



Sociolinguistics Study of Slang Words Used in Movie “Spiderman Homecoming”

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Abstract

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics concerned with the study of socially related languages. One of the language variations is slang. Slang is a variety that used by young people or persons from the same social group, and it consists of free-style construction words with particular qualities. Previous research examined the use of slang in movies and its relationship to sociolinguistics. However, previous research results lack in the showing support that strengthens the discussion by expert opinion. The movie Spider-man: Homecoming was chosen as the object in this research. Descriptive-qualitative was used as its research method. While documentation study was used to obtain data in this study. This research investigated classifications and the reasons why the characters in the movie use slang words. The findings of this study show five classifications of slang from Allan & Burrige's theory. In this movie, four of the five slang classifications from Allan & Burrige's theory: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, and clipping, were found. Fresh & creative is more commonly found in this movie because this type is used for swearing and even to show anger. Besides, there are reasons why slang words are usually used such as, to address, to show an impression, to show intimacy, to reveal anger, and to humiliate.

Keywords: *Movie; Slang; Sociolinguistics*

Introduction

Language is one of the most essential aspects of human existence (Purba, 2020). Language is the primary means by which humans communicate with one

another. It is essential since humans must communicate in order to exchange information. Language enables the transfer of messages or the delivery of information to guarantee the communication and participation of every single human. According to Fishman (1972) for instance, socially, the language, the language use involves "who speaks, what language, to whom, when and where". People are able to establish relationships with one another through language when they wish to share thoughts, ideas, or feelings.

According to Hudson (1996) Languages and their social contexts are the focus of sociolinguistics, a subfield of linguistics. Sociology and linguistics are the two components of this term. Sociology refers to a science of society; while linguistics refers to a study of language (Mu'in et al., 2019). In addition, sociolinguists study how societal factors like conventions, culture, and context influence how people use language in their daily lives. Sociolinguistics explores the relationship between language and culture in order to acquire a better knowledge of language structure and how it functions in daily conversation (Wardhaugh, 2006). Since language and society are inseparable and mutually connected, sociologists' study how people's speech varies depending on the group to which they belong. Studies in sociolinguistics can also focus on determining what kinds of language are used to communicate what kinds of social elements, and how those expressions are utilized to convey the resulting social meaning.

Individuals' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors can all be influenced by their social milieu (Firdausi & Hendrar, 2022). When people in a group have something in common, they often have other things in common as well. Their appearance, philosophy, and vocabulary are all fair game. Language varieties are considered part of the community's linguistic repertoire. Numerous language variants have been observed. The language spoken in a country can be affected by a variety of circumstances. Class, age, gender, economic status, and education all play a role, as does geography (region), ethnicity (particular region and gender), and community (Wardhaugh, 2006). Normal social conversations may include the use of slang, which is one form of informal language. Slang is a form of vernacular English that can be heard all over the world. Slang is commonly used to describe the replacement of standard language by phrases and words adopted by teens and other subcultures (Yule, 2010). Slang is a form of informal English that has come to be used primarily by members of younger generations or those from the same social group. Slang is a type of language that develops spontaneously; there are no guidelines for the creation of slang (Firdausi & Hendrar, 2022). Sometimes, when there's a void in existing lingo, people will make up new words to describe the feelings they're experiencing. Teens utilize it to make the world feel more like home. It may take some time for the slang term to spread throughout the modern world to the point where everyone uses it and the words just seem to come out of someone's lips, but it finally makes its way into the language of most people. Today, slang is used in everything from song lyrics to film scripts. Researching slang is fascinating because it often leads to the discovery of new terms or expressions in

English and the clarification of the actual meaning of the vernacular used in the film.

In all forms of media, including television, movies, and song lyrics, current slang is frequently used to portray emotions in dialogue. It may also be used in movies reflecting social life as shown in the actual movie (Jimmi, 2014). A movie, also known as a motion picture, is a collection of moving images that tells a story through the performances of actors and actresses. As an art of audio-visual storytelling, a Movie is a medium of communication rich with social implications, created within various social, historical, and cultural contexts (Victoria University of Wellington, 2008). Numerous important concerns are posed in academic studies that examine the role of movie in society. In other words, a movie is a work of art that is visually captured and created via a narrative that reflects societal characteristics such as culture and history in human existence and is shared with the public through media like theater and television.

The researcher uses theory to find the classifications of slang words from Allan & Burridge (2006) such as:

1. Fresh and creative, this type of slang word falls under the category of vocabulary that was created by the use of imagination, inventiveness, informal forms, and modern words;
2. Flippant Slang, a term or phrase created from two or more words that has a new meaning distinct from the original words;
3. Imitative, this type of slang terms includes expressions that have been around previously, but whose meaning has changed significantly from the original;
4. Acronym, a word-length abbreviation created from the first letter or syllable like HBD, WDYT, LOL, and WDYM;
5. Clipping, a word fragment intended to make speech and writing easier or quicker.

