You're Terribly Awesome!: Compliments among Sing! User

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Abstract: This study explores on the types of compliments offered by users in *Sing!,* an online karaoke application with comment section for chatting. The researcher classified the types of comments the *Sing!* users into the choice of expressions. The classification was divided from 50 recordings extracted from several famous *Sing!* users. The participants of this research were ten (10) famous personal *Sing!* users who had a huge number of followers. Each participant contributed in providing five (5) recordings with comments, which included a random quantity of participants' favourite solo and duet recordings. These classifications then was analysed with the theory of compliments to find out the types of compliments given in *Sing!*.

1 INTRODUCTION

In the past two years, an application called *Sing!*, which was launched by *Smule,* has become a trend as a platform for those who both love singing and love engaging in online communication. It, somehow, becomes a new innovation for those people who are too lazy to go to karaoke place but still want to communicate with other people through the same hobby, singing. Through *Sing!* everyone can share the same hobby and communicate via online platform at the same time. It is relevant to the idea that online chatting has become a culture nowadays (Slama, 2010). Some studies discussing the popularity of online chatting are common to find from year to year (Notley, 2009; Wang *et al.*, 2011; Freiermuth, 2015). Numerous studies have focused on comparing online chatting with face to face interaction (Lipinski-Harten and Tafarodi, 2012; Hallett and Barber, 2014; Meredith and Stokoe, 2014). Some are focusing on the point of view of gender in online chatting (Guzzetti, 2008; Armentor-Cota, 2011). Some others deal with examining the intimacy among users in online chatting (Van Manen, 2010; Saroca, 2012; Doh and Whang, 2014; Wang, 2015). Another research has pointed out that social networking sites, in the case of online chatting through twitter, offer the possibility of extended thinking about the third place role in developing online connectivity (McArthur and White, 2016).

Interesting things when it comes to online chatting are the use of words to compliment people.

There are several studies talking about compliments (Buey, 1905; Adachi, 2016; Malcolm, 2016). Some people focus on gender point of view in giving as well as receiving compliment (Herbert, 1990; Johnson, 1992). Herbert in his research found that compliments from men are generally accepted, moreover by women (Herbert, 1990). Meanwhile, women commonly responded with several types of sentences when they are given compliments. These findings are based on the discussion of the differences between male and female in speech as well as the sociology of compliment work.

Several research dealing with online compliments are also available (Maíz-Arévalo and García-Gómez, 2013; Stabile, 2014). Maiz-Arevalo & Gracia-Gomez explore on how Facebook users, as one of online social networks, practice compliments to praise other users and to strengthen social understanding between people both in English and Spanish (Maíz-Arévalo and García-Gómez, 2013). The finding shows that compliments in both languages follow certainly different frequencies of practice which reflect deep cultural differences.

In relation to gender and communication, Tannen, Michaud and Warner, and Basow and Rubenfeld proposed the same idea that communication and take-turning between different gender were difficult to deal with (Tannen, 1990; Michaud and Warner, 1997; Basow and Rubenfeld, 2003). However, a research by Edward and Hamilton has debated the idea by providing a research focusing on complex model that

incorporated gender role as a factor that influences how the messages are interpreted Edwards and Hamilton, 2004). MacGeorge et al. have also proposed the same idea that the communication of different gender is possible and not as difficult as the myth, as well as Athenstaedt et al. have argued (MacGeorge *et al.*, 2004; Athenstaedt and Schwab, 2004). In addition, in terms of how each gender reacts in communication, a research by Halberstadt et. al has shown that women give more positive reaction compared to men (Halberstadt *et al, 1988)*. A research by Wagner et al. also adds up the findings of Halberstadt et al.'s research by providing real findings of emotional reaction's differences of both gender (Wagner *et al., 1993)*. Last, a research by Mojica also provides an exploratory study toward compliment-giving by describing that females tend to give more and longer compliment than males (Mojica, 2002).

