

ENGLISH REGISTERS IN *ALLKPOP* NEWS ARTICLES

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Abstract

This research is intended to describe English registers found in Allkpop news articles. The major problem in this research are to find out the English registers found in Allkpop news articles, to identify word formation process undergone by the English registers found in Allkpop news articles, to identify types of changes in meaning served by the English registers found in Allkpop news articles when compared with their lexical meaning in the dictionary, and to identify language functions served by the English registers found in Allkpop news articles. This research belongs to qualitative research employing descriptive method that was performed by collecting data, classifying, analyzing, and then interpreting the data. As the data, the researcher used English registers found in Allkpop news articles that purposively taken in April, 2016. The results of the analysis are as follows. First, there are a total of 30 units of English registers found in Allkpop news articles posted in April, 2016. These 30 units of English registers of words and phrases are found in 503 news articles posted in April, 2016. Second, almost all of English registers that have undergone morphological process are made of compounding process. Third, all of the English registers have different meaning when they are compared with their lexical meaning in the dictionary. The most dominant type of changes in meaning is widening of meaning in which of the total 30 English registers, 21 are identified have undergone widening of meaning process. Fourth, the most dominant language function based on language functions served by the sentences of the news articles that contain English registers is representational function.

Keywords: Allkpop, changes in meaning, language function, register, word formation

A. BACKGROUND

Korean wave (or in Korea is *Hallyu*) is a term in which it becomes a world phenomenon because it spreads all over the world, and it has now captured the hearts and minds of millions people across the globe. One important aspect of the Korean wave phenomenon is K-Pop. K-Pop or Korean pop is referred as the Korean pop music which originated in Korea, specifically from South Korea. This type of music includes dance, electronic music, electro pop, hip-hop, and R&B. The term of K-Pop starts to get widely used overseas.

One example of the existence of K-Pop is a website namely *Allkpop*. *Allkpop* can be accessed through www.allkpop.com. *Allkpop* is one of the most popular sites providing breaking news about K-Pop stars with over seven and half million readers per month. *Allkpop* is considered as the first media to deliver the latest breaking news, gossip, and the most exclusive coverage on the hottest K-Pop stars.

Oak and Wong (2013) claim that K-Pop fans do not only come from South Korea, but also different countries. Many lyrics of K-Pop songs are mostly translated into English. English is chosen because the translator team is well aware that K-Pop fans come across the world and English will be the right choice to help the international fans getting close with the idols and also to communicate among fans all around the world.

A sociolinguistic phenomenon in the form of register is also accompanying the development of K-Pop. The registers appear in both of Korean language and English. Wardaugh (2006) defines register as specific vocabulary associated with different occupational group. There are so many registers are found in *Allkpop* news articles. The English registers are such as **uncle fan**, **eye smile**, **bias**, **ship**, **bromance** and many other registers that unfamiliar for people who do not belong to become K-Pop fans.

The meaning of each registers found in *Allkpop* news articles are different from their lexical meaning in dictionary. As a consequence, changes in meaning happen when the registers found in *Allkpop* news articles are compared with their lexical meaning in the dictionary. It seems that the registers enable to indicate the presence of specific things in K-Pop that can be only understood by certain people such as K-Pop fans.

B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWOK

1. Register

Language is always formed in the society. Since the members of the society have different background and activities, there are also some different languages. The language of teaching is different from the language of delivering of speech, for example. Each of them has its own characteristics. In sociolinguistic analysis, the language used in situations associated with such groups or occupations is technically called register.

Ferguson (as cited in Mahmood, 2013) states people participating in recurrent communication situations tend to develop similar vocabularies, similar features of intonation and characteristics bit of syntax and phonology in situations.

Wardaugh (2006: 52) explains registers as “sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social groups. Surgeons, airline pilots, bank managers, sales clerks, jazz fans, and pimps employ different registers”. It can be noted that register is a linguistic item and a particular vocabulary choices created by an individual or a social group to fulfill the various functions in communication.

2. Form of Term

Hornby (1995: 1232) defines term as “a word or phrase used as the name of something, especially one connected with a particular subject or used in a particular type of language”. The process of formation of the term cannot be separated from the process of morphological formation.