Furthermore, the reason from a sociolinguistic perspective for the slang word behind it will be strengthened by the theory of Allan & Burridge (2006) theory, which contains:

1. To address, this kind of explanation usually comes up when the speaker wishes to maintain a close bond with someone.
2. To show intimacy, when speaking to someone they have a close relationship, the speaker frequently uses non-standard terminology to convey closeness between the speakers.
3. To initiate relax conversations, especially when they have a close relationship, characters frequently employ slang terms to create relaxed discourse.
4. To humiliate, the speaker frequently mocks, makes fun of, or otherwise shows how they feel about someone.
5. To reveal anger, occur when a character employs a slang term to express displeasure towards another person.
6. To express impression, this occurs to express an opinion or a compliment about something.
7. To form an intimate atmosphere, which explains that character use the slang

in purpose reducing social distant around stranger.

In previous study, according to Firdausi and Hendar (2022) slang is divided into two classifications: primary slang and secondary slang. In addition, there are seven explanations for why slang terms are used, including to address, to create an intimate ambiance, to start a relaxed conversation, to show impression, to show intimacy, to reveal anger, and to humiliate. Primary slang is the most common slang to appear in the movie. However, previous research has weaknesses from the discussion. The discussion written by the previous researcher did not have support for strengthening the theory by experts so that the discussion was mostly from personal opinion. Apart from that, the specifications displayed are less specific. Besides, this study will be added to the theory used by (Ayu et al., 2020) revealed that there are five common different sorts of slang word used in a movie, each with a different function. They are fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping.

This study is purposed to investigates more deeply than slang words, starting with the division of classification and types of slang, then the reasons why this slang exists from a sociolinguistic perspective in the movie Spiderman Homecoming. In addition, the Spiderman Homecoming movie chosen because the language used in this movie is the language commonly used by American high school teenagers depicted in the movie. Another reason researcher tried to examine modern and popular movie with rated PG-13.

Spider-man: Homecoming tells the story of Peter Parker's life as a teenage student and a superhero. Peter goes home, where he resides with his Aunt May, and is closely watched by his new mentor Tony Stark, thrilled by his experience with the Avengers. While sidetracked by ideas of becoming more than simply neighborhood Spider-Man, Peter tries to resume his regular daily activities. However, when the Vulture appears as a new threat, everything Peter values most will be put in danger (Watts, 2017).

Method

This research uses descriptive-qualitative as its research method. Descriptive research is used to prove the reality of events through clear descriptions (Seliger & Shohamy, 1989). This method is also used because it can clarify reasons and social relations with slang words. While documentation study used to obtain data in this study. Documentation in this context can take several forms including photos, movies, works of art, and others (Sugiyono, 2014).

The data is collected by dividing into four parts: data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion (Miles & A. Michael Huberman, 1994). The data was collected in the movie Spiderman: Homecoming which was directed and written by Jon Watts at Disney+ Hotstar. Data analysis begins by watching the movie until it has finished. Next, write down all the slang, then choose the slang word that often appears and the unique word in it to reduce the amount of data

being analyzed. After the data is complete, the data can be analyzed by classifying it into several types and looking for the reasons behind the slang words. And in the end, researcher can be draw conclusions.

Results and Discussion

In this research, data was collected from slang words in the Spiderman Homecoming movie written and directed by Jon Watts (Watts, 2017). This analysis begins by selecting the utterances in the movie which include the types of slang words and the reasons why the characters use the slang words. In this study, the writer adopts theory from Allan & Burrige (2006) in order to examine the classification of slangs and the underlying reasons the slangs are used in this movie.

Classification of Slang

Researchers divide slang words according to the classification of slang by Allan & Burrige's theory. The results of classifying the slang words used in the Spiderman film: Homecoming can be seen as follows:

1. **Fresh & Creative type (unique word)**

This type of slang word is formed based on imagination, informal word variations, or comes from old words that people are not familiar with, then forms a unique word to describe a word that is usually updated with the times. In addition, this type is often used by close people because the word can become a nickname or code. An example of a fresh and creative classification analysis is shown below.

Underoos!

Data

Tony Stark: Underoos!

Spiderman: Oh, that's me. I gotta go. I gotta go.