Wolfson has stated that compliments are one of many types of speech acts that have main function as the establishment of solidarity between the speaker and the addressee (Manes, and Wolfson, 1981; Wolfson, 1983; Wolfson, 1989). Or if I may quote Holmes' statement (1988), "a compliment is a speech act which explicitly or implicitly attributes credit to someone other than the speaker, usually the person addressed, for some good (possession, characteristics, skills, etc.) which is positively valued by the speaker and the hearer." Wolfson has formulated four types of objects of compliments:

- **Possession.** The speaker compliments the addressee on his/her (new) possession, such as clothing, or ornaments, etc.

- **Skill.** The speaker compliments the addressee on the result of his/her skill or effort, including cooking, writing, drawing, singing, etc.

- **Appearance.** The topic of complimenting is hair, face, or overall appearance.

- **Personality.** The compliment is mainly about addressee's morally positive points such as kindness, good championship, and general features.

Of these four objects, the one that matches with the purpose of this research is the skill as object of compliment because singing is a part of skill.

As what the researcher has mentioned chronologically above, it turns out that the topic about compliment-giving has been a common issue. The conducted research are found both in online and offline topics. Several research even focus on the way different genders deliver compliments. However, to the best or the researcher's knowledge, no one has taken focus on the compliments given in online karaoke platform. Based on my personal experience, there are many compliments-giving among users of *Sing!*, one of online karaoke platform, which leads to the decision to make *Sing!* as the media of this research.

Sing!, which was first launched in 2012 by Smule, is chosen as the media of this study. This application has become the most famous online karaoke in the world with around 100 million downloaders and around three million active users (Playstore, 2018). It endorses around 25 million people to produce music including singing, rapping, and composing songs every month (Apteligent.com; Digitalrealty.com). Its huge numbers of users are very helpful in providing online data of complimenting in online chatting. This application is also relevant to the researcher's focus on observation because Ruismaki et al. in their research found that the participants saw karaoke singing as a positive achievement (Ruismäki *et al., 2013)*, while achievement is commonly followed by compliment and sometimes insult. However, their research only focuses on the detail of the achievement itself. It does not discuss more on the consequences of achievement; Compliments. Therefore, this study focuses more on the compliments given from the karaoke activities within *Sing!*.

Generally, this study may lead into another new supporting finding regarding the preceding theories of compliment and some other theories this study may refer to. Theoretically, this study contributes to the body knowledge of linguistic area, especially in terms of pragmatic area, in situations when interlocutors deal with compliments. In addition, this research can lead to other and broader research such as the use of certain part of speech, maxim, or any other language feature regarding compliments. Practically, this study gives insightful classification regarding compliment inside online karaoke chatting area that may possibly help readers and/or further researchers for the same type of research which may focus on *Sing! by Smule* itself, or the issue regarding compliment within online chatting. This study can also provide real samples of how different gender varies in complimenting, in this case is for singing. In this research, I propose one big question for this study to obtain a significant result that is What are the types of compliment expressions found in *Sing!*?

2 METHOD

This study is designed to have a combination of qualitative and descriptive approach in order to describe the observation and detailed documentation of a phenomenon of interest. Qualitative methodology is known as a means to explore attitudes, behavior and experiences through such methods as interviews or focus group discussion (Dawson, 2009). In short, qualitative approach is particularly valuable in providing rich and in-depth data (Litosseliti, 2010).

The main source of this study was the compliment among different gender users in *Sing!*. The compliments were randomly collected from the participants who the researcher purposely chose among her famous friends in *Sing!*. In order to choose ten participants, the researcher made preliminary rules. The first rule was that the participants must be famous users which can be proven from the number of followers they have. The researcher decided that users who have more than 2,000 followers can be a part of this research. It is because, based on the researcher's observation, the more followers the users have, the more they have fans as compliment givers. The second rule was that the researcher chose ten users that the researcher knows well in order to avoid misinterpretation in describing the data. The last rule was that the compliments made in the comment section of participants' recording counted were in English. If the comment contained a combination of two or more languages in it but the researcher found at least a compliment in it, it would be included into the data as well. Yet, the researcher still aimed to focus more on English compliment. The participants chosen were detailed in the following table.