Forms of term can be divided into two, they are: simple form and complex form. According to Ramlan (2009), simple word is addressed as simple form which consists of one morpheme only, and it cannot be broken down into

smaller meaningful units. Complex word is addressed as complex form which means had undergone any morphological process.

3. Word Formation

Yule (2010) defines word formation process as how new words created and become part of the language. Some types of word formation are:

Blending: a process in which parts of two or more words combines to create a new word whose meaning is often a combination of the original words (Yule, 2010).

Compounding: a combination of two or more words that function as a single unit of meaning (Yule, 2010).

Derivation: new words that are created by adding affixes to an existing word (Yule, 2010).

Clipping: the shortening of existing words to create other words, usually informal versions of the originals (Yule, 2010).

Conversion: a change in the function of a word, as for example when a noun comes to be used as a verb (Yule, 2010).

Coinage: the invention of totally new terms (Yule, 2010).

Borrowing: the taking over of words from other languages (Yule, 2010).

Initialism: another type of abbreviation that cannot be pronounced as words (Fogarty, 2006).

4. Changes in Meaning

Hollmann (n. d.) defines changes in meaning as changes in form; the evolution of word usage. Some types of changes in meaning are:

Widening of meaning: range of meanings of a word increases so that the word can be used in more contexts that were more appropriate before the change (Hollmann, n. d.).

Narrowing of meaning: range of meaning is decreased so that a word can be used appropriately only in fewer contexts than before the change (Hollmann, n. d.).

Pejoration: sense of a word takes on a less positive, more negative evaluation in the minds of the users (Hollmann, n. d.).

Amelioration: shift in the sense of a word in the direction towards a more positive value in the minds of the users (Hollmann, n. d.).

Metaphor: a semantic change based on the association of similarity between referents (Hollmann, n. d.).

Metonymy: inclusion of additional senses which were originally not present but which are closely associated with word's original meaning (Hollmann, n. d.).

5. Language Function

Language function is the purpose for which speech or writing is being used. Christodoulou (2009) states seven functions of language purposed by Halliday are as follows.

The instrumental function: to move the listener to do something (Halliday, as cited in Christodoulou, 2009).

The regulatory function: to regulate the behavior of others (Halliday, as cited in Christodoulou, 2009).

The representational function: to talk about the object or current events happen in that time (Halliday, as cited in Christodoulou, 2009).

The interactional function: oriented contacts between the participants (Halliday, as cited in Christodoulou, 2009).

The heuristic function: to investigate the reality and learn about many things (Halliday, as cited in Christodoulou, 2009).

The personal function: to express the personal preferences and identity of the speaker (Halliday, as cited in Christodoulou, 2009).

The imaginative function: to explore the imagination (Halliday, as cited in Christodoulou, 2009).

C. RESEARCH METHOD

This research belongs to qualitative research employing descriptive method that was performed by collecting data, classifying, analyzing, and then interpreting the data. This research used the qualitative research because the data were described and analyzed in words.

The source of data was collected from *Allkpop* news articles. *Allkpop* can be accessed through *www.allkpop.com*. English registers found in *Allkpop* news articles that purposively taken in April, 2016 were used as the data of this research. Actually, not only the English registers that are found in *Allkpop* news articles, but also Korean registers are found in *Allkpop* news articles. Therefore, the researcher did not include Korean registers as the data in order to consider time and the ability of the researcher.

By using the data, the English registers found in *Allkpop* news articles were interpreted. This was done by considering the data obtained from each English registers found in *Allkpop* news articles.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

There are a total of 30 units of English registers found in *Allkpop* news articles posted in April, 2016. These 30 units of English registers of words and phrases are found in 503 news articles posted in April, 2016.

As shown in table 1, from 503 news articles contain English registers, the total frequency of units of English registers in news articles is 577. It can be inferred that a sentence of news article can contain more than one units of English registers.

