

ANALYSIS OF SLANG WORDS IN SONG LYRICS RAP GOD BY EMINEM

I Made Verdy Natha, I Putu Mario Bintang Toti, Igo Bani Christian, Ni Nyoman Tri
Sukarsih, Ni Made Diana Erfiani*
Dhyana Pura University, Dalung, Kuta Utara, Bali, Indonesia
dianaerfiani@undhirabali.ac.id*

ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the type of slang word used in a song lyric. The qualitative descriptive method is used in this study to collect and analyze the data from the song lyric. The source of the data was a song by Eminem entitled *Rap God* which was released in 2013. Theory of Allan & Burridge (2006) regarding type of slang words was used to analyze the data. From the analysis it was found that there are a total of 40 slang words in the song lyrics Rap God by Eminem. From those, there are five types of slang words used in the song lyrics namely Clipping, Blending, Fresh and Creative, Flippant, and Acronym. The most frequently used type of slang words is Clipping with a total of 26 data, while the least used is acronym with a total of only 1 data. The reason of why clipping type of slang words is frequently used is to match the flow or the genre of the song which is hip hop.

Keywords: Slang words; Song lyric; Sociolinguistic

I. Introduction

Language is one of the most important aspects of mankind. Regardless of the time and place, language is always used in society. Communication cannot be established without the use of language. Language helps to shape and grow the society. Society took a main role in shaping and developed language, as the two are bound to be entangled one another. Language is a set of symbols being used mainly for communication. The symbols may be spoken or written. Language takes part as an important aspect in humanity (Yule, 2014). Therefore, language must be developed from time to time in order to maintain its usage.

Information and opinion are conveyed through language and thus language should not stop developing. A language is always developing, some are progressing with the addition of various aspects, some are even almost extinct because no one is using them anymore. The development of a language is usually based on the needs, current circumstances, and of course the wishes of the speaker (Chaika, 1998: 8). Every person has the ability to create new words, use existing words in new ways, and create sentences by combining elements that have never

been heard before. Things like this are very common among adolescents, where with great creativity they often produce new utterances and combine various language variations in their daily communication.

Slang is one of the forms of language variation. Slang is used by all groups of people who share situations or interests and it is often used in informal situations. Slang includes “secret” words or sentences used in everyday conversations, books, magazines, televisions, movies, or song lyrics. Slang language is not a formal language for everyday communication in society. It is a part of creative expression that was created by youngsters. The existence of slang language is never constant as it develops and grows with time and society. According to Chapman (2007) slang is to be grouped into a sort of nonlinguistic language which is mostly ignores the main purpose of a language. Casual and informal are the design of the slang language itself with the aim to make the conversation go smoother. The ones who are mostly responsible for the occurrence of slang words are certain group or community specifically teenagers. It spreads widely due to a lot of factors which among those are entertainment media such as movie, novel, and also songs.

There are some previous studies that have been conducted to focus on the use of slang words. One of them was done by Budiasa (2021) in his article *Slang language in Indonesian Social Media*. The study explores the types and meaning of slang words in social media by utilizing the theory of Allan & Burridge (2006). He found some types of slang words from the data namely fresh and creative types of slang, flippant, imitative, acronyms and clipping. From the collected data that was found from social media, the classification of the types of slang words are fresh and creative with 5 words (*kuy/skuy, Coy, Santuy, Ashiaapp, Unfaedah*), flippant slang was represented by 3 words (*Netizen, Generasimicin, sobat missqueen*), Immitative with 4 types of words (*Ambyar, Haqiqi/hqq, Bosque, Gass*) Acronym with 5 words (*Bucin, Kepo, Baper, otw/otewe, Follback*), Clipping with 3 words (*Bro/Brow/vroh, sis/sista, Cuk*). The platforms used are Instagram, Youtube, Whatsapp, and Facebook. However, the previous literature is only limited to the type of slang words in social media and does not give any explanation of the type in a song.

Building upon the previous study above and filling the gap of the study, this study focuses on the type and word formation of slang words in song rather than a daily social media life. A song that was chosen as the data source is the song by Eminem entitled “Rap God” in order to find some type of slang words used in it. Slang words are commonly used in a song, especially in the RnB or Hip-hop genre. In order to match the free flowing rap artist tends to shorten or even change a word to match its flow. Attempting to classify the type of the slang word in the song lyrics and also defining the slang word's meaning this study was also applying the theory of Allan and Burridge (2006). According to Allan and Burridge there are five types of slang words namely Fresh and creative, Flippant, Blending, Acronym, Clipping.