Table 3.1 List of participants

NO	*Sing!* Username	Gender	Followers
1	@BlueSargent	Female	10,575
2	@Cinderella_JK	Female	43,414
3	@Ciyarasn	Female	2,374
4	@rhe17	Female	4,864
5	@sapphireskyfall	Female	2,410
6	@00_tonxki	Male	2,962
7	@Alfa_Jun	Male	2,639
8	@Marchianto	Male	6,716
9	@RenaltaAtha	Male	4,145
10	@Suju_Heechul	Male	4,909

According to Merriam, there are three types of data collection; conducting effective interview, being a careful observer, and mining data from documents (Merriam, 2009). This study used the third technique because of the platform that the researcher had to get the data from, *Sing!*. The data here refer to the compliments that the researcher collected from the comment section in *Sing!* recordings.

To collect the data, the researcher had to own an account of *Sing!* first. After having an account, the researcher searched ten mutual users who have the most number of followers that would become the participants of this study (data can be seen in table 3.1). Of five female and five male participants, the researcher collected 50 recordings. Of the recording that have been collected, the researcher then collected the comments that contain compliments. The comments that contain compliments, then, were transferred to a sheet in Microsoft Excel in the form of table to make it easier for the researcher to analyze the data later. In order to analyze the data, the data were classified into four scopes; compliments based on the choice of adjectives, special terms, swear words, and emoticons. the four scopes are under a big scope of the choice of expression.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Compliment Base on Choice of Adjectives

From 415 compliments, there are 232 compliments that contain adjectives in them. Each compliment can vary in terms of the number of adjectives. It can contain one or more adjectives in it, such as in the following compliments:

- "👍 👍 👍 👍 WOOWWW u guys did really awesome **@BlueSargent @tonxki**
- "❤❤❤😳😳😳" @888888iak
- "*SPEECHLESS* SO PERFECT!.♥♡♥♡♥" @LexVcodes
- "neo ddo El! i felt something different with your voice, i heard stable vibra and veeery smooth. love this collab! 😵💝😽" @AnggiaPramudita
- "Oh my gosh Bachu I'm an embarrassment next to you omg? You made it sound so effortless and smooth and lovely you're fantastic 😬❤😽" @BlueSargent

The compliments with adjective range from the common ones such as *nice* and *good* to the intensive

ones that show how the compliment giver really appreciates the singer(s) such as *awesome, amazing, perfect, wonderful, flawless, mind-blowing, marvelous, outstanding, fantastic, incredible, gorgeous,* and *lit.* Those adjectives can be seen in the following examples of compliments.

- "Good voice...i like your voice..." @Aina_nazili
- "U guys are amazing at singing and rapping" @KAI_ONEW_
- "Flawlesssssssss 😊😊😊😊❤️❤️❤️❤️ my idol ... 😂😂❤️❤️❤️ get well soon dear. I miss you 😎😔😣" @homkay_
- "your voice is incredible Jane, thanks for singing this song, I will not get tired of listening to this song ..." @PuddingJelly17

Not only that, some *Sing!* users are very creative to include adjectives that represent character such as *cool, soothing, soft, energetic, cute, clear, pure,, hot, smooth, sexy, sweet, angelic, lit, lovely* and *unreal.* These kind of adjectives, in my opinion, can make the singers feel special by having character of their singing voice. The examples of compliments with these adjectives are in the following sentences.

- "So soothing voices ~ 😌" @Heynseu
- "Soft, yet energetic. That's oppa marchi 😛" @hannurhay
- "I'm in heaven😈😈😈 those harmonies are angelic. I'm not korean either 😄😄 your pronunciation is almost perfect though !!! ❤️❤️❤️😌" @sapphireskyfall
- "OMG LIT DEYM 😊😊😊🔥🔥🔥❤️❤️❤️ I JUST GOT AN EARGASM WITH THIS HAHA
😊😊😊🔥🔥🔥❤️❤️❤️🙌🙌🙌👐👐👐☝️☝️☝️👏👏👏
🔥🔥" @KML_maria

In addition, some adjectives are added with intensifier to emphasize that the singers are "that" good or "that" awesome. Based on the data I collected, the compliment givers use *so, too, very, really, totally, absolutely* and additional a parenthesis of adjectives like *mega super lit* to emphasize their compliment with the adjectives they use. Some of the examples are in the following compliments.

