Non-Standard Spelling in Wattpad Comments

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Abstract

Non-standard spelling on social media refers to the use of unconventional spelling and grammar. This article explores the non-standards 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. Androustopoulos, 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 means. Various and innovative ways in spelling their words are treated as data. All data are in Indonesian.

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 bacanyas, ^~~
(3) dari awal alurnya bikin kita ga bs skip
(4) waaaaah… kira”ap yaaaaa yg mw raya certain ke bumi… adoooo mkin pe-nasaraaaaaan… cpeeet Injuuuut thoroor…
(5) akhirnyaaaa…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 (I). 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. Due to similarity in sound, these users write q and aq instead ofaku 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 pronounce 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 [ŋga?] in (1) is also written to replace enggak [ŋga?] in (2). Enggak is the speech variety of the word tidak [tida?] which means no. The word enggak is most likely used in informal setting. Variation of the word enggak is also used in (3) ga [ga?] in (4) aduh. Aduh is pronounced [Aduh]. Indonesian sometimes pronounce aduh [Adoh] for dramatic expression and for cuteness purposes. The word adoooono here is also added with repetition of letter o which meant for prolong pronunciation. The word cpeeet in the same comment was typed in spoken-like spelling. The standard word for it is cepat and usually pronounced cepet. The writer wrote the word in the comment the way it is usually spoken and drop e and create cpeeet.
Spoken-like spelling also occurs in (5) with the word updetya. The word is originally an English word update [ˈəːp.tə] added with suffix nya which function as the (the update). The user write updetya to replace update because updetya has the same pronunciation as [ˈəːp.tə].

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 [dian[ə]m] 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 punctuations in delivering their reaction.

- (8) Hyaaaaaaakk, beneran yahhh senja anaknya bumi, OMG!!! Takdir seperti apa ini?? hhuhuuuhu,.
- (9) Lope u pullllll……:D
- (10) Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa…. Hua mbak hani…… aku penasaran, ada hubungan apa bumi sama bunga? Apa benar 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 belom diungkap! :(
- (12) o,ooowww makin runyem aja ni >.<
- (13) Aaaaggggrrrrrrhhhhhh demi Tuhan dan staf2nya, aku gregetan sama cerita ini Masih lama kah ini? Paling suka quote yg “bulang 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 Hyaaaaaakk, yahhh, & hhuhuuuhu in (8), Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa (10), o,ooowww (12) and Aaaaggggrrrrrrrrhhhh (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 is typed repeatedly while in Hyaaaaaaakk, the letter a and k are typed multiple times. The word yahhh is typed with extra letters h. For o,ooowww and Aaaaggggrrrrrrrrhhhhhh 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 stresses 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 (?) and 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 paralanguage 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 lanjutannya
- (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 of 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)a(ja), 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)baca and (se)makin are shortened into baca and makin.

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 me me wek 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.. gentelem 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.
REFERENCES


