

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of several things including: sociolinguistics, slang words, and previous study.

A. Sociolinguistics

Humans need communication media in order to interact with other people. Language is important for communication media. What's interesting about language is that it can be used to interact, share opinions, and help people understand each other. Due to this fact, language and society must be studied simultaneously or side by side in the field of sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies the properties of language and languages that require social reference, including the contextual factors that need to be explained (Wardhaugh, 2010; Holmes, 2013). Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society; it investigates how people use language in various social contexts and how people signify aspects of the social identity (Meyerhoff, 2018).

Sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and society in order to gain a better understanding of the structure of language and how language functions in communication. The aim of linguistic sociology is to discover how social structure can be understood through the study of language. For example, consider how certain linguistic characteristics can be used to characterise certain social settings (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2021).

In addition to sociolinguistics, pragmatics plays a crucial role in understanding how language functions in context. Pragmatics is concerned with the ways in which people use language in communication, focusing not just on the structure of language, but on how meaning is derived in specific

social contexts. It involves understanding how speakers convey intentions, manage conversational turns, and navigate the social dynamics of communication (Yule, 1996). Pragmatics is concerned with the practical aspects of language, considering factors such as politeness, deixis, and implicature, which are essential to interpreting the meaning of utterances in particular situations (Grice, 1975). By examining these elements, pragmatics provides insight into how language functions in real-world communication and complements the study of sociolinguistics in exploring the relationship between language and society.

B. Slang

1. Definition of Slang

Words that are not a part of standard vocabulary or language, and which are used informally, are called “slang.” These words are more commonly used in speech than in writing. Every culture and every region across the globe has its own slang (Green, 2015; Adams, 2009).

Eric Partridge (1993) as the first person to report the phenomenon of slang citing that a term might be possible to spread the term within a decade before it was released, but it seems that the slang generally formed due to deviations from the standard form, the formation of slang occurs in a way that is almost the same as the general semantic changes that are likely to occur. What distinguishes it is the meaning of the term slang taking on certain social significance. Eric Partridge (1993)

This is also supported by the opinion of Julie in her book entitled "Life of Slang" (1996) saying that slang is distinguished in more general semantic changes because it is usually associated with a certain level. Slang Language development is considered to be the most spontaneous, lively, and creative speech process. (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2021).

2. The Functions of Slang

In their work "Forbidden Words: Taboo and the Censoring of Language," discuss various aspects of language, including slang. They classify slang words into different types, as mentioned earlier: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Allan and Burridge (2006).

Additionally, they explore the functions of slang. Here are seven functions of slang according to Allan and Burridge:

- a. Addressing Function:** Speakers use slang to maintain close relationships. It serves as a way to connect with others informally.
- b. Expressive Function:** Slang allows speakers to express emotions, attitudes, or opinions more vividly than standard language.
- c. Social Identity Function:** Slang can signal group membership or social identity. Using specific slang words may indicate belonging to a particular community or subculture.
- d. Group Solidarity Function:** Slang fosters a sense of solidarity among group members. It reinforces shared experiences and creates a sense of belonging.
- e. Euphemistic Function:** Slang can be used as a euphemism to soften the impact of taboo or sensitive topics.
- f. Playful Function:** Slang adds an element of playfulness or humor to communication.
- g. Creative Function:** Fresh and creative slang emerges spontaneously within communities, reflecting linguistic creativity and cultural trends.

3. History and Development of Slang

Allan and Burridge (2006) in their book said that the first of slang words was in the eighteenth century. At the moment, slang was typically used to modify the satirical expression of being linked to a stranger or a suspect. Many people use words to make jokes or keep a secret of the meaning of the word that they are thinking about, and

some people want to express their feelings by using a new language next to Standard English. According to Allan and Burridge they classify the types of slang as Fresh and Creative, Flippant, Imitative, Acronym and Clipping.

In fact Julie in his book entitled "Life of Slang" (1996) said that slang emerged in 1756, at that time the slang vocabulary was aimed at people who were "inferior" and "ugly" until the early 1990s Slang in general no longer aimed at degrading people. This now leads to changes in the meaning of words or changes in words, as said by Coleman Slang at the time until now appears spontaneously and more creative. Due to the large number of slang languages that have emerged making it a bit difficult to distinguish between slang and everyday languages that are not included in this slang because slang is increasingly accepted by the people day by day, some of them have even been listed in several dictionaries.

At the beginning of the emergence of slang which has a new meaning in the 90s made people often verbally communicate pinned slang which emerged that year, but over time the emergence of a new era that is the era of modernization of the scientists gave rise to a number of new innovations that are more sophisticated, the internet emerged as a place for people to use social media to reach out among foreign countries making a number of languages with rapid popping up.

4. Types of Slang

The types of slang, according to Allan and Burridge (2006), are divided into five categories, as explained below:

a. Fresh and Creative

Fresh and Creative refers to slang that introduces new vocabulary to describe something in informal situations. This type of slang is often created spontaneously by younger generations and later adopted as new words.

