CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

In using computer as a means of electronic communication, many facilities are available that can make interaction possible with one another. One of the computer facilities is the language system of computer that needs to be understood. Only by knowing the language of computer one can communicate with another. Linguistically the language used in computer is a variety since the language has its own functional variety.

However, some users are not capable of operating computers, so this incapability in the computer operational systems has resulted in one's inability to interact through the sophisticated means of information. They frequently do not understand to provide an overall procedures of the process of communication such as how to use Internet Relay Chat (IRC) program in different cultural background. IRC refers to a system that allows many people to have real-time conversations simultaneously in international network (internet). It means an interaction can be applied through communication as a dialogue.

Communication, as a dialogue or debate occurs spontaneously any time in effect of the social changes. The increased freedom of expressions in recent times has been almost simultaneous with changes in the global affecting the social and economic changes that hold the most interesting possibilities. A development strategy that uses communication approaches can reveal people's underlying attitudes and traditional

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wisdom, help people adapt their views and acquire new knowledge and skills, and spread new social messages to large audiences (Diouf, 1994).

This is supported by Tubbs (2003) who says that communication activities can help people, even those from different social groups within a community, share information and exchange ideas in a positive and productive fashion. This communication can be enriched by understanding how development issues affect them, discovering what others think in other communities, and seeing what other communities have achieved. These are effective methods to help people to reach a consensus and find common grounds for actions, based on their own needs and capabilities.

Communication approaches can change people's behaviour and life-styles. The process happening in communication strategies includes intrapersonal, interpersonal, group and mass communications. Those strategies can raise awareness and public understanding of the social implications of problems faced by the people such as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or drug abuse. Other activities can bring about informed processes of change among the audiences to be reached such as peer counseling, self-esteem and images of a better future among teenagers, especially if combined with group discussions and other tools which create a dialogue. Social communication activities can happen either on the street or in the theatre. The planned use of communication techniques, activities and media give people the easiness to communicate with one another both experience changes and social activities. An intensified exchange of ideas among all sectors of society can lead a greater involvement of the people.

Through communication, people can expand and share their ideas, skills, knowledge, and make interactions with one another. There are many ways to interact with others using electronic and non electronic communications. In electronic communications, people use computer, facsimile, mobile phone, and teleconference whereas non electronic communication includes face to face meeting and body language. Not all people can operate a computer but it should be studied. The application of computer can be amusing but one should understand the language and terms conveyed such as in the context of receivers, senders, messages, channels, noise, context, feedback, encoding, decoding, and effect.

Owing to the language system used in computer that might confuse its users, one should learn the language used. It is because the difficulty level of the language is still exclusive, in other words it is still new to some people to use computer in the terms of Electronic mail (E-mail), Yahoo Messanger, I seek you (ICQ), Love Mail, and Internet Relay Chat (IRC) as part of chatting facilities which enable the users to interact as they wish. The ignorance of the interaction systems or computer language systems has caused the users to be unable to communicate effectively and efficiently.

It is assumed that the Indonesian users of IRC program who would like to chat tend to have some difficulties in understanding the meaning of the messages in words or conversations using in the appropriately. It is important for the Indonesian users of the IRC program to understand exactly what they want to convey and to respond in order to be able to recognize what is transferable or answered in language, because the tendency

is that language users especially the users of the IRC program is to keep the interaction in constant conversation and to understand among users.

Due to its modern development in communication through the internet, it can be said that not all users of IRC program can understand and interact correctly. The application of the IRC program can help the users recognize certain aspect of the intended messages because it represents the real languages conveyed and the IRC program may serve as a medium for obtaining more knowledge of the language system of a computer for users especially in the interactions in the IRC program as well as for discussion, change of experiences, and relax chatting among them. Besides, IRC program can be used to keep in touch directly with someone from all over the world. To make it possible, one must have a complete set of computer such as software and hardware.

Looking at the importance of chatting facilities such as IRC, the users need to know the description of using interaction through IRC. Thus, it is necessary to study representation of interaction in internet relay chat program. In other words a thorough study on interaction the computer language needs conducting.

B. The Problems of the Study

The study is intended to analyze linguistic representations of the interaction in IRC program. The problems of the study are formulated as the following;

1. How are interactions patterned in IRC program ?

2. How do the users of IRC interact linguistically and sociologically ?

3. Do the users of IRC program convey information effectively ?

C. The Scope of the Study

With reference to the background of the study, using computer as a means of electronic communication, many facilities of computer are available that can make interaction with one another such as yahoo messenger, ICQ, love mail, and IRC. Considering many facilities of interaction in computer, this study is focused on interaction in IRC program only.

D. The Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are to identify and classify how the users interact linguistically and sociologically, to identify and classify whether the users of IRC program convey the information effectively, and to identify and classify how interactions are patterned in IRC program.

E. The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to be significant in two respects namely theoretically and practically. The findings are expected to be useful to enrich Indonesian users of IRC program both for beginners and advanced ones. In other words findings of the study provide more valuable knowledge and information for Indonesian users of IRC in order to

1. understand and operate a computer that can be very important and interesting for oneself or at the workplaces,

2. be able to interact or communicate especially in the interaction in RC program both for beginners and the advanced ones,

3. use special terms of language conveyed,

4. be able to interact effectively and correctly in the computer and

5. observe the advantages and disadvantages of using computer system of language users.