

ABBREVIATION PATTERNS AND GENDER (A CASE STUDY OF POST GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM EAST NUSA TENGGARA)

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ABSTRACT

Gender difference in language use is always emphasized in any study of language and gender. Various different characteristics between men and women in the use of language are explained in many researches on the diversity of language, sorted by this social construction. This study examines the abbreviations used by men and woman in maintaining their words' meaning. The objective is to describe the distinctive patterns of abbreviations used by women and men in maintaining their words' meaning on the conversations in a WhatsApp group. This study based on the theory of Lakoff which implies that women and men have difference variation in using language. The result of the finding analysis shows that there is a different in the abbreviation patterns used by the men and women in maintaining their words' meaning in the conversation. Men tend to use contractions and acronyms. On the other hand, women tend to use abbreviation patterns of syncope and apocope. In addition, both of women and men are involving number pattern in the conversation.

KEYWORDS: *Abbreviation Pattern, Gender, Morphological Variation, Maintaining Meaning*

INTRODUCTION

Various different characteristics between women and men in using language are expressed in many researches on language diversity sorted by this social construction. A number of different styles of variations between women and men in the use of language have been observed and claimed. Ronald Wardhaugh stated that gender is a key component of identity, he also mentioned several examples of the former that discussed and presented instances that men and women use language differently. Women's language has been said to be more polite, more redundant, more formal, more clearly pronounced, and use more incoming variant also more elaborated or complex, while in the other hand men's language is less polite, more elliptical, more informal, less clearly pronounced and simpler than women's language (Meyerhoff, 2006).

Robin Lakoff is one of the linguist who pioneered research focused on the relationship between language and gender. In her book, she stated that women tend to use figurative words when expressing something while men tend to communicate clearly. Women tend to use words with specific colors, such as *mauve, beige, aquamarine and lavender* which is rarely used by men. It is the morphological variation used differently by women and men (Llamas, 2007).

In this study, the writer investigated the pattern used by women and men in a group conversation dealing with abbreviations, a product of shortening word, which is one of the word-formation processes. In a conversation, even they used an abbreviation, they still aware to keep the abbreviation used to carry the same meaning as the original meaning.

In what pattern women and men create their own words by using existing models or for some specific stylistic purposes they modify it? Are there any different patterns used by women and men as their morphological variation? Katamba (2006) stated that the most productive ways of word-formation are affixation, conversion, word composition, shortening (abbreviation, acronym, clipping, blending), and also other ways such as backformation, postpositivation of words, sound imitation, repetition, lexical-semantic word-formation, reduplication, creative respelling, errors, etc. The writer tried to bring out the patterns used by women and men when they are communicating to entertain that the pattern used is different. So the present paper aims to describe the distinctive patterns of abbreviations used by men and women in maintaining their words' meaning in the conversations.

Talking about abbreviation as one of the shortening types matches with the writing discourse. Abbreviations are very short and easy to be distinguished in the text. Abbreviations can be defined as a shortened form of a word or phrase. It consists of a group of letters taken from the word or phrase. For example, the word *abbreviation* can itself be represented by the abbreviation *abbr.*, *abbrev.* or *abbrev*, the abbreviation *BBC* stands for *British Broadcasting Corporation* and *UNESCO* for *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*. Abbreviations are commonly used because the speed of writing is slower than the speed when they are spoken and writing by shortenings also easier and faster to fix the main content of the text in conversation (chatting).

Abbreviation Pattern Can Be Distinguished by

- Morphemic for example *doc - doctor; prof – professor*
- An Initial abbreviation which we read alphabetically and pronounced a series of letters: HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- Initial-syllabic or combined abbreviation where we read the first component or letter alphabetically and the rest – as a separate word: *V-Day → Valentine day, B-Day → Birthday*

Generally, morphemic and lexical abbreviations are more used in everyday language, whereas initial abbreviations in scientific writing or formal literature. But there are no clear boundaries set for their usage because a lot of initial abbreviations can be found in everyday usage and vice versa (Bakaradze, 2016).

