

## THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH TERMINOLOGIES IN ACADEMIC, SCIENTIFIC TEXT AND ITS USE

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### ABSTRACT

*Revolution of language style is affected by technology and the field majored by the author; in this case it refers to university students. The use of English terms in scientific text is predictably affected by their English skills. This research aims to know the characteristics of English technical terms that are used by the students and its usage in academic scientific text. The data is collected from the thesis. The result shows that students properly use the terms in the form of phrases, consisting of two to four words, that are abbreviated and not abbreviated, because of their familiarity with the terms. The terms are used to mention the name of variable, the name of application, the name of object, and the name of theory. In order to maintain the use of Indonesian language, the advisors are expected to suggest the students use its equivalent that are available in Bahasa and use it daily so that it is acceptable and familiar for the students.*

**Keywords:** English Terminologies, Characteristics, Use, Academic Scientific Text

### INTRODUCTION

The relation between language and the characteristics of language users recently has become fascinating to study. Taking a look at university students, who dominantly belong to Gen Z, they are making significant revolution to the language styles as their contact to technology (Arif Nursetyo et al., 2024; Berutu et al., 2023; Sherlynda et al., 2023). Playing digital games for a certain period of time affects their characters including the use of certain typical terms (Amanda et al., 2024). Meanwhile, in academic, university students who take a major in digital business, for example, they used to mention English technical terms for business in its expressions. As a consequence, the use of English technical terms in students' work, like writing a scientific article, is something unavoidable (González-Oñate et al., 2021). It seems normal and it makes the English language not literally 'foreign language', but could be stated as the second language (Alrajafi, 2021). The awareness of the phenomenon of language mixture by Gen Z leads to several issues.

Reviewing the journal article talking about the phenomenon of English terms reveals some factual conditions about its use around the world. The English business terms are used among European languages by lexical borrowing

(Anglemark & John, 2018). By the similar technique, Spanish people apply the borrowing technique to use English terms in their utterance (García & Bove, 2022; Hamudi, 2015). This technique is considered as a solution when there is no equivalence and inadequate terms or expression in non-English languages (Jones, 2006). Meanwhile, it is found that there is a different trend of translation for terms from English to Russian, that is by applying the transcription (Makhmutova & Yurova, 2023). Putting the borrowing into the second technique, an Indonesian researcher shows that amplification is the most frequent use to translate the English terms of mechanical engineering articles (Farahsani & Harmanto, 2021). However, translating terms by certain techniques could be risky due to the incorrectness of meaning (Stojković, 2021). Culture among languages can be taken into consideration to the translation of English terms to languages other than English (Tadić, 2021). In fact, different categorization and concept of kinship terms make the transfer of meaning from Tongan to English language unsuccessful (Völkel, 2016). The unsuccessful of meaning transfer also occur from African to English due to the limitation of hyponym in that language (Lynch et al., 2021).

Research on the phenomenon of languages is regarded as beneficial to identify the development of trends in languages and to reveal the potential vocabulary that might be created by its users (Pankova, 2020). Research also helps the linguist to identify its usage among the native and non-natives. Using the technical terms which are mentioned in the English language needs knowledge and skill higher than the basic (Honcharov et al., 2022). Poor language skills can be a factor that hampers the transfer of meaning of terms from language other than English (LOTE) to English terms and vice versa (Bohadana et al., 2021). Besides, the misuse of its terms, especially by certain techniques of translation, can cause incorrect reference of meaning (Davies et al., 2016). This understanding leads to a curiosity of knowing the capability of university students in using English terms for writing academic scientific text.

Departing from the initial surveys and experiences of reading students works, the researchers design a study and take a concern to the use of English terms in university students' writing. The novelty lies on the context of usage, especially in formal context. The previous researches tend to be more focus on the relation between its usage, the translation and its equivalency. The analysis in this present

research includes the characteristics of English terms used by the students dealing with the form of language units and the background of preference to English terms rather than its equivalence in Bahasa. The analysis will also include student's skill in using the terms related to its grammatical position and function in a sentence. The findings can be considered to provide the better reference of learning materials in English class. It also can be considered by advisors to suggest their students who is writing thesis to use its equivalency in Bahasa or to keep using English terms within their statements, remembering that Badan Bahasa (Language Agency) of Ministry of Education in Indonesia puts effort to provide and continually give update of the equivalency of those English terms in Bahasa. Besides minimizing the code-mixing in formal text, the awareness and the preference of using its equivalent in Bahasa shows that we help them to promote its equivalents, support its familiarity among Indonesian and preserve the Indonesian language from foreignism and extinction.

