

AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG LANGUAGE IN LARSON'S SONG LYRICS

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Abstact: This research is "An Analysis of Slang Language in Larson's Song Lyrics". It aims to find out the slang words and its characteristics in Larson's song lyrics. This research is a qualitative research which is dealing with descriptive method. The data in this research was collected through documentation of the song lyrics into written text. In analyzing the data, the researcher did three steps that consist of data finding, data listing, and data classification. Data finding was used to find the data from the song lyrics. In data listing, the researcher was underlined and listed some slang language found in Larson's song lyrics. The last was data classification used after listing the slang language, the researcher classifies it properly. The result of this research showed that there were 31 data of word formation process in various characteristics. Clipping is the most frequently used with 45,16%, followed by blending with 29.04%, coinage and borrowing with 12.90%.

Keyword: *Slang language, Song lyrics, Larson's song lyrics.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a signal that is used by the community to interact, communicate and identify themselves in social life. As Kushartanti et al (2009:3) said that language is a sound system used by society group to collaborate, communicate and to identify themselves. Normally, communication is a process of transferring message from the speaker to the hearer. The speaker sends a message and the hearer receives it. The way people transferring a message is different. They not only do it by the utterance but also in written form. One of the ways is song.

Webster (1989:58) states that slang is language of particular group, trade or pursuit or an informal, non-standard vocabulary changed word and extravagant, forced or facetious figures of speech. Slang language is mainly spoken form, which is used in social milieus and popular media, and to certain extent it is used in song lyrics and publication, such as teen magazine or pop magazine. Slang language in the lyrics of song is also used in communication. It is supported by Keraf (2001: 98) slang is an informal word that arranged typically in a

communication. People often used song in conversation to show their feeling because songs have special characteristics in their lyrics. Sometime, some of lyrics used slang word in delivering a message to convey the meaning. The sentence in certain lyrics of the songs are often unfinished and the sentence are not grammatical either. It is actually refers to the way of composer arrange the words to be a beautiful lyrics. Mostly, some of the words in the lyrics are slang words (eg. Baby, boy, gonna etc).

Slang is kind of speech variety. It refers to any distinguishable form of speech used by the speaker of a group of speaker. It is not an official language, it is informal language. Holmes (2001: 183) stated that slang belongs to vocabulary area and reflects of person age. It also become the privilege of the youth and considered uncommon by old person in general. In addition, slang belong to identify of a particular group.

According to Trudgil (1992: 117) a standard language is a language one of whose varieties has undergone standardization. In English, slang is non-standard English. However, slang is non-standard use of words in a language and sometimes the creation of new words or important words from another language. For example, some people say “honey” which have similarity meaning to “dear”. The exact meaning of honey is a viscous fluid produced by bees. The other slang language can be found in Larson’s song lyrics like *ain’t my fault, so good lush life and make that money girl*.

According to Richard in Marzita et al. (2013: 163), slang is used for informal speech variety which often serve as an “in group” language such as teenagers, army, and pop group. Slang is commonly used to show a special identity, to be popular, to get easier and simple conversation. Another theory of slang by Hartman and Stork in Alwasilah (1985: 57),

“a variety of speech characterize by newly coined and rapidly change vocabulary, used by the young or by the social group and professional group for in “a group” communication and thus tending to prevent understanding by the rest of speech community.”

Slang is a new vocabulary that made by the people in social community. It is a specific words, phrase, utterance, which is generally used by the people in their community. Because slang is informal and non-standard English, could not be spoken in formal situation such as school, office, and university. As Walter (2004) defines that slang used in very informal conversation unsuitable for the formal situation. It is supported by Menchen (1936: 481) stated that slang is expression that do not belong to Standard English. For example: “what’s up?” it is asking about greeting to people.

Slang language in the lyrics of song is also used in communication and to make the listener easier in understanding the content of the song. As Thongkamdee (1998) cited in Gerber (1968) states that teens use slang words in sentences shorter, faster, and easier to say.

The presence of the word that is formed must be caused by the syllables that make up the word itself. Syllables according to Muslich (2013: 73) has a connection in a writing system. In word formation, syllables has a connection in writing process. However, some words can be combined into a single word and it influenced to the syllable of the word.

In addition, According to O'Grady (1996: 55), one of the developments is creating new words by using word formation. Words as a part of language has important role in forming language. Every time people get more and more new words unless they know the way it happens. He also stated that there are several types of word formation processes such as; coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, back formation, conversion, acronym, derivation, reduplication, onomatopoeia, and affixation. However in (1997) sited by Marzita et al. (2013: 164), types of word formation are: affixation, cliticization, morpheme internal changes, suppletion, reduplication, compounding, derivation, conversion, clipping, blending, backformation, acronym, onomatopoeia, coinage.

Further, word formation process is constant evolution of new uses of old term as a reassuring sign of validity and creativeness in the way a language is shapes by the needs of people. Sometime, people do not think about language is formed. As statement that has been define by Yule (2006: 52-59), there are some ways of creating new words, there are Coinage, Compounding, Clipping, Blending, Borrowing, Back formation, Acronyms, Multiple processes, Affixes (Prefix, Infix, Suffix).

