

**A STUDY OF ACRONYM USAGE IN PUBLIC FIGURES' TWITTER  
IMPLICIT MEANING ANALYSIS**

**S-1 THESIS ARTICLE**



**By**

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# A STUDY OF USING ACRONYM IN SOCIAL MEDIA “TWITTER”

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## ABSTRAK:

This study aims to find out an acronym usage in Twitter account uploads and the implicit meaning contained in the acronym. There are three accounts used in this study: Donald Trump, Rick Wilson, and Jake Tapper. They are public figures whose accounts always writes a tweet using an acronym. This study used descriptive qualitative method. Researchers used Twitter posts from Donald Trump, Rick Wilson, and Jake Tapper as data. The number of data were 18 Twitter posts consist of three accounts. Each account has 6 data acronyms examined. The researcher found the type of implicit meaning in the acronym, referential meaning (10), organizational meaning (3), and situational meaning (5). The most appropriate type in this data was implicit referential meaning. It appears that the three accounts more often show meanings that can be seen in general. The description is obtained from observations by take the data directly on social media Twitter.

**Keywords:** Acronym, implicit meaning, social communication

## INTRODUCTION

Internet has various facilities that can be used to search for information. Besides the internet makes it easy for people to communicate and express opinions through a variety of application choices. With this convenience the internet is not infrequently used for negative things such as spreading hoaxes, gossiping other people, spreading hate speech as if it were good etc. For this reason, as a netizen must be smart to use the internet for things that are positive and beneficial to everyone.

According to the experience of researchers, currently the reason people use social media is for lifestyle. Almost everyone, young and old, has a social media account to show off their lifestyle. It also affects the style of writing because it follows the times. The closest people often send text with acronyms and there are also lots of acronym posts on social media. In some posts people often use acronyms for the need to write quickly, shorten the writing and as a style to make it look more modern. This affects every reader to do the same thing. But some people just join in without knowing the meaning of the acronym. This can trigger a misunderstanding of understanding the meaning in the text. To avoid this, the researcher wants to explore about acronyms and

choose acronyms as research objects. This research is expected to help people who still have difficulty understanding the meaning in the acronym.

One of popular social networks right now is Twitter. Jansen et al. (2009) describes Twitter as a microblog i.e. a small derivate of a regular blog, albeit with content in form of short tweets comprising 140 characters or less. These short messages in form of tweets are often delivered to a network of associates, enabling the users to share updates with a network of followers (Jansen et al. , 2009). Twitter as the popular platform presents the use of acronym. Twitter has a significant difference from other social accounts. The difference is that the users are limited to expressing ideas in a short space of only 280 characters. This certainly tends to trigger its users to use acronyms. The conversation carried out on Twitter is about daily life and small talk, so it will be more communicative if the user chooses informal language rather than using formal language. Related in the previous study, Bin Ne'matullah (2017). Many influential and entertainment national and international figures actively use Twitter to socialize more closely with fans.

Acronym is often found on social media Twitter. An acronym is a word or name formed as a type of abbreviation formed from the initial components of the words of a longer content such as of a name or phrase, often with individual initial letters. The word may already exist or it can be a new word. According to Laurie Bauer ( 1985) an acronym is a word coined by taking the initial letters of the word in a title or phrase and using them as new word. Teenagers often create a variety of new languages such as acronyms. The word can be called slang word. Slang words is a social variation that is special and confidential. This variation used by certain circles that are very limited, and should not be known by circles outside the group. Therefore, the vocabulary used in slang is always changing (Chaer and Agustina, 2004: 67). The use of the acronym is not only due to limitations space and character, also the writer's creativity in abbreviating, summarize, or change a word. While Birner (2002) mentioned that language is constantly changing, evolving and adapting based on the needs of its speakers.

