

The Investigation of Slang Used by Undergraduate Students on Daily Basis Interaction

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Abstract: This study wants to ascertain some slang words and aims of slang used by students in Universitas Islam Makassar. This research applied Patridge's theory (2004) to identify the emergence of slang words and Zhou & Fan's theory (2013) to find out the functions of slang. This is descriptive qualitative research. In collecting data, the researchers conducted observation, interviews, and note-taking that considered important during the study. Results of this research found fifteen words of slang that obtained from 10 subjects of this research during the observation. Fifteen words obtained during the observation were *baper*, *salfok*, *kepeng*, *kuker*, *mager*, *preng*, *apker*, *bucin*, *mehong*, *mokem*, *terciduk*, *anjay*, *anjrit*, *kepo*, *mantul*. In addition, from the three functions of slangs were found, pursuit of self-identity was the most found during the interview.

Keywords: Daily Interaction; Slang; Undergraduate

INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool for expressing concepts, ideas, and feelings. As the times change, so do the languages that people use to communicate and gather information. One of the languages used is slang. It is a modern language that is typically used by adults and adolescents to communicate with others around them. Making things simpler and more personal for the individual you are speaking to is the aim. Generally, every country has their own slang in their language. In Indonesia, slang could be found in daily conversation and most of teenagers or young people use it (Nuraeni & Pahamzah, 2021). According to Rosidi (2010), the term "slang", which is typically employed by the young people we typically listen to, first appeared in 1998, post-reform era. He added that many effects of the Jakarta language in slang. Mandarin, which has become the language of Jakarta, is used for the first- and second-person pronouns, *gua* (me) and *elu* (you). The Jakarta language's vocabulary is widely utilized, but few Betawian speakers employed the final "a" and "e" sounds. It is not surprising that most kids today use slang as a convenient form of communication while speaking with other members of their group and individuals in the neighborhood.

Nowadays, slang has been a phenomenon in the millennial era, not only for those who live in a city but also for those who live in rural areas. Slang conversation can be identified in environments of teenagers and young people. However, with such a variety of languages, it creates more fluent conversation, more intimacy, and more development than a formal language. While on the other hand, parents and adults complained about the grammar and



speech of their children's language, which was challenging to be understood (Rezeki & Sagala, 2019). Teenagers' slang is developing quite quickly since it is impacted by a variety of reasons. As an illustration, people are more likely to copy or access various forms of existing material as a result of the effect of increasingly sophisticated technology. As a result, they will keep up with developments in more modern times. They can readily find out the most recent facts, one of which is that as more modern languages grow, there are more and more linguistic variances.

Language is a tool that can arbitrary, conventional, and representative-interpretive ways to signify and express ideas, thoughts, feelings, objects, and actions. Consequently, there is no inherent connection between the symbolic and the symbolicated. In this instance, it is implied that symbols can represent or symbolize both internal (emotions, thoughts, or ideas) and exterior (things and actions) (Wibowo, 2003). People have extensively studied the use of slang in a variety of areas. Muhartoyo & Wijaya (2014) conducted research on the use of English slang words in casual conversation among 8th semester English department students at Binus University. They discovered that informal communication frequently involves the usage of English slang. The goal of this study was to identify the motivations behind the frequent use of English slang. In order to gather data, the researchers randomly distributed a questionnaire to 30 respondents. According to the study's findings, more than half of the respondents claimed that they use English slang to speed up conversation, messaging, and tweeting. The most popular sources people utilize to learn English slang vocabulary are movies and television. Acronyms are the kind of slang that is frequently employed. This survey also demonstrates how little English slang students encounter. Many respondents simply answered with one or two words, and even three respondents failed to write anything when the researchers asked them to list the English slang terms they were familiar with and used. On another context, slang was investigated by others, such as in social media {Rezeki & Sagala (2019); Trimastuti (2017); Zaka (2019)}; daily conversation {Muhartoyo & Wijaya (2014); Saffa (2022); Nuraeni & Pahamzah (2021)}; magazine (Hidayati, et al (2018); and many others.