## **MATERIALS AND METHOD**

Dealing with the aim of the study, the source of materials in this research was taken from academic scientific texts, that is a thesis written by the students of Digital Business of Amikom Purwokerto University by the last one year. From the source, there were some techniques applied to the data collection and data analysis.

To collect the data, the researchers did an observation, interview and documentation (Tarisa et al., 2022). Observation was conducted by seeing the use of English terms in the thesis written by the students. It helped the researchers to make sure that the data were available. To support the interpretation of findings, an interview was also conducted with the students as the writer of the text, that is to know their preference of using terms in the English language rather than Bahasa. By those two techniques, observation and interview, the data were documented by making a list of sentences containing terms in English and making transcriptions of statements delivered by students in the interview session. Hence, the data was roughly collected by making a list of students' names, the title of the thesis, the sentences and the terms.

For the session of data analysis, the techniques of data reduction and data presentation were applied so that the conclusion could be drawn precisely (Ridwan

et al., 2023). Data reduction was applied to the data which has similar terms and similar context of usage. Data that has been reduced then was represented in a simpler table by the column of variety of English terms and the identified issues to help the researcher to simplify the identification of characteristics and the use of its terms in the sentences. By implementing these techniques, the conclusions were easier to propose.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The issues of mastering vocabularies, including special terminologies and expressions of English language by non-native students is a never-ending discussion. Research that involved undergraduate students in a Malaysian university revealed that the knowledge of academic word lists is essential for their academic activities, especially for reading, writing, presentation and comprehension (Choo, Lin, Singh, & Ganapathy, 2017). Hence, the findings will be explained further.

Based on the result of the analysis, there are four characteristics of terms used by students in their academic scientific writing. All of the terms are found in the language units of phrases. Meanwhile the appearance makes them classified by four formations.

1. English terms are mentioned in a phrase that consist of two words without abbreviation because of its simplicity and familiarity.
2. English terms are mentioned in a phrase that consists of three words without abbreviation because there is no abbreviation provided.
3. English terms are mentioned in a phrase that consists of three words with abbreviation because there is familiar abbreviation provided by the creator.
4. English terms are mentioned in a phrase that consist of four words with abbreviation because the abbreviation is already established and is used in many mediums of communication.

Research conducted by Allan proved that the knowledge of commonly-used English phrases becomes a foundation to build and create effective communication (Allan , 2017). Meanwhile, the selection of language units, especially in form of phrases as found in terminologies can provide a perspective of personalized

learning so that it offers valuable pedagogical resources to individuals that need to deal with academic text in English (Silva, Orenha, & Babini, 2017).

The second point that is revealed from the data is its usage in the context of sentences.

1. English terms are mentioned as the name of variables in their research.
2. English terms are mentioned as the name of an application utilized in their research.
3. English terms are mentioned as the name of theory in their research.
4. English terms are mentioned to state certain objects of phenomenon.

The lexical choices made by academics are affected by their fields (Omidian & Siyanova-Chanturia, 2021). However, the identification of repetitive use of technical terms in academic writing consistently is impactful. It can be a barrier as an initial step for designing resources and tools, and further can increase the readability so that it can avoid the multiple meanings within a word (Lucy, Dodge, Bamman, & Keith, 2023). Consistent and well-defined terminologies in articles is significant to create a clear writing, foster communication and avoid misunderstanding (Dorri, 2025). It has been examined by research that the consistent use of terms strengthens intelligibility (Katajamäki, 2020).

