



The Use of Slang Language as Strategy of Communication in Alasraja Village: A Sociolinguistic Study

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Abstract

Language acts as the main means of communication and self-identity, which continues to develop along with social, cultural, and technological changes. Among teenagers, slang is an important part of informal communication, enabling the formation of group identity and solidarity. The use of slang language among teenagers in Alasraja Village, Bangkalan Regency are very unique. This study tries to analyze the use of slang language by exploring the forms, functions, and social and cultural factors that play a role in its formation. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method by applying a sociolinguistic approach. This research was conducted in Alasraja Village, Bangkalan, Madura, East Java on 2024. The results of the study identified five main types of slang: (1) fresh and creative slang at about 38,48%, clipping at about 15, 38%, compounding 15, 38%, acronym 15, 38%, and imitative 15, 38%. Each of which has its own social and communicative functions. Moreover, the use of slang in Alasraja strengthens the social identity, facilitates informal communication, and expresses resistance to formal language rules. The main factors in the formation of this slang language are the influence of social media and local dialects, which together create a linguistic expression that is distinctive and rooted in cultural identity. This study provides insight into how language functions as a means of communication and a reflection of the social dynamics that develop in local communities.

Keywords: Slang, Sociolinguistics, Communication, Teenage, Bangkalan

Introduction

Language has an important role in communication (Kurniawan, 2025). Language is an essential aspect of human life, functioning as a means of communication (Nasution & Tambunan, 2022). As communication, language has a function to express their thoughts and opinions and form social bonds (Alshehri,

2023). It connects people in society by enabling them to convey ideas (Gee, 2022). Language is not static; it involves over time in response to social, cultural, and technological changes.

Language variation can be seen in every aspect of life, like in daily conversation, game (Firdaus, 2023), social media, and etc. One interesting form of language variation which is interesting to be conducted as research is slang. Finegan (2008) explains that slang is highly popular among teenagers and students, who use it as a unique language. Slang language influencing by formal and informal language (Germe & Carado, 2025). According to Sari (2015), slang consist of specific, unique, and distinct words or terms with meanings that may differ or even contrast with their usual definitions in certain subcultures. Slang is a style of language that originates from the development and modification of various languages, so it lacks a definite structure and established rules (Swandy, 2017).

People use slang in day-to-day communication irrespective of their age (Haqiq, 2009) and used in casual situation (Kandiawan, 2022). It is a type of non-standard language used by a particular community in everyday conversation which is only understood and comprehended by that community because it contains a secret (Aswin, 2015; Chaer, 2014). It is often used by teenagers in their daily life (Azizah, 2019) with the aim of familiarity, attracting attention, humor, or secrecy among slang users (Amrullah, 2018).

This communication style allows teenagers to discuss topics that they prefer to keep private from other age groups, making it more difficult for others to understand what they are talking about. Slang plays important role for teenagers in their communication (Xurmetullaevna & Jen'isbaevna, 2025). (Tagg, 2020; Squires (2016) slang serves as a tool for identity formation particularly among youth. Slang serves not only as a form of self-expression but also as a marker of group identity and as a form of resistance to more formal language norms.

The use of slang among teenagers carries complex social and cultural meanings and is influenced by factors like social environment, media, and daily interactions. Slang reflects the flexibility of language to meet the expressive and communicative needs of its users. Slang can be defined as a deliberate language variation, predominantly used by teenagers to strengthen friendships and reinforce group identity (Ertika et al., 2019). Furthermore, slang plays a role in the formation of social identity, especially for groups seeking to differentiate themselves from mainstream or formal language.

According to Mulyasa (2008), slang is a collection of words or terms with unique, deviant, or even contradictory meanings when used by people from specific subcultures. As Zhou & Fan (2013) explain, slang is a form of speech variety or language diversity. Initially, slang was used by certain groups, such as criminals, as a code for their conversations. However, over time, slang has become more widely accepted in society, especially among teenagers. The rise of social media has also accelerated the spread of slang, making it increasingly common in non-formal

communication. Consequently, the emergence of new vocabulary among teenagers, known as slang, can make it difficult for some people to understand the conveyed message. Limited vocabulary may also hinder individuals from clearly expressing themselves in communication. To avoid this, it is essential for individuals to understand and use words effectively in communication.

There are some researches which have been conducted related slang language. Research conducted by (Nuraeni & Pahamzah, 2021) who conducted a research of slang language used in teenager interaction. The results of study focus on slang as a form of language variation. This study underlines the importance of slang in adolescent communication and identity formation. Research conducted by (Rosyadi et.al, 2023), found about understanding how slang functions as a means of communication among teenagers.