- "Wowww Ur too good Bro #Perfect 👐" @chillimalay2011
- "YOUR RAP WAS ABSOLUTELY FLAWLESS YOU SOUND EXACTLY LIKE THEM OMG 😂😂❤️" @MultifandomedASF
- "U ARE VERY FANTASTIC , U SING THIS VERY GOOD😊😊😊😊😊 HOW MANY

VOICE DID U HAVE????? ITS SO SIMILAR" @jongintoofab
- "OMG AM I TOO LATE TO REALISED THIS MEGA SUPER LIT COVER????? 😩😩😩" @imranimm

3.2 Compliment Base on Choice of Special Terms

From 415 compliments found, there are 80 compliments that seem special because of the usage of special terms. Special term refers to the term that represents or indicates how the compliment givers appreciate the voice of the recording owners. The terms themselves cannot be classified into other classification because of their incompatibility to other classifications. The terms are divided into seven classifications based on the function; branding, personification, pun, resemblance, slang, state of condition, and religious statement.

Branding refers to giving a brand or a name to a specific object to make it more valuable. Here are two examples of branding in compliment:

- "I'm a #RHANE fan 😊😊😊❤️ 😊" @pearlycielle
- "Omo RJ 😊😊😊😊😊" @homkay_

Both compliment are found in the same recording. Both compliments refer to the recording owner and her partner's name, Rheta (@rhe17) and Jane (@BlueSargent). Both compliments also point out that #RHANE as well as RJ are very special because they are formed from the joint name of Rheta and Jane only, which imply the brand is special and cannot be formed if it is not from Rheta and Jane's name. It is slightly different from personification. Personification refers to a person who has a lot of particular quality or characteristic. Here are some examples of personification in compliment:

- "Flawlesssssssss 😊😊😊😊❤️❤️❤️❤️ my idol ... 😂😂❤️❤️❤️ get well soon dear. I miss you 😎😔😣" @homkay_
- "❤️ Such a goddess 😊😊 IDOL 😌" amishani_
- "LEGEND ONLY 👐👐👐" @AlfanBagus

All three examples above are the personification of the recording owner as the compliments are directed to them. However, there is another compliment that implies the personification of the compliment giver like "First 5 seconds of the song then baaaaam~ automatically a fan 😊😊😊" by @thenamelessqueen. Yet, the four personification examples have similarity in terms of their part of speech classification; all of them are noun. The next

one is pun, which is a clever yet humorous use of a word that has more than one meaning. Of the collected data, there are two recordings that have pun in the compliment; a song titled *Beautiful* and a song titled *Burn It Up* by Wanna One. The compliments in both of them are word-played in order to match the title of the songs. In *Beautiful*, there are four compliments that have pun like:

- "So beautiful😊😊♥" @teravirginiawan
- "BEAUTIFULLLL😊😊😊😊😊" @ireneee_s
- "WOW!This is so beautiful👐" @miss_kpop_01
- "beneran so beautiful 😊😊😊💕💕" @pinkrushb, which in full English is "It literally is so beautiful."

Compared to four other recordings @Marchianto (the recording owner) provides for this research, the use of word *beautiful* in compliment only exist in this recording. It means that the tendency to compliment him with the word *beautiful* is very low. It is only coincidence that the compliment givers pick adjective *beautiful* as a pun compliment to the song title. Meanwhile, there are three compliments that have pun in *Burn It Up*. Here are several examples of them:

- "Burn me😊😊😊😊🔥 🔥💕" @teravirginiawan
- "Omg kak burn my earsssssssssss 🐌🐌🐌🐌" @williamsedgard
- "Burn me kak 😊" @saptoajin

If I may add the use of emoticon, some compliment givers use the emoticon of fire to symbolize the "burning" which, once again, is a pun to the song title. Here are two examples:

