

Slangs Used in The Movie “Lady Bird”

Ni Putu Enik Oktaviani¹, I Gusti Ayu Mahatma Agung²

^{1,2}Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar
e-mail: ¹putuenik3@gmail.com , ²ayu.mahatma@unmas.ac.id

Received	Revised	Accepted
10-10-2022	12-02-2022	27-03-2023

Abstract - This study aims to determine the types and meanings of slang words found in Lady Bird movie. In this study, the researchers analyzed the types of slang words based on the theory from Allan and Burrige (2006). There are five types of slang words classified by Allan and Burrige: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. The meaning of slang words was taken based on several online dictionaries. The research method used in this study is qualitative method. The data collection used observation method by downloading the movie script, watching the movie, and then taking note of the slang words found. The data source of this study was taken from the movie script of Lady Bird, directed by Greta Gerwig. Based on the result, there were 33 slang words found, 21 slangs were categorized as fresh and creative, 9 slang words were categorized as flippant, and 3 slang words were categorized as imitative.

Key words: slang words, meaning, Lady Bird movie

Abstrak - Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis dan arti kata-kata slang atau bahasa gaul yang terdapat dalam film Lady Bird. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menganalisis jenis bahasa gaul berdasarkan teori dari Allan dan Burrige (2006). Terdapat lima jenis bahasa gaul yang diklasifikasikan oleh Allan dan Burrige, yaitu fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, dan clipping. Arti dari bahasa gaul ditentukan berdasarkan beberapa kamus online. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif. Pengumpulan data menggunakan metode observasi yaitu dengan mengunduh naskah film, menonton film, kemudian mencatat kata-kata bahasa gaul yang ditemukan dalam film. Sumber data penelitian ini diambil dari naskah film Lady Bird yang disutradarai oleh Greta Gerwig. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, ditemukan 33 bahasa gaul dalam film Lady Bird, terdapat 21 bahasa gaul yang dikategorikan sebagai fresh and creative, 9 bahasa gaul yang dikategorikan sebagai flippant, dan 3 bahasa gaul yang dikategorikan sebagai imitative.

Kata Kunci: bahasa gaul, makna, film Lady Bird

INTRODUCTION

“Slang is the informal linguistic vocabulary used especially by specific groups of individuals in very informal contexts. Slang belongs to the sociolinguistics subfield known as social dialect or sociolect” (Adi et al., 2018). Slang is typically used by certain groups of people in very casual situations. Teenagers are the majority of those who use slang in their neighborhoods. In reality, because the speaker themselves typically creates slang, people employ it in their communities to keep their conversations private (Dewi et al., 2016). Therefore, other individuals are unable to understand what they are saying because it is only utilized in their community. Because slang is more interesting and expressive than formal language, people frequently generate new words and incorporate them into their daily speech (Raodhatul et al., 2019).

Every person has a different perception of what slang is. According to Swan (1995), slang is a very informal kind of vocabulary, used mostly in speech by people who know each other well. Another definition comes from Allan and Burrige (2006: 69), who stated that slang is a very colloquial language that should not be used in official speaking. Kuspiyah (2016) stated that slang is the unconventional usage of a word in a particular social group’s language. Slang expressions are frequently unique to a particular subculture, such as those of musicians, skateboarders, or drug users. Donal et al. (2019) defined English slang as a type of societal linguistic variation. To distinguish English slang, people need to be aware of who is speaking and with whom they have recently spoken, how, where, and what they were while they were conversing and acting their meaning. Lumendang et al. (2021) also defined slang as a language that is spoken between individuals who are intimately acquainted and who share the same social circle. It means that when compared to the language from where it is originated, slang is a radically distinct language. The meaning of the slang is typically only understood by its users (Saputra et al., 2019). This study used the definition of slang from Swan as a reference since it is the most suitable one. The



movie used as the data source of this study consists of many characters who are teenagers and use slang to communicate with each other.