Commonly most abbreviations are formed by taking initial letters of multiword sequences to make up a new word, but sometimes abbreviations can be created by cutting initial, middle or final parts of a word or words. According to the way how they formed, Tarigan (1995) explained three types of abbreviation patterns, as follows :

Cutting Phonemes

Based on the place of phonemes cut, this pattern can be classified into 3 group as follows :

Aphesis

Abbreviation patterns which are formed by removing one or more phonemes from the beginning part of a word. For instances : in English - *defend → fend* ; in Indonesian - *tetapi → tapi* ; *besok → esok*; *ibunda → bunda*

Syncope

Abbreviation patterns which are formed by removing one or more phonemes from the middle part of a word. For instances : in Indonesian – *Bahasa* → *Basa* ; *Tahu* → *tau* ; *Bakso* → *baso*

Apocope

Abbreviation patterns which are formed by removing one or more phonemes from the final part of a word. For instances : *Photograph* → *Photo* ; In Indonesian - *Bapak* → *Bapa* ; *Kasih* → *Kasi* ; *Abah* → *Aba*

Acronym

An acronym is word formed by taking the initial components in a phrase or a word, usually individual letter but sometimes syllables and it can be read as the ordinary word. For instances : *Radio Detection And Ranging* → *radar* ; *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* → *UNESCO* ; *North Atlantic Treaty Organization* → *NATO* and In Indonesia - *Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia* → *UPI*

Contraction

A contraction is a shortened version of the written and spoken forms of a word, syllable, or word group, created by omission of internal letters and sounds. For instances : In English we often find a number of contractions, mostly involving the elision of a vowel (which is replaced by an apostrophe in writing), as in *I'm* for "I am", and sometimes other changes as well, as in *won't* for "will not" or *ain't* for "am not". In Indonesia – *Tidak ada* → *Tiada* and *Bagai itu* → *Begitu*.

Many researches abbreviation as the product of shortening word process has been conducted, for examples research conducted by J. de Vries about *Indonesian abbreviations and acronyms* which gave so many examples of the abbreviation such as *bhb?* (berhubung = in connection with), *bhw.* (bahwa = that, conjunction), *a.l.* (antara lain = among other things), *J.M.E.* (Jang Maha Esa = The Supreme One), and *d/a* (dengan alamat = c/o), *p'merintah* from word *pemerintah* (government), *p'temuan* from word *pertemuan* (meeting), *m'perhitungkan* from word *memperhitungkan* (to calculate), and *dip'tahankan* from word *dipertahankan* (defended). But He said that the abbreviation does not occur in the spoken language; it exists only with regard to the written word, i.e. the spelling, as everyone will say /antara lain/, and never /al/ or /a'el/. Vries divided abbreviation in the patterns namely : shortening, forms composed of initials (initialisms) and letter-word. He explained, the first pattern, shortening is that the sound form of a word which is shortened. For examples : *pak* from *bapak* (father), *dik* from *adik* (younger brother or sister), *bu* from *ibu* (mother). Note that this manner of word formation does belong to the spoken language and have the sense of "familiarity" or "intimacy", in contrast to the full forms. Proper names and kinship terms, in particular, are subject to this process. The words are shortened to the final part: e.g.; *No* (Sutrisno), *Ti* (Siti), *Leh* (Saleh), and *Min* (Gimin), all of the proper names. Then the second is Forms Composed of Initials (Initialisms) which are formed by taking the first letters of a number of words and joined together to form a compound of letters, i.e. a compound the component letters of which are pronounced by their names for instances : *M.B.I.* from *Markas Besar Istimewa* (Special Headquarters), *L.R.K.N.* for *Lembaga Research Kebudayaan Nasional* (National Culture Research Institute or Research Institute of National Culture). This process is very productive with proper names such as *H.B.J.* (Hans B. Jassin). The third is letter-compounds that have a special nature. First of all, there are neither defined nor defining parts: they are

copulative in character. Further, they do not form a single whole of common phonemic combinations, which gives a reason for doubt whether they are actually words or not. On the other hand, they show the characteristics of words: the accent falls on the final part, which gives the letter-group an appearance of unity. Semantically the group also forms a unity: forms such as *L.R.K.N.* name a definite object, or rather they refer to a definite object in the way proper names do. he also said that occasionally there arises a common Indonesian phonemic combination, although the whole is not pronounced as an Indonesian word: *K.I.T.* from *Kami ingin tahu* (we want to know); here the letters are pronounced by their names.

The same media and ways of collecting data also ever used by Lydia Irawati in 2007 with her writing entitled *Singkatan dan Akronim Dalam media chatting* which examines the abbreviations used in media chatting. Another research also conducted by Dian Probowati, *Pola – Pola Pembentukan Singkatan* – Unpublish Thesis from Universitas Indonesia, but both of them did not involve gender as the category distinguishing in the use of this language variety. So in this initial research, the writer tried to insert gender as category distinguishing in abbreviation usage.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