There is an implicit meaning in acronym. But some people only see from explicit. Sometimes it makes people misunderstand in communicating. According to Larson (1998), there are two types of meaning (43), that is meaning which is expressed explicitly and there is meaning which is left implicit. Larson classifies implicit meaning

into three types, namely implicit referential meaning, implicit organization meaning, and implicit situational meaning. So this article, aims to analyze of implicit meaning in acronym from three accounts; Donald Trump, Rick Wilson, and Jake Tapper.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research used descriptive qualitative method. The research subject is only taken from certain influential and public figures. The researcher only focuses on Donald Trumps, Rick Wilson and Jake Tapper posts on social media Twitter. For taking the data, the researcher limited the topic that only used acronym. Researchers conducted research to find acronyms and to analyze the implicit meaning. The researcher uses three kind of implicit meaning. There are referential meaning, organizational meaning and situational meaning. The numbers of data are 18, and it is limited by time. Each account is taken of 6 data as the acronym. These tweets were chosen based on some consideration such as the tweets were presented in the English language, in the form of word, phrase, clause, sentence, and paragraph. The researcher carefully records the data in the form of words, sentences, discourse, pictures or photos, then the researcher analyzes the data to make general conclusions. Belongs to this research design, the first instrument was the researcher because researcher is the role to select the data, identify the data, and describe the data. It means the researcher as the key of the research. And the secondary instrument was data sheet. This research used four procedures to analyze the data. The first technique was identifying the post on Twitter. Second, interpreting data used data-sheet. Third, discussing the result of the data-sheet. And the last, taking the conclusion of analysis data. The points of concluding were analyze the implicit meaning and the researcher also found the social effect of used acronym toward Twitter user.

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

The data that have been found by the researcher in Twitter are 18 samples that indicate as the types of implicit meaning. The researcher found the various types of implicit meaning, consist are implicit referential meaning, implicit organizational meaning, and implicit situational meaning. Researchers took data sources from three selected accounts, namely Donald J. Trump, Rick Wilson, and Jake Tapper. Following are the

data types of meaning implied in the acronym collected by researchers from the Twitter account.

**Classification of Implicit Meaning**

Account	Categories	Data	Total
<b>Donald Trump</b>	Referential Meaning	3	<b>6</b>
	Organizational Meaning		
	Situational Meaning	3	
<b>Rick Wilson</b>	Referential Meaning	2	<b>6</b>
	Organizational Meaning	2	
	Situational Meaning	2	
<b>Jake Tapper</b>	Referential Meaning	5	<b>6</b>
	Organizational Meaning	1	
	Situational Meaning		

The result type of implicit meaning based on the table above that has been analyzed can be concluded that the most dominant is implicit referential meaning.

## **DISCUSSION**

In the data discussion, the researcher discusses the result of implicit meaning found in three accounts, Donald Trump, Rick Wilson, and Jake Tapper. There are three points that will be presented consist of the implicit referential meaning, implicit organizational meaning, and implicit organizational meaning can be explained as below:

### **Types of implicit meaning**

#### ***Implicit Referential Meaning***

Implicit referential meaning refers to the meaning of objects, attributes of certain events or relationships that can be seen or imagined where the information content is informed. This means that the relationship between the meaning of the acronym and all the events conveyed are interrelated. Without the need for explicit explanation everyone

knows what it means. That is the meaning of any object is not always communicated directly because people already know what is meant without a detailed explanation. That happens because it is based on knowledge that is generally known since childhood.

In this study, it was found the use implicit referential meaning. Proven in the accounts Donald Trump, Rick Wilson, and Jake Tapper. All three accounts were found to have implicit referential meaning. In the three accounts that have also implicit referential meaning there are several that fall into the category of personal reference. Included in the personal reference category are found pronouns, possessive determiner, and possessive pronouns. But from the above findings only found pronoun and possessive determiner in the acronym. In implicit referential meaning there are characteristic types of personal references, one of which uses pronoun in the sentence. The pronoun uses I, you, he, she, we, it, and they.

