



An Analysis of Slang Words Used in Rich Brian's Song "Getcho Mans"

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Abstract

This research purpose is to acknowledge types of slang words used in a song. The descriptive qualitative method is utilized in this research to gather and analyse the data from the song lyrics. The data source is a song by Rich Brian entitled "Getcho Mans". Theory of Allan & Burridge about the type of slang words is utilized to analyse the data. This study successfully classified the slang words used in "Getcho Mans" by Rich Brian. This study found that song by Rich Brian entitled "Getcho Mans" contained slang words in the types of Fresh & Creative, Flippant, Imitative, and Clipping. The writer could not find acronym type of slang words in this song. The total of 47 pieces of data collected from the analysis. The findings could help English students to understand the type and the example of words that usually appear in Hip-Hop songs. Furthermore, it could help the readers to understand the meaning of slang words that usually utilized by Rappers.

Keywords: Slang; Sociolinguistic; Song

Introduction

Sociolinguistics becomes an important field of study at the university on the context of 'linguistics' and 'language'. Sociolinguistics mainly discuss the language structure, to the limitation just on social contexts that learned and used (Utami et al., 2020). The science that discusses the relation of language to society is sociolinguistics. Wardhaugh (1986: 12) in Santika et al., (2021) states that Sociolinguistics is a science that studies to the relation of language and society, where the purpose is to reach a better understanding between the language structure and the language function as a connector. 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 (Natha et al., 2022). Slang words is one variety of informal language. Even though it is used in everyday communication, many slang words become outdated and only few that still utilize them.

People normally utilize informal languages in everyday communication with family or friend. Slang words are easily found in everyday communication. Slang words also could easily be found in song lyrics. Many peoples like listening to music. Some peoples know and some are not about the definition of slang words used in the songs (Widyareka et al., 2024). Slang words is one of the linguistic aspects in language science. Slang words is a seasonal language variety. It is usually used as a part of social identity which usually makes peoples who hears it first time would be puzzled but would have encouragement to use it.

To English students and learners, using slang words could make them sound dashing and casual in informal communications (Ardiana et al., 2022). Allan & Burrige (2006) said that slang words are a marker for some community of people. The examples are groups of people sharing experiences such as children in certain education system and specific group of peoples (such as junkies, professional criminals, jazz musicians, or hookers).

According to Allan & Burrige (2006) they found five types of slang words, those are fresh & creative, flippant, imitative, acronym and clipping. Allan and Burrige (2006) split the slang words to five categories. Fresh & creative which has a definition of the slang words has newly found word to explicate things in informal communication. This is a result of creative thinking from the people. Rich Brian utilized this type of slang words in his song because it is made him looks up-to-date. Example is instead of "house" he said "Crib".

Flippant definition is a slang words is made by combining two or more words which the word arranged does not has any relation with the original meaning. Similar to previous type, Rich Brian used flippant because it is made him looks more up-to-date. Because flippant usually formed by a viral event. Example is he said "42 on the Rocks". This utterance has no relation with rocks. It is a phrase uttered by famous model Kylie Jenner which is a name of a drink.

Imitative definition is a slang words that imitates from the original English language; acronym definition is the slang words that formed by taking the first letter of words in a phrase or formed taking only few letters from a sentence, few words, or phrases and uttered as a newly found word. Rich Brian used this type of slang words because it is easier to say in the song and sometime match the music better from the original standard word. Example is Rich Brian said the word "finna" in his song instead of "fixing to" which mean his about to do something.

Acronym definition is a slang words that formed by taking just initials or just the first letter of every words. Unfortunately, the writer could not find any acronym type of slang words in this song of Rich Brian. Nevertheless, Rich Brian used this

type of slang words in his other songs. Example is he said “IG” in his other song entitled “Lagoon”. “IG” is an abbreviations of social media “Instagram”. Clipping definition is a slang words that made by omitting parts of the word and formed a shorter word form without changing the definition.

Similar to Imitative type, Rich Brian used this type of slang words in his song because it is easier to say and match the music better. Example is he said “gettin” instead of “getting”. There are many words that is could be modify by this type. That is the reason why this type of slang words is the most used type in his song. There are a many of slang words that could be found in HipHop. One of them is Rich Brian. Real name is Brian Imanuel Soewarno, he was born on 3 September 1999. He is a rapper, songwriter, record producer, and singer.