In addition, slang is frequently used to create closeness between individuals so that they can feel closer to one another. Slang is also referred to as colloquial language because it is frequently employed in daily interactions between people. The definitions given above lead us to the conclusion that slang is a new language used by a particular group of individuals in informal settings and connected to informal speech. Slang can take the form of an entire sentence. However, it is typically classified as a word (Habibiloyevna, 2021). Agsa et al. (2020) said that the majority of slang terminology is derived from abbreviated words such as GWS for “get well soon,” CMIW for “correct me if I am wrong,” and so on. Slang is typically used daily, but it should be remembered that some of these words and expressions can be perceived as impolite or disrespectful depending on who hears them (Kartina et al., 2019).

Movie is chosen as the data source because it is the most popular form of entertainment, particularly among teenagers. Teenagers often mimic the actor’s speaking style and gestures when they watch movies, especially when the characters speak in slang. Even most of them do not know its meaning. This is one of the language phenomena that makes the writer interested in analyzing the slang words in the movie. Besides, it is interesting to analyze the types and meanings of slang words in the movie because we can improve our ability to communicate with westerners in daily life, make our relationship closer with them, and learn something new to be used in our daily life. The researchers choose *Lady Bird* movie since the movie tells about the life of a high school teenager in America who uses a lot of slang in the dialogue. There are many interesting dialogues found in the movie.

There are several papers about slang from previous studies which are related to this. The first one is the article written by Utami et al. (2020). There are three problems in their study, namely the types, the meanings, and the functions of slang in the movie. Their study used theories from Leech and Chapman. The researchers collected the data in several steps. The first step was watching the movie, the second step was downloading the transcript, and the third step was arranging and adding dialogues that contain slang from a selection of dialogues to a data sheet. The study was analyzed by using qualitative method. Based on the data, they have searched for the meaning of each slang from several dictionaries and understood the context of the dialogue. The researchers found 25 slang words in *Fate and Furious* Movie, which consist of 22 primary slang words and 3 secondary slang words based on Chapman’s theory. The similarity between their study and this study is the focus on the analysis of slang words used by each character in the movie. The difference between their study and this study is in the theories which are used.

The second article was written by Jakob (2019). The problem of his study is about the characteristic of slang in the movie. His study used the theory from Andersson and Trudgill. The researcher used qualitative method. The data was collected by watching the movie and downloading the transcript. Then the data was classified based on their characteristic. The researcher found 8 slang words in the movie which consist of 2 slangs as the neutral syntactic level, 4 slangs as typical informal situations, and 2 slangs as creative based on the theory proposed by Andersson and Trudgill. The similarity between his study and this study is the focus on the analysis of slang words used by the characters in the movie. The difference between his study and this study is that his study focused on American slang while this study focuses on the analysis of slang in general. The problem of his study is focused on the characteristic of slang, while this study aims to find out the type and meaning of slang in the movie.

The third article was written by Tursini et al. (2022). The problem of their study is the type of slang words in the movie. Their study used the theory from Coleman. The researchers used qualitative method, and the data was collected by watching the movie, then determining the type of slang word found. The researchers also used triangulation and validator triangulation theory by consulting to an English expert to validate the findings. The researchers found 17 slangs were created by changing meaning, 2 slangs created by changing in function, 7 slangs were created by changing in form, 1 slang was created by abbreviation, 3 slangs were created by changing the spelling, and 2 slangs were created by language loans. The similarity between their study and this study is the analysis of slangs used in the movie. The difference between their study and this study is in the theories which are used to analyze the data.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researchers used descriptive qualitative method to analyze slang words in the movie. In this study, *Lady*

Bird movie was chosen as the data source. *Lady Bird* is an American comedy-drama movie directed by Greta Gerwig. This movie premiered on September 1, 2017 where Saoirse Ronan acts as the main character. This film tells a story about a teenage girl named Christine, also known as *Lady Bird*, who is stubborn and has big dreams. She could not wait to leave Sacramento city and continue her education in a big city after graduating from high school. However, she often disagreed with her mother who is experiencing an economic crisis. There are a lot of American slangs in this movie, which are often used in daily conversations. Besides, there are also several new slang words created by several characters in the dialogues, which the researchers had never heard before, so it made the researchers interested in analyzing this movie.