(00:07:14)

a) **Context**

This dialogue is set during the war between the two superhero sides. When Iron-man cannot stop Captain America from going to the plane, Iron-man shouts "Underoos!" which is a code call to Spiderman to steal Captain America's shield. Underoos is a picture of tight clothes worn by children with a superhero theme (Williams, 2007). This suggests that a young man becomes the superhero depicted in Spiderman. In this event, the superheroes were aged 25-40 years and Spiderman was 16 years old.

b) **Data Interpretation**

From the above part of the dialogue, the researcher found that the word underoos is suitable for the use of this type which presents a nickname or a code call with a unique word. Underoos is used as a code to call Spiderman to appear on the field of battle. In addition, this slang word shows a word that is rarely used in daily life, so it is used as a code call.

2. **Flippant Slang (two-word form)**

In this type, two or more words are formed into a new phrase that has a different meaning from the original words. This slang word also becomes an idiom because similes can form new meanings. It is not uncommon for words of this type to be formed based on a historical event. One example of this type is the word we often find, what's up.

What's Up

Data

Flash: What's up, Penis Parker?

(00:10:42)

Peter: What's up, Mr. Delmar?

Mr. Delmar: Hey, Mr. Parker.

(00:14:41)

a) Context

In the first dialogue flash says, "What's up, Penis Parker?" the sentence refers to a greeting followed by a derogatory word to demean Peter Parker by changing his name and becoming a negative sentence. Meanwhile, the second dialogue shows Peter's familiarity as a bread customer with Mr. Dalmar as a baker. Whats up? refers to what is happening with you, how are you, whats going on? or a phrase used to simply say hello (Browneye, 2009).

b) Data Interpretation

From the two conversations above, the researcher found that the word what's up fits this type because the word is formed from two words namely what and up. The phrase "what's up" first appeared as a query or a greeting in English fiction in the early 19th century. Often, it denoted something that was "up," like an incident or issue (Dictionary, 2018). The meaning of the word is a greeting word that is often used by people of all ages as a beginning to start conversation in daily life. Whatsupp menjadi whatzupp

3. Imitative

This type of slang means changing the form of the original word without changing its meaning. Usually, this type is often found in slang which is used in daily language. The reason is because slang words in this type make conversation easier and faster. One example that is often found is the word gonna.

Gonna

Data

(Looking a drawing)

The Vulture: Things are never gonna be the same now. I mean, look at this.

The Thinker: You got aliens

The Vulture: When I was a kid, I used to draw cowboys and Indians.

a) Context

The setting is when the Vulture and his friends are cleaning up the ruins caused by Avanger's battle with Loki's troops. In the dialogue, "gonna" is emphasized with the adverb "never" turning into something that will never be the same again. The Vulture illustrates that children will not draw Cowboys and Indians

because besides living in a world full of superheroes, the situation also illustrates that Cowboys and Indians are an ancient.

b) Data Interpretation

Based on the dialogue above, the researcher considers going to be a suitable slang word for this type. In every dialogue in this film, goanna is often found which shows that this type is used as daily language because it is very easy to use and makes it faster to pronounce the word when speaking. Apart from that, other words with the same form, such as gotta and wanna, are often found in the films studied. This shows that this type dominates because in essence the slang words themselves change words to make daily conversations easier.

4. Clipping

Clipping is the cutting of words without changing their meaning. Most slang words in this type of clipping occur at the back of a word or half a word. Examples of this type can be seen as follows.

Glowy

Data

Spiderman: Hey, it's like the glowy thing.

Karen: That glowy thing is an explosive Chitauri energy core.

00:57:09

a) Context

This dialog is set when Spiderman checks the vulture's stolen bag. After that, Spiderman saw a glowy object that was the same as he found before. Karen scans the object and tells Spiderman that it is an explosive. Spiderman panicked. Glowy itself was formed to make it easier for Spiderman to mention it because after glowy there is the word thing.

b) Data Interpretation

It can be seen in the dialog above, that the word glowing is cut into glowy. This fits with one of these slang types where a word is made short by cutting part of the word to facilitate conversation without changing the meaning of the word. In addition, the clipping type cuts a lot of words from nouns and adjectives.

Furthermore, in this movie, the types of slang words that are most often formed is fresh & creative. The slang word imitative is the types that appear most frequently especially words gonna and gotta. Imitative itself means changing the form of the original word without changing its meaning (Allan & Burridge, 2006). These two words are often used by teenagers Peter Parker's age in this movie. There are also Fresh and Creative Types such as underoosh, pal, punk, larb, hell, crap, losers, and gosh which are said to have been formed because of human creativity in making them; Flippant types such as What's up and low-key which means a combination of two to more words and forms a different meaning; Imitative types such as gonna, gotta, wanna, and ain't whose word meaning changes from its original meaning; and acronym type not found in this movie; and clipping such as glowy, tech, and cap which means is a word fragment intended to

make speaking and writing easier and faster; and acronyms do not appear because this type of word is usually used in chat typing and is rarely used in direct conversation.