He is known for his debut song *Dat \$tick*. This song was released worldwide in March 2016 on SoundCloud. The examples of slang words taken from the lyric of Rich Brian’s song entitled *Getcho Mans* in *Brightside* album; “I been talkin’ to God.” From this data, the word *talkin’* is a slang words, it refering to *talking*. The word becomes a slang word 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.

This study will analyze the types of slang words found in the Rich Brian’s song “Getcho Mans”. There are few articles that have similar topics with this study to compare. There are some similarities and differences between this study and another, such as data source, problems, and theory. The first research is made by Natha et al., (2022) that discuss about the characteristics or types of the slang words. In the research theory of Allan & Burridge (2006) will be utilized in order to help classify the data to the corresponding categories.

The qualitative descriptive method is utilized in the research to gather and analysed the data from the lyrics of the song. In this analysis the total data that have been found and collected are 40 data of slang words in the lyrics of Eminem’s Rap God. The researcher successfully classified five types of slang words in the Rap God song. They are; Fresh & Creative, Clipping, Flippant, Blending, and Acronym. The highest usage type of slang word is Clipping with a total of 26 pieces of 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 & Creative are Hella, Summa. And the last is from Flippant; 24/7, Full of Myself.

The second research is made by (Haspo & Rosa, 2018) discussing characteristics or types of slang words and classification the slang words appears in the song lyrics of Eminem. Theories of word formation stated by Yule (2006) are utilized to analysed the data. Qualitative descriptive is the utilized method. The researcher successfully found 60 pieces of slang words in the song lyrics of Eminem’s Kamikaze.

The researcher explains the type of word formation. The types classified the

slang words gathered from the album. There are four types of word formation that writer classified and analyses in this research. The first type is clipping, clipping is most used type of word formation in song lyrics on Eminem's Kamikaze album. The researcher successfully found 50 (fifty) slang words. It is 'bout, 'til, mic', 'fore, 'cause. The second type of word formation founded is blending. The researcher found six slang words in this type; ain't, woulda, wanna, y'all, gonna, and shoulda.

The third type of word formation found is acronym. In this type, the researcher successfully found two slang words. They are ASAP and MC. The fourth type is coinage word formation. The researcher successfully found two slang words; it is hokies and nigga. The writer research centralized their focus on the types and the meaning of the slang words. The third research made by (Jayanthi et al., 2022) that discuss about the characteristics or types of the slang words found in Ariana Grande songs. The researcher used the theory from Chapman (2007).

Descriptive qualitative method is utilized to analysed the data. After thorough research, the conclusion is there are two types of slang words successfully found in this song. There are primary and secondary slang words. Primary type slang words are the most used in this song which is 21 data (78%). In secondary type slang words, which are normally used by certain groups and communities, the writer successfully found 6 data (22%).

The primary slang uttered mostly because this type of slang words is usually spoken by human in their everyday communication to make it unchallenging to say and to be understood by the interlocutors. There are two types of effect of slang words, namely; identifying as a group member and expressing informality, the oppose establish authority type is cannot be found in this song. In this research, the effects of slang words identified as expressing informality could be found 21 data (78%) and identified as group member could be found 6 data (22%) and no slang words found to oppose establish authority. Express informality uttered mostly because in this song, the singer wants to show intimately. The reason is because informality makes more intimate connection and make the speaker and listeners closer to each other's.

This study has similarity to the previous studies which is the topic being discussed. Obviously, there are differences between the writer study and the previous studies. In the first study, the difference is the data source. This study used Rap God by Eminem meanwhile the writer used Getcho Mans by Rich Brian. In the second study, the difference is the theory used and the data source. This study used theories from Yule and Kamikaze album by Eminem, meanwhile the writer used theories from Allan & Burrridge and Getcho Mans song by Rich Brian. Lastly, in the third study the differences between this study and writer's study are the theory used and the data source. This study utilized Chapman theories of types and effects of slang words. Moreover, the data source utilized is Ariana Grande songs. Meanwhile the writer used Allan & Burrridge theories and Rich Brian song.