The data was collected by downloading *Lady Bird*'s script on the internet and then watching the movie. After that, the researchers selected and coded the slang used in the transcript or dialog of the movie. Then, the researchers searched the meaning of slang words according to the dictionary and the context of the conversation or dialogue. Finally, the data were categorized and tabulated based on the theory of slangs by Allan and Burrige (2006), who divided the type of slang into five: (1) fresh and creative, which implies that slang terms now have new vocabularies to explain things in informal contexts, (2) flippant, which means that slang terms typically have two or more words and are unrelated to their denotative meaning, (3) imitative, which means that a slang word derives from a word in Standard English, (4) acronym, which is created by combining the first letter of each word in a phrase or by taking the initials of several phrases or syllables and pronouncing them as a single word, and (5) clipping, which means a slang term is created by cutting out a portion of a longer term to create a shorter term with the same meaning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researchers found 34 slang words in *Lady Bird* Movie. The slang words were classified into four categories based on the theory from Allan and Burrige (2006). There were 21 slang words categorized as fresh and creative, 9 slang words were categorized as flippant, 3 slang words were categorized as imitative, and 1 slang word was categorized as clipping.

1. Fresh and Creative

According to Allan and Burrige (2006), fresh and creative is a type of slang where the slang word has a new vocabulary, witty imagination, informal variation, and may even be a modern word that few people are familiar with. Examples of fresh and creative slang words found in this study were *nah*, *mom*, *hella*, *nope*, *lame*, and *gigs*. The data are presented as follows.

Data 1

Lady Bird: "I was talking to Kyle about it and he was like 'whatever it's **lame** but maybe I'll see you there.'"
(*Lady Bird*, 00.41.06).

The utterance in data 1 was taken when *Lady Bird* was talking to Jenna. *Lady Bird* tried to manipulate Jenna by saying that she has a close relationship with Kyle, while she quotes Kyle's words using the word *lame*. The slang word *lame* based on the context of the dialogue means something that is not cool. The word *lame* also has several meanings, such as boring or something old-fashioned.

Data 2

Marion: "You couldn't get into those schools anyway."

Lady Bird: "**Mom!**"

(*Lady Bird*, 00.02.56)

The dialogue was taken from the scene when *Lady Bird* and Marion (*Lady Bird*'s mother) were in the car. They argued about which school was suitable for *Lady Bird*. Marion said that *Lady Bird* could not get into her dream school, then *Lady Bird* shouted while saying "**Mom!**" to Marion. The slang word *mom* is a new vocabulary from the word *mother*. The slang word *mom* is used when addressing a lady, especially an older one in an informal situation.

Data 3

Jenna: "Kyle! *Lady Bird* and I just decorated the nun-mobile like "just married to Jesus!"

Kyle: "That's **hella tight**."

(*Lady Bird*, 00.37.16)

The dialogue in data 3 was taken from the scene when Jenna told Kyle that she and Lady Bird just decorated Sarah Joan's car and they made a text "just married to Jesus." Kyle responded by saying, "that's hella tight." *Hella* is a slang word that substitutes for the word *very* or *really*. In the dialogue, the character Kyle said *that's hella tight*, which means that it is really awesome or cool.

Data 4

Lady Bird: "I wish I could live through something."

Marion: "Aren't you?"

Lady Bird: "**Nope**. The only exciting thing about 2002 is that it's a palindrome."

(Lady Bird, 00.01.51)

The dialogue in data 4 was taken from the scene when Lady Bird and Marion were in the car. In the dialogue, Lady Bird said *nope*, which is another word for *nah* that has the same meaning. *Nope* is categorized as fresh and creative because it originated from the word *no*. the word *Nope* in conversation is usually used to show disapproval or rejection of something.

Data 5

Kyle: "Can I get your phone number? We were looking to set up some more **gigs** down there."

(Lady Bird, 00.42.55)

The utterance in data 5 was taken from the dialogue when Kyle invited Lady Bird to join his band performance. This slang refers to a job that lasts for a specific time. Musicians frequently use the word *gigs* to refer to a performance engagement, with the term typically referring to the music and entertainment industries.