Examples of Fresh and Creative slang include:

- **Dope:**

Meaning: Used to describe something that is cool, excellent, or impressive. Reason: This term has evolved from its original meaning related to drugs to become a positive descriptor in popular culture. Example: "That new song is dope, I can't stop listening to it."

- **lit:**

Meaning: Describes something that is exciting, amazing, or full of energy. Reason: Originally referring to being intoxicated, it has been repurposed to describe high-energy events or experiences.

Example: "The party last night was so lit, the music was great and everyone was dancing."

- **swag:**

Meaning: Refers to a person's sense of style, confidence, or overall demeanor. Reason: This term has been adopted from its original meaning related to stolen goods to describe someone's coolness or charisma. Example: "He has so much swag, he always looks fashionable"

b. Flippant

Flippant refers to slang words or phrases consisting of two or more words that are not directly related to their literal meaning. Similar to Fresh and Creative slang, Flippant slang also carries a different meaning from the general or literal sense of the words. However, Flippant slang typically consists of phrases or idiomatic expressions that are playful or exaggerated.

Examples of Flippant slang include:

- **Kick your ass:** An idiomatic expression meaning to

defeat someone soundly or win decisively. However, in this context, it is used flippantly, suggesting playful competition rather than actual violence.

Example: "Yeah, I'll totally kick your ass in that video game. Bring it on!"

- **Clean height:** A phrase used flippantly without a clear or literal meaning, often intended to tease or joke.

Example: "Yeah, I'll totally clean height in that spelling bee competition. Watch me!"

c. Imitative

Imitative refers to slang words that imitate Standard English (SE) words by either altering their meaning or combining two different words to create a new expression. This type of slang often simplifies pronunciation or introduces a more casual tone to communication.

Examples of Imitative slang include:

- **wanna:** A slang word formed by combining "want" and "to," resulting in a single, informal term. It is commonly used in casual speech to replace "want to."

Example: "I **wanna** go to the park this afternoon."

- **Murmur:** A soft, indistinct sound made by a person or group of people speaking quietly or at a distance. Although it is a Standard English word, it can be used in slang to convey a subtle and informal tone.

Example: "The **murmur** of the crowd grew louder as the speaker took the stage."

d. Acronym

Acronym slang refers to words formed by taking the first letter of each word in a phrase or initials from a group of words or syllables. These are then combined and pronounced as a new word.

Acronyms are commonly used in informal digital communication to simplify phrases and make communication faster and more efficient.

Examples of Acronym slang include:

- **LOL:** stands for "Laugh Out Loud," and is used to indicate laughter or something amusing.

Example: "That joke was so funny, LOL!"

- **BRB:** Stands for "Be Right Back," and is used to indicate a short absence.

Example: "Hold on, I need to answer the door. BRB."

- **FOMO:** Stands for "Fear of Missing Out," and refers to the anxiety or unease that one might be missing out on an exciting event happening elsewhere.

Example: "Seeing all the concert posts is giving me serious FOMO."

e. Clipping

Clipping refers to the process of creating a shorter form of a longer word by removing part of it, while still retaining its original meaning. This type of slang is commonly used in informal communication to simplify language and make it more concise.

Examples of Clipping slang include:

- **Gym:** clipped form of "gymnasium," referring to a place for physical exercise.

Example: "I'm heading to the gym to lift some weights."

- **Fridge:** A clipped form of "refrigerator," an appliance used for keeping food cold.

Example: "Can you grab the milk from the fridge, please?"

- **Ad:** A clipped form of "advertisement," referring to a notice or announcement promoting a product, service, or event.

Example: "I saw an ad for a new movie coming out next

month.”

C. Previous Study

This chapter discusses the definitions and theories relevant to this research study, titled "**Analysis on Slang Words in Comments of Billie Eilish's Instagram Account.**"

The first related study was conducted by **Trimastuti (2017)**. A qualitative method was employed, and the author used descriptive techniques to analyze the data. Upon completing the data analysis, the author concluded that the essence of communication lies in the transmission of meaning from one individual to another.

The second relevant study was carried out by **Oon Suzana Rahman, Cece Sobarna, Eva Tuckyta Sari Sujatna, and Lia Maulia Indriyani (2022)**. The study identified the most common morphological processes in the formation of English internet slang words, as well as the types of semantic shifts frequently used by netizens on social media.

The third related study was conducted by **Yunisrina Qismullah (2022)**. This research analyzed the use of slang by Generation Z on social media and its impact on their communication and social identity. The study provided insights into how the younger generation interacts and forms their identity through the language they use online.

The fourth related study was conducted by **Dinda Ayu Lestari (2020)**. The aim of this study was to identify the meanings of English slang words and abbreviations used in social media posts on Twitter. Additionally, the study examined the differences between slang words and abbreviations posted by Twitter users. The research applied Allan and Burridge's theories for slang and Kridalaksana's theories for abbreviations, with semantics as the main analytical framework.