

Language Change in Social Media

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays currently, many people are found using language that sometimes runs away from the standard or changes from the standard. They use language only based on their desires. These language changes give the impression of making readers or the public may be confused to understand the true meaning. This makes researchers interested in discussing this issue. This study will focus on the exploration of language change that occurs in social media nowadays. The authors will draw inspiration from various texts on social media. The researchers will complete the survey and the study using Internet facilities. This study was conducted qualitatively and the writers will also be observing the language change directly from the relevant social media applications. The information gathered is terminological in nature, replete with human characteristics, and based on captions from several social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook. Following the completion of this study, the researcher discovered that the vocabulary used by social media users to connect with one another had changed. After the researcher analyzed the data obtained, the researcher found that the semantic change was the biggest change that had been found. As much as 32% of language changes occur in social media and this illustrates that quite a lot of social media users do not use meanings that are not following their standards. Researchers also found that 10% of language changes occurred in the field of morphology. This illustrates that a few social media users result in language changes in the syntax field.

KEYWORDS

Language; language change; internet; social media

INTRODUCTION

A language is a system of written and spoken communication used by people in a specific country or region. It is made up of a set of sounds and letters. The sophisticated human communication systems, which are composed of words and sentences that can be joined to create an endless number of utterances, are collectively referred to as language. How humans developed language is not fully understood and is still being studied by linguists. Most people learn at least one language in early childhood. People who were exposed to language in early childhood will not be able to speak it fluently in adulthood due to the development of the human brain. Nowadays currently, many people are found using language that sometimes runs away from the standard or changes from the standard. They use language only based on their desires. These language changes give the impression of making readers or the public may be confused to understand the true meaning. This makes researchers interested in discussing this issue. This study will focus on the exploration of language change that happens in social media nowadays. For us, the authors will draw

inspiration from various texts on social media. We will complete the survey and the study using Internet facilities. Bauer (2007) asserts that language is a tool for communication. A type of social contract, language is a social truth. It is present in the group, not the individual. Language is the system of traditional phonetic symbols that people use to communicate. There are some key terms in this definition that are detailed in the next section. System, symbol, vowel, conventional, human, and communication are examples of these concepts (Algeo, 2010). Language and human language (language) should not be confounded, according to Saussure (1959). Human language is just one of the ways that people communicate with one another and learn about other people. One of the external factors that are currently considered to be able to contribute to the changes that occur in the language is social media.

Social media is one of the online media where users can participate, find information, communicate, and make friends across all facilities and applications. The presence of social media influences what people do today. Social media's enormous user base is proof that it has taken on significant importance in our daily lives. There are several places where the population is greater than entire nations. It is a platform that facilitates communicating and sharing between users. Social media has been a phenomena ever since society first emerged. Humans have always desired to live in communal settings. Users typically utilize language to communicate with one another when using social media. Usually, they use their everyday language in communicating with anyone, however, many of them use language that is not following the standard of the everyday language they use and this has become a phenomenon called language to change.

Language may change due to developmental adjustments, pattern changes, social life systems, etc. Level of education, social, cultural, and technical mastery. Language change is frequently thought of separately from linguistic research as a whole, both as a concept and as an object of study. Some are system driven. Educational level and social, cultural, and technical mastery. Language and society are closely related. Speech is a social product with many features that allow people to maximize their use in communication and interaction. Differentiations in speaker class, area, social rank, and speaking habits lead to variations in linguistic dialects. Language is used to communicate. For people to fulfill their social demands, communication tools are essential. Currently, various media are being developed to support communication, such as electronic media and printed media. Users can read information from printed media. Letters, magazines, newspapers, etc. Contrarily, information can be seen and heard through electronic media. The evolution of media has an impact on interaction and communication. Communication is being conducted in a different language. Particularly on social media, numerous social groupings today communicate with one another using specific words. The linguistic situation in the context of casual discourse gives rise to deviations. A Pray 4 Drug Addicts tweet's caption revealed a linguistic change in semantics phenomenon:

"Kanye West the GOAT"

This caption informs the public that Kanye West, a rapper, is the greatest person of all time or Kanye West is the Greatest Rapper Of All Time according to the author. This phenomenon goes into the semantic change. Semantic changes generally are in the form of changes in the meaning of lexical items that may change completely, expand, or also narrow. Many people will assume that the meaning of goat refers to the animal but at this time, the meaning of the word goat has another meaning, the meaning of this word that is Greatest of All Times.

