CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of study, statement of research problems, objectives, significant of study, definition and key term, scope and limitation.

A. Background of Study

Internet is another world that people can live in virtually. We can find anything in internet whether good or bad things. It is connecting people in the world. Everyone can communicate across the world easily through internet. Even we can get an answer of our problem there. The sources are unlimited.

In contrast to other media, the Internet integrates personal and mass media. It has, in fact, created a new mode of human communication, enabling participants to take part in two-way mass communication. Users of the World Wide Web are no longer passive audiences of data consumers, as in media such as television and radio, but are active participants controlling the content of the information. They shape the quality of the data and respond to them.[1]

Online-discussion forum is one among many benefits we could take from internet. A forum generally built from a group of people who have same interests. An open internet forum is not limited to region, race, religion, nation or gender. People can share their thoughts, problems and knowledge there.

Every forum has their own rules that the members should obey on it, just like society in the real world. The important thing to interact in online-

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1   Sade-Beck L., Internet ethnography: Online and offline, (Beer-Sheva: International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 2004), Vol 3, (2), Article 4, p 2.

discussion forum is communication. It is important to deliver our messages properly, so people can understand what are we intended to. That is why we need to learn international language, it is to communicate with people across the world. English is one of International language that usually used as main language in global forum. However, not all of the member is capable to speak English perfectly, especially for non-native speakers. Their proficiency in English is vary, some of them may face communication problem during the interaction.

In the previews study by Eun-Young Park entitled *"Strategies in Negotiation of Meaning and Self-correction in CMC Interaction"*, she found that the various use of communication strategies for negotiation of meaning and interaction between learners. The finding also indicates that text-chat interaction can be used as a tool to substitute or supplement face-to-face communication.[2]

Based on that background stated above, the researcher aims to know the way non-native negotiate their meaning in the text-based interaction especially on Internet forum. The researcher also wants to know what kind of strategy they used to solve their linguistic problem during the interaction process. Then a communicative interaction was achieved.

In the previews study, the studies was done in task-based research method and limited in the classroom activity. Furthermore, the researcher wants to do the research in different field. In order to get natural setting of the interaction data, researcher takes Internet forum as field of the research.

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[2]   Park, Eun-Young, 2003., "Strategies In Negotiation Of Meaning And Self- Correction In Cmc Interaction," *Multimedia-Assisted Language Learning, Vol* 6 No 2, p 66.

Beside to get more natural setting of the study, it is also aim to capture dynamic range interaction of multicultural interaction in online-discussion forum.

Based on that reason, The researcher formulated the study entitled *"Non-Native Communication Strategies in Negotiating Meaning in Online Discussion Forum".*

B. Statement of Research Problems

In line with the background of the study, the analysis of communication strategies in negotiating meaning in online-discussion forum will be conducted with the main theory of communication strategies proposed by Dornyei and Scott to answer the problem. The research question was formulated as follows:

1. How do non-native speakers negotiate meaning to achieve communicative interaction in online-discussion forum?

C. Objectives

The objective of this study based on the problem that is stated in previous points, this research is expected know how non-native speakers negotiating meaning in text-based interaction on online-discussion. The study also expected to know the types of communication strategies used by non-natives in online-discussion forum.

D. Significance of Study

This study provides the analysis of communication strategies that non-native speakers were used in Internet forum to negotiate meaning. It also provides the types of communication strategies that used by non-native speakers to interact with others in Internet forum.

The finding of the study can be used to improve non-native speakers' strategy in online-discussion interaction. So they can negotiate their meaning and achieve a communicative interaction in online-discussion forum by adopting or adapting these strategies. The result of the study also gives contribution in the development of the main theories. For the researcher itself it can give more understanding in theory of communication strategies.

E. Scope And Limitation

This study focuses on how non-native speakers use communication strategies to negotiate meaning on Internet forum. This study can not cover all of non-native speakers in the particular forum, because the lack of identifying non-native speakers in the discussion forum. As we know, many people used avatar or anonymity while interacting in Internet environment. Sometimes they don't show their identity, such the country they come from, or their name. So it is difficult to identify whether they are native or non-native.

F. Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms is very important in this thesis. It is aim to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation in the study. The terms are necessary to be defined as follows:

1. **Communication Strategies**

    Complete agreement has not been reached on the definition of CSs, but one working definition many researchers accept is that CSs are "a systematic technique employed by a speaker to express his (or her) meaning when faced with some difficulty."[3]

2. **Negotiating Meaning**

    Negotiating meaning is a mutual attempt of two interlocutors to agree on a meaning where meaning structures do not seem to be shared in particular situations.

3. **Online-discussion Forum**

    Online-discussion forum is a discussion site in Internet where people can hold conversations in the form of posted messages. The posted messages can be accessed by everyone depend on the forum privacy policy.

4. **Non-native Speakers**

    Non-native speaker is a person who doesn't speak English as a mother tongue. In other word, non-native speaker here is a person who speak English as a second language, third language or as foreign language.

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[3] Dornyei, Z, On the teachability of communication strategies, (Budapest: TESOL Quarterly, 1995) vol. 29, No. 1. p 56.