Slang is very much a part of adolescent life, particularly among students, as was already mentioned. Slang has recently become popular, and students at Universitas Islam Makassar have been observed to use it as well. Since slang has been used in daily conversation and investigated by many scholars, this study wanted to explore more the use of it in campus life where university students are believed very familiar with slang in their routine conversation. Slang is frequently prioritized by them as a means of communication, especially when they are collected. As a result, while speaking to a group of people who are

close in age, slang is more frequently employed as everyday language.

METHOD

The data collected from the informants was described in detail by using a qualitative descriptive research method in this study. Qualitative research method is used for some reason, e.g. observation, interview, and document research, as it was mentioned by Moleong (2013). Also, Sudaryanto in Hidayati et al (2018) mentions a research approach that is based on events that the speaker experiences empirically. Because the purpose of this study is to produce accurate information about the data, the author thinks that the descriptive method is appropriate. This is because the descriptive method systematically, factually, and adequately describes or demonstrates the factual data, characteristics, and connections of research elements that deal with the topic of research.

The research period took place between January to February 2021, or roughly two months. Researchers used interviewing and observation to gather data. Universitas Islam Makassar students served as the study's subjects. Researchers collected items from 10 informants from different faculties, including Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Faculty of Agriculture, and Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, who frequently utilized slang in daily basis.

The reason of researchers used these students as research objects is that based on the notion of slang is a certain term is used by adolescents, especially students whose language is easily understood by them and their interlocutors. The students deserved to be research subjects because many of them used different types of slang and everyday language both inside and outside of campus areas. As a result, they used a variety of languages whose meanings were simple for them to understand with their interlocutors to close the familiarity between them.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

In this case, researchers marked out the data emerged during the observation. During the observation, there were 15 words of slang found from 10 informants in their daily conversation in their campus life. Below are the explanation of each slang words, its meaning, and further explanation about them.

Table 1. Some slangs found during the observation

No	Slang Words	Meaning	Explanations
1	Baper	Being too sensitive	This is contraction word of 'bawa perasaan'. It is used to express when one person is being a thin skinned over a problem.
2	Salfok	Not focus	This is contraction word of 'salah fokus'. A combination of two words that someone usually says when they do not focus on something.
3	Kepeng	Perhaps; Maybe; Just	It is a term that is often used by teenagers in Makassar when communicating with others. Kepeng or kapang means just, maybe or perhaps. It is commonly found when conversing in informal situation between the same age speakers or below.
4	Kuker	Nothing to do	This is a contraction word of 'kurang kerjaan', where generally used by teenagers who got nothing to do.
5	Mager	Lazy	Mager or malas gerak is a contraction word that is always used by teenagers today when they do not want to do something.
6.	Preng	Friend	The term that is generally used by students when greeting their peers.
7	Apker	What do you do?	It is a contraction word of apa dikerja and used to ask people about other's activities.
8	Bucin	Slave of Love	This is contraction of 'budak cinta'. It is commonly used by teenagers who have feelings and concerns about someone who is considered special.
9	Mehong	Expensive	Mehong or mahal is word initially spoken by bunch of female impersonators and now widely and commonly used by people in general.
10	Mokem	Where are you going?	A contraction of mo/mau kemana used to ask where someone is going.
11	Terciduk	Caught up	An expression used by someone when they see another person even though that person does not want to know their whereabouts.
12	Anjay	Damn; Shit	Anjay is actually a spoofed word from anjing (not a literal meaning used for animal). Anjay is used to be a cursing word where it was used to express annoyance or irritation. Nowadays, the usage of anjay is being normalized and use to demonstrate shock, surprise, or even admiration in a positive way.
13	Anjrit	Damn; Shit	The same as anjay, anjrit is also spoofed word anjing (not a literal meaning used for animal). However, unlike anjay that now is accepted as a positive surprise expression, anjrit is more likely to be a negative expression.
14	Kepo	Over curious	Kepo is actually an abbreviation word from Knowing Every Particular Object. It is sometimes used when one person is over curious about something even over a very small thing.
15	Mantul	Great	Mantul is a spoofed word from mantap (great).