In addition, in previous research conducted by Pongsapan, N. P. (2022) discussed about slang language used in English students' interaction. A study conducted by (Hamidah, et.al, 2023) focused on the use of slang language on social media. A study conducted by Tasyarasita, et.al (2023) discussed about slang variation on social media tiktok. Dewi (2024) conducted a research related slang language on Tiktok for Z generation. Research conducted by (Rosalina, et.al. 2020; Fikri, et.al, 2023) discussed about the use of slang on Twitter. A study conducted by Zulkhaeriyah, et.al (2023) found about the impact of slang language on the existence of Indonesian language.

The previous research from (Yuniar et.al, 2023) which discussed about slang words from content creators on Tiktok. This study identified a total of 50 slang words, categorizing them into six of the types of slang as per Michael Munro's theory. The use of slang on social media was conducted by Salsabila, et.al (2024). This study tries to fill the gap of research related slang language used by teenagers in Alasrajah, Bangkalan, Madura. Alasrajah, a village located in the eastern part of Bangkalan Regency, predominantly uses the native Madurese language, unaltered by other dialects.

The teenagers in this village often use slang in their daily communication as a relaxed and familiar form of expression that reinforces group solidarity. This unique use of slang is particularly interesting to study from a sociolinguistic perspective. The study of teenager slang in Alasrajah can offer deeper insights into how language evolves with social change and how teenagers use language to construct self-identity and social relationships. This research aims to analyze the forms, functions, and factors influencing slang usage among teenager in Alasrajah Village, Bangkalan.

Through this analysis, unique patterns in teenager communication and the significance of slang in their social context are explored. This study is important as it illustrates how language functions as a means of communication and a reflection of social and cultural dynamics within society. This study contributes to linguistic studies, particularly sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics refer to the study of language

used by social community (Nasution, et.al, 2019). This research highlights the interaction between language, culture, and social identity at the local community level.

Additionally, it offers insights into how language changes in the modern era are influenced by technology, globalization, and cross-cultural interactions. This study provides a significant contribution to understanding how language continues to develop and adapt to dynamic social changes. The research questions this study aims to answer this research question (1) what are the forms and characteristics of slang used by teenagers in Alasraja Village, Bangkalan?; (2) What are the functions of slang among teenagers in Alasraja Village?

Method

This study adopts a descriptive qualitative method with a sociolinguistic approach. A descriptive qualitative approach was used as a method in this study. Qualitative research methods are particularly appropriate for investigating phenomena involving human interactions (Abdussamad, 2021; Kusumastuti & Khoiron, 2019; Emzir, 2012). This method was chosen to gain an in-depth understanding of slang usage among teenagers. Designed with a qualitative approach, this study explores data and information related to the phenomenon of slang use and the social and cultural dynamics behind it. Thus, this research focuses on the social and cultural context in which the language is used, capturing complex nuances in teenager communication.

This research was conducted at in Alasraja Village, Bangkalan, Madura, East Java, Indonesia. The research subjects are teenagers in Alasraja Village, Bangkalan, aged 14 to 18 years, who actively communicate in peer groups. The selected subjects include students from the Nurul Jamil school foundation and other village teenagers chosen purposively to ensure they have relevant experience with slang usage.

Data collection involved observing teenage interactions in natural contexts such as school, gathering places, and on social media to capture slang usage directly and understand the social context behind it. Permission was obtained to record conversations between teenagers to analyze slang in everyday interactions, providing a realistic depiction of language functions in their social context. Data validity and reliability were ensured by triangulating observations, interviews, and recorded conversations, and by discussing findings with colleagues for further input and perspectives.

This approach strengthens the accountability of the study and enhances its contribution to sociolinguistic studies. The analytical techniques used in this study are data analysis techniques (Miles, Huberman, & Saldana, 2014), data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

Results

The findings are based on an analysis of the slang types commonly used by students of the Nurul Jamil school foundation and other selected teenagers in the village with relevant slang experience. Based on Allan and Burridge's (2006) framework, five slang types were identified: fresh and creative, compounding, imitative, acronym, and clipping. The following table shows the frequency of each type:

Table 1. The Use of Slang Language used by Teenager in Alasrajah

Number	Category of slang	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Fresh and Creative	5	38,48%
2.	Clipping	2	15,38%
3.	Compounding	2	15,38%
4.	Acronym	2	15,38%
5.	Imitative	2	15,38%
Total		13	100%

From the table, Fresh and Creative slang is the most common type, comprising 38.48% of slang used in teenage interactions in Alasrajah. Compounding, Imitative, Acronym, and Clipping each make up 15.38%.

Discussion

As explained in the data results above, the type of slang most commonly found by researchers is Fresh and Creative. This type is formed from words derived from the first letter of each word in a phrase or formed from the initials of a group of words or syllables. Examples of this type can be seen in the table below.

