CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

In this globalization era, computer is not a new thing anymore. Many people use computers in doing their activities. Even in some elementary schools, children are taught how to operate computer. Then, people are introduced to the internet which helps them to communicate with other people all over the world. Recently, internet becomes a basic need for many people since they can access the world of communication and information technology via internet. Moreover, the existence of internet almost replaces the function of facsimile, telephone, and airmail. People can send their messages faster than airmail. They also can talk with other people in chat room as long as they want a cheaper cost. They do not need to pay the airtime when they have to make a phone call with their friends who live abroad.

As the technology grows, language also grows over period. There are many new words that come up in daily communication and add to the vocabulary of a language (Fromkin and Rodman, 1983:264). Human language has a property, which is called productivity, or creativity in which people are able to produce any words and understand them (Hoijer, 1948: 58). New word or neologism is raised by productivity and creativity and enter our minds and our language in daily communication.

Neologisms exist in culture which are rapidly changing and also in communities when there are easy and fast developments of information. Neologism comes into the public through mass media, the internet, or through the words of mouth by people. It is often created by combining existing words or words by giving suffixes or prefix into the word and in some cases it can be created by shortening the word. Moreover, neologism can be considered as the manifestation of word creation. Neologism can also refer to existing word or phrases which has been assigned a new meaning. Related to this, it is obvious that a word can be still be assumed as a neologism although it is not a new term in the society. Newmark (1988:140) states "neologism is a new coined word or a word that has already existed which has a new sense, whereas Chisinau (2005:275) defines neologism as new words that come up in the language as a result of word formation and borrowing. In conclusion, neologism is new word or existing word thas has a new meaning, formed according to the productive patterns or borrowed from another language.

It seems that neologisms are frequently present on any social networking, such as Facebook, Myspace, Friendster, Twitter, etc. As an active member of social networking, I prefer to choose Twitter because it is widely used and simpler than other social websites. I joined Twitter since 2009. On this website, I often found some words, which are strange and unfamiliar on Twitter`s status, such as "bridezilla" which is formed from the words bride and godzilla, "frienemy" which means a person who is both friend and enemy, and "lappy" that is derived from the word laptop. These words seem meaningless for me because I could not

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understand the meaning of the words. Concerning to this matter, I am curious to know how those words are formed through word formation process. The curiosity in knowing and understanding the word-building process of neologism lead me to observe more about those words.

In order to analyze how new words or neologism are constructed, it is important to observe them through the morphological process. This term which literally means "the study of morphemes" and deals with the structure of words in their construction. In other words, it studies the linguistic ways of creating new words or neologisms. According to Plag (2002:55), "theory of word-formation not only describes existing complex words but also determine which kinds of derivative could be formed by the speakers according to the regularities and conditions of the rules of their language". Dealing with this matter, the relevant classification that I concern is the word formation process classified by Plag.

1.2 Problem Statement

In studying the word formation of neologism commonly found on Twitter`s statuses, I want to know how neologism is constructed. To solve this problem, I proposed two questions as follow:

1. What words are included as neologisms on Twitter statuses?
2. What type of word formation process do neologisms on Twitter`s statuses belong to?

1.3   Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to reveal the words considered as neologism and the type of word formation process of neologisms on Twitter`s statuses

1.4   Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is lexicology and morphology. The investigated data is limited to English neologism taken from Twitter`s statuses which are posted by 30 members without looking at their background. As to limit, I collect the data within one month, starting from April 15 to May 15 2012.

1.5   Significance of the Study

This study will give valuable knowledge for students of linguistic about the theory of word formation process as the basic of theoretical background concerning the neologism on Twitters statuses. Hopefully this study can enrich the student`s vocabularies and implement the neologism in both formal and informal communication. By understanding the word formation, the students of Reading class also gain benefit since sometimes they have to make very good guesses of unfamiliar words.

For academic purpose, I want to inspire others to conduct about word formation process on other field of research. Also this research can hopefully be a reference for those who want to conduct a similar research.