Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of The Research

Register is one of the language concepts in the sociolinguistics study domain, which is one of the language variations. According to Holmes (2013), register is the language that a bunch of people use in the same jobs or concerns, or related with that bunch (p.262). Following Holmes' theory, this means that the use of register depends on the interest of the users. For instance, language in the football community, music community, film community, etc.

In addition to the examples above, registers are also found in the gaming community. This is because the gaming community uses their own language that can be understood by fellow gamers. The register in this community is a register that relates to game mechanics. These registers are born because of the development of gamers.

In this era, the gamer community is growing rapidly because of technological developments and the internet. These factors make it easy for gamers to access and play various games. Furthermore, this also causes the development and spread of registers related to game mechanics to be increasingly varied. The best example of this situation is the birth of online games. According to the article titled *Online Games* written by Chen (2015), the definition of an online game is a type of game that allows two players or more to play together using the internet (p.1). This game also has many genres, and one of the most popular genres from online games is multiplayer battle arena, or MOBA.

According to Sicilia and Mora-Cantallops (2018), MOBA games are part of the real strategy game genre which consists of two teams fighting each other to win the battle, usually each team consisting of five players (p.128). One of the famous multiplayer battle arena games on mobile right now is *Mobile Legends Bang Bang* or MLBB. Both teams in this game will be on the same map and the goal of the game is to destroy the enemy base to win the game.

There are two reasons why this game has become popular in recent days. The first reason is that this game is a team game. This is one of the crucial factors that can cause

people to love to play this game because they need to collaborate with others. It means that the players have to communicate with each other to achieve victory. They should make sure that their communication runs smoothly while they are playing.

Furthermore, the second reason is that *Mobile Legends Bang Bang* is an adaptive game. This is because the developer always updates this game to make sure the gameplay of this game keeps balance and improves. Moonton as the developer of MLBB will give information regarding this update to MLBB gamers in patch notes. According to the Lark gaming dictionary (2024), the definition of patch note is an announcement from the publisher to players that contains updates for gameplay, changes the gameplay, and also fixes the bug if that game has a bug (p.1). For *Mobile Legends Bang Bang*, the information that Moonton provides in the patch notes is about the changes in gameplay, improvements of the hero and equipment in the game, collaboration events, etc.

Then, on this patch notes, many gaming registers appear in that announcement. For instance, *hero*, *matchmaking*, *DMG*, *brawl*, *ranked*, *mana*, *cooldown*, *buff*, *nerf*, *physical attack*, etc. However, there is an issue related to these game mechanics registers in patch notes. That problem is when a new gamer who is not familiar yet with *Mobile Legends Bang Bang* tries this game, that player can be confused when he reads the patch notes. This is because the developer provides information in the patch notes use many game mechanics registers and that registers are too complicated for new players to understand it. For instances, *passive movement* and *passive skill*. It is challenging for a newbie to distinguish those registers' meanings because their form is almost equal. Furthermore, another example is the *hero*. For general people, a hero means a person who wants to help another without ulterior motives, while in the MLBB context, the hero is a playable character.

Then, this situation can cause misunderstanding for new players that can also impact their or their team's performance while playing MLBB. The reason for this is that *Mobile Legend Bang Bang* is a game team. If there is one player in that team who is not able to understand that patch note, he will not adapt to new gameplay very well. This can cause a problem in his team's performance because that player will be a burden on his team.

From those explanations above, it can be seen that this can confuse the players. It can happen because of a lack of understanding of game mechanics that registers in *Mobile Legends Bang Bang* patch notes for new players. Therefore, this research will examine the

linguistics form and investigate the meaning of those game mechanics registers in MLBB patch notes

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the word formations of registers related to game mechanics in the latest *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch note?
2. What are the meanings of registers related to game mechanics in the latest *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch note?

1.3 Objective of the Research

1. To understand the word formation game mechanics registers in the latest *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch note.
2. To know the meaning of game mechanics registers in the latest *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch note.

1.4 Focus on the Research

This research focus on register related to game mechanic in *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch notes in January 2025. This is because the patch note contains many registers related to game mechanic.

1.5 Methods of the Research

The type of this research is library research. This is because this research data is taken from the patch notes from those three games. It means that this study will not need to find data or samples in the field. This research only looked for selected game mechanics registers from *Mobile Legends Bang Bang* patch note.

This research is qualitative research. As reported by Bhandari (2020) on the Scribr website, entitled *What Is Qualitative Research? | Methods & Examples,* qualitative research is research that has the purpose of knowing the idea, concept, or experiences by gathering and investigating non-arithmetical data (p.1). According to the explanation about the definition of qualitative research before, the reason this research uses the qualitative method is due to the focus of collecting data for this study will not be in number form. However, this study only collects data from the patch notes to gather the game mechanics

registers.

1.5.1 Data Collection

This part will provide information about the data source, method, technique, and procedure for collecting data for this research.

