

Lexical Forms and Meanings of Register Words in Valorant Game

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Abstract

This article presents a qualitative investigation into the types of Lexical Forms and meanings used in the online game Valorant, with a specific focus on how players employ different registers within the game's context. The study explores sociolinguistic theories related to register and online gaming, and employs qualitative methods to collect and analyze data from YouTube and Streaming videos. By examining the diverse linguistic practices of Valorant players, this research aims to shed light on the communicative strategies utilized in this gaming community.

Keywords: Registers, Lexical forms, Meaning, Valorant.

INTRODUCTION

The use of language in society is always comes with something new and interested to be analyzed regarding to people use language in different ways in different occasion. As it is stated by Holmes (1992:1) language and society are interest in explaining why we speak differently in different social, context, and it concern with identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning. In linguistics, this definition is called with Sociolinguistics.

In sociolinguistics, it is also provided the language variation used by people in different context and in different purposes. The variation could be based on the regional or social. The regional variation reflects where a person comes from, while social variation addresses the issue of how we speak differently based on who we are socially: young or old, female or male, educated or not.

We can also find this language variation when we work in certain fields, it is called a register. Register is a variety of language used in certain fields and situations of communication (Holmes. 1992). Registers are used by certain people who are usually associated with jobs, such as doctors, photographers, technicians, pilots etc. The people with the job have special words that only they can understand.

Currently, the type of work has developed a lot along with the development of technology, a job that is increasingly favored by young people today is gamers. Gamers themselves are people who have a job playing games professionally. Of course, with this work, that ultimately creates a new community that presents a variety of new languages that are only understood by that community.

One of the games that are currently being played a lot is Valorant. Valorant is a game made by Riot game which is a game that is usually played via mobile phones or personal computers. This game does not require the players to meet in person, but can be played online. Ho and Wu (2012) stated that online video gaming as virtual worlds

with internet connections and multiple users. In other words, online video gaming are computer games that use internet connections to process user interactions.

Speech Community in Online Gaming The online gaming community creates its own unique speech community, characterized by shared lexicons, abbreviations, and jargon. The language used in Valorant is an example of how gaming communities develop their linguistic codes and registers to facilitate communication and camaraderie.

This community then has terms that are usually mentioned when the game is played. These terms have different linguistic forms with different meanings, so from this explanation this study then focuses on looking at the linguistic forms and meanings of the Registers found in the game Valorant.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Register

According to Holmes (2001, p. 246) register is the specific vocabulary associated with different occupational groups. Moreover, the term register is described as the language of groups of people with common interest or jobs or used in situations associated with such groups.

Wardhaugh (1998, 2010: 48) states that register is another complicating factor in the study of language varieties besides style. The register was a set of language items that are associated with occupation or social groups. Every profession, such as pilot, bank manager, musician, 12 sales clerk, and sports commentator Employ different registers.

In line with Holmes and Wardhaugh, Alwasilah defines Register as register is a variety of languages whose use is based on the user (1993).

From the definition above, it can be concluded that Register is a language variation used by particular people who has same interest in particular communicative event.

Register of Linguistic Form

First, the definition of linguistic forms will be given by Frank, M (1972) as a focus of our discussion and analysis. Frank Theory about the categorization of linguistic forms (1972: 6) maintained that the linguistic forms could be categorization into four elements such as word, phrase, clause, and sentence. Later, Frank argued word as the smallest meaningful unit of linguistic that can be stand on its own usage. Further, Frank classify them into four word classes e.g. noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. In the part of phrase, Frank added that phrase is part of a sentence, which contains of series of word in the absence of verbs. Meanwhile, in the similar way Machwinney, B (2005) also highlights the four elements of linguistic forms that categorized into word, phrase, clause, and sentence.

The further explanation in the categorization of word and phrase can be seen in each sub parts as follows:

Word

- a. Noun

Nouns were used to name abstract people, things, animals, places, and concepts. There were some nouns of forms such as Concrete nouns are tangible nouns that can be seen or touched, e.g. silver, diamond, ring, necklace. Abstract nouns are nouns that cannot be seen or touched, e.g. approval, wellness.

b. Compounds

A compound is the combination two or more words to make a new meaning of word formation. In addition, a compound can be hyphenated, consisting one word or solid compound, and two words stand-alone or open compound (Gatherer 1986).

c. Verbs

Verb was a word that functions to show the action of the subject, to indicate an event or situation.

d. Adjective

Adjectives were words that are used to describe or modify nouns or pronouns.

e. Clippings and Abbreviation

Abbreviation is the word formation process in which a word or phrase is shortened. In addition, it can be described as a reduced version of a word, phrase, or sentence (Crystal 1994). It includes blends, acronyms, and back-formation. Otherwise, the term clippings are new words formed by omitting part of a word.

f. Phrase

Noun phrases are phrases (English phrases) because of combining nouns, pronouns (pronouns), or numbers with one or more modifiers.

