revision: March 18, 2023
 Available Online: May 01, 2023

KEYWORD

non-standard spelling, computer-mediated communication, social media, Wattpad

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A B S T R A C T

Non-standard spelling on social media refers to the use of unconventional spelling and grammar. This article explores the non-standard spelling used by Wattpad readers in their comments. The study employs descriptive approach. The data are comments posted by Wattpad reader in reaction to a story by *Shin_an_Yuki's* story *Haf Soul Part 17: Takdir Yang Aneh*. The finding shows that Wattpad readers employ spoken-like spelling, repetition of letters and punctuations, shortening, and letters deletion in their comments.

I. INTRODUCTION

Social media's wide existence has influenced how we use language. Social media platforms' fast-paced and informal nature led to new language practices like non-standard spelling, acronyms, and emojis (Danet & Herring, 2006; Tagg, 2012; Tagg et al., 2014). The use of non-standard spelling on social media is spelling words unconventionally. The language used in social media shows that users often communicate in various ways to deliver their thoughts. Using non-standard spelling, abbreviations, acronyms, and the exploitation of punctuations are common in social media settings (Ayumi, 2015). Words such as *donlot*, *min*, *lol*, *w8* can often replace *download*, *admin*, *laugh out loud*, and *wait*. These kinds of spelling show creativity and expression, allowing users to communicate their personalities and emotion (J. Androutsopoulos, 2013; Tagg, 2012; Tagg et al., 2014). Thurlow (2006) suggests that significant and noticeable deviations from the standard norms, procedures, and practices can fundamentally change how communication on social media is done and perceived.

Social media is now a part of our everyday lives. Its functions and purposes have expanded over time. One of the main functions of social media is to enhance communication and interaction

between individuals and groups (Boyd, 2010). Wattpad is a social media platform specifically for writers and readers. On this platform, writers showcase their work for readers to read, comment and vote. The platform also facilitates writers to add media to their work. As part of a social media platform, Wattpad users' language displays non-standard spelling in their comments.

As a social media platform, interaction on Wattpad falls into Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC). According to Herring (2003) CMC is communication between people via computer media. Verheijen (2018) defines CMC as communication through electronic devices such as computer, mobile phones, and tablets. Interactions in CMC happen synchronously and asynchronously (Herring, 2003; Thurlow et al., 2004). In synchronous type, interaction occurs in real time addresser and addressee are present at the same time as oppose of the latter. The type of interaction on CMC can be regarded as informal since the orthographic and grammatical standard language norms are often ignored (Verheijen, 2018).

Messages on social media are mainly delivered in the form of writing. Users are constraint in many ways. Unlike face-to-face communication, CMC need to adjust to the hardware needed to connect

to the internet, the capacity of the message that can be sent, and the amount of information able to be displayed on the screen (Crystal, 2004). Due to these constraints, language users employ creative ways so what they want to say can be sent to the addressee.

Interactions on Wattpad are delivered in the form of writing. Readers are able to express their reaction to the story they have read. The author of the story is able to reply to the comments. On Wattpad, the number of comments a story received is displayed on the description alongside the number of times the story has been read. The more comments and views received by a story will reflect the popularity of the story. This article will explore how the Wattpad readers spell their words to express their reaction to the story.

II. METHOD

The study is descriptive research to explain the written form of the comments. Data are taken from Wattpad comments for *Shin_an_Yuki's* story *Haf Soul Part 17: Takdir Yang Aneh*. Comments gathered are those given within a week after the story was posted. The comments were screenshot and copied. All words that display non-standard spelling are treated as data. All data are in Indonesian.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Spelling in written form should adhere to the conventional or dictionary spelling. In formal writing, words should be spelled correctly. In social media, such convention seems to be ignored. Users of social media have the freedom to spell any words they want to express what their message (J. K. Androutsopoulos, 2000; South et al., 2015; Tayebinik & Puteh, 2012). Wattpad users display such freedom in conveying their reaction to the story they read. Indonesian readers, employ various and innovative ways in spelling their words in their comments.

Spoken-like spelling

The following comments show some spoken-like spelling used by Wattpad users to comment on the story.

- (1) q ngga pengen tau jahatnya bulan dulu, tp please... ini harus happy ending
- (2) ini ceritanya gimana ya? agak bingung aq bacanya, ^^~
- (3) dari awal alurnya bikin kita ga bs skip

bacanya.

- (4) waaaaaah... kira"ap yaaa yg mw raya certain ke bumi... adooooo mkin penasaraaaaan... cpeet Injuuuut thooooor...
- (5) akhirnyaaaaa...thank you buat apdetnya yaaa.
- (6) Bakal ninggalin jejak yang Panjang nie gara2 diancem.
- (7) Sy pilih Bumi-Bulan...tp thor, yg sbnrx

Comments above show spoken-like spelling. In (1) Letter *q* typed in the comment is the replacement of the first-person word *aku* (1). Letter *q* is pronounced [kiu] has the almost similar sound to the word *aku* [aku]. The *aq* in (2) is also used to substitute the word *aku*. Here, the writer of the comment adds the letter *a* to the letter *q* that resulted in a more similar sound to the standard word *aku*. In (3) Due to similarity in sound, these users write *q* and *aq* instead of *aku* to refer to first person *aku*.