Table 2. The Use of Fresh and Creative of Slang Language used by Teenagers in Alasrajah

Number	Slang Words	Meaning	Explanation
1	<i>Reng Jhukong'</i>	A term for people who like to interfere in other people's affairs.	This term is used to describe someone who is too nosy or involved in other people's affairs without being asked
2	<i>Tengka'</i>	Not caring or ignoring something	This term is used when someone doesn't care about a situation.
3	<i>Capek tabo'</i>	A combination of capek(tired) and tabo(very), used to describe	Phrase often used by teenagers in a joking tone to express excessive tiredness.

4	<i>Cekot</i>	extreme fatigue. Word meaning of tired	This term used creatively to describe discomfort with something, either physically or emotionally. For example, "Cekot ta' pol!" means very uncomfortable or very disturbed.
5	<i>Abantal om bak asapo' angen</i>	Live simply, ready to face all obstacles.	This term is used for someone who is ready to live simply, ready to face all obstacles. without complaining too much, but instead enjoying it as part of the journey of life

For the next type, there is clipping. This clipping is made by removing some parts of long words into a shorter form with the same meaning. In addition, the clipping form is less appropriate for use in formal conversations. Examples of types of clipping can be seen in the following table:

Table 3. The Use of Clipping of Slang Language used by Teenagers in Alasrajah

Number	Slang Words	Meaning	Explanation
1	<i>Cong</i>	"Cong" comes from the word "Pecongan"	A form of the word used for someone who speaks or behaves arrogantly.
2	<i>Lapla'</i>	"Lapla" comes from the word "Lapo-lapo"	This form of the word refers to a condition or atmosphere that is crowded, noisy, or full of crowds.

Next is Compounding which is included in the type of slang language. A short definition of this compounding is the most common word formation process. It can also be said that this compounding is a combination of two or more words to form a new word. Some of those found in communication in

Alasraja Village are as follows:

Table 4. The Use of Compounding of Slang Language used by Teenagers in Alasraja

Number	Slang Words	Meaning	Explanation
1	<i>Kanca Sedher</i>	"Kanca" means "friend." "Sedher" means "familiar or close."	When combined, "Kanca Sedher" means "Close friend or best friend."
2	<i>Banggung lapa'</i>	"Banggung" means "Wake Up." "Lapa'" means "Eat"	When combined, "Banggung lapa'". Refers to the habit or condition of someone who has just woken up and immediately eats.

The next type found is a type of slang language in the form of an abbreviation or combination of several syllables that form a new word, this is called an Acronym. The following are the types of acronym slang language found:

Table 5. The Use of Abbreviation of Slang Language used by Teenagers in Alasraja

Number	Slang Words	Meaning	Explanation
1	<i>BES (Ben Elok Sa)</i>	Abbreviation of "Ben Elok Sa" usually used when someone which can be is asked to improve interpreted as something to make it "to make it a little better. better."	This abbreviation or word is
2	<i>POKAM (Polo Kambeng)</i>	Abbreviation of "Polo" (head) and "Kambeng" (goat).	Abbreviation or word for someone who is stubborn, and describes someone who is difficult to control.

For the last type which is also found in the communication of teenagers in Alasraja village, namely Imitative slang, where the meaning of imitative is a type of slang that imitates the sound or structure of words from another language or an existing native language, then adjusted to the local Madurese context.

Table 6. The Use of Imitative of Slang Language used by Teenagers in Alasrajah

Number	Slang Words	Meaning	Explanation
1	<i>Perkek</i>	The word “Perkek” sounds like a sound or characteristic associated with something hard or stiff, reflecting the nature of someone who is stingy or miserly.	This term is often used to describe someone who is reluctant to share or is too calculating in terms of material things, with a somewhat negative connotation.
2	<i>Teppo-teppo</i>	The repetition of the sound “teppo” reflects a movement that is done carelessly, as if done quickly and without caring about the end result.	This terms that contain repetition of sounds that describe actions that are done carelessly or carelessly.

Conclusion

This study highlights the distinctive use of slang and its importance among adolescents in Alasrajah Village, revealing how language evolves to meet the expressive and communicative needs of its users. Slang in Alasrajah serves multiple functions: reinforcing social identity among adolescents, facilitating informal communication, and acting as a medium to express independence and rejection of formal norms. This study identified five main types of slang, Fresh and Creative, Clipping, Combined, Acronym, and Imitative.

Each type of slang embodies unique linguistic creativity that not only enriches everyday conversation but also reflects deeper social and cultural relationships within the community. Overall, this study underscores how slang serves as an important tool for adolescents to navigate social dynamics, assert group identity, and connect with cultural heritage, while illustrating the dynamic nature of language in adapting to social and technological change. This study gives recommendation to use slang language only in informal situation because this language use informal language. Moreover, this study limited only on the use of slang language in area Alasrajah village in Bangkalan Madura, future research can be conducted in different area which have different language.

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