Table 1. Units of English Registers Found in *Allkpop* News Articles

| No | English Registers Units | Linguistic Form | | Frequency |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------|-----------|
| | | Word | Phrase | |
| 1. | All-kill | | √ | 7 |
| 2. | Army | √ | | 4 |
| 3. | Bias | √ | | 1 |
| 4. | Bromance | √ | | 2 |
| 5. | CF | √ | | 37 |
| 6. | Chocolate abs | | √ | 1 |
| 7. | Comeback | √ | | 89 |
| 8. | Concept | √ | | 13 |
| 9. | Debut | √ | | 65 |
| 10. | Eye smile | | √ | 2 |
| 11. | Fanboy | √ | | 4 |
| 12. | Fangirl | √ | | 5 |
| 13. | Fanservice | √ | | 2 |
| 14. | Goodbye stage | | √ | 1 |
| 15. | Idol | √ | | 62 |
| 16. | Leader | √ | | 17 |
| 17. | MR | √ | | 1 |
| 18. | Netizen | √ | | 63 |
| 19. | Rookie | √ | | 24 |
| 20. | Selca | √ | | 2 |
| 21. | Ship | √ | | 1 |
| 22. | Shipper | √ | | 1 |
| 23. | Skinship | √ | | 1 |
| 24. | SNS | √ | | 26 |
| 25. | Sub-unit | | √ | 7 |
| 26. | Teaser | √ | | 103 |
| 27. | Title track | | √ | 12 |
| 28. | Trainee | √ | | 14 |
| 29. | Uncle fan | | √ | 1 |
| 30. | Visual | √ | | 9 |
| Σ | | 23 | 7 | 577 |
| % | | 76,67% | 23,33% | |

In this research, the registers that are made of simple words are addressed as simple registers. The registers that have undergone any morphological process are addressed as complex registers. This identification is needed in order to know which English registers have undergone any morphological process and which English registers have not. Of the total 30 registers, 8 are simple registers and the rest 22 are complex registers.

The lists of these 8 simple registers are as follows.

- army
- bias
- concept
- debut
- idol
- rookie

- trainee
- visual

The lists of these 22 complex registers are as follows.

- all-kill
- bromance
- CF
- chocolate abs
- comeback
- eye smile
- fanboy
- fangirl
- fanservice
- goodbye stage
- leader
- MR
- netizen
- selca
- ship
- shipper
- skinship
- SNS
- sub-unit
- teaser
- title track
- uncle fan

Further analysis, English registers that are addressed as complex registers are classified according to word formation process that they are made of.

As shown in table 2, there are 11 English registers are made of compounding process. It makes compounding becomes the most dominant type of word formation process of English registers are made of. The reason of why many English registers are made of compounding process is because the English registers found in *Allkpop* news articles written in various ways such as with a space between the elements; with a hyphen between the elements; or simply with the two roots run together with no separation. The way the word is written does not affect its status as a compound.

Table 2. Types of Word Formation Process of English Registers Found in *Allkpop* News Articles

| No | Types of Word Formation Process | English Registers Units | Σ | % |
|-------|---------------------------------|--|----|--------|
| 1. | Blending | Bromance, Netizen, Selca, Skinship | 4 | 18,18% |
| 2. | Compounding | All-kill, Chocolate abs, Comeback, Eye smile, Fanboy, Fangirl, Fanservice, Goodbye stage, Sub-unit, Title track, Uncle fan | 11 | 50% |
| 3. | Derivation | Leader, Shipper, Teaser | 3 | 13,64% |
| 4. | Conversion | Ship | 1 | 4,54% |
| 5. | Initialism | CF, MR, SNS | 3 | 13,64% |
| Total | | | 22 | 100% |

Hollmann (n. d.) defines changes in meaning as changes in form; the evolution of word usage. Changes in meaning occur because words are constantly used and what is intended by speakers is not exactly the same each time.

From 6 types of changes in meaning, there are only 3 types of changes in meaning found in this research. These 3 types of changes in meaning are widening of meaning, narrowing of meaning, and amelioration. The rest of types of changes in meaning that are not found in this research are pejoration, metaphor, and metonymy.

As shown in table 3, there are 21 English registers that has widened their meaning from lexical meaning in the dictionary. There are a total of 4 English registers that served 2 types changes in meaning. These 4 English registers are **all-kill**, **bias**, **bromance**, and **teaser** that are not only has widened their meaning from lexical meaning in the dictionary, but also their register meaning give a more positive value in the minds of the users rather than their lexical meaning.