A lot of researchers have been conducted their research in term of slang. Some of them are; Anjar (2013) who particularly analyzed *Slang in the Script Of 8-Mile Film*. His research showed that that there were 10 single word or about 62,5% of all the data. Compound word has one data, or 6,3% of all the data. Slang phrase has 4 data or about 25% of all the data while slang acronym has only 1 datum or about 63% of all the data. There were only two kinds of meaning in 8-mile film: denotative and connotative. The denotative meaning data or about 12,5% of all data. Connotative meaning has 14 data, or about 87,5% of all data. Next, there were 3 reasons of using slang word as spontaneous data, or about 18,7% of all the data. To escape from clichés has 8 data, or 50% of all the data. To enrich the language has 2 data or about 12,5%% of all the data while to intimate, maybe to prove, that one belongs or has belonged to a certain school or university, trade or profession, or social class, has only 3 datum

or about 18,7% of all the data. The other research by Nia (2015), who already analyzed *Slang Language in Song Lyrics Used by Justin Bieber*. The result showed that there were 24 slang words and the researcher found three characteristics of word formation in Bieber's song lyrics such as blending 9 data, clipping 10 data, coinage 3 and acronym 1 data.

The researcher is going to analyze the same aspect as slang language. The present study will not describe the slang language in movie or film but it will focus on the song lyrics from different singer. However, little information of slang language analysis in a song lyrics used other singer. Therefore, the researcher is going to analyze on slang language in Larson's song lyrics.

METHOD

This research was conducted qualitative research which is dealing with descriptive analysis research design. The data analysis in this study taken from the song lyrics used by Zara Larson. The design of this study is descriptive qualitative research design because this study was described about the occurrence and kind of slang language that exist in the song Larson's song lyrics. The object of the research that used in this study was song lyrics used by Zara Larson.

There are primary and secondary source of data in this research. The primary source of this study will be taken from song lyrics used by Larson such as "Ain't my fault, so good, lush life and make that money girl". Secondary source is the supporting data to make the primary data to be more clearly detail, reliable and authentic. Supporting data was taken from education books, literature journals and relevant theories.

The researcher was used documentation as data collecting technique. Documentation is normally conducted when the research aims to collect about things, like notes, transcriptions, book, newspaper, magazine, and article. The researcher listen to the Larson's songs "Ain't my fault, so good, lush life and make that money girl". After that, the researcher seek the song lyrics in the internet to be collected as a lyrics documentation of a research.

The collected data was analyzed using qualitative which is dealing with descriptive method. The data based on the number of slang language which occurred in the song lyrics used by Zara Larson. However, there are three procedures in analyzing the data; data finding,

data listing and data classification. First, the researcher will do data finding to find and get the data. Secondly, data listing will directly done by the researcher when the data is ready. In listing the data, the researcher read the song lyrics then underlining the slang language found in the lyrics. The last step is data classification. After the data collected, the researcher begin to classify it into the proper characteristics of slang language.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The researcher present the result in three steps such as data finding, data listing and data classification.

Data Finding

In this step, the researcher got the documents that had been selected from Zara Larson song lyrics. The documents include of Zara Larson song lyrics such as ain't my fault, so good, lush life and make that money girl.

Data Listing

The researcher underlines the slang language and make a list based on the kind of slang, which word that focus on word formation and the characteristics of slang. Thus, the researcher easier in classifying the data.

Data Classification

The last step was classifying the slang word according to the characteristics of slang, meaning and the sociolinguistics aspect of slang.

According to O'Grady *et al* (1996: 63) stated that there are several types of word formation processes such as; coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, back formation, conversion, acronym, derivation, reduplication, onomatopoeia, and affixation. It is supported by Yule (2006: 52-59), there are some characteristics of slang word such as coinage, compounding, clipping, blending, borrowing, back formation, acronyms, multiple processes,

affixes (prefix, infix, suffix). In this case, the researcher classified the characteristics of slang language in Zara Larson song lyrics

Table 1. Characteristics of Slang That Used in Zara Larson Song Lyrics

No	Slang Language	Original Words	Information	Characteristics
1	Ain't	Am, are, is not	Tidak	Blending
2	Leavin	Leaving	Pergi	Clipping
3	Kinda	Kind of	Semacam	Blending
4	Girl	Girl	Gadis	Borrowing
5	Boy	Boy	Pria	Borrowing
6	Baby	Baby	Panggilan sayang	Borrowing
7	Damn	Damn	Pernyataan mengejutkan	Borrowing
8	Ya	You	Kamu	Coinage
9	Wanna	Want to	Ingin	Blending
10	Gotta	Got to	Harus	Blending
11	Holdin	Holding	Menggenggam	Clipping
12	Aye	Yes	Ya	Coinage
13	Cause	Because	Karena	Clipping
14	Babe	Baby	Panggilan sayang	Coinage
15	Comin	Coming	Datang	Clipping
16	Clearin	Clearing	Bebas	Clipping
17	Tryna	Trying to	Mencoba	Blending
18	Bout	About	Tentang	Clipping
19	Wakin up	Waking up	Bangun	Clipping