Adjective phrases are phrases (English phrases) because of combining nouns, adjective with one or more modifiers.

Adverbial phrases are phrases (English phrases) because of combining nouns, adverb with one or more modifiers.

Meaning

According to Danesi (2004), meaning is something that cannot be determined in the absolute, but only in relation to other signs: e.g., cat vs. dog; cat vs. bird etc. One term in the relationship of meaning necessarily causes something else to come to the mind.

Furthermore, Cruse (1986) draws a line between the distinction of meaning and grammar, as the sole purpose of grammar is to impart the conveyance of meaning.

Kinds of Meaning

Chaer (2007) divided kinds of meaning into: a lexical, grammatical and contextual meaning, referential and non-referential meaning, denotative and connotative meaning, conceptual and associative meaning, and lexeme. But in this study, there will be only two meaning use, namely lexical and contextual meaning.

1. Lexical meaning

Lexical is the smallest meaning unit in the meaning system of language that could be distinguished from other similar units. A lexeme is an abstract unit. It can occur in many different forms of actual spoken or written sentences. It is regarded as the same lexeme even when inflected. According to Harimurti

(1982), in Chaer (2007), lexical meaning is the meaning of the word when the word is seen in isolation, either in form or shape lexeme affixes who's meaning more or less fixed, as can be read in a particular language dictionary. Lexical meaning refers to the real meaning, meaning that proper with our sense of granted meaning.

2. Contextual meaning

Contextual meaning is the meaning according to the context. Contextual meaning is the meaning of a lexeme or word inside a context. A contextual definition is also a definition in which the term is used by embedding it in a larger expression containing its explanation (Chaer, 2007). Contextual meaning is a linguistic meaning in context (Longman, 1992). For example the meaning of a word is in a sentence or a sentence is in a paragraph. The sentence "do you know the meaning of war?" Has two different contextual meanings. The first contextual meaning in the question sentence, "do you know the meaning of the word war is?" The question sentence changes if expressed by a teacher to the students in the class. While the second contextual meaning is "war produces death, injury, and suffering", if expressed by a war-wounded soldier to politicians who support the war.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study follows a qualitative approach to gain in-depth insights into the linguistic phenomena observed in Valorant. A case study design is employed to analyze the communication patterns and the use of register words within the game's context. Data collection in this study is by looking up some YouTube videos and streaming videos of gamers playing Valorant. The data were taken by taking some words using by the players or written in game display. The data then analyzed by classifying based on its linguistic features and meaning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Lexical Forms

Based on the analysis obtained in this study, the researcher found some linguistics features of Register words in Valorant game with the total number of Registers are 54 registers. There are 11 words of Noun, 6 words of Verb, 4 words of Adjective, 7 words of Abbreviation, 3 words of Clipping, 16 words of Phrases, and 7 words of Compound.

Table 1. Form type/word form

No	Word form	Register	Total
1	Noun	Bomb	11
		Camping	
		Clutch	
		Dink	
		Frag	
		Heaven	
		Hell	
		Smurf	
		Stack	
		Toxic	
		9-3 Curse	
2	Verb	Carry	6
		Feeding	

		Griefing	
		Prefire	
		Rotating	
		Throw	
3	Adjective	Rage	4
		Thrifty	
		Tilt	
		Save	
4	Abbreviaton	OP	7
		OT	
		IGL	
		FF	
		DM	
		AK	
		ACE	
5	Clipping	Rez	3
		Eco	
		Molly	
6	Phrases	Battle Sage	16
		Dry peek	
		Eco frag	
		Entry frag	
		Force buy	
		Ninja defuse	
		Rage hacking	
		Shift walk	
		Team Ace	
		No scope	
		One tap	
		One way	
		Full buy	
		Glass Cannon	
		Rage quit	
		Counter-strafe	
7	Compund	Aimbot	7
		Aimpunch	
		Bunnyhop	
		Jumpthrow	
		Teamkill	
		Wallbang	
		Wallhack	

Registers Meaning

In analysing the meaning of Register, the researcher found 12 lexical meaning and 42 Contextual Meaning.

Table 2. Register Meaning

No	Register	Meaning	Type of Meaning	
			Lexical	Contextual
1	ACE	Abbreviation for "All Clan Elimination".		√