This data below was a description of some data found during the observation. There were few of examples below as the representation of the emergence of slang words used by university students.

Data 5

- Informant 2 : “*jangki **baper** nah*” (please, don’t be too sensitive)
 Friend : “*bagaimana tidak baper, kah dia yang mulai duluan*” (how am I not sensitive? He was the one who started it!)

The data above showed the use of slang by informant 2. In the context above, informant 2 was trying to console her friend for not being too sensitive by using the word *baper*. Her friend replied by stating the reason of why she was feeling *baper* at that time. The word *baper* is used to state a situation when a person involved his feelings toward a particular matter. This term is morphologically is blending. It comes from to an abbreviation of a root *bawa* and *rasa* and becomes *perasaan* (feeling to be carried away). This term has commonly used in informal conversation.

Data 11

- Informant 5 : “*selaluka **salfok** kalau ditanya sama temanku*” (I always cannot focus when my friend is asking me)
 Friend : “*karena tidak terbiasaki bicara didepannya*” (It is because you were not used to it)

The word *salfok* is an abbreviation of the word “*salah fokus*” which is generally used when someone is not focused on something. This word is often used by students because the vocabulary has become a habit for them to use when gathering in a relaxed setting and joking with their friends. Data above showed that informant 5 mentioned *salfok* when conversing to his friend. He said *salfok* as he emphasized that he could not focus because of something. Like *baper*, *salfok*’s morphological process also comes from blending *salah* and *fokus*. Without any prefix and suffix, this slang word applied for informal conversation.

Data 12

- Informant 6 : “*santai moko **kepeng***” (just be relax, dude)
 Friend : “*tidak bisaka santai kalau banyak masalahku?!*” (how can I be relax when I got many problems?!)
 Informant 6 : “*nanti kubantuki cari solusinya*” (let me help you find the solution)

The word *kepeng* has almost the same meaning as the word “perhaps/maybe/just” which is a particular slang term that is widely used by all groups, especially young people or students in informal situation. In this case, the use of the word *kepeng* was stated by informant 6 to make sure her friends to be more relax in facing some kind of situations. *Kepeng* or *kapang* is one of Makassarese slang words.

Data 16

- Friend : "*Aduuuh mager ku ini hari*" (ough, I feel very lazy today)
 Informant 7 : "*kau itu mager terus*" (you always seem to be lazy all the time)

Mager is a contraction words from "malas bergerak" which is often used by teenagers and students to talk to friends when they are lazy to do something. This expression is used almost every day by students in expressing the feelings they experienced at that time. The morphological process of *mager* also comes from blending the root word *malas* and *gerak*. The use of this word started when pandemic covid in 2019 spread and people started to stay at home and got nothing to do. *Mager* appeared during that time to explain someone just want to stay relax and doing nothing.

Data 21

- Friend 1 : (looking at a beautiful friend) "*tambah cantik ki kuliati-liati ini. Apa ko pake?*" (you seem to get more beautiful. what do you use?)
 Friend 2 : "*hahaha, glowing ka toh. Pengaruh air wudhu ji ini bestie*" (hahaha, I am glowing, ain't I? it is only because of ablution water)"
 Informant 9 : "*anjay air wudhu. Shalat saja jarang haha*" (damn you ablution water. you even rarely pray haha)

In data 21, informant 9 uttered *anjay* as she surprised because of her friend mentioned she became more beautiful because of ablution water. The informant 9 knew her friend rarely prayed. That was why she said *anjay* as the expression of surprise. *Anjay* was somehow becoming phenomenon from its first appearance. This word is seen to have negative impression and should not be used publicly. However, some people are seen this as the expression of admiration (Noor et al., 2020). Today, the use of *anjay* becomes much popular, leaving the dark impression behind to be an informal joke of teenagers.