Other than *q* in (1) the words *pengen* and *tau* are also spelled in spoken-like manner. The word *pengen* is originally Javanish word *pingin* which means *ingin* (want) in Indonesian standard word. *Pingin* is usually pronounced *pengen*. The word *tau* is replacement of the standard word *tahu* (to know). The *h* in the word is usually silent pronounced thus the writer of the comment used *tau* because Indonesia usually say it that way.

As for comment in (2), another spoken-like spelling is *gimana*. This word is the substitute for the standard words *bagaimana*. Instead of uttering *bagaimana*, Indonesian usually say it *gimana* in casual and informal setting. *Bagaimana* is only used in a very formal setting

The word *ngga* [ŋgaʔ] in (1) is also written to replace *enggak* [əŋgaʔ]. *Enggak* is the speech variety of the word *tidak* [tidaʔ] which means no. The word *enggak* is most likely used in informal setting. Variation of the word *enggak* is also used in (3) *ga* [gaʔ]. In both cases, the words are spelled the way they are pronounced.

In (4), the word *adooooo* is used instead of *aduh*. *Aduh* is pronounced [ʌdʊh]. Indonesian sometimes pronounce *aduh* [ʌdoh] for dramatic expression and for cuteness purposes. The word *adooooo* here is also added with repetition of letter *o* which meant for prolong pronunciation. The word *cpeet* in the same comment was typed in spoken-like spelling. The standard word for it is *cepat* and usually pronounced *cepat*. The writer wrote the word in the comment the way it is usually spoken and drop the *e* and create *cpeet*.

Spoken-like spelling also occurs in (5) with the word *updetnya*. The word is originally an English word *update* [ʌp. 'deɪt] added with suffix *nya* which function as *the* (the update). The user write *updet* to replace *update* because *updet* has the same pronunciation as [ʌp. 'deɪt].

More spoken-like spelling is displayed in comment (6). Here the comment wrote *ninggalin* (to leave) instead of the standard word *meninggalkan*. In informal setting and spoken context, it is rare for Indonesia to use the standard words in conversation. They tend to use *ninggalin* because it is considered more relax and casual. Still in (6) the word *diancam* [diantʃam] is written *diancem*. The word *diancem* is used because Indonesian tends to replace the *a* in *cam* with *e*. This is the reason why the writer used the spoken-like spelling *diancem* instead of *diancam*.

From the comments above, users in Wattpad convey their reaction in the comments employing the non-standard spelling based on how they are pronounced in spoken and informal setting.

Repetition of Letters and Punctuations

Wattpad users also utilize letters and punctuations in non-standard ways. Letters and punctuations usage in writing are guided in certain ways in standard writing. The comments below exploit letters and punctuation in delivering their reaction.

- (8) Hyaaaaaakkk,,, beneran yahhh senja anaknya bumi,,, OMG!!! Takdir seperti apa ini??? hhuuuuu,,,
- (9) Lope u pulllll.....:D
- (10) Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa.... Hua mbak hani..... aku penasaran, ada hubungan apa bumi sama bunga? Apa bener senja anaknya bumi?
- (11) Loh, jadi ini gimana sih? Ahh >< trus kenapa Bumi bisa gak tau? daaan Bumi ko gak sama Bunga sih? aih, cerita Bunga yang chapter kemaren diskip juga belum diungkap! :(
- (12) o,ooowww makin runyem aja ni >.<
- (13) Aaaagggrrrrrrhhhhhh demi Tuhan dan staf2nya, aku gregetan sama cerita ini Masih lama kah ini? Paling suka quote yg “bulan memang kejam, dengan cahaya di tengah malam, sanggup menyihir seisi bumi bla bla bla

In the comments both repetition of letters and

punctuations are displayed. The word *Hyaaaaaakkk*, *yahhh*, & *hhuuuuu* in (8), *Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa* (10), *o,ooowww* (12) and *Aaaagggrrrrrrhhhhhh* (13) are written with excessive use of letters. Repetition of letters here may serve as prosodic feature since all of these words are interjection. Repetition of letters is to show that the word is pronounced long (phonological stress) and to serve as expressive marker and semantic nuances (Ayumi, 2015; Verheijen, 2018). The repetition of letters in these comments occurs to both vocal and consonant. In *Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa* only the letter *a* that is typed repeatedly while in *Hyaaaaaakkk*, the letter *a* and *k* are typed multiple times. The word *yahhh* is typed with extra letters *h*. For *o,ooowww* and *Aaaagggrrrrrrhhhhhh* every letter of the words are typed more than once.