Sociolinguistic

Sociolinguistics is one of the multidisciplinary studies of linguistics, what is meant by multidisciplinary here is a combination of two sciences, i.e. sociology and linguistics. According to Wardhaugh (1986: 12) sociolinguistics is a study that studies the relationship between language and society which aims to gain a deeper understanding of the structure of language and how language functions in society. In addition, Ohoiwutan (1997: 9) expressed his opinion that as a multidisciplinary science, sociolinguistics tries to explain the human ability to use language rules appropriately in various situations. In other words, sociolinguistic can also be explained as a special study that discusses how language is used, related, and conveyed in society with various contexts. Moreover, every society has a culture and their way of communicating and it is different from one another, this difference known as language variation in sociolinguistics. Studying sociolinguistics is considered essential, because sociolinguistic explores communication activities that exist in society and how language functions in different cultures. It might be because language activities cannot be separated from the existence of a community and how language functions in a society full of cultural diversity which causes variations in language use.

In more detail, Wardhaugh (2006: 221) specifically discussed how the relationship between language and certain culture prevails in society, the study of language and cultural relations is considered as important topic, because a person from various cultural backgrounds should be able to adapt and behave in a good manner in accordance with the prevailing norms and regulations. This is related to one of the proverbs which says “*When in Rome, do as Romans do*” this proverb means that wherever we go we should respect the rules and norms that exist in society by not committing acts against the rules. Sociolinguistics shows how groups in a given society are separated by certain social variables like ethnicity, religion, status, gender, age and level of education and how adherence to these variables is used to categorize individuals in social classes. All of those definitions demonstrate that sociolinguistics is related to language use and a society’s response to it.

Slang language

In this era, we find many uses of slang language in various ages, genders, situations and places. Pei and Gaynor cited by Alwasilah (1985: 56) states that Slang is a style of language in common use, produced by popular adaptation and extension of the meaning of existing words and by coining new words with disregard for scholastic standards and linguistics principles of the formation of words; generally peculiar to certain classes and social or age groups. Slang words used in everyday life in society to serve a communication purpose in mankind life. There is seven purposes or functions of slang words according to Allan and Burridge (2006) namely to address someone, to form an intimate atmosphere, to initiate a relaxed conversation, to express an impression, to reveal anger, to humiliate, and to show intimacy

II. Methods

This study will use the descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research are in the form of words, phrases and clauses. Descriptive method was used to describe the findings of the research, which are the strategies used in analyzing the contextual meaning and the types of idiomatic expressions. Data then will be collected, classified and analyzed to draw conclusions based on the gathered data.

Data Source

The data will be collected mainly from the song Rap God by Eminem. This song was released on the 4th of October 2013, alongside with the other song on The Marshall Mathers LP2 (Deluxe Edition. The song has over one billion views on youtube with a duration of six minute. It was written by Eminem as an ode to himself and his career in the Hip hop and entertainment Industry.

Data Collection

Data collection will be done through documentation and examination of the Rap God song by Eminem. Data will be collected by reading and examining the lyrics of the song to be sorted into the classification of the type of slang words.

Data Analysis

The sorted data will be analyzed and classified into the corresponding categories of the type of slang words. In analyzing the data, the theory of Allan & Burridge (2006) will be utilized in order to help classify the data to the corresponding categories. Theory of Yule (2006) also will be utilized if there are some related to the word formation. After finalizing the classification and analysis data will be presented in the findings section

III. Findings and Discussion

Based on the analysis of the slang words used in the lyrics of the Rap God song by Eminem, there are 40 (forty) pieces of data collected from the analysis. Lyrics with a total of 1.560 words in a song with a duration of 6 minutes and 4 seconds, with clipping as the main type of slang words in the song. With the total number of 26 (twenty-six) pieces of data in the form of slang words in Clipping. Acronym came out as the least used type of slang words in this song, with only 1 (one) piece of data. Followed by Fresh and Creative 4 (four) data, Blending 4 (four) data, and Flippant 5 (five) pieces of data.