Data 26

- Friend : "*Alhamdulillah acc ma yaa Allah*" (Alhamdulillah, finally my thesis is accepted) (showing off the signed validity sheet)
 Informant 10 : "*Tawwana setelah sekian purnama. 2022 sarjana 2022 pake toga. Mantul ko Devi.*" (Congratulation! Finally, after some times. 2022 be graduate 2022 wear academic gown. You did great, Devi)

In data 26, informant 10 congratulated her friend who just received a complete signs in her validity sheet. Informant 10 mentioned *mantul* to show that her friend (Devi) did a very good job who soon to be a graduate.

Meanwhile, the researchers also identified three functions of slang from the informants based on the findings of their interviews. Slang serves three key purposes:

pursuing self-identity, expressing users' emotional states, and achieving politeness (Zhou & Fan, 2013). Three slang terms from ten informants were discovered by the researchers in this instance. The following are the functions of slang terms:

Pursuit of Self-Identity

Five respondents indicated in the interview results that the purpose of using slang is to pursue one's own sense of identity. The five informants were informant 1 (Ms), informant 2 (Di), informant 3 (Kw), informant 5 (An) and informant 9 (Rk). They primarily used this function since they would receive slang that would be simple to comprehend because they were accustomed to using it when chit-chatting with friends who were his/her age and were familiar with him/her. Additionally, he or she may encounter a variety of slang that will be simple to comprehend because they are accustomed to using it while conversing informally with peers in their own age and are already familiar with him. The other is that persons who use slang would be recognized by others based on how they speak to their interlocutor, leading them to frequently use nearly the same language while speaking with them.

Emotive Feeling of Slang Users

Informant 4 (Ar), informant 6 (Kr), informant 7 (Sr), and informant 10 (At) used this function. Regarding their response to this function, which is to freely express slang, they would feel more liberated to communicate with people and more at ease doing so. Additionally, there are many who assert that using slang with friends will make us feel more at ease and less anxious when conversing, so long as we use it frequently in our daily lives. Over time, we will become more accustomed to using slang with friends.

Achieving Politeness

Only the informant 10 expressed this function (Am). She employed this feature as a gesture of courtesy to the other person. Slang typically comes seem as unfriendly, but when used against those who are familiar with it and understand it, it helps us connect with the other person and is actually rather polite when used with peers our own age. For instance, among friends who regularly speak slang when they are together.

CONCLUSION

As mentioned, slang differs from standard language for its lack of formality (Mattiello, 2005). In addition, slang is used in a particular community; Individuals who do not belong to the community cannot understand it. Thus, it was very much possible to conduct such research in campus area. This study focuses on the slang words used in everyday conversations by undergraduate students at Universitas Islam Makassar. Taken 10 students as the subject of this study, this research was conducted to find out slang words spoken by subjects in their daily interaction. Further investigation, this study focuses on the

appearance of slang words by using Partridge (2004) and its function by using Zhou & Fan (2013).

Based on the results of data analysis, it can be concluded there were numbers of slang emerged during the observation time. From the ten informants, there were fifteen data obtained during the observation in some Faculties in Universitas Islam Makassar. As for the slangs appeared, they are: *baper, salfok, kapang, mager, preng, kuker, apker, bucin, mehong, mokem, terciduk, anjay, anjrit, kepo*, and *mantul*. Besides, looking at the results of the interview, there are three functions of using slang based on the theory of Zhou & Fan (2013). Five informants said the function of slang was to pursuit of self-identity, four informants said it was to find out the emotive feelings of the slang users, and one informant said to achieve politeness.

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