Some of the supporting journals that the authors use are 1. Abdu M. Talib Al-Kadi and Rashad Ali Ahmed. (2018) Evolution of English In the Internet Age, This article traces the evolution of English from regional dialects used by a limited group of people in the British Isles to a universal tongue. It highlights the linguistic changes and how the internet has brought about fresh alterations to the English language. 2. Ramlan. (2018) Language Standardization in a General Point of View, In this article, Language serves as a symbolic boundary that separates group members from outsiders and is much more than just a means of communication. Races, tribes, and languages vary naturally across different ethnicities. 3. Muhammad Natsir, Bahagia Saragih, et al. (2020) Language Change in Social Media (Instagram), The goal of this study was to examine how the Indonesian language has changed through time. Additionally, it was discovered that some of the words were becoming English. Contraction and abbreviations are also used when languages shift. The investigation concentrated on the alteration of Indonesian adjectives in Instagram and other social media. 4. Richard A. Blythe and William Croft. (2021) in How Individuals Change Language, Studies on how language changes in people have shown that mistakes made when learning languages as children are only weakly reinforced by the past, whereas this allows speakers to alter their language, especially when combined with social media impacts. 5. Rini Afrilesa J, Helmita. (2022) Language Change and Social Context in Mass and Social Media, discovered that there are numerous language modifications in both mainstream and social media. When they use the language in public and on social media, many people alter it.

The previous study discussed language change in social contexts and only looked for language changes in the adjective sector. In this study, social media is where language changes. Based on their personal experiences, researchers are motivated to carry out this research. Nowadays, a lot of people make their own languages instead of referring to objects with their original terminology. Due to the linguistic circumstances in the context of casual conversation, this occurrence results in what is known as language switching. The previous study only focused on adjective-related language changes and examined language change in social circumstances. In this journal, the researchers discuss language changes that occur in social media and also the researchers analyze any changes that occur in the language itself regardless of the class of words. Also, in this journal, the researchers use the theory of Chaer (2004: 141) in analyzing the data obtained from social media.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Also, in this journal, the researchers use the theory of Chaer (2004: 141) in analyzing the data that are obtained from social media. According to Chaer (2004: 141), there are 5 kinds of language changes, namely:

Phonological Change

Chaer (2004:137) Phonological changes in English are also in the form of adding phonemes. Old and Middle English did not recognize the phoneme /z/. then when absorbing words such as azure, measure, and rouge from French, the phoneme /z/ is added to the vocabulary of English phonemes. Changes in sound in the Indonesian phonological system can also be seen. Before the entry into force of the EYD, the phonemes /f/, /x/, and /s/ had not been included in the Indonesian language phoneme treasures; but now the three phonemes have become part of the Indonesian language repertoire. Old Indonesian only recognizes four syllable patterns, namely V, VK, KV, and KVK; but now the KKV, KKVK, and KVKK patterns have also become syllable patterns in Indonesian.

Morphological Changes

Chaer (2004: 137) Changes in language can also occur in the field of morphology, namely in the process of word formation. For example, in Indonesian, there is a process of reasoning in the process of forming words with the prefix, me-, - da, pe-. The rules are: (1) if the two prefixes are added to a word starting with the consonant /l/, /r/, /w/, and /y/ there is no reasoning; (2) if it is added to a word starting with the consonant /b / and /p/ are given nasally /na/; (3) if it is added to a word that starts with a consonant /d/ and /t/ is given a nasal /n/; (4) if it is added to a word that starts with a consonant /s/, it is given a nasal /NY/; and when added to words starting with the consonant /g/, /k/, /h/, and all vowels are given nasal/ng/.