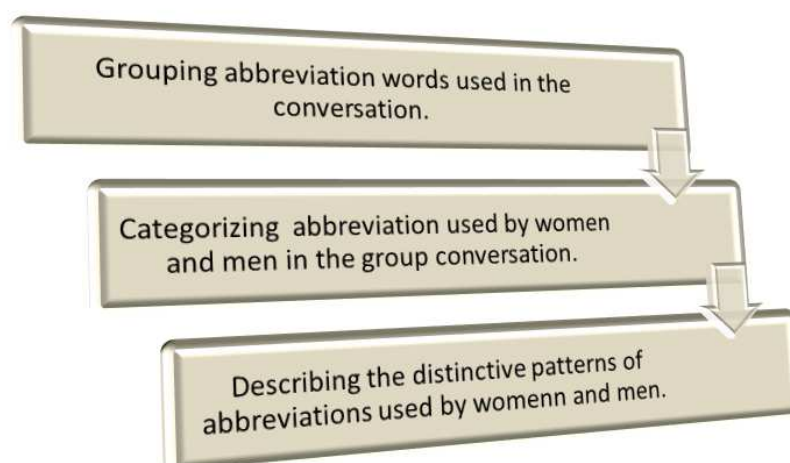


Figure 1

This study mixed the quantitative and qualitative approach to look at the variation in shortening word used by women and men in a whatsapp group conversation, especially the patterns which they used to maintain their words' meaning. After the data of this research were taken, the writer grouping them based on gender then classified them according to the types of abbreviation patterns stated above. Lastly, the writer calculated the presentation of the patterns used by counting the frequency of each type or pattern occurred using a formula in book *Research Methods in Linguistics* (Litosseliti, 2010).

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Abbreviation Patterns Used by Men

The research data covers 100 abbreviations used by men and by women in a group conversation.

Table 1 :The Analysis of Abbreviation Pattern Used by Men in Conversation

No.	Abbreviations	Original Form	Meaning	Abbreviation Pattern
1	B	Beta	I (First Personal Pronoun)	Apocope
2	Ok	Oke	Expression agree with the one's idea or statement	Apocope
3	SIM	Surat Ijin Mengemudi	Driving License	Acronym
4	Dgn	Dengan	With	Syncope
5	D	Di	Place Preposition	Apokop
6	Bjalan	Bajalan	Walk	Syncope
7	Sbnarny	Sebenarnya	Actually	Apocope
8	Tdk	Tidak	No/Not/None	Contraction
9	Da	Ada	There (is/are)	Apharesis
10	Smansa	Sekolah Menengah Atas Negeri Satu	School's name	Contraction
11	Tggjwb	Tanggung jawab	Responsibility	Acronym
12	Tu	Itu	That	Apharesis
13	Tdkbs	Tidak Bisa	Can Not	Contraction
14	Smbuh	Sembuh	Healing process	Syncope
15	Gws	Get well soon	Get well Soon	Acronym
16	Plgkpg	Pulang Kupang	Come back to home town	Contraction
17	Su	Sudah	Already, done	Apocope
18	Smp	Sampai	Untill	Apocope
19	Mn	Mana	Where	Apharesis
20	u Dmna	Kamu Di mana	Where are you?	Acronym
21	Ktgsmw	Kitong semua	We all	Acronym
22	Mtpg	Selamat Pagi	Good Morning	Contraction
23	UPI	Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia	Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia	Acronym
24	Kaka	Kakak	Old Brother or Sister	Apocope
25	Tggko	Tunggu ko	Asking someone to wait	Acronym
26	Ms	Masih	Still	Apocope
27	Ngntuk	Mengantuk	Sleepy	Apharesis
28	Mksudny	Maksudnya	Asking further explanation	Apocope
29	Tggldm	Tanggal muda	Early month	Acronym
30	Kata2	Kata – kata	Words	Number
31	Bukbr	Buku baru	New Book	Contraction
32	Norek	Nomor rekening	Account Number	Acronym
33	Gmana	Bagaimana	How	Kontraksi
34	Ka2	Kakak	Old Brother or Sister	Number
35	Rmusny	Rumusnya	The Formula	Apocope
36	Dlu	Dulu	A time marker	Syncope
37	Dg	Dong	An expression to stress statement	Syncope
38	Dptbrp	Dapat berapa	How much ?	Contraction
39	Perpust	Perpustakaan	Library	Apocope
40	Jg	Juga	Also/too	Apharesis
41	tdk Ap2	Tidak Apa – apa	Never mind	Number
42	Gpp	Ga apa apa	Never mind	Acronym
43	Tuk	Untuk	For	Apharesis
44	Dgnsp	Dengan siapa	With whom?	Contraction
45	Ajk	Ajak	Invite someone	Syncope
46	Sa	Saya	I (First Personal Pronoun)	Apocope
47	Kpan2	Kapan – kapan	Time marker	Number
48	Krn	Karena	Because	Syncope
49	Kshsyg	Kasih sayang	Love	Contraction
50	RakatNTT	Masyarakat Nusa Tenggara Timur	NTT society	Acronym

From the data in table 1 (100 abbreviations used by men) there are several categories of abbreviation patterns used by men in the conversation as follows Apheresis : 14 words, Syncope : 10 words, Apocope : 18 words, Contraction : 28 words, Acronym : 22 words and other form such as number : 8 words.