- "OMG OMG OMG KAK MARCCCHHH😊😊😊😊🔥🔥🔥🔥" @ireneee_s
- "🔥🔥🔥🔥🔥" @Nu1ts_yoobaby

Resemblance refers to the fact or being similar or alike to somebody or something else. The most common examples in this data are the resemblance of the recoding owner's voice to the voice of a real singer. Here are some examples:

- "YOU BOTH DID WELL ☞ONE VOICE LIKE TAEYEON👅 ☞ANOTHER VOICE LIKE DEAN👅" @_MindyPhang
- "is this taeyeon? 😊 @BlueSargent @Bomizzang you guys voice really sounds like taeyeon" @missjinki
- "this is so goooooodddddd, you sound like baejin 💕💕" @stupidumdum
- "It's so good! Your voice is so nice! Haha... you sound like Sung Woon so much! :)" @theuniquecorn

- "Oh mai gatt😊😊😊 i think you sound that really exactly like themm, i thought u was 'rose'😊😊😊really awesome" @Cinderella_JK

Some names may sound unfamiliar to readers, therefore here is the singers' reference. Taeyeon refers to SNSD's main vocalist, Taeyeon. Dean refers to a Korean R&B singer, Dean. Baejin refers to Bae Jinyoung of Wanna One. Rose refers to Blackpink's main vocalist, Rose. Sung Woon refers to Wanna One main singer, Ha Sung Woon. Next, slang refers to a very informal word or expression. Here are some examples of compliment with slang:

- "You <u>rock</u> this one so hard 😊👏👏👏👏👏" @_UP_Madsmusic
- "This is why i love refugee arc, march hyung you <u>slay</u> this song especially with those harm" @MinAgust
- "woaah you tho Wie 😊😊 you <u>nailed</u> all parts 👏👏👏" @Alfa_Jun
- "OMG LIT DEYM 😊😊😊👏👏👏💕💕💕 I JUST GOT AN <u>EARGASM</u> WITH THIS HAHA 😊😊😊👏👏👏💕💕💕👐👐👐👏👏👏🐌🐌👏👏🔥" @KML_maria

The four red words are the slang words. Rock here is used to say that something, i.e. the recording, is very good. Slay here means to have strong effect or do something very impactful to something or somebody. In this case is that the recording owner/singer has managed to sing very well that the recording turns out to be good. Nail here means to do the recording right. Different from three previous examples which are informal words, Eargasm is a new word which is used only in a situation when someone listens to something very good, music in common. It is a combination of ear and orgasm. Therefore, it can be interpreted as an orgasm to the ear(s) after listening something very good. Meanwhile, state of condition is the condition of someone while/after something happened. In this case, it is the condition of the compliment giver while/after listening to the recording. Here are some of the examples:

- "eonniiii it's so beautifuuull 😊😊😊 <u>feels like i'm listening to CD</u> 😊😊 love love Rheta eonni and Jane 😊♥♥♥💕💕" @RNA16
- "Ahh this is so perfect! <u>I feel like like listening to angels</u>!! 😊😊💕💜♥🎵🎶🎵🎶" @tanica21
- "<u>I'M LEGIT CRYING</u> 😊😊😊JUST WOWWWW!!!😊😊😊" @BTS_V_TAEHYUNG
- "<u>IM IN HEAVEN</u>!! 😊😊😊" @friend34160

Last, religious statement is a statement connected with religion. Here are some examples of religious statements in compliment:

- "BLESSED MY EARS😊😊 THIS IS JUST SO AMAZING👐👐👐 YOU'RE AWESOME~✨✨👆"
  @ndaa_oth

- "Waaa 신기하다 😊😊☺☺this is so beautiful <u>what did i do to be blessed like this</u> 😭😭☺☺💜💜👆👆" @KML_maria

- "Seriously I haven't been feeling Christmas because I still can't go home because of work but singing this with you <u>gave me the BIGGEST CHRISTMAS RUSH</u> and I feel it IN MY SOUL you're so good 😊😊♥👆✨🎵" @BlueSargent

- "I love your voices 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊 this is beautiful and <u>makes me want to go outside and wish everyone merry christmas</u>" @swn97

3.3 Compliment Base on Choice of Swear Words

From 415 compliments, there are only nine compliments that contain swear words. The variation of swear words found in the data is not as wide as the variation of other classification on the choice of expression. Those nine swear words can be divided into three kinds; *damn*, *heck,* and *fuck/fucking*. The interesting fact about the finding of the swear words here is that six of the nine compliments with swear words are written in capitalization, while some other swear words are not written in capitalization but the rest of the sentence is written in capitalization. Here are two examples of swear words in compliments both in capitalization and not.