20	Thankin	Thanking	Berterimakasih	Clipping
21	Doin	Doing	Melakukan	Clipping
22	I'mma	I am	Saya	Blending
23	Won't	Will not	Tidak akan	Blending
24	Yeah	Yes	Ya	Coinage
25	Til	Until	Sehingga	Clipping
26	Gonna	Going to	Akan	Blending
27	Ceilin	Ceiling	Langit-langit / atap	Clipping
28	Feelin	Feeling	Perasaan	Clipping
29	Buildin	Building	Bangunan	Clipping
30	A Lotta	A lot of	Banyak	Blending
31	Gon	Gone	Pergi	Clipping

Table 2. Word Formation Process Used in Larson's Song Lyrics

No	Characteristics of slang	Total	Percentage
1	Coinage	4	12,90%
2	Blending	9	29,04%
3	Borrowing	4	12,90%
4	Acronyms	0	0 %
5	Clipping	14	45,16%
6	Derivation	0	0 %
7	Multiple processes	0	0 %
8	Reduplication	0	0 %
9	Compounding	0	0 %
10	Back formation	0	0 %
11	Onomatopoeia	0	0 %
Total		31	100%

Discussion

Based on the result of slang language that used in Larson's song lyrics, found that there are 31 data. The researcher analyze the occurrence of slang language in the song lyrics used by Larson. Further, the researcher also classified the characteristics of it. The objective of this study is to find out the characteristics of slang language in Larson's song lyrics.

The analysis of Larson's song lyrics, found that there are 31 data of word formation process in various characteristics. From the 31 data, clipping is type of word formation that mostly used in Larson's song lyrics. it is 45,16% or 14 data, then followed by blending 29,04% or 9 data, both of coinage and borrowing are 12,90% or 4 data in each characteristic.

Clipping is kind of slang word which is formed by shortening the word (O'Grady et al, 1996). Process of clipping may be replace with certain new spelling. Based on the data above, it found that there were 45,16% or 14 clipping data in Larson's song lyrics. For example of clipping is like the word *bout* is a shortening word from *about* which the alphabet a is deleting and produce a new spelling. The other clipping word formation such as *leavin* is shortening word from *leaving*, *holdin* (*holding*), *cause* (*because*), *comin* (*coming*), *clearin* (*clearing*), *wakin up* (*waking up*), *thankin* (*thanking*), *doin* (*doing*), *til* (*until*), *ceilin* (*ceiling*), *feelin* (*feeling*), *buildin* (*building*), *gon* (*gone*).

Blending is about combining two words to generate a new word (O'Grady et al, 1996). It is a combination of the first word joined by the other word in the end. Based on the data above, it found that there were ten data of blending. For example is *ain't* combining word from "*am/are/is*" and "*not*". Process of blending is combining two word to produce a new word. Other example of blending that used by Larson's in her song lyrics such as *kinda* (*kind of*), *wanna* (*want to*), *gotta* (*got to*), *tryna* (*trying*), *imma* (*I am*), *gonna* (*going to*), *lotta* (*a lot of*).

Coinage is the invention of totally new words. It usually adopts from the brand names of common word (O'Grady et al, 1996). Based on the data above, it found that there were four data of coinage. In this word formation, the singer is creating a new word totally. Based on the data, it found coinage in Larson's song lyrics such as the word *ya* it refers to word *you*. Next, the word *babe* is a real word from *baby* it used to call someone loved like parent to children, or between husband and wife. It is not really mean to call a baby. Next is the word *aye* refers to word *yes* and the word *yeah* it refers to *yes*.

Borrowing is a word formation which is taken from other languages (O'Grady et al, 1996). Based on the data above, it found that there were four data (12,90%), such as **girl** and **boy** refers to a friend. Next is **baby** refers to call someone loved, and the word **damn**, refers the exclamation of yes. It relates to the word very or extremely good.

CONCLUSION

Slang is informal language that commonly used by a group of people in the social life. The occurrence of slang language in Larson's song lyrics are varieties. It include of word and phrase. However, the characteristics of slang language that include in Zara Larson song lyrics are clipping 14 data, blending 9 data, coinage 4 data, and 4 other for borrowing.

Clipping is kind of slang word which is formed by shortening the word. Process of clipping may be replace with certain new spelling. For example, the word *comin'* is the shortening word from coming, *cause* is the shortening word from because. Blending is about combining two words to generate a new word. It is a combination of the first word joined by the other word in the end. For example is the word *ain't* is a combination words from "am/are/is" and "not", *tryna* is a combination words from "trying" and "to". Coinage is the invention of totally new words. It usually adopts from the brand names of common word. For example like the word *aye* refers to word *yes*, and *babe* refers to word *baby*. Borrowing is a word formation which is taken from other languages. For the instance like the word *girl* and *boy* in Larson's songs refers to a friend not parent or brother. Other word is *damn*, refers to the exclamation of yes. It relates to the word very or extremely good.

However, the major finding of this research is the characteristics of slang in term of clipping. The result of analyzing slang word in Larson's song lyrics, found that there were 14 data of clipping. Where other are about nine data of blending, four data for coinage, and four other for borrowing.

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