The reason of why many English registers are identified have undergone widening of meaning process is because the register meaning has widened from the lexical meaning in which these new meaning are more appropriate to use in this context rather than before the change. This result is also as an evidence to prove the initial assumption about the meaning of English registers indicates specific things that can only understand by certain people such as K-Pop fans.

Table 3. Types of Changes in Meaning Served by the English Registers Found in *Allkpop* News Articles When Compared with Their Lexical Meaning in the Dictionary

| No | Types of Changes in Meaning | English Registers Units | Σ | % |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|----|---------|
| 1 | Widening of meaning | All-kill, Army, Bias, Bromance, CF, Chocolate abs, Concept, Eye smile, Fanservice, Goodbye stage, MR, Netizen, Selca, Ship, Shipper, Skinship, SNS, Teaser, Title track, Uncle fan, Visual | 21 | 61,76 % |
| 2 | Narrowing of meaning | Comeback, Debut, Fanboy, Fangirl, Idol, Leader, Rookie, Sub-unit, Trainee | 9 | 26,47 % |
| 3 | Amelioration | All-kill, Bias, Bromance, Teaser | 4 | 11,77 % |
| Total | | | 34 | 100% |

With regard to the language functions, English registers are classified based on language functions served by the sentences of the news articles that contain English registers. From seven function of language registers based on the purpose of using the language purposed by Halliday, there are six language functions are found in this research. These six language functions are instrumental function, representational function, interactional function, heuristic function, personal function, and imaginative function.

English registers are classified based on language functions served by the sentences of the news articles that contain English registers. The 30 units of English registers are found in 503 news articles posted in April, 2016.

As shown in the table 4, of the total 503 news articles that contain English registers, 420 are served representational function.

Representational function becomes the most dominant because *Allkpop* news articles as the source of data in this research contain information such as the latest breaking news and the most exclusive coverage on the hottest K-Pop stars.

Table 4. Language Functions Served by the English Registers Found in *Allkpop* News Articles

| No | Functions | | Σ | % |
|-------|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| 1. | Instrumental | Give an order | 7 | 1,40% |
| | | Give a warning | 3 | 0,60% |
| 2. | Representational | Provide an information | 420 | 83,50% |
| 3. | Interactional | Contact between the participants | 2 | 0,40% |
| 4. | Heuristic | Investigate reality | 18 | 3,58% |
| | | Asking for an opinion | 11 | 2,19% |
| 5. | Personal | Personal feeling | 22 | 4,38% |
| | | Oriented to the speaker | 18 | 3,58% |
| 6. | Imaginative | Explore imagination | 2 | 0,40% |
| Total | | | 503 | 100% |

E. CONCLUSIONS

In the sample *Allkpop* news articles, the researcher found a total of 30 words and phrases identified as English registers that constitute the data of this research. These 30 English registers are found in 503 news articles posted in April, 2016.

Some types of word formation process found in this research are blending, compounding, derivation, conversion, and initialism. Of the total 22 registers that have undergone morphological process, 11 are made of compounding process, 4 are made of blending process, 3 are made of derivation process, 3 are made of initialism process, and 1 is made of conversion process. The reason of why many English registers are made of compounding process is because the English registers found in *Allkpop* news articles are written in various ways such as with a space between the elements; with a hyphen between the elements; or simply with the two roots run together with no separation. The way the word is written does not affect its status as a compound.

In this research, all of English registers found in *Allkpop* news articles have different meaning when compared with their lexical meaning in the dictionary. Some types of changes in meaning served by the English registers found in *Allkpop* news articles when compared with their lexical meaning in the dictionary are widening of meaning, narrowing of meaning, and amelioration. The most dominant type of changes in meaning is widening of meaning. Of the total 30 English registers, 21 are identified have undergone widening of meaning process. The reason of why many English registers are identified have undergone widening of meaning process is because the register meaning has widened from the lexical meaning in which these new meaning are more appropriate to use in this context rather than before the change. This result is also as an evidence to prove the initial assumption about the meaning of English registers indicates specific things that can be only understood by certain people such as K-Pop fans.

The most dominant language function based on language functions served by the sentences of the news articles that contain English registers is representational function. In this research, the reason of why representational function becomes the most dominant is because *Allkpop* news articles as the source of data in this research

contains information such as the latest breaking news and the most exclusive coverage on the hottest K-Pop stars.

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