In the formation of slang words, teenagers are the biggest users and makers of slang words (Zhou & Fan, 2013). It can be seen in the Spiderman Homecoming movie, slang words are more often used by teenagers in the range of 13-20 years and adults 20-40 years because teenagers tend to use slang it shows that the speaker is following the times (Dooly, 2006). According to Allan & Burridge (2006) put forward the reasons behind every slang word in the movie such as the word "larb" that Aunt May said to Peter is a form of to show intimacy which shows a familial attitude between aunt and nephew. There is also to reveal anger, which has harsh words such as punk, bastard, and hell. The slang expresses anger by changing people's names to punks and bastards, while hell emphasizes questions like "who the hell are you" which is a situation when someone suddenly arrives and spoils the Vulture's agenda. Another thing, there is a word that stands out to humiliate, namely penis. This word is used to degrade Peter Parker's name to Penis Parker. This reason for humiliation forms the nature of racial discrimination. According to Fajri (as cited in Annur et al., 2020), racial discrimination takes the form of overt acts of racism, systemic inequality, institutional bias, and microaggressions. This can occur at the individual and societal levels, perpetuating social, economic, and political harm for marginalized racial or ethnic groups. Apart from that, there is to express impression, like the words ballsy and badass. These two words show how cool a Peter/Spiderman is. There is a word to address, when Peter says "what's up" to Mr. Dalmar shows that there is no social gap that hinders them.

From the results above, it can also be seen that the type of imitative is often used because it shows to initiate relax conversations. This can happen because relaxed conversations do not use formal language which makes the impression of a rigid conversation. In addition, the clipping type functions the same as imitative, because both types are intended to shorten and speed up the conversation to make it seem relaxed. From the results above, it can also be seen that the type of imitative is often used because it shows to initiate relax conversations. This can happen because relaxed conversations do not use formal language which makes the impression of a rigid conversation. In addition, the clipping type functions the same as imitative, because both types are intended to shorten and speed up the conversation to make it seem relaxed.

Words of the Fresh & Creative type are mostly used to humiliate and to reveal anger because random words or swear words are often mentioned by people when they are angry or upset and even to humiliate others. Sometimes slang words are identical to swear words. according to (Metcalf, 2022) Swear words are divided into mild, medium, strong, and strongest. Because this movie is intended for teenagers, the use of harsh words is only at the medium level and mostly at the mild level. Examples of use at the mild level are the slang words punk, crap, losers, and badass; at the medium level there are bastards and assholes. The words at the

strong and strongest levels don't appear because they refer to the movie's PG-13 rating. Effective (2020) states the rules which read "A motion picture's single use of one of the harsher sexually-derived words, though only as an expletive, initially requires at least a PG-13 (Parental Guidance Children under 13) rating. More than one such expletive requires an R rating, as must even one of those words used in a sexual context." This directly refers specifically to the use of the F-word which can be used when the movie rating is rated R (Restricted).

In addition, Americans like to make slang as a joke. The word is made as if the word has almost the same sound even though the writing is different (Zhou & Fan, 2013) for example like "I larb you". Multiple factors can also influence language usage in a country. It may be based on geography (region), ethnicity (specific region and gender), or community (class, age, gender, economic status, and education) (Wardhaugh, 2015). Many American slangs became popular after being discovered by African Americans. And slang terms are often used to bond within subcultures, as well as within groups and younger generations. The history of the word cool, for example, is not just about gaps between generations but representation and appropriation (Steinmetz, 2018).

Conclusion

The findings of this study show 4 of the 5 types from Allan & Burrige's theory: fresh and creative, Flippant, Imitative, and Clipping. Fresh & creative is more commonly found in this movie because this type is used for swearing and even to show anger, and Imitative is the types that appear most frequently especially words gonna and gotta because conversations using this type of slang simplify and shorten a conversation. The words gonna and gotta are mostly used in this movie because Gonna is used to replace the word "will" and the word "gotta" is used to replace the word "must".

On the other hand, it can also be seen that the type of imitative is often used because it shows to initiate relax conversations. This can happen because relaxed conversations do not use formal language which makes the impression of a rigid conversation. In addition, the clipping type functions the same as imitative, because both types are intended to shorten and speed up the conversation to make it seem relaxed. Words of the Fresh & Creative type are mostly used to humiliate and to reveal anger because random words or swear words are often mentioned by people when they are angry or upset and even to humiliate others. Another thing that was found was that naughty children and criminals used more derogatory or mocking slang because in their social culture Americans used a lot of harsh slang words to humiliate other people. Therefore, there are reasons of slang words such as to address, to show impression, to show intimacy, to reveal anger, and to humiliate.

Suggestions for future researchers to be able to further develop slang for each character and be connected to more relevant socio-cultural life. It is hoped that this

research can become a reference for movie analysis related to sociolinguistics in the future.

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