Letter as a system of human intercommunication by means of a conventional visible mark should convey a meaning which can be understood by the human in that usage (Gelb, 1963). Even in abbreviation, the letter of a word was cut, the new form should have and bring the same meaning as the original one.

Words that include in pattern A phereasis is formed by removing one or more phonemes at the beginning of words without any change in meaning. In other words, both the original form and the form after removing the phonemes still have the same sense, so the change does not result in a new meaning of words. For example: *Ada* → *da*, The original form and the aphereasis still have the same meaning *Ada (there)* ; *Itu* → *tu* The original form and the aphereasis still have the same meaning *Itu (That)*, *Untuk* → *tuk*, The original form and the aphereasis still have the same meaning *untuk (for)*.

Words that include in Syncope are words that formed by removing phonemes in the middle of the original word without changing the meaning of that word, such as *Dengan* → *dgn* (with), *Sembuh* → *smbuh* (healing), *Dulu* → *dlu* (time information). Both the original and the abbreviation still have the same meaning.

Abbreviations that used pattern of Apocope, formed by removing phonemes that occur at the end of a word without resulting any change of the word meaning. For example: *Sebenarnya* → *sebenarnya* (Infact), *Ada* → *ad* (There be), and *Beta* → *B* (I, first personal pronoun). While Contraction is consist of words or phrases that abbreviated, shrinkaged, or formed by reducing phonemes without changing the meaning of the word itself. For example: *Di mana* → *dmana* (where), *Tidak Bisa* → *tdkbs* (Can't). Men also used Acronyms such as : *Sori baru balas* → *SBB* (to apologize their late response) and *Get Well Soon* → *GWS*. In addition men also used number in such as : *Kata – kata* → *kata2* (words) and *Kaka* → *ka2* (old brother or sister) and strange terms such *cmiiw* for correct me if i wrong and *fyi* which abbreviated from for you information.

Abbreviation Pattern Used By Women

Table 2: The Analysis of Abbreviation Pattern Used by Women in the Conversation

No.	Abbreviations	Original Form	Meaning	Abbreviation Pattern
1	Gimana	Bagaimana	How	Apharesis
2	Spa	Siapa	Who	Syncope
3	Kmar	Kamar	Room	Syncope
4	Ntar	Sebentar	Time information (awhile)	Apharesis
5	Sond	Sonde (tidak)	No/Not/None	Apocope
6	Sbuk	Sibuk	Busy	Syncope
7	Bt	Beta	I (First Personal Pronoun)	Syncope
8	Pikir2	Pikir – pikir	Think about something	Number
9	Snde	Sonde	No/Not/None	Syncope
10	Blm	Belum	Not Yet	Syncope
11	Tu	Itu	That	Apharesis
12	Bahagia	Bahagia	Happy	Apharesis
13	Sdh	Sudah	Already	Syncope
14	Blg	Bilang	Tell	Syncope
15	Bhya	Bahaya	Danger	Syncope
16	skrg	Sekarang	Now	Syncope
17	Pntg	Penting	Important	Syncope

No.	Abbreviations	Original Form	Meaning	Abbreviation Pattern
18	Kwan	Kawan	Friend	Apharesis
19	Basa	Bahasa	Language	Syncope
20	Brp	Berapa	How many?	Syncope
21	Bgtu	Bagai itu	Like that	Contraction
22	Brtti	Berarti	Mean	Syncope
23	Ngnap	Menginap	Lodging	Contraction
24	Grja	Gereja	Chruch	Syncope
25	Tgggu	Tunggu	Wait	Syncope
26	Tw	Tahu	Know	Syncope
27	Jwb	Jawab	Answer	Syncope
28	Tdk	Tidak	No/Not/None	Syncope
29	Kt	Kita	We	Syncope
30	Tgas	Tugas	Assignment	Apharesis
31	No	Nomor	Number	Apocope
32	Dg	Dong	They	Syncope
33	Tlg	Tolong	Help	Syncope
34	Bgtu	Bagai itu	Like that	Contraction
35	Utk	Untuk	For	Syncope
36	Bkn	Bukan	Not	Contraction
37	Smga	Semoga	May it happen	Syncope
38	Ttup	Tutup	Close	Apharesis
39	Org	Orang	People	Syncope
40	Blm	Belom	Not Yet	Syncope
41	Pu	Punya	Have	Apocope
42	Kmpul2	Kumpul – kumpul	Assemble	Number
43	Dy	Dia	She/he	Apocope
44	Ktg	Kitong	We	Syncope
45	Plg	Pulang	Go back	Syncope
46	Ad	Ada	There	Apocope
47	Sy	Saya	I (First Personal Pronoun)	Syncope
48	Ju	Juga	Also	Apocope
49	Dlu	Dulu	Time information	Apharesis
50	Dah	Sudah	Already	Apharesis