- "OK OMHGUH THIS IS GREAT 😊😊♥😊😊♥😊👐👐 YOU CAN PLAY GUITAR TOO WTF SKILLS" @angelishiii

- "damn ms. popular~ I LOVE YOU SO MUCH OMF SENPAI SLAYY CAN I BE UR FAV DONGSAENG" @finesseonbaek

If we go into details about capitalization in the data, the swear words can be divided into two kinds; the ones that are certainly written in capitalization like *fuck/fucking* and the ones that can be written in either capitalization or not like *damn* as well as *heck*. The combination of swear words and capitalization writing style can be interpreted as a stress on pointing out how good the recording is. Here are some examples of options to write the swear words in capitalization or not.

- "OMFG JANE! YOU BEAUTIFUL TALENTED GIRL YOU!!! I absolutely LOVE

your voice! EVERYTIME you join me I just close my eyes and let your voice take me to another place!! Please give me your talent 😊💪❤" @SailorSeokjin

- "HOLY HECK OH MYGOSH THIS IS SO GOOD I WANNA CRY I WASNT TAGGED BUT I STALK YOUR ACCOUNT SO IM HERE BUT THIS IS AMAZING AHHH" @macckkiiee

- "How in the heck do u rap so fast 😊😊 sooo amazing 😊😊💜 ty for having a listen 😊😊😙" @sapphireskyfall

- "OMG LIT DEYM 😊😊😊🔥🔥🔥💜💜💜 I JUST GOT AN EARGASM WITH THIS HAHA 😊😊😊🔥🔥🔥💜💜💜👐👐👐👆👆👆🌊🌊🌊🔥 👆👆" @KML_maria

- "Omg demn ur voice @Alfa_Jun ahhh😊😊😊😊 so hawttt BTW ur vocal so awesome😊😊😊❤❤" @PXCYJANE_

Based on the examples above, it is clear that the tendency to combine *fuck/fucking* with capitalization is higher than the tendency to combine *damn* and *heck* with capitalization. In my opinion, *fuck/fucking* has the tendency to sound harsher compared to *damn*, while *damn* is also assumed to sound harsher compared to *heck*. Therefore, it can be assumed that the tendency to write in capitalization is getting higher by the choice of swear words that the compliment givers use; *fuck/fucking* is more likely to be written in capitalization compared to *damn*, and *damn* is more likely to be written in capitalization compared to *heck*.

In terms of the relation between giving compliment by using swear words, the compliment givers do not intend to offend the recording owner by writing the swear words. The swear word may be interpreted as an offensive statement if it is written only in a single word like "Fuck!" or "Damn!" with a certain context that causes the writer to react with the swear word. Another option is that it is written in a complete sentence that shows the situation to cause the writer to react with the swear word like "Fuck! He scammed me!" or "Damn! That bitch hurts my friend." The examples in two sentences above are clearly different from the context of the swear word usage in the compliments found in *Sing!*. The swear words are written in a sentence with a combination of compliment like "OMFG JANE! YOU BEAUTIFUL TALENTED GIRL YOU!!! I absolutely LOVE your voice!" by @SailorSeokjin. Though it is started with a *fuck* but it is followed

with *you beautiful talented girl* that clearly shows how the compliment giver adores the recording owner. Thus, as I stated in the first paragraph of this sub chapter, I can conclude that the use of swear words here can be interpreted as a stress on pointing out the good quality of the recording instead of offending the recording owner as how the swear words are used in common.