2. Flippant

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), flippant is a type of slang where the slang forms typically have two words or more and are unrelated to their denotative meanings. Examples of slang words found in this study were *Goddamn*, *bad ass*, and *holy shit*. The data are presented as follows.

Data 6

Chorus Member: "I just got my period!"

Lady Bird: "**Goddamn** it."

(Lady Bird, 00.34.10)

The dialogue in data 6 was taken from the scene when Lady Bird was queuing in the toilet after having a party with her choir friends. She shouted for her friend to get out immediately from the toilet because she could no longer wait. But her friend said that she had just got menstruation. Then Lady Bird said, "Goddamn it". The slang word *goddamn* is formed from two different words, *God* and *damn*. Although each word has a distinct meaning, when they are combined to form a phrase, their meanings diverge from those of the individual terms. *Goddamn* is used to make a point more strongly. In that dialogue, the word *Goddamn* is used to show annoyance.

Data 7

Shelly: "You look really pretty."

Lady Bird: "Really?"

Shelly: "You look like a **bad ass** girl in a band."

(Lady Bird, 01.08.37)

The dialogue in data 7 was taken from the scene when Lady Bird would go to prom night, then Shelly complimented her by saying that she looked like a bad ass girl in a band. The slang word *bad ass* comes from two different words: *bad* and *ass*. Each of the two words has a different meaning, but when the two words are combined, it is used to refer to something or someone we look up to or find impressive. In the dialogue, the character Shelly used the slang *bad ass* to show or emphasize a previous compliment addressed to Lady Bird.

Data 8

Miguel: "Lady Bird! A bunch of things arrived for you!"

Lady Bird: "**Holy shit!**"

(Lady Bird, 01.03.24)

The dialogue in data 8 was taken from the scene when Lady Bird was watching television in the living room.

Then Miguel came to her, bringing a bunch of letters addressed to Lady Bird. Miguel said that a bunch of things arrived for Lady Bird, and Lady Bird rushed to take the letters while saying *holy shit*. The slang word *holy shit* is categorized as flippant because it comes from two different words and meanings: *holy* and *shit*. This slang word is usually used as an expression for seeing something surprising or shocking.

3. Imitative

According to Allan and Burrige (2006), imitative refers to a slang term that mimics or derives from a word in Standard English, as well as employing such terms to convey a different meaning or to combine two distinct words. Examples of slang words found in this were *gotta* and *gonna*. The data are presented as follows.

Data 9

Luis : “Yeah, **gotta** go back to just felt tip markers.”
(Lady Bird, 00.07.37)

The expression in data 9 was taken from the interaction between Marion and her friend, Luis, when they were in the hospital. Luis gave a response to Marion when she was signing the document. The slang *gotta* is categorized as imitative because it is an abbreviation of the words *got to*. *Gotta* means must and is usually used to express a necessity that is quite urgent.

Data 10

Julie: “I’m **gonna** go.”
Lady Bird: “No! I hate being alone.”
(Lady Bird, 00.24.58)

The dialogue in data 10 was taken from the scene when Lady Bird and Julie were in the school hallway. Then Julie wanted to go to the class for the history lesson. Julie told Lady Bird that she was going to go to the class. The slang word *gonna* is an abbreviation of the words *going to* which means will. In the dialogue when Julie said *I’m gonna go*, it means *I am going to go*.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result and discussion about the analysis of slang words in the Lady Bird movie, it can be concluded that there are three types of slang words found based on the theory from Allan and Burrige (2006). They are fresh and creative, flippant, and imitative. There are 33 slang words found in the Lady Bird movie. There are 21 slang words were categorized as fresh and creative. Then there are 9 slang words were categorized as flippant. And 3 slang words were categorized as imitative. The dominant usage of slang type in the Lady Bird movie is fresh and creative and flippant. The most dominant is fresh and creative. It implies that slang words have many new vocabularies and phrases to describe informal situations and conditions in many contexts.

The purpose of this study was to identify the types and meanings of slang words in the Lady Bird movie. The researchers realized that there are many things related to language, especially those related to slang words which need further research. The researchers suggested the other researchers analyze different contexts of types and meanings of slang words because they will make various ideas and thoughts. It is hoped that this research will be useful for the readers to expand their knowledge about the types and meanings of slang words and that it will serve as a resource for other researchers.

