



Exploring Language Choice in a Discussion Forum

Zaemah Abdul Kadir¹, Marlyna Maros², Bahiyah Dato Abdul Hamid³

¹Academy of language Studies Shah Alam (Malaysia), ²⁻³Universiti Kebangsaan (Malaysia)

zaemah@salam.uitm.edu.my

Abstract

E-learning, a type of learning that is considered to be an important in the emerging knowledge of society. Hence, computer-mediated communication has been adopted in most e- learning setting. Computer-mediated communication refers to any form of communication enabled through the use of computers. In the CMC literature, the term generally refers to communication modalities dependent on computer-based networks or meta-networks, particularly the Internet and commercial online services. Language plays an important role in the communication activities in the computer-mediated communication . Due to the revolution of technology in communication, a unique form of communication has emerged involving the use of new word forms, structures and style of expression. Therefore, this study examined the language choice used in a discussion forum among the e-distance learning students in Universiti Teknologi MARA Malaysia.

The data of this study were collected from messages posted by the students to their friends and lecturer. The online forum allows students in this program to communicate with their fellow classmates, lecturers and other e-distance learning students. The messages posted by the students were analysed to investigate the language choice used in the forum. The findings show that the students used creative ways such as code-switching, code-mixing, abbreviation and other linguistic features to facilitate online communication.