The data in table 2 (100 abbreviations used by the Women), shows that there are several patterns used, Apharesis : 20 words such as *Sebentar* → *ntar* (a while), *Sudah* → *dah* (already), Syncope : 58 words for examples : *Penting* → *PTG* (important), *Berarti* → *brtti* (means), *Berapa* → *brp* (how many), Apocope : 12 words for instances *Nomor* → *no* (number), *Punya* → *pu* (have), and *Ada* → *ad* (there), while contraction only 6 words : *bagai itu kah* → *bgtuko* (like that), *menginap* → *ngnap* (stay at night in someone's house) but women also used number even it only 4 words such as : *pikir – pikir* → *pkir2* (considering) and *Sama – sama* → *sama2* (together).

CONCLUSIONS

Letter as a system of human intercommunication by means of a conventional visible mark should convey a meaning which can be understood by the human in that usage (Gelb, 1963). Even in abbreviation, the letter of a word was cut, the new form should carry and share the same meaning as the original one.

The analysis result of the finding shows that there is a difference in the abbreviation patterns used by men and women to maintaining their words' meaning in a group conversation. It can be seen by the percentages of the pattern

occured. Men used 28% Contractions, 22 % Acronyms, 18 % patterns of apocope, 14 % apheresis, 10 % syncope and the rest 8 % involve number and English terms while women used 58 % of patterns Syncope, 20 % Apheresis, and 12% Apokop,6% contraction and the remaining patterns containing numbers. The analysis can be shown in the chart below.

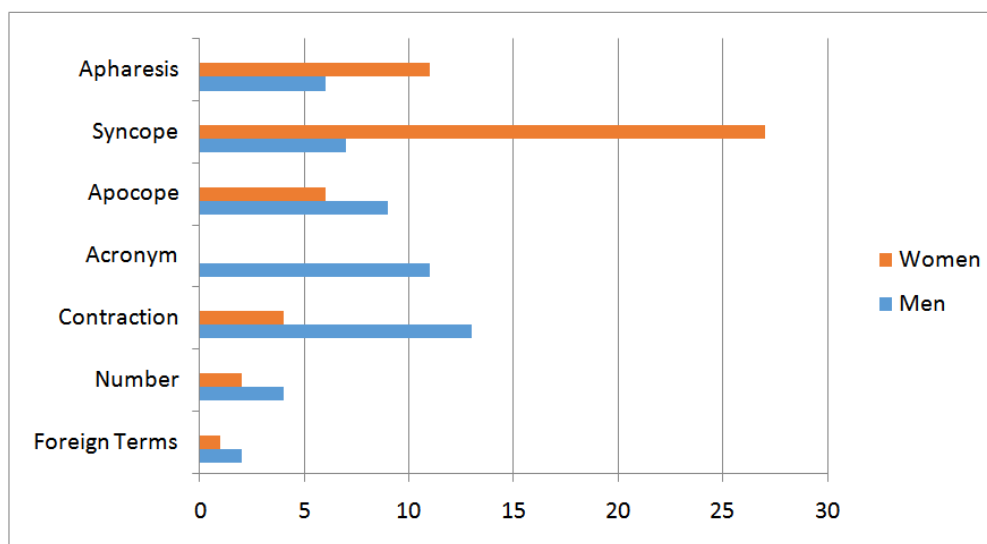


Figure 2: Abbreviation Patterns Used by Men and Women

By looking at the percentages, the writer can say that men and women have a different way of maintaining their word's meaning through abbreviation patterns. Men tend to use contractions and acronyms patterns, on the other hand women, tend to use abbreviation patterns of syncope, apheresis, and apocope. But the interesting fact is that both women and men are involving number pattern in the conversation.

SUGGESTIONS

This is an initial project of research which conducted to investigate then describe the distinctive patterns of abbreviation used by women and men to maintain their words' meaning in conversation. The writer would like to suggest another researcher conduct the same research in different groups or communities to look at the same phenomenon. Then the further research should be conducted to calculate the correlation between gender and the tendency to use the pattern.

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