Clipping

Clipping is a type of slang words that have gone through a process of shortening or cutting a part to make the word become shorter without changing the meaning of the word. In the

song lyrics of Rap God there are a lot of types of clipping slang words used. Due to the rhyme and lyrical flow of Hip-hop many words are shortened to make the song flow much more interesting or cool. In total there are 26 words that are classified as Clipping type slang words. The example of the Clipping in Rap God song by Eminem are:

1. *You are just what the **doc** ordered*

From the data above, the word *doc* is a slang word and it refers to the word *doctor*. The word becomes a slang because of the process of clipping or shortening the word. The meaning of the word remains the same despite the removing of the ending part of the word

2. *Kill '**em** all with*

The data above also shows a word that went through a clipping process. The word '*em* was clipped from the word *them*. By removing the beginning of the word without changing the meaning of it.

Acronym

From the data Acronym is the least used type of slang word in the song. Acronym is essentially a slang word that is formed by taking the initial sound or letter from the word and combining them. The example of the data is:

1. *I'm an **MC** still as honest*

From the data above, the word *MC* is a slang word that refers to the word *Master of Ceremony*. The process of Acronym is used by taking the initial letter from the word *Master of Ceremony*

Fresh and Creative

Slang word that can be classified as Fresh and Creative is a word that was created through a process of imagination or as a result of creativity. From the data there are 4 slang words that can be classified as Fresh and Creative. The example is:

1. *I found a **hella** way to fuse it*

From the data above, the word *hella* is a product of society or the streets. The word does not have any association or relation to the word *hell*. The word itself is commonly a replacement for really or very when describing something.

Flippant

Flippant slang refers to a slang word that does not have the same denotative meaning. The song Rap god by Eminem rarely used the Flippant type of slang words. From the data there are 5 slang words in the song lyrics. The example is:

1. *That was a 24/7 special on the cable channel*

From the data above, the word *24/7* (*twenty-four-seven*) does not refer to the doctor's prescription or schedule. The word is classified as a Flippant slang word because rappers tend to use *24/7* as a term of over exaggerating.

Blending

Slang word that can be classified as a Blending type is a slang word that has gone through a process of Blending. The Blending process is an approach of combining two words to create a new meaning. From the data there are 4 slang words that categorize as Blending. The example is:

1. *Ugh, School Flunkie*

From the data above, the word *school flunkie* is a new term that is formed from two words, School and flunkie. The word is associated with the rapper Eminem who does not do well in school. A school failure is the term used to describe Eminem in his song

IV. Conclusion

In this analysis the total data that have been found and collected are 40 data of slang words in the song lyric *Rap God* by Eminem. There are five types of slang words used in the *Rap God* song. They are; Clipping, Blending, Fresh and Creative, Flippant, and Acronym. The highest usage type of slang words is Clipping with a total of 26 data in the form of slang words, while the lowest usage of slang words type is Acronym with only 1 data from the song lyrics. Some of the words from clipping are; *Doc*, *Beginnin'*, *pen'll*, *livin'*, *killin'*. Data from the Acronym type: *MC*. Some words from Blending type: *School Flunkie*, *Fat Knot*. Some words from Fresh and Creative are *Hella*, *Summa*. And the last is from Flippant; *24/7*, *Full of Myself*.

This study found that most Clipping types of slang words are shortened in order to match the flow of the song or the Genre. Hip-hop genre is also familiar as a street song for youngsters where they can express their freedom into the song. The more creative the word in the song lyrics the more interesting the song becomes

References

- Allan, K., Burridge, K. (2006). *Forbidden Words: Taboo and The Censoring of Language*. Cambridge: CUP
- Alwasilah, Chaedar, (1985). *Sosiologi Bahasa, First Edition*. Bandung: Angkasa.
- Budiasa, I Gede. (2021) Slang Language in Indonesian Social Media. *Lingual: Journal of Language and Culture*, 11(1). <https://ojs.unud.ac.id/index.php/language/article/view/71093>
- Chaika. (1994). *Language the Social Mirror (3rd edition)*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle Publisher.

Chapman, Robert L. 1998. *A New Dictionary of American Slang*. London: Harper & Row Publishers Inc.

Ohoiwutan, P. 1997. *Sosiolinguistik*. Jakarta: Kesaint Blant.

Wardhaugh, R. 1986. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. New York: Basil Blackwell Ltd.

Yule, George (2006). *The Study of Language (3rd edition)*. New York. Cambridge University Press