		Mostly used when the entire opposing team gets eliminated by one person	
2	Aimbot	Illegal / bannable software that aids our accuracy	√
3	Aimpunch	Expression on shaking screen after receiving damage	√
4	AK	Alternative term for weapon	√
5	Battle Sage	A mocking term for someone who plays. Sage in an aggressive manner. Also known as Duelist Sage.	√
6	Bunnyhop	Jumping technique with mouse strafe to the sides.	√
7	Bomb	Alternative term for the Spike	√
8	Camping	Hiding in places unnoticed by other players	√
9	Carry	A player with significantly more kills than the rest of his team	√
10	Clutch	Situation in which one player is left alone against his opponents	√
11	Counter-strafe	A movement technique that is based on moving the opposite sideway.	√
12	DM	Abbreviation for "Deathmatch"	√
13	Dink	Alternative term for a headshot	√
14	Dry peek	Peeking without using any abilities	√
15	Eco	An economic situation in which a team must refrain from buying more expensive weapons	√
16	Eco frag	A kill scored during the opposing team's eco round	√
17	Entry frag	First kill of the round	√
18	Feeding	Playing too aggressively	√
19	FF	Abbreviation for "Forfeit"	√
20	Force buy	Buying more expensive weapons despite less than ideal economics	√
21	Frag	Alternative term for a kill	√
22	Full buy	Buying the best weapons possible	√
23	Glass Cannon	Buying an expensive weapon without Shields	√
24	Griefing	Making the game more difficult for your team	√
25	Heaven	Area above a Spike Site, mostly used as a sniper's nest	√
26	Hell	Area below Heaven	√
27	IGL	Abbreviation for "In-Game Leader" It can be said that it is the "brain of the team"; a person responsible for preparing the strategy, setting up the players on the map, and so on.	√
28	Jumpthrow	The movement of throwing and jumping at the same time, often used with smoke or grenade abilities	√
29	Molly	A short for "molotov". These are grenades that kind of explode on detonation and cover the surrounding ground	√
30	Ninja defuse	Unexpected Spike defusal	√
31	No scope	Shooting a sniper rifle without zooming in	√

32	One tap	Scoring a kill with just a single shot (often a headshot)	✓
33	One way	The type of situation in which you can see your enemy and he can't	✓
34	OP	Abbreviation for "Overpowered"	✓
35	OT	Abbreviation for "Overtime"	✓
36	Prefire	Shooting before actually seeing the enemy	✓
37	Rage	Alternative term for experiencing frustration	✓
38	Rage hacking	Used when someone starts using illegal software like the aforementioned wallhack and aimbot, after losing a few rounds	✓
39	Rage quit	Leaving a match due to frustration	✓
40	Rez	Abbreviation for "Resurrect". A reference to Sage's Ultimate Ability	✓
41	Rotating	Basically, moving from one place to another	✓
42	Save	Avoiding potential contact with the opposing team in order to retain weapons due to the low chances of winning the round	✓
43	Shift walk	Moving without making any noise	✓
44	Smurf	A player who has quite good skills and deliberately plays at low ranks.	✓
45	Stack	Used when a team puts 4 or 5 players on the Spike Site	✓
46	Team Ace	When every player from your team gets at least one kill in a round	✓
47	Teamkill	When you deliberately kill a member of your team	✓
48	Throw	Used when we want to say that someone did not try to win the game	✓
49	Thrifty	When you win a round spending less money than the enemy team	✓
50	Tilt	State of emotional frustration	✓
51	Toxic	Someone with very negative behavior.	✓
52	Wallbang	Killing or hitting an opponent through some kind of obstacle (wall, box, etc.)	✓
53	Wallhack	Wallhack is illegal software that lets you see enemies through walls	✓
54	9-3 Curse	A common situation in which the first half of a game ends with a score of 9-3, and the losing team eventually comes back stronger than ever and wins the game.	✓

Linguistics forms of Registers obtained from the game Valorant found many variations of forms. The form that appears the most is Phrases with a total of 15 and the least form is clipping with 3 words. There are various other forms, including Noun with 12 words, Verb with 6 words, Adjective with 4 words, then Abbreviation with 7 words and Compound with 7 words. If we see from these results, this indicates that Valorant uses Registers with more than one word (Phrases) to indicate specific terms in the game. This is because Valorant is a strategy game that can be played by forming a team, so there needs to be game definitions that are easier for players to understand. For example, the word Rage quit, which means 'Leaving a match due to frustration',

this meaning will be easier to understand if it is in the form of a phrase. Another example is one tap which means 'Scoring a kill with just a single shot (often a headshot)', the meaning of this phrase can be better understood if it is in the form of a phrase, it is different if it is just one or just a tap. The other forms of words that are obtained also have the same role. Let us take a look at the nouns with the second largest number, here nouns are used as Registers because Valorant is a war game that requires a lot of armor, so many nouns are used as special terms, such as for example bomb, camping, clutch, dink and frag. The least registers are clipping, this is because this game wants players to easily play the game without too specific language barriers, for example are eco, rez and molly.

As for the types of meanings in the Registers in the Valorant game, the results show that there are 12 lexical meanings and 42 contextual meanings. These results indicate that the registers in Valorant use words that need to be seen contextually, by looking at the contextual meaning of the Registers, players can connect directly with the game. Players can see and understand the context of the situation they are currently experiencing during the game when using Registers.

CONCLUSION

This qualitative study digs into the world of Valorant, examining the different types of word forms and meanings used in register words within the game. By applying sociolinguistic theories, it sheds light on the significance of register in shaping in-game communication. The findings contribute to our understanding of language variation and the formation of speech communities in the dynamic realm of online gaming.

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