Syntax Change

Chaer (2004: 138) Changes in syntax rules in Indonesian can also be witnessed. For example, according to the syntactic rules that apply, a transitive active sentence must always have an object; or with another formula, every transitive active verb must always be followed by an object. But nowadays, many transitive active sentences are not equipped with objects, such as:

- Your reporter reports from the scene.
- The movie was very disappointing.
- The CEO was typing in his room.
- She started writing when she was in junior high school.
- Grandma has eaten but has not yet drunk.

Vocabulary Change

Chaer (2004: 139) Language changes that are most easily seen are in the field of vocabulary. Vocabulary changes can mean adding new vocabulary, losing old vocabulary, and changing the meaning of words. English which is estimated to have more than 60,000 vocabularies is "thanks to" the addition of new words from various other language sources, which has been going on since a dozen centuries ago. Meanwhile, the Indonesian language which is reported in the Big Indonesian Dictionary has around 65,000 vocabulary (the Poerwadarminta dictionary only has 23,000 vocabulary) also thanks to the addition of various sources, including foreign languages and languages of the archipelago.

Semantic Change

Chaer (2004: 141) Semantic changes generally are in the form of changes in the meaning of lexical items which may change completely, expand, or also narrow. A total change, that is, if in the past the word, for example, meant A", then now or later it means B". The change in meaning is broadening, meaning that in the past the word only had one meaning, but now it has more than one meaning. In English, the word holiday originally only meant "holy day (related to religion)", but now it has been added to the meaning "holiday". Changes in meaning are narrowed, meaning that in general, the word has a broad meaning, but now it has a narrower meaning. For example, the word bachelor in Indonesian originally meant "a smart person", but now it only means "a person who has graduated from college".

RESEARCH METHODS

This study was conducted qualitatively and the writers will also be observing the language change directly from the relevant social media applications. The phrase "qualitative research" refers to a variety of research techniques that have certain common traits. Understanding the points of view of the research participants in-depth is the aim of

qualitative research. The information gathered is terminological in nature, replete with human characteristics, and based on captions from several social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook. This study makes use of online resources that are already available. Observations are made in detail with support and based on the theory used for this paper. According to Creswell, 2014, qualitative research is an understanding inquiry process based on a variety of methodological inquiry traditions that study social or human problems.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Language Change in Social Media

| No | Types | Total | Percentage |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | Phonological Change | 6 | 9% |
| 2 | Morphological Changes | 3 | 10% |
| 3 | Syntax Change | 4 | 13% |
| 4 | Vocabulary Change | 8 | 26% |
| 5 | Semantic Change | 10 | 32% |
| Total | | 31 | 100% |

Phonological Change

- a. “The Taylor Swift eras tour ticket master waiting **room**.”

In the caption above, the word '**room**' does not change in meaning, only changes in pronunciation or what is often called Phonological Change. the whole meaning of the caption above is the creator of the caption, showing a picture where a group of people is gathered in a room where the room is used as a waiting room for a Taylor Swift concert. The consonant '**o**' used in the word '**room**' will change its pronunciation if spoken directly orally. the consonant letter '**o**' will be read as '**u**'. means, the word '**room**' when spoken orally becomes '**rum**'. (/:**o**/ + /:**o**/ > /:**u**/). This word undergoes a change in the language or letters used, more precisely Phonological Change, due to changes in a consonant when it is pronounced

- b. “Would get your **blood** pumping waking up to that...”

In the caption above, the word '**blood**' does not change in meaning, only changes in pronunciation or what is often called Phonological Change. the whole meaning of the caption above is someone would be shocked to death if when he woke up and saw something like that in front of him. This caption also includes a video where a dog wakes up because there is a rhinoceros in front of it. The consonant '**o**' used in the word '**blood**' will change its pronunciation if spoken directly orally. consonant letter '**o**' will be read as '**a**'. means, the word '**blood**' when spoken orally becomes '**blad/bluhd**'. (/:**o**/ + /:**o**/ > /:**a**/). This word undergoes a change in the language or letters used, more precisely Phonological Change, due to changes in a consonant when it is pronounced.