The reasons why Rich Brian song "Getcho Mans" is a relevant case study is because Rich Brian is a famous rapper that a lot of teenagers listen to. Rich Brian

not only popular in Indonesia but also worldwide, according to 88charts, he has become the first Indonesian to reach 10.000.000 monthly listeners on Spotify. Therefore, the writer intends to help people through this study to acknowledge the type of slang words used in Rich Brian songs. Thus, the research question is what are the types of slang words used in Rich Brian song's lyrics in "*Getcho Mans*" song based on Allan & Burridge (2006) theory in relation to characteristics of slang words.

Method

This research utilized descriptive qualitative research method that are related to appliance in this research. This research was directed by using a qualitative approach because the data found are analysed in descriptive context such as words, utterances, and phrases. The intend of descriptive research is to describe and breakdown the events related to what is being discovered and discussed. The data will be collected from the song "*Getcho Mans*" by Rich Brian. This song was released along with the EP (Extended Play) "*Brightside*" on the 20th January 2022. Data collection will be done through documentation and examination of the "*Getcho Mans*" song by Rich Brian.

The first step is listened and understand the lyrics, listening the song is important to reach the goal which is to understand deeply regarding the song lyrics. Then, the writer will take notes of only one line of lyric which contains slang words in order to simplifying the data. Finally, the writer will categorize the data that are gathered based on the type. Descriptive method was utilized to describe the findings of the research, which are the proposed actions used in analysing the types of idiomatic expressions. Data will be collected by reading and examining the lyrics of the song to be sorted into the classification of the types of slang words. In analyzing the data, the theory of Allan & Burridge will be utilized in order to help classify the data to the corresponding categories. After finalizing the classification and analysis data will be presented in the findings section.

Results

In this section, the writer would describe and explain slang words types used in Rich Brian's song "*Getcho Mans*". The analysis below is based on theories from Allan & Burridge (2006) about types of slang words.

Table 1. Types of Slang Words used in Rich Brian's song "*Getcho Mans*"

Type of Slang Words	Occurrence	Percentage
Fresh & Creative	21	43,7 %
Flippant	7	14,5 %
Imitative	2	4,2 %
Clipping	17	35,5 %

Total	47	100%
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Based on the Table 1, there are 47 (forty-seven) pieces of data collected from the analysis. Lyrics with a total of 902 words in the song. With Fresh & Creative as the main type of slang words in the song with the total number of 21 (twenty-one) pieces of data. This happened because the rapper repeatedly uttered the word "Shit" and "Bitch" which is a Fresh & Creative type of slang word to replace a word to make the lyrics more suitable to the music and make the lyrics more relevant to the listeners which is mostly young people.

17 (seventeen) in the form of Clipping slang words, the examples are "fore" and "switchin". Followed by Flippant with 7 (seven) data, the phrase such as "rollie pollie" is utilized in the song. Imitative with 2 (two) data, the example for this type is "boutta". The writer could not find acronym type of slang words in this song. Acronym being not utilized is reasonable because not every phrase or sentence are suitable for abbreviation.

Discussion

Fresh & Creative

Fresh & creative is a slang word that has a newly found word or vocabulary, informal variety, and imagination that could be a brand-new words or old words that already exist but not very familiar.

Data 1.

*"Pull up on a **bitch**, she dances"*

From data one it is found the use of slang word "bitch". The word "bitch" based on the theory from Allan and Burridge (2006) can be classified into Fresh and Creative category. This word can be classified into this category because the word "bitch" is an eccentric utilization of word which a result of cleverness imagination. According to Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, this word classified a slang words because it used as a generalized term of abuse and disparagement for a woman. It concludes, The Rapper refers to woman or female. The rapper intends to say that he met a female and she dances with him.

Data 2.

*"Where he go, **shit** gettin' scary"*

The word "shit" from data two can be classified into Fresh and Creative category based on the theory from Allan and Burridge (2006). This word can be classified into this category because the word "shit" is an eccentric utilization of word which is a result of cleverness imagination. According to Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, this word classified a slang word because it means a bad, unpleasant, or dangerous situation or condition. It concludes, the rapper used "shit" to replace the word "situation". The rapper intends to say that anywhere his friend went, the situation become terrifying.