Excessive use of letters is also employed to the word *daaan* (11). The standard spelling for it is *dan* (and). Here, letter *a* is used three times to give as phonological stress to the word *dan*. Comment (9) wrote *pulllll* with excessive use of letter *l*. The word is originally the English word *full*. The writer typed *pulllll* instead of *full* to give the spoken-like spelling to the word and added extra *l* as phonological stress.

Other than repetition of letters, the comments also utilize multiple keystrokes of punctuation. In (8) comma (,), question mark (?), exclamation mark (!) and full stop (.) in (9) and (10) are typed repeatedly. Excessive use of punctuation aims to express attitude, ask questions or generally ‘make oneself heard’ (Segerstad, 2002) and may serve as prosody and paralinguistic features (Crystal, 2004).

Shortening

Shortening words by deleting one of its meaningful elements also utilized by Wattpad readers when writing their comments. The following comments display such feature.

- (14) ga sabar nunggu kelanjutannya
- (15) thor bikin bulan buat bintang aja rus bunga ma bumi
- (16) aaa nggak sabar nih lanjutannya nih.
- (17) Baru baca semalam, telat banget deh tau ada cerita ini T_T
- (18) Hadeuh makin riweh

All the comments above display the use of shortened word. In (14) the writer typed *nunggu* as replacement of *(me)nunggu*. The first part of the word, prefix *me-*, is omitted. In (15) the word *thor*, *aja* and *rus* are shortened. The beginning part

of these words (*au*)*thor*, (*s*)*aja*, and (*te*)*rus* are omitted. The same thing also occurs in lanjutannya (16). Here the beginning part of the word (*ke*)*lanjutan* is deleted. Comment (17) and (18) also display the feature. The word (*mem*)*bac*a and (*se*)*ma*kin are shortened into *ba*ca and *ma*kin.

The purpose of shortening words is to save time and effort in typing while conveying a message. Shortening words is a common practice where different form of abbreviation, such as acronyms and initialism, to interact quickly and effectively (J. K. Androutsopoulos, 2000; Crystal, 2008; Verheijen, 2018)

Letters Deletion

Non-standard spelling found in Wattpad comments include deletion of letters. Certain letters are dropped without causing ambiguity. The following comments display such feature.

- (19) anjut lg aja dah sist...:-)
- (20) YA TUHAN! baca part ini bikin dada q sesek mpe mewek pula.....
- (21) YES! Kyaknya bumi tuh yang ngintip. Huaaa betapa kenyataan yang menggembirakan!
- (22) Bumi pilih siapa coba ntar? Bulan or bunga? Mentari or senja? Bneran mbk aq pusing.... Hiks
- (23) Dari awal alurnya bikin kita ga bs skip bacanya.
- (24) Jgn lma2 yah update... ntar jd lpa ge ma critanya :(*maksaa hhee
- (25) ..ah.. gentelemen banget, tp lbh suka kl bulan balikan ma bumi dah

Words with deleted letters can be found in most of the data. In comment (19) the word *anjut* comes from *lanjut*. Letter *l* at the beginning of the word is deleted. The word *lg* is from *lagi*. Here, all the vocals are omitted. *Kyaknya* in (21), *bneran* in (22), *lma2*, *lpa*, and *ge* (24) are also typed by deleting the letters such as *k(a)yaknya*, *b(e)neran*, *l(a)ma*, *l(u)pa*, *g(u)e*. Vocal deletion also occurs in *bs* (23), *jgn*, *jd* (24), *tp*, *lbh*, and *kl* (25). The word *bs* is from *b(i)s(a)*. Letters *i* and *a* are dropped by the writer. In *jgn*, letters *a* and *n* from *j(a)(n)g(a)n* are deleted. The word *jd*, *tp*, *lbh*, and *kl* are typed by dropping *a* and *i* of *t(a)p(i)* and *j(a)d(i)*, *e* and *i* of *l(e)b(i)h*, and *a* and *u* of *k(a)l(a)(u)*.

The data above shows that, deleted letters in the words can either be partial vocal deletion as in *Kyaknya*, *bneran*, *lma2*, *lpa*, *ge* or complete vocal

deletion as in *jgn*, *jd*, *tp*, *lbh*, *bs*, and *kl*. In *Kyaknya*, *bneran*, *lma2*, *lpa*, *ge*, only one vocal is deleted while in *jgn*, *jd*, *tp*, *lbh*, *bs*, and *kl*, all vocals are dropped leaving only consonant letters. For *jgn*, both vocals are dropped along with one consonant *n*.

IV. CONCLUSION

Non-standard spelling is used by Wattpad user in writing their comments. Users employ several features such as spoken-like spelling, repetition of letters and punctuations, shortening, and letters deletion. Wattpad users convey their reaction in the comments by employing the non-standard spelling based on how they are pronounced in spoken and informal setting. Repetition of letters is to show that the word they typed is pronounced long and has phonological stress. It is also to indicate expressive feature and semantic nuances. They shorten their words to save time and effort in typing to interact quickly and effectively. Users also deleting certain letters from their words either partially or completely.

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