During the analysis, the researchers did not significantly find the error but the preference of using English terms rather than its translation in Bahasa is confirmed by the interview. There are several reasons that make students prefer to maintain the use of English terms. They are:

1. English terms are more familiar than Indonesian.
2. By using English terms, the keywords of their research are easier and more optimized to be identified by search engines.
3. The use of English terms makes the expression prestigious.
4. Mentioning the terms using English is simpler than mentioning it in Bahasa.

## **DISCUSSION**

Realizing the language styles of Gen Z, code-mixing between Indonesian and English term is regarded as the impact of social media (Tarihoran et al., 2022). Such style seems relevantly represented by data of this research, that the characteristics of English terms used by students of Digital Business Study Program

in their thesis writing is identified. The terms dominantly appear in form of phrase, with or without abbreviation. The correct use of terms is commonly affected by the familiarity of the terms.

The well-known terms like FoMO, that is frequently used by students, is also familiar to be used in communication through any social media. FoMo is the abbreviation of Fear of Missing Out. The abbreviation is taken from the initial alphabet of every word, F from fear, o from of, M from missing and O from out. Such abbreviation is applied to terms that consist of more than three words. Similarly to the e-WOM which is the abbreviation of *electronic Word of Mouth*. In the source of the data, the term is used to mention one of the variables of the research reported by the thesis. Due to the familiarity, there is no error semantically and syntactically to the use of it in the context of sentences.

The familiarity is also seen to write terms that are completely written without any abbreviation. For this criterion, the terms usually consist of two to three words. Two-words term is representatively found in *impulsive buying*, while the three-word is found in *hedonic shopping motivation*. There is equivalence for both terms in Bahasa, *pembelian impulsive* for *impulsive buying* and *motivasi belanja hedonik* for *hedonic motivation shopping*.

Based on the interview, the reason why they prefer to use English is because of its reputation. They think that English seems more reputable than Indonesian. Another dominantly-stated reason is about their familiarity. In this part, their lecturer takes a part as the influencer who makes the student use English terms rather than its equivalent in Bahasa although their pronunciation is still incorrect (Al-Nawrasy, 2013).

In fact, comparing the data that seems familiar, there is a student who still writes inappropriately. As we have discussed on the part of Introduction, Indonesian students commonly have basic skill to use two languages, that is Bahasa and Javanese, the use of English terms cause interference in both languages (Jannatussholihah & Triyono, 2019). Such Interference is also presented by the data, that is the student wrote *literature review*, rather than *literature review*. Their habit to write a word based on the way of pronouncing it makes the incorrect writing possible to find. This becomes a challenge for the lecturer to make them used to write it in a standard spelling of English words because the vocabulary teaching is

often neglected (Ababneh, 2020). As seen on the promotion of recordkeeping, French terminologies bring more success than using English language (Frings-Hessami & Oliver, 2022).

The relevancy of previous research is clearly seen by the data obtained by interview. Tendency of using English terms because of its popularity, reputation, and value (Arumi et al., 2018; Husna et al., 2019; Zavitri et al., 2018). It might be acceptable from the viewpoint of sociolinguistics. Unfortunately, the ability to understand the meaning of the terms semantically and pragmatically is not wholly achieved. It seems contradictory to the findings of previous research, that the participants understand the theory but do not master the practical (Pastini & Susianti, 2023).

## CONCLUSION

Terminologies used by students of the Digital Business Study Program while writing the thesis are dominantly found in the form of phrases. Those terms are classified into certain categories of purposes based on the meaning of its context of utterance. Meanwhile, familiarity still becomes the number one reason why the students prefer to use English terms rather than its equivalent provided in Bahasa. However, the consistency of the advisors to use Indonesian terms and the suggestion to the students using terms in Bahasa becomes the challenges in changing the habit of using English terms. Other reasons like the image of English language by students and the wide range to be identified by search engines also encourage the students to still have preference of using English terms. This could be considered by the lecturer of a non-English class to teach the students by mentioning the terms using Indonesian language so that they are also familiar and accept the terms and apply it to their academic scientific writing. Remembering its significance to the rules of writing in the future, this research could be enhanced to the creation of a database to make the terms well-categorized into each field of study so that the students have a clearer example of the standardized use of specific, technical terms.

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