

TYPES OF SLANG FOUND IN SONG LOWKEY BY NIKI

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Abstract

Slang word is an informal words, phrases, and expressions that often used between people who already close to each other. Slang words often used in daily conversation in a group of people or in literary work such as book, movies, or song. In this research, the researcher attempt to analyze slang words that used in a song. Lowkey by Niki is chosen as a subject of the research. Descriptive qualitative was used in this research. The result of the research shown that there are 22 slang words found in the lyric. From 22 slang words, 4 words are considered as fresh and creative type, 7 words are categorized as flippant, 4 words are imitative type, and 7 words are classified as clipping.

Keywords: Slang; Types of Slang; Song

INTRODUCTION

Language is a device that is used by human in communicating with others. Language takes a vital role for people to deliver information or message and to interact with each other. Through a language, people can express what is on their mind and convey it to others. In line with Devianty (2017) who stated that language is a main thing that used by human to convey what their thought and express their feeling. From time to time the variety of language always grows and changes depend on the society or the group of people that the language is used. Language variation is a different style of human to deliver information using different structure (Sa'adiyah et al., 2018). Variety of language is divided into formal and informal. Formal language use right sentence structure and doesn't use colloquialisms. Formal language usually used in formal situations or professional purposes. When using formal language there are some things to considerate such as use right vocabulary and avoid slang word (Muslimawati, 2019). Meanwhile, informal language usually occurs in a variety of non-standard languages, the situation, and the context of an informal or casual matter. The use of informal language is spontaneous and could make the interaction more interactive, casual and comfortable (Muslimawati, 2019). Informal language is used between people who already know each other, in casual context or in personal situations. Informal language also often use slang word.

Allan and Burrige (2006) Manurung et al. (2020) described slang word as a mark for particular community. Sudyanti et al. (2018) said slang is a casual words that occurs in particular group of people and reflects the social background of group that use it. Slang is used in certain community that only the individuals in the community who could understand (Hidayati et al., 2018). Thus, the researcher conclude that slang word is an informal words, phrases, and expressions that often used between people who already close to each other. There are several types of slang based on the experts. Allan and Burrige (2006) in Rezeki and Sagala (2019) stated that there are 5 style of slang namely, *fresh and creative*, *flippant*, *imitative*, *acronym*, and *clipping*. According to Partridge (2004) in Anis (2017), slang words is classified into 11 types namely, cockney slang, public slang, worker slang, trader slang, slang in art, slang in publicity, slang in theater, slang in school and university, slang in society, slang in medical field, soldier's slang. Meanwhile, in accordance to Guth (1962) in Agsa and Ambalegin (2020)

slang words is divided into two types, figurative of expression and nickname. Furthermore, Bloomfield (1933) in Rumagit (2019) said there are 4 types of slang consist of abbreviation, funny misspelling, shortened form, and interjection.

Every slang words has its own function depends on the context the words are used. Hymes (1989) in Sudiyanti et al. (2018) said that there are 7 different function of slang words.

1. To address someone means that the word is used to call or to address others.
2. To form intimate atmosphere. Using slang words could be the way to make the conversation between strangers more comfortable.
3. To initiate relax conversation. Slang words often used to initiate the conversation for having a smooth and relax conversation in informal situation.
4. To show impression. People use slang words are to show their impression towards someone or something they see.
5. To show intimacy. For the purpose of showing intimacy to others, people often use slang words rather than formal words.
6. To reveal anger. This function is used by people when they want to express an unpleasant or dislike feeling toward someone or something.
7. To humiliate. This function is used by people to mock others because they have an unpleasant feeling toward others.