1.5.1.1 Source of Data

The data for this research are *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* game mechanic registers, while the source of data for this research is *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch notes in January 2025. According to the Lark gaming dictionary (2024), a patch note is an official announcement of information regarding game updates from the game developer to gamers. This patch notes will be updated every three months by the developer. The reason this research choose MLBB patch notes in January 2025 is because this patch notes is the latest one at this time. Furthermore, this patch note contains many game mechanic registers.
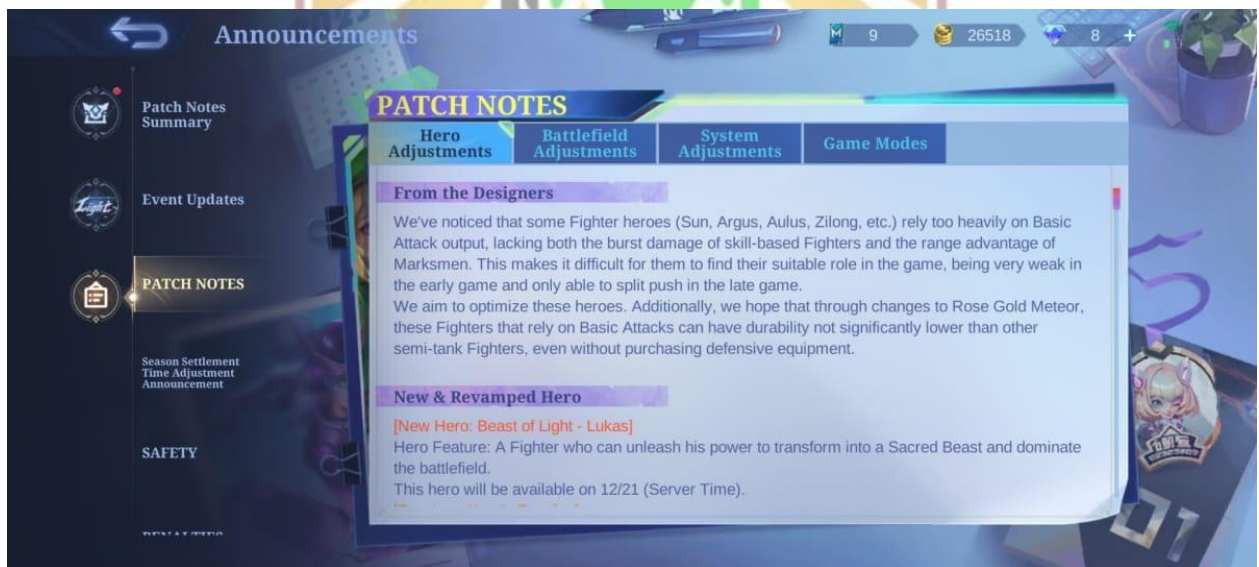

Figure 1.1 The *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* Patch Notes on January 2025

1.5.1.2 Methods and Techniques

According to Creswell (2009) in his book, he classified qualitative research procedures

into 4 types, namely interviews, observations, media-audio visuals, and documents (p. 145-146). Based on Creswell's statements, this research will apply the document procedure. Creswell (2009) defined document procedure as the way that a researcher uses to collect data from official documents or public documents (p. 147). As Creswell stated about the definition of document procedure, this procedure is suitable if applied to this research because the data are taken from the *Mobile Legends Bang Bang* patch notes. That announcement is a public document due to the players are free to access it.

1.5.1.3 Procedure of Data Collection

Here are several steps of data collection for this research:

a. *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch notes were accessed.

b. Several game mechanics registers from *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch notes were taken through screenshots.

c. Those selected game mechanics registers from *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch notes were grouped in a table.

d. Those game mechanics registers from *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* were examined to see their word formation using Bauer's theory (1983).

e. Game mechanics registers from *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* meaning in MLBB context were compared with their general meaning in English dictionary to know their meaning using Halliday and Hasan's theory (1989).

f. The results from the analysis were concluded.

1.5.2 Data Analysis

This research will apply Bauer's theory (1983) of word formation to investigate the linguistic form of game mechanics registers in *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch notes. Furthermore, Halliday and Hasan's theory (1989) about the register's meaning will be the tool for analyzing the meaning of selected game mechanic registers from *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* patch notes.

1.5.3 Presenting Data

After analyzing all game mechanics registers that appeared on the *Mobile Legends Bang Bang* patch note in January 2025, the registers that will be explained in the are only

three registers that represent each of the nine types of word formation proposed by Bauer (1983).

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

These are several key terms in this research to help the readers understand the content of this study:

a. Sociolinguistics

According to Wardhaugh (2006), sociolinguistics is the study of understanding the structure and function of language in the relationship between sociology and language (p.13).

b. Registers

As stated by Halliday and Hasan (1989), a register is part of semantics and defined as the structure of meaning closely associated with a specific situation of mode, tenor, and field. However, they must also have phonological features, expression, indexical features, and the lexico-grammatical (p. 38-39).

c. Mobile Games

According to Jeong and Kim (2007) in their research, the definition of a mobile game is a game that can be played via mobile devices and can communicate via wireless like a PDA and smartphone (p.185).

d. *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* (MLBB)

According to *Mobile Legends* Wiki Fandom, *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* or MLBB is an online mobile game in the MOBA genre that was developed by Moonton in Brazil in 2016. This game consists of 5v5 players on one map in which those players have each role and they must destroy the opponent's final tower to win the game (p.1).