#### Implicit Referential Meaning Personal Reference

[Jake Tapper @jaketapper](#)

Icymi

*Repost*

[Jake Tapper @jaketapper](#)

FOLKS!! Juwan Adams is an extraordinary 17 year old in Abington, PA, and is in desperate need of a stem cell donor match to survive Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Juwan is ALSO on a mission to recruit more African American donors as they are particularly unlikely to find a match.

In this study, it was found the use of pronouns that indicate personal reference referential meaning. Proven in the second data in the Jake Tapper account. In the data there is an acronym ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) with the pronoun "You" in it. "You" is aimed at followers and those who use Twitter accounts who read Jake Tapper's tweets.

In the personal reference category also found possessive determiner in the sentence. The use of possessive determiner is my, your, their. In this study, it was found that the use of possessive determiner that indicate referential meaning is personal reference. The meaning of information which in sentences uses ownership pronouns.

The pronoun is used to state that something that is spoken is the possession of the speaker or respondent. So emphasize that it belongs to the speaker or respondent so that the information provided is clear and does not cause many questions to arise.

#### Implicit Referential Meaning Personal Reference

[Jake Tapper @jaketapper](#)

@TomBrady FYI if you go to another team, one of my producers, Boston's own @HaleyMuseCNN ,says she will unfollow you on Instagram and write you a strongly-worded letter.  
Consider yourself warned.

In this study, it was found the use of possessive determiner that indicate personal reference referential meaning. Proven on the third data in the Jake Tapper account. In the data there is an acronym FYI (For Your Information) with possessive determiner "Your" in it. "Your" is aimed at followers and those who use Twitter accounts who read Jake Tapper's tweets.

#### ***Implicit Organizational Meaning***

Implicit organizational meaning refers to the meaning of certain information which may be old and some new information. Certain information may be the topic (what is being talked about) from the discourse, other information commenting on the topic and some information may be more important for the message. That is more important or more prominent. This is the meaning of organizations that put referential information together into a coherent text. In accounts that contains implicit organizational meaning there are some that fall into the category of passive sentences. Included in the category of passive sentence is when the focus of the conversation is on activity or work rather than focus on the subject. Only two accounts have been found for implicit organizational meaning, which is owned by Rick Wilson and Jack Tapper.

In implicit organizational meaning there are characteristics of types that use passive sentences. The general principle of using passive sentences is when the focus of the conversation is on activities or work rather than focusing on the subject. In this study, found the use of passive sentences that indicate organizational meaning.

The meaning of information that is not directly discussed in terms of the subject but can still be understood. Passive sentences are used to convey information in general



without having to involve the subject. Based on the findings, the right time in the use of passive sentences in public communication both verbally or in writing is when delivering information that is emphasized on the content or activity to be conveyed. Passive sentences function to express an action that we do not know who is the person or we know the person but we don't want to mention it. Besides that, passive sentences also function to speak or write in formal situations

#### Implicit Organizational Meaning (Passive Sentence)

[Rick Wilson @TheRickWilson](#)

Trump and his CPAC buddies are crumbling in the face of coronavirus stock market panic.

Proven in the fourth and sixth data on Rick Wilson's account. In the data contained acronym CPAC (Conservative Political Action Committee) and ASAP (As Soon As Possible). The acronym shows passive sentences associated with captions in their tweets.

#### ***Implicit Situational Meaning***

In implicit situational meaning refers to the meaning that arises because of the relationship between speech and the situation at the time the conversation was spoken. Meaning can be influenced by things like; the relationship between the speaker and the respondent, cultural background or differences in cultural factors, talk time and place to talk, and movement that occurs during the communication process. In this research which contains implicit situational meaning there are several types that fall into the category of implicit situational meaning. Namely Implicit Situational Meaning because of Culture Background, Implicit Situational Meaning caused by Time and Place of Communication Take Place, and Implicit Situational Meaning Because of Gesture When Speech. Only two accounts have been found for implicit situational meaning, which is owned by Donald Trump and Rick Wilson.