Slang word often used in daily conversation or in literary work such as, book, poetry, movie, and song. Hence, the researcher decide to investigate the types of slang used in the lyric of Lowkey by Niki. Lowkey is single by Niki was released on the 24th day of April 2019, the record label behind the track is 88rising, which specializes in working with artists of Asian descent (with Niki being Indonesian). Niki wrote this track alongside song writer Maisie Peters, she also produced “lowkey” in collaboration with a music producer named Z3N. This song tells about a girl who is in love regardless of what happens, but what she wants from the relationship is that both men and women can keep their relationship secret, so that no one else knows, maybe there is someone who knows it but only people they trust can keep their secret. This song was created because of the confusion of Niki and her friends in writing a song, without any personal elements being included. it has nothing to do with Niki's feelings for someone or Niki's experiences. Everything is just fiction. The lyrics in the song Lowkey contain informal language. It can be concluded that the objective of this research is to observe slangs style used in the song lyrics and title Lowkey by Niki. In analyzing the data, the researcher use theory by Allan and Burridge.

METHOD

This is a descriptive qualitative research. This research was conducted by collecting the data, arranging or classifying the data, and analyzing the data of the research (Nassaji, 2015). The objectives of this research is to find out the style of slang words used in a song entitled Lowkey by Niki. The object of this research are slang words used in the song lyrics.

In collecting the data, the researcher did several steps, namely:

1. Listen the song to understand thoroughly the lyric and the meaning
2. Reading and observing lyrics
3. Highlighting the words which may be classified as slang in order to start the analysis

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

To analyze the lyrics, the researcher were using Allan and Burridge theory that stated there are 5 types of slang. Based on the data were found, there are 4 types out of 5 namely, *fresh and creative*, *flippant*, *imitative*, and *clipping* as explained on the table below.

| Types of slang | Words | Frequency |
|--------------------|---|-----------|
| Fresh and creative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cops - Babe - Lowkey - Bullshit | 4 |
| Flippant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take this downtown - Catch a vibe - Fucked up - Blow shit up - I dont really give a fuck - Pick your poison - Take a shot | 7 |
| Imitative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taken - Wanna - Gotta - Ain't | 4 |
| Clipping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'cause - Lookin' - Till - Wakin' - Tellin' - Bewitchin' - 'bout | 7 |

The researcher also found 4 function of slang used in the lyric of Lowkey as explained on the table below.

| No. | Slang Words | Slang Function |
|-----|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | To address | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cops - Babe |
| 2. | To initiate relax conversation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lowkey - Fucked up - Blow shit up - Take a shot - Taken - Wanna - Gotta - Ain't - 'cause - Lookin' - Till - Wakin' |

| | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tellin' - Bewithin' - 'bout |
| 3. | To show intimacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take this downtown - Catch a vibe - Pick your poison |
| 4. | To reveal anger | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bullshit - I don't really give a fuck - |

Discussion

Based on the result of the research, there are found 22 slang words with 4 types of slang. The first type is *fresh and creative*. This type of slang means a slang that totally new word and not imitated or reduced from other words in order to refer to something in informal situation. There are 4 words found in the lyrics that are considered as *fresh and creative*. For example is the word *cops* first appeared in 1740 means 'to capture' that used in British English to address police. The second type of slang is *flippant*. It is kind of slang that are composed by two words or more but not corelated with the denotative meaning. Seven words are found in the lyrics that can be classified as *flippant*. In the song Lowkey, *catch a vibe* used to tell someone to enjoy the situation. Next slang style is *imitative*. *Imitative* means a slang words that imitated or derived from Standard English words, using Standard English words in different meaning, or combining two words. There are 4 slang words that are considered as *imitative* namely, *wanna* from phrase want to, *gotta* from going to, and *ain't* from phrase am not, are not, etc.

The last slang is *clipping*. *Clipping* is a style of slang that removing some part in a word become shorter without changing the meaning. In the lyrics, the researcher found 7 words that are considered as *clipping* style. For example, the word *lookin'* that is a shorthened form of looking and the word *'bout* the shorthened form of about.

CONCLUSION

Regarding to the objective of the research, the researcher discovered 22 slang words contained in the song Lowkey sang by Niki. Then, the researcher classified the words based on the slang type following the theory by Allan and Burrige. Thus, it can be concluded from 22 slang words found in the lyric, there are 4 words which classified as *fresh and creative*, 7 words are classified as *flippant*, 4 words are categorized as *imitative*, and 7 words are *clipping* type.

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