Data 3.

*"You too slow, just get to the **choppa**"*

Fresh and Creative slang word can be found from data three. Based on the theory from Allan and Burrige (2006) the word "choppa" can be classified into Fresh and Creative category. This word can be classified into this category because the word "choppa" is a unique utilization of word which is a result of cleverness imagination. According to Urban Dictionary, this word classified a slang word because it means goal or destination. It is usually used when there is exciting event that about to happen and they need to go somewhere. It is used when you do not require to mention where you're about to go, you already know your destination. It concluded that the rapper tells his friend that they have to go.

Data 4.

*"Rollin' deep with my **dawgs**"*

Data four presents information of the use of slang word "dawg". The word "dawg" based on the theory from Allan and Burrige (2006) can be classified into Fresh and Creative category. This word can be classified into this category because the word "dawg" is an eccentric utilization of word which is a result of cleverness imagination. According to Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, this word classified a slang word because it is used especially as a familiar form of address. It concludes, That the Rapper is talking about his friends. The rapper intends to say that he travels everywhere with his friends. The rapper used slang word to talk to his friends and show their closeness.

Data 5.

*"You roll **joints**, I'm rollin' impalas"*

Fresh and Creative slang word can be found from data five. Based on the theory from Allan and Burrige (2006) the word "joints" can be classified into Fresh and Creative category. This word can be classified into this category because the word "joints" is a unique utilization of word which is a result of cleverness imagination. According to Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, this word classified a slang word because it means a marijuana cigarette. It concluded that the rapper tells the listeners that they still smoking marijuana cigarette which implicates poverty, while the rapper already driving an expensive car.

Flippant

Flippant combined two or more words and make a new phrase that has an entirely different definitions from the standard words. Usually, flippant phrases formed because of historical event.

Data 6.

*"Hoe, we got different **ad-libs**, hoe, we got different mothers"*

This classified as Flippant type. The rapper said "ad-libs". The rapper combined the word "ad" (short for advertisement) and "libs". The meaning does not have any association or relation to the word "advertisement" or "libs". According to Urban Dictionary this phrase means adding extra layers of vocal variations over the existing main vocals to intensify the vocal effect of the song and increase the variation and sharpness to the vocal performance. The rapper talks about he got different variations of vocal inflections for music.

Data 7.

*"**Rollie pollie** with the Zaza"*

In this data, the rapper utilized the phrase "Rollie-pollie" which is a Flippant type. This data combined two or more words to formed a new phrase that has an entirely new definition from the standard words. According to Urban Dictionary, "Rollie-pollie" means A person who does ecstasy, or is on ecstasy. The rapper said "Zaza" which refers to one of friend named Zaza. It could be concluded that the rapper used narcotics with his friend called Zaza.

Data 8.

*"I leap like it's **Jump-man**"*

Flippant type could be identified from data eight. The rapper said "Jump-man". The rapper combined the word "Jump" and "man". The meaning does not necessarily become a jumping man. According to Urban Dictionary this phrase means a straight up thug whose sole purpose is to jump (aka mug or rob) people on their turf. The rapper talks about when he leaps (in this context: make a move) he is ready to attack. Therefore, this classified as Flippant type.

Data 9.

*"What's a gram to a **fake bitch**?"*

Data nine presents information of the use of slang word "fake bitch". The rapper said "fake bitch". The rapper combined the word "fake" and "bitch". According to Urban Dictionary this phrase means A person who pretends to care about you/be your friend, gets you to trust them and then turns around and stabs you in the back. The rapper intends to say that gram or Instagram has no effect or impact to a "fake bitch".

Imitative

Imitative slang word formed by imitate the word of standard English Language, utilize the standard English word in different definition, or combining two of

different word to make a newly found word.

Data 10.