In situational meaning because of the relationship between the speaker and the respondent, it refers to the relationship between the two speakers and respondent. This relationship affects the communication situation. Each speaker has a different communication situation with each different respondent. This means that each speaker has his own way of speaking to each respondent so that the purpose of communication

can run smoothly without any misunderstanding or miss communication. This respondent depends on the relationship with the speaker.

In situational meaning because of the cultural background it refers to the relationship between the two speakers and respondent. This relationship affects the communication situation. Each speaker has a different communication situation with each different respondent. This means that each speaker has his own way of speaking to each respondent so that the purpose of communication can run smoothly without any misunderstanding or miss communication. This respondent depends on the cultural background of the speaker. So the speaker can adjust what talks will be discussed with the respondent. If the respondent comes from the same cultural background or habits then the meaning of the conversation left implied is not a problem.

In this study found a situational meaning because of culture background in the first data, data 3, and data 5 in Donald Trump's account. In the data there are acronyms MAGA (Make American Great Again) and KAG (Keep American Great). The acronym proves that there is an implicit situational meaning because of cultural background. Because the acronym is only aimed at the US people. Other people who are lay people and not US people do not know the meaning of the acronym.

#### Implicit Situational Meaning because of Culture Background

[Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump](#)

On my way to the Great State of South Carolina. See everyone soon! [#MAGA#KAG](#)

In situational meaning caused by time and place of communication take place refers to the situation the conversation takes place. This time and place affects the communication situation. Every conversation has a different communication situation with different times and places. So every conversation does have the same words as other words that have different meanings. The different intentions are distinguished by different time and place situations. When the speaker talks about things that have a lot of meaning, the respondent will immediately understand which meaning the speaker is referring to because the time and place of the conversation takes place. So communication can run smoothly without any misunderstanding or misscommunication.

In situational meaning because of gesture when speech refers to body movements or body gestures when communicating. This body movement affects the communication situation. Every conversation has a communication situation using body gestures. So every conversation does not have to be talked about through words that come out of the mouth but also through body gestures. When the speaker communicates using the body's gesture, the respondent will immediately understand what is meant and what the speaker feels.

#### Implicit Situational Meaning Because of Gesture When Speech

[Rick Wilson @TheRickWilson](#)

Lolol

*Repost*

((ProperGanderNews)) @BamaStephen Replay @CPAC

Welcome to "Booth 402" at #CPAC!

In this study found a situational meaning because of gesture when speech on the 5th data in Rick Wilson's account. In the data there is an acronym LOL (Laughing Out Loud). The acronym proves that there is an implicit situational meaning because of gesture when speech. Because at the time when Rick Wilson wrote or said this in his acronym, he was laughing out loud because of these comments. This means that Rick Wilson expresses the gestures that occur during the communication process.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### Conclusion

Based on the finding analysis the research can be concluded that:

The most dominant kinds of implicit meaning that is referential meaning with 10 data. With the total, all of the data obtained in the implicit meaning is 18 data. The result of analysis based on in finding this article such as referential meaning are 10 data, organizational meaning 3 data, and situational meaning 5 data. In the three finding areas namely implicit referential meaning, implicit organizational meaning and implicit situational meaning each has an implementation in social communication. All have meaning and purpose in achieving communication. So an communication is not always made explicit and explained in detail in order to reach the respondent. By implying

something in it without the need for a detailed explanation, someone who knows the basis of referential meaning, organizational meaning and situational meaning will be able to understand.

## **SUGGESTION**

The researcher gives some suggestion from this research as follows:

The experts or practitioners of pragmatics area expected to be able to provide a broader scope related to the theory pragmatics that used as a reference source in research. After the results of this research hope the reader will know a lot about what are the kinds the utterances of implicit meaning. In addition, these kinds of implicit meaning can use as attention when doing interaction. Hopefully, this linguistics research can be used as additional information as well as a reference regarding the study of the pragmatics implicit meaning. Then, can be a source of motivation for similar research in analyzing various kinds in the implicit meaning.

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