Morphological Changes

- a. “Why everybody got blue checks next to their **names**? Am I missing something? Are people buying them?”

In the caption above, the word 'names' actually means 'username' which is used by Twitter users. like a hot topic that is widely discussed by many people today, that Twitter has a new policy that someone can have an official account that is given a blue tick if that person pays 8 \$. The word '**names**' has not changed too significantly. the word '**name**' is used to indicate that the object is singular. if the object has a plural number, then the

word '**name**' will experience the addition of letters, the letter in question is 's'. then the word '**name**' will change to '**names**'. This word undergoes language changes, more precisely Morphological Changes.

Name (singular) names (plural) suffixation of (s).

- b. "I know you have a lot going on these days. but I just **wanted** to say. I love you"
- In the caption above, the caption maker wants to convey that even though a lot has happened, whether it's bad or good, the caption maker will still love that person. The word '**wanted**' has not changed too significantly. the word '**wanted**' is used to indicate that verbs are used in the form of past tense or verb2. if the word is used in the present tense or the first form of the verb, then the word '**wanted**' will change to '**want**'. This word undergoes language changes, more precisely Morphological Changes.

Want (verb1) wanted (verb2) suffixation of (ed).

Syntax Change

- a. "it's so awkward when you like a character only to come on Twitter and find out they're **canceled** by everyone"
- In general, the word Cancel is used to cancel an order such as food or even a place but at this time, cancel can be used not only on objects. Cancel Culture has been around for nearly five years and is hugely popular on Twitter. Usually reserved for prominent figures in society such as celebrities, politicians, and influencers. If these individuals act in a manner that disrupts expectations (whether reasonable or unreasonable), they may be removed from Cancel Culture Twitter. In the caption above, the word '**canceled**' is not used to cancel an order for goods or places or anything else, but in this context, the word '**canceled**' is used to cancel a character. this happens because These people act in ways that disrupt expectations (whether reasonable or irrational) and can be canceled by Twitter's Cancel Culture. the word '**canceled**' has also undergone a language change in the context of use, more precisely to the Syntax Change type. in the caption above, it doesn't explain why the character is affected by the cancel culture, the caption maker only explains that the character was canceled by everyone without showing a clear reason.
- b. '**Mood**: (images or a meme that support what the caption maker feels)'
- The mood is something that teenagers have in large quantities. But when it comes to Gen Z slang, the mood is anything the speaker can relate to or agree with. For example, teens may post a picture of a crying toddler with the caption "**mood**" after a tough day to express solidarity and mutual aid. In the caption above, the word '**mood**' means a temporary state of mind or feeling. but there are many cases where captioners who use the word '**mood**' don't make the context clear, they just include one or a few pictures. so maybe some groups of people don't understand the meaning of the caption. the word '**mood**' has also undergone a language change in the context of use, more precisely to the Syntax Change type.

Vocabulary Change

- a. "Men out here **trolling** on Twitter shouldn't you be hunting and providing for women?"
- A troll in Scandinavian folklore, in proper usage, generally means a dwarf or giant who lives in caves and hills. However, if this word is used in another context. On the Internet, the word vandalism can have other meanings. This refers to someone who irritates other people on purpose online by publishing offensive, irrelevant, or provocative remarks or other undesirable material. Of fact, the word "troll" in the description above does not imply "giant," but it does have another connotation in this

context and is purposely used online. posting disruptive content or engaging in harassing behavior, such as making insulting, irrelevant, or provocative comments. Language usage of the word "troll" has changed. Specifically, the kind of lexical change. Adding new vocabulary, eliminating outdated terminology, or altering word meanings are all examples of changing one's vocabulary.