*"Chain swingin', **dunno** where the medal is"*

From data 10 it is found the use of slang word "dunno". The word "dunno" based on the theory from Allan and Burridge (2006) can be classified into Imitative category. This word could be classified into this category because this slang word imitates the normal English language words by merging two different words without changing the meaning of the word. The reason is because slang words in this type make conversation easier and faster. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, this word is used in writing to represent the sound of the phrase "don't know" when it is spoken quickly. The rapper intends to say he does not understand why he is not receiving any medal. In this context, he refers to medal from music award.

Data 11.

*"Though I'm **boutta** leave, but I renewed the lease"*

The word "boutta" in data 11 is an Imitative type of slang word. Based on the theory from Allan and Burridge (2006) the word "boutta" could be classified into Imitative category. This word can be classified into this category because this slang word imitates the normal English language words by merging two different words without changing the meaning of the word. The reason is because slang words in this type make conversation easier and faster. According to Reverso Dictionary, this word means "about to". The rapper intends to say that he is about to leave.

Clipping

Clipping slang word is formed by omitting few parts of word to make a shorter form without changing the definition. The example is the word "till" that taken from "until". The words that regularly utilized could be clipped into a shorter word. Moreover, this kind of slang words only appropriate to use in informal or daily communication.

Data 12.

*"We the kings **fore** he turns to ashes"*

This classified as a Clipping type. Slang word method of omitting few parts of words without changing their definition. Most of clipping slang word method being utilized at the beginning of a word or back of a word. The rapper said "*fore*" that refers to the word "before". By removing the beginning of the word without changing the meaning of it. It is also shortened to make it easier to say and to make it suitable to the music.

Data 13.

*"**Rollin'** deep with my dawgs"*

The word "*Rollin*" has through clipping process from the original word "*rolling*". The word "*rolling*" is considered as a free morpheme that can stand alone and could be used in a sentence. Then "*Rollin*" could be entered to clipping category. The last part of the word "*Rollin*" is removed from the word "*rolling*". It is made it easier to say in the song because of the clipping process.

Data 14.

*"If you **switchin'** up, then tell me in advance"*

This classified as a Clipping type. Slang word method of cutting of words without changing their meaning. The rapper said "*switchin*" that refers to the word "*switching*". By removing the end of the word without changing the meaning of it. It is shortened to make it easier to say and to make it suitable to the music.

Data 15.

*"Me and Warren **'bout** to kill this shit"*

This classified as a Clipping type. The rapper said "*bout*" that refers to the word "*about*". By removing the beginning of the word without changing the meaning of it. To make it easier to say and make it suitable to the music, it be cut with clipping method.

Data 16

*"All you lil' boys **sippin'** on Trulys"*

The word "*sippin*" from data 16 could be classified into Clipping category based on the theory from Allan and Burridge (2006). The rapper said "*sippin*" that refers to the word "*sipping*" by removing the end of the word without changing the meaning of it. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word means to drink something (in this context, truly is a name of a beverage) in small quantities. The rapper talks about how everyone is drinking a beverage named Truly.

Conclusion

The aim of using slang word is to make communication become easier to understand and to make the speaker and the listeners become closer to each other because slang words is an informal language, it is making the speaker and listeners do not feel inferior to each other and speak more freely. In the context of music, sometime slang words are easier to say because the word is shorter and it match the music and tempo. Slang words are dynamic, there's always new word appear when the old one is disappearing. The writer hopes there will be new interesting slang words in the future to help our conversation easier and more fun.

Slang words serve as a powerful reflection of sociolinguistic trends in youth

culture, highlighting how language evolves to express identity, solidarity, and resistance. It often emerges from specific subcultures such as music, gaming, or social media and spreads rapidly among peer groups. Slang words allow young people to assert group membership, differentiate themselves from older generations, and adapt to rapidly changing cultural landscapes. It also reflects broader social dynamics, including issues of race, gender, and technology, revealing how language can both challenge norms and reinforce new ones in an ever-shifting cultural context.

The result of this study brings some suggestions to a lot of sides. This study may be used as a reference related to Slang words. It is suggested that the next researches can developed in their research related to this subject from different perspective. The writer encourages another writer to analyze slang words from another genre or artist that are rarely utilized as a data source in this field. It can be studied in the micro linguistics study to figure out the linguistics aspect of slang words in a song.

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