3.4 Compliment Base on Choice of Emoticons

From 415 compliments found, there are 336 compliments that contain emoticons in it. The compliments in terms of the usage of emoticon can be classified into two scopes; compliments with emoticons only and compliments that combine emoticons and words. Here are some examples of the choice of emoticons in compliments:

- "Wow 😊😊😊😊😊 why don't u both be an idol 😊😊😊😊😊😊 amazing job guys 😊😊😊😊😊
  🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷🌷" @_hyiera___18
- "😊😊😊🌹🌹🌹🌹❤❤❤🖐🖐🖐😊" @tatantut
- "nice 💖" @_LADY_DAICRIS_

As classified in the paragraph above, some compliments found in *Sing!* are expressed with emoticons only. Some compliments are expressed with only a single type of emoticon like in the following examples:

- "♡♡♡♡♡" @123RunandGo
- "❣❣❣" @Favorite7
- "😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊" @Jeywelery

Meanwhile, some others are expressed with a variation of emoticons like in the following examples:

- "🎤🎵🎶👆   " @Riceman77
- "😊😊😊👋🤚🖐🖐🖐" @chavantae
- "❤🌷🏵💗💗💗💜💚" @n659

As the function of emoticon is to express the speaker or sender's feelings, therefore the use of emoticon only in the comment column in *Sing!* can still be considered as a compliment like the six examples above.

Beside expressed with emoticons only, some compliments found in *Sing!* are expressed with the combination of praising words and emoticons. The unique finding about this combination is that the different tendency to use different quantity of emoticons. The tendency to use more emoticons is higher when the compliment givers use a small number of words to compliment. Here are some of the examples:

- "OMG😳   THAT'S   PERFECT! 🖐 ♥ 🖐 🖐 🖐 🖐 🖐 🖐 🖐 🖐 🖐 🖐 " @AAHII
- "I ❤ this Duet....❤❤❤❤❤❤❤❤❤❤💫" @rifandiidm1
- "😳😳😳😳😳💜💜💜💜💜❤❤❤❤😊😊 😊😊 IDOL!" @pearlycielle

On the other hand, the tendency to use more emoticons is lower when the compliment givers use a huge number of words in compliment. Here are some of the examples:

- "oh my god bomi this is. the most PERFECT. collab. like. omgggg this is my favorite out of everything we've done together you're SO GOOD 😭😊" @BluesSargent
- "I don't know any Korean, but your voice is GORGEOUS, and this is one of my fav songs ever 😾 No clue if I'm pronouncing anything correctly😺" @Deadkitty4two
- ""Dear Taeyeon and Dean" please Make another collab 주세요~ where have i been? I just found out about this awesome collab♥♡" @LexVcodes

The possible reason for those two cases above is that because of the function of emoticon, as I have mentioned in the previous paragraph, that it is used to express the speaker or sender's feelings. The more expressive the words are, the less emoticons the compliment giver need. And the less expressive the words are, the more emoticons the compliments giver need to point how her feeling and appreciation towards the recording and recording owner. However, some other variables may happen due to the different characters of the compliment givers, which is not going to be discussed in this research.

4   CONCLUSIONS

Compliments in *Sing!* can be classified into four groups; choice of adjectives, choice of special terms, choice of swear words, and choice of emoticons.In terms of adjective choices, some users use common ones and some other use intensive one. Some prefer to use adjectives that represent character, while some others also vary in adding intensifier to the adjectives. In terms of special term, they can be divided into seven groups; branding, personification, pun, resemblance, slang, state of condition, and religious statement. Meanwhile in terms of swear words, they are divided into degree of harshness.

Last, in terms of emoticons, they are divided into compliments with emoticons only and compliments that combine emoticons and words. Based on this research, it is highly recommended for further researcher to do further research on how users with different gender compliment to see how this research works with gender differences.

Through this research, other and broader research such as the use of certain part of speech, maxim, or any other language feature regarding compliments may be taken. Besides, this study gives insightful classification regarding compliment inside online karaoke chatting area that may possibly help readers and/or further researchers for the same type of research which may focus on *Sing! by Smule* itself, or the issue regarding compliment within online chatting.

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