- b. "Y'all stop sending me these. **Terrible**. Just **terrible**"

"Miracle or inciting fear" was the original definition of the term "terrible." It is a combination of the terms "awe" and "full," which was first used as a shorthand for "full of awe." The word usually has a negative connotation in modern usage. Originally, the word "terrible" denoted something excellent. Now that means something bad or flashy. In the caption above, of course, it is not shown that the use of the word '**terrible**' has a positive meaning. in this context, '**terrible**' has a negative meaning, neither good nor bad. that's why in the caption above the caption maker asks everyone to stop sending something because it's really bad. the word '**terrible**' has undergone a language change. more precisely on the type of Vocabulary Change. Vocabulary changes can mean adding new vocabulary, losing old vocabulary, and changing the meaning of words.

Semantic Change

- a. "Nahh bruh this was mad fire no **cap** "

CAP stands for lying. The term "**CAP**" in internet slang, stands for "lying or faking". This term is also often used by Twitter users. People will think that '**CAP**' means '**topi**' but in some contexts, the word '**CAP**' has a different meaning. The caption above uses the word '**cap**' with a different meaning and context. in the caption above, the caption maker did not mean to interpret the word '**cap**' as 'topi' but, in this context, the word '**cap**' has another meaning, lying or faking. the same as the previous data, this phenomenon goes into the semantic change. Semantic changes generally are in the form of changes in the meaning of lexical items that may change completely, expand, or also narrow. The whole meaning of the above caption is *this was so great, I'm not lying*.

- b. "his **feed** is fire rn (right now)"

The word Feed generally means "memberi makan". but if this word is used in the context of social media, it has another meaning. A feed is a central section of your home page that displays an ever-updated collection of items. Your feed contains updates from the people, pages, and groups you follow on Twitter and other social media, as well as status updates, images, videos, links, and likes. Maybe this word is termed like how social media provides the latest news to social media users. the word '**feed**' which is used in the sentence in the caption above does not mean '*to feed/memberi makan*'. the sentence above will not have a reasonable meaning. this phenomenon goes into the semantic change. Semantic changes generally are in the form of changes in the meaning of lexical items that may change completely, expand, or also narrow.

CONCLUSION

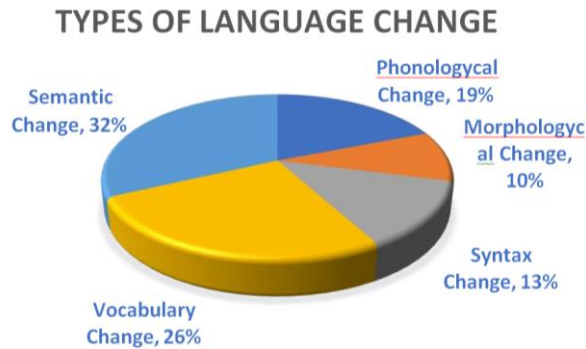


Figure 1. Language Change in Social Media

Language change is the change in language function over time. It has been studied in several areas of linguistics.

Historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, evolutionary linguistics. In the traditional theory of historical linguistics, mainly he identifies three types of change.

A systematic variation in pronunciation or tone change of phonemes. borrowed. A characteristic of one language or dialect is altered by the influence of another language or dialect. A modification analogy is one in which the grammatical form or behavior of a word is changed to make it more like another word. All living languages are constantly changing. Some commentators use derogatory terms such as "ruined" to argue that the language change causes a decrease in language quality. Especially if the change was due to human error or is not recommended for normal usage. Modern linguistics denies this notion. This is because such discoveries cannot be judged as good or bad from a scientific point of view. John Lyons said, "The criteria applied to language variations should be based on a recognition of the different functions that language has to fulfill in the societies that use it."

Language can change as a result of development, adaptation, and shifting social patterns and systems, including educational achievement, social competence, culture, and technology. Language transformation as an idea and as a field of research is frequently seen as distinct from the study of language as a whole. Some are due to acculturation, others are due to relocation to other places, and it can also be due to social life systems, such as educational attainment and social, cultural, and Skill.

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