REFERENCE

- Adi, W. T., & Azmi, A. (2018). SLANG EXPRESSION IN LITTLE MAN MOVIE BASED ON SOCIAL DIMENSION. *Journal of Language, Literature and Teaching*, 15(2), 97-113.
<https://lingua.soloclcs.org/index.php/lingua/article/view/480>
- Agsa, J., & Ambalegin. (2020). THE FORM OF SLANG TERMS IN THE “KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE” MOVIE. *Linguistic, English Education and Art (LEEA) Journal*, 3(2), 400-413.
<https://journal.ipm2kpe.or.id/index.php/LEEA/article/view/1260>
- Allan, K. & Burrige, K. (2006). *Forbidden Words: Taboo and The Censoring Of Language*. Cambridge:

Cambridge University Press.

- Dewi, N. W. R., Rajeg, I. M., & Maharani, S. A. I. (2016). Slangs Used In Movie "The Hangover". *Jurnal Humanis, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Unud*, 16(2), 209-215. <https://ojs.unud.ac.id/index.php/sastra/article/view/33871>
- Donal, A., Fauzi, A. R., & Saleh, H. (2019). THE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH SLANGS FOUND IN THE ANTMAN MOVIE. *JEE (Journal of English Education)*, 5(1), 1-14. <https://journal.upp.ac.id/index.php/JEE/article/view/548>
- Habibiloyevna, M. D. (2021). The Semantic Analysis of Slang in The Movie "School". *Journal of Pedagogical Inventions and Practices*, 3, 83-85. <https://zienjournals.com/index.php/jpip/article/view/432>
- Jakob, J.C. (2019). Analysis of American Slang in The Movie of "The Blind Side". *JEES: Journal of English Education Studies*, 1(2), 79-85. <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/f377/f8bbf7378513764b51a247052153c5106da6.pdf>
- Kartina, A., & Pangestu, M. (2019). The Reasons Of The Main Character In Using Slang Words In Deadpool 2 Movie Directed By David Leitch. *Wanastra: Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra*, 11(1), 53-60. <https://ejournal.bsi.ac.id/ejurnal/index.php/wanastra/article/view/4963>
- Kuspiyah, H. R. (2016). Analysis on the Use of Slang on Eminem's Lyrics. *Channing: Journal of English Language Education and Literature*, 1(1), 51-64. <https://journal.unha.ac.id/index.php/Channing/article/view/32>
- Lumendang, I. M., Nurmin, S., & Kumayas, T. (2021). AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG GEEK CHARMING MOVIE. *Journal of English Culture, Language, Literature and Education*, 8(2), 117-128. <https://ejournal-mapalus-unima.ac.id/index.php/e-clue/article/view/1618>
- Raodhatul, A. P., & Ardi, H. (2019). WORD FORMATION OF SLANG WORD IN SONG ALBUMS CREATED BY INDONESIAN RAPPER YOUNG LEX. *E-Journal of English Language & Literature*, 8(3), 310-316. <http://ejournal.unp.ac.id/index.php/ell/article/view/105801/102301>
- Saputra, L., & Marlina, L. (2019). AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG WORDS USED BY INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT PLESBOL. *E-Journal of English Language & Literature*, 8(3), 330-339. <http://ejournal.unp.ac.id/index.php/ell/article/view/105802>
- Swan, M. (1995). *Practical English Language Usage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Tursini, U. & Fauziah, P. I. (2022). Slang Words on Rampage Movie. *Rhizome: Jurnal Kajian Ilmu Humaniora*, 2(1), 1-9. <https://journal.actual-insight.com/index.php/rhizome/article/view/479>
- Utami, N. M. V., Ariyaningsih, N. N. D., & Nadila, N. K. S. S. (2020). THE FUNCTION OF SLANG USED IN THE FATE AND FURIOUS MOVIE. *Jurnal Bahasa Lingua Scientia*, 12(2), 245-272. <http://ejournal.iain-tulungagung.ac